

# African Caribbean Bedford Home



## Art & Music

### At Your Library

- Browse the shelves at [your local library](#) for books on **African and Caribbean art history** or you can search the online catalogue at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Do it Online then Search and Request.
- Search for CDs in the World Music section at Bedford Library.



### On the Virtual Library

- **Oxford Art Online (Grove Art)**  
An in depth encyclopedia covering Western and non-western art. Search under Caribbean and individual artists.
- **Oxford Music Online (Grove Music)**  
Search under Caribbean music.

Free access with your library card and PIN.  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Online Resources

### Online

- **Caribbean Artists A-Z**  
Compiled by Dr Petrine Archer.  
[www.petrinearcher.com/caribbean-artists-a-z](http://www.petrinearcher.com/caribbean-artists-a-z)
- **Gallery of West Indian Art**  
Thumbnails of Cuban, Haitian and Jamaican art from the Gallery of West Indian Art in Jamaica.  
[www.galleryofwestindianart.com/](http://www.galleryofwestindianart.com/)
- **Afromix.org**  
[www.afromix.org/](http://www.afromix.org/)  
African and African Caribbean music links.



## Country Information

### At Your Library

- [Your local library](#) has books on the history of Caribbean and if you are travelling, guidebooks about its countries and islands. You can search the Virtual Library catalogue online too.  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Do it Online then Search and Request
- **Europa World Year Book**  
Find this in Quick Reference - extensive, annually updated information about all the countries of Caribbean and the rest of the world.



### On the Virtual Library

- **Credo Reference** includes articles about the geography, history and culture of the Caribbean and its individual countries.
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica** online  
Articles about many aspects of the Caribbean.

Free access with your library card and PIN.

[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)

Click Online Resources

### Online

- **The Caribbean from Wikipedia**  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean>  
**Countries**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean\\_Countries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean_Countries)  
**Islands**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islands\\_of\\_the\\_Caribbean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islands_of_the_Caribbean)
- **CIA World Factbook**  
[www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html)  
Search for information and statistics about the countries of the Caribbean and the rest of the world.

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## Books, Films and Newspapers

### At Your Library

- At [your local library](#) (Bedford Library), read the **The Voice** and **The Weekly Gleaner** newspapers.



- Find books books and poetry by Caribbean authors ~ John Agard, Edwidge Danticat, David Dabydeen, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Andrea Levy, Earl Lovelace, V.S Naipaul, Grace Nichols, Caryl Phillips, Derek Walcott.....

## Online

- **Caribbean Literature**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean\\_literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean_literature)
  - **Calabash International Literary Festival in Jamaica**  
<http://calabashfestival.com/>
  - **bfm (Black Filmmaker)**  
'bfm is a media group that consists of an entertainment magazine, international film festival and a film review TV show'.  
[www.bfmmedia.com/](http://www.bfmmedia.com/)
  - **The Voice Newspaper**  
[www.voice-online.co.uk](http://www.voice-online.co.uk)
  - **Central and North American Newspapers**  
Links to Caribbean newspapers, including the Jamaica Observer.  
[www.world-newspapers.com/americas.html](http://www.world-newspapers.com/americas.html)
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## Languages

### At Your Library

- Consult a **Creole dictionary** or a **dictionary of Jamaican English**
- Find books on the history of languages of the world.



### Online

- **Languages of the Caribbean**  
Find out what's spoken where.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages\\_of\\_the\\_Caribbean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_the_Caribbean)
  - **Creole Languages of the Caribbean**  
More on the structure of Creole.  
[www.gold.ac.uk/creole/kweyol/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/creole/kweyol/)
  - **British Library Caribbean English**  
[www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/case-studies/minority-ethnic/caribbean/](http://www.bl.uk/learning/langlit/sounds/case-studies/minority-ethnic/caribbean/)
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## Religion and Festivals

### At your library

Browse the shelves at [your local library](#) for books on different religions and festivals, or you can search the online catalogue at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Do it Online then Search and Request



### Locally

#### Miracle Church of God in Christ

Contact details and more information are on the Local Information Database.

[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

### Online

- **BBC Religions**

Covers all aspects of the major religions - beliefs, holy days/festivals, rites, symbols and important texts.

[www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/)

- **Interfaith Calendar:** primary sacred times for world religions.

