

BLACK HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY

LESSONS TO GROW ON

Introduction to Black Leaders in Britain

KS 2 and above

Part 1



First Black mayor elected in England

- The first Black person to be elected Mayor in England was Allan Glaisyer Minns.
- Allan was born in the Bahamas in 1858
- The Bahamas is part of the Caribbean find it on the map



Allan Glaisyer Minns becomes Mayor of Thetford

- Allan was a doctor and studied medicine at Guys Hospital in London.
- Allan was elected to be the Mayor of Thetford in Norfolk in 1904
- Question: How old was Allan when he became mayor? (You will need to look as the year he was born!)
- Can you find Thetford on the map? Is it in the north or the south of England?





Allan Noel Minns son of Allan Glaisyer Minns

- Allan had a son also called Allan.
- His full name was Allan Noel Minns
- Allan Noel Minns was also a doctor.
- Allan Noel Minns was one of the few Black officers to serve in the British army during World War 2.
- Allan Noel Minns was awarded the Military cross for gallantry in 1915
- Question: What does 'gallantry' mean?

BLACK HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY

LESSONS TO GROW ON

Introduction to Black Leaders in Britain

KS 2 and above

Part 2



John Richard Archer

John Archer was born in Liverpool in 1863

John Richard Archer Parents

- John's father, Richard Archer, was from Barbados in the Caribbean
- John's mother, Mary Theresa Burns, was from Ireland
- Can you find Barbados on the map? Is it a big country or a small country?
- Can you find Ireland on the map? Is it near Liverpool?



John Richard Archer

Early life and wife

- John started off as a sailor and travelled the world.
- He lived in both America and Canada.
- In Canada John met his wife, Bertha.
- On returning to England from Canada, John and Bertha moved to Battersea in London.
- John studied medicine for a while and ran a photographic studio.
- Can you see Battersea on the map?



Source: gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France

John Richard Archer Pan African and politics

- John was a Pan Africanist meaning he worked for unity amongst all people of African descent.

- Questions: Do you think unity is important to bring change? Why?
- John took part in a Pan African conference in 1900.
- The Pan African conference was held at Westminster. It was organised by Henry Sylvester Williams.
- Henry was from Trinidad in the Caribbean. He worked tirelessly for Black people around the world.
- 37 delegates from all over the world attended the conference.
- Some of these delegates were famous for their anti racist work like WEB Dubois from America
- After the conference John began to get involved in politics.



Henry Sylvester Williams



WEB Dubois



John Richard Archer enters Battersea Council in 1906

- In 1906, John was elected to Battersea Borough Council.
- John successfully campaigned to get a minimum wage of 32 shillings a week for council workers.
- 20 shillings equaled £1 in 1906.
- John lost his council seat in 1909 but was reelected in 1912.
- The photograph shows a shilling. We no longer use shillings. Can you see the name of the queen pictured on the shilling?

John Richard Archer becomes Mayor of Battersea

- In 1913 John was nominated for Mayor of Battersea.
- He faced a lot of racism. One news paper wrote: "It has always been that the white man ruled and it must always be so. If not, good-bye to the prestige of Great Britain."
- Some people said that because John was Black he could not be British and had no right to be Mayor.
- Despite experiencing racism John won the election and became mayor.





John Richard Archer: Mayor of the people

- John cared about people.
- He thought it was wrong that people faced racism and that some people were very poor.
- He campaigned to end racism and improve the lives of poor people in Battersea.
- As mayor, John and his family experienced racial harassment but that did not stop his work. John did not believe he was less than because of his skin colour.

- He said:

“Do you know that I have had letters since I have been Mayor calling my mother some of the foulest names that it is possible for a mother to be called... I have been made to feel my position more than any man who has ever occupied this chair, not because I am a member of the Council, but because I am a man of colour...**Am I not a man, the same as any other?**”

John's support for the Black soldiers of World War 1

- Many Black soldiers from Africa, the Caribbean and England fought and died in World War 1.
- Racism meant the army was segregated by skin colour.
- Many of these soldiers have not received thanks and appreciation.
- John did a famous speech about this



UNITE TO END RACISM

John's speech in support of Black soldiers and Black people, made at an African Progress Union meeting.

