

LBMG Walking Group

Newsletter

First Edition



THE FIRST STEP

Over the past three months, Liverpool Black Men's Group (LBMG) have been walking in the name of health, leisure and unity, in the spirit of brotherhood. The group decided to take steps towards encouraging more black men to participate more fully in community activism.

LBMG decided that it was high time to make moves and get active in the community. The project was brought to fruition by our very own Ray Quarless who set out a plan and acquired funding support from Sport England, to make it happen. Working alongside Ben Fleming of Hearts and Minds consultancy, Nadeem Freeman of Two Step Collective and Erroll Graham from The Hungry Must Be Fed, a programme of six walks was organised on a bi weekly basis.





Walk 1 - The Waterfront

The inaugural walk took place on 24th April, we ambled down towards the historic and illustrious Liverpool waterfront taking in the scenery and the fresh air blowing in from the Mersey. We traversed our way through Liverpool One and the Park Lane area where we got to learn about the history of the first black community that was displaced due to bombing in WW2.

Our ascent back to the Kuumba Imani Centre began at the Chinese arch and up past the looming gothic piece of architecture that is the Anglican Cathedral. The general consensus of opinion within the LMBG, a great success





Walk 2 - The parks

The second walk saw the LMBG heading towards **Princes** and **Sefton Park**, en route along the superbly refurbished Princes Boulevard. We walked down the vibrant strip of Lark Lane passing iconic venues, along the way. Stretching our legs, we then made our way back to the Kuumba Imani through the scenic route of Ullet Road through to Princes Park. (Interviews with LMBG members see below)





Walk 3 - Black History

On our third walk, we were treated to a step back in time by the brilliant historian, **Laurence Westgaph**. We visited **St James's Church** grounds, on Parliament Street, and were given great insight into the intricacies and evils of Liverpool's involvement in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

We made our way along the waterfront and visited the memorial to **Charles Wooten**, a black seaman who fled a racist mob during the 1919 race riots and was killed after jumping into the river in an act of defiance. As the police stood by, he eventually drowned. No one was charged with his murder. The significance of this was not lost on the group whose more senior members were involved in the community centre that bore his name. These were just two examples of a plethora of knowledge the decorated historian shared with us.



The Next Steps

Keep an eye out for the next edition of the LBMG Walking Group Newsletter where we will be moving even closer to our goal of bringing black men together for community activity with hope of encouraging community activism.

The first three walks have been a plethora of enjoyment, challenge and engagement that was only made possible by the efforts of the Walking Group. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along and made the walks such a stunning success.

Visit our YouTube Channel for more insight into our walks and to get a taste of the conversation and education that the walks engendered:

[Liverpool Black Men's Group YT Channel - YouTube](#)