[www.interfaithcalendar.org/](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/)

- **Religion in Africa**

Information from Wikipedia.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion\\_in\\_Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Africa)

### Did you know....?

In 1880 three envoys from the Ruler of Buganda in Africa travelled to England with the missionary Charles Wilson to meet Queen Victoria. They were housed for some time in Pavenham where Charles's father was vicar. After six weeks they began their long return home. However, a young African who had travelled with them named Hatashil Masha Kathish - or Salim - remained living with the family in the vicarage. Salim attended the village school and later accompanied Mrs Wilson to Nottingham after the death of her husband in 1881. He attended a missionary training institute but continued to live in England, much in demand as a preacher and speaker. He was baptised in August 1882 and given the name Salim Charles Wilson.



For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

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## Culture and Heritage

### At your library

Browse the shelves at [your local library](#) for books on **African and Caribbean culture, heritage and history**, or you can search the online catalogue at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)  
Click Do it Online then Search and Request

### Locally

All these organisations and their contact details are on the **Local Information Database**

[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

- **Bedford African and Caribbean forum**  
A charity established in 1998 to promote the social and economic needs of the African and Caribbean community in Bedford.
- **Bedford Caribbean Senior Citizens Association**  
For 55s and over.

Discover restaurants and takeaways in Bedford – details in the Yellow Pages.

Takeway Jamaican food –  
The Tuckin  
38 the Broadway  
Bedford  
MK40 2TH

Grocery store -  
Florence  
6, Lime Street  
Bedford  
MK40 1NH

Bar and Restaurant -  
Ekaya African and Caribbean Bar and Restaurant  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor 125-127 Midland Road  
Bedford  
MK40 1DE



### On the Virtual Library

Search for articles on African and Caribbean culture, heritage and history on **Credo Reference online**. Free access through the

Virtual Library with your library card and PIN.

[www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries)

Click Online Resources

### Online

- **BBC Good Food: Caribbean Recipes**  
[www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes/cuisines/caribbean](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/content/recipes/cuisines/caribbean)
- **All Recipes: Caribbean Recipes**  
<http://allrecipes.co.uk/recipes/caribbean-recipes.aspx>

### Did you know...?

Anancy, Anansi or Anance the spider man is the hero of the trickster stories originating in West Africa which are now associated with Caribbean folklore and culture. Also known as Kwaku Anance, Ceiling Thomas, Br'er Ananci or Nancy, this chameleon like figure was thought to possess extraordinary qualities and the wisdom of God.

For more interesting facts and information visit the Virtual Library, at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries) click Online Resources and log in to access **Credo Reference**, free to library members.

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## African and Caribbean Connections

### At Your Library

Read more about the growth of Bedford as a **multicultural town** -

- Ring-binders of newspaper cuttings and articles delving back into the 1950s
- **The Un-Melting Pot** by John Brown is a book about Bedford and its immigrants, featuring a chapter about Jo Clough. Find the book at [your local library](#) or you can search the online catalogue at [www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/libraries) Click Do it Online then Search and Request.



### Locally

- Looking for African and Caribbean links? You will find clubs and organisations listed on the Local Information Database. Search by entering the country name.  
[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/cgi-bin/infopoint.sh)

### On the Virtual Library

- Follow the **Multicultural Timeline** on the Virtual Library  
[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.digitised\\_resources/multicultural\\_timeline.htm](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.digitised_resources/multicultural_timeline.htm)
- **Caribbean Family History Top Tips**  
Where to start researching your Caribbean family history.  
[www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.local\\_studies/tips\\_family\\_tree\\_afro\\_caribbean.htm](http://www.galaxy.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webingres/bedfordshire/vlib/0.local_studies/tips_family_tree_afro_caribbean.htm)

## Online

- **The Caribbean Gen Web Project**  
Includes a clickable map of the Caribbean  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caribgw/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caribgw/)

## Did you Know...?

**Joe Clough** (1887 - 1977) was a West Indian immigrant to Britain who made his first home in London and later moved to Bedford. Joe became London Transport's first black motorbus driver, an ambulance driver in the First World War, a driver for the National Omnibus Company in Bedford and latterly a taxi driver in the town.

For more interesting facts about the history of Bedford, visit the Virtual Library, click on [Local Studies and Family History](#).

## Facts and Figures

### Online

Find out more about the demography of the African and Caribbean communities in Bedford.

- Bedford Borough **Statistical Profile**: demography  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/statistics\\_and\\_census/borough\\_statistical\\_profile.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census/borough_statistical_profile.aspx)  
Click on 'Demography'.
- **Neighbourhood Statistics**  
[www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/)  
Search as follows:  
Bedford and Local Authority  
Bedford  
People and Society: Population and Migration  
Country of Birth Table UV08
- For more data go to:  
[www.bedford.gov.uk/council\\_and\\_democracy/statistics\\_and\\_census/other\\_data\\_sources.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census/other_data_sources.aspx)
- And for further information contact:  
[intelligence@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@bedford.gov.uk)