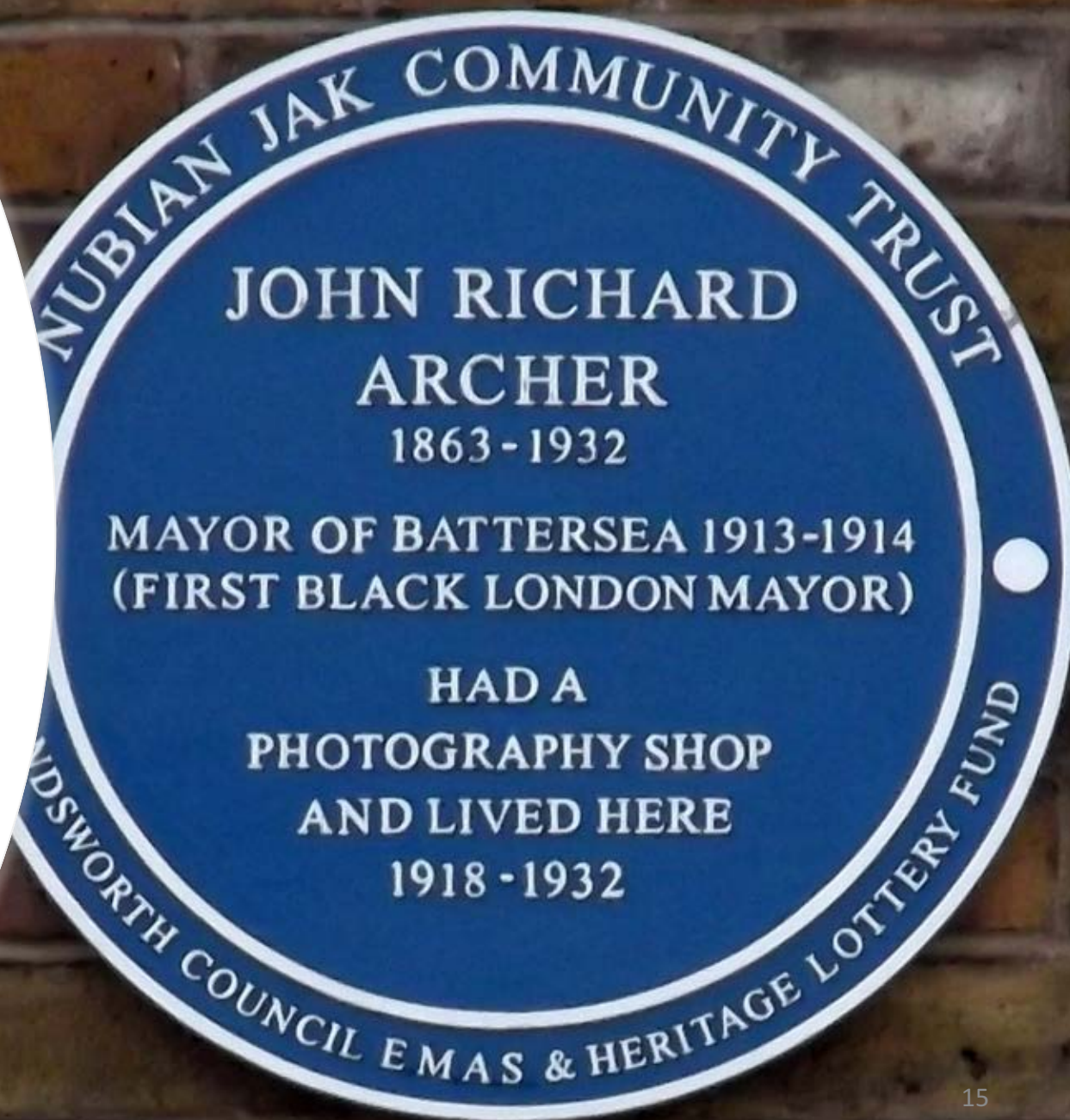
“The people in this country are sadly ignorant with reference to the darker races, and our object is to show them that we have given up the idea of being hewers of wood and drawers of water, that we claim our rightful place within this Empire. That if we are good enough to be brought to fight the wars of the country we are good enough to receive the benefits of the country. One of the objects of this association is to demand – not ask, it will be ‘demand’ all the time that I am your President. I am not asking for anything, I am out demanding.”

- Everyone in the room cheered this speech.
- How did you feel when reading it?

John Richard Archer's Legacy

- John Archer died on Thursday 14 July 1932, a few weeks after his 69th birthday.
- MP William Sanders said:

John Archer was one of the largest hearted men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. The poor had no better friend... His public spirit had no bounds...He left behind him a multitude of friends and not a single enemy. He was one who deserved well of the community, for he had served it well.



BLACK HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY

LESSONS TO GROW ON

Introduction to Black Leaders in Britain

KS 2 and above

Part 3



Majid Majid, a refugee from Somalia, elected mayor of Sheffield in 2018



Eileen Taylor, born in Jamaica, elected Lord mayor of Leeds in 2019



Ernest Ezeajughi, born in Nigeria, elected mayor of Brent in 2019

Thanks to the legacy of Allan and John, a number of Black mayors have been elected.

You can do amazing things as well. What work would you like to do in future?