

B:M2020

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Get to know

During Black History month we will celebrate local Black people of significance, celebrate their successes and learn their stories.

Today's black history month success story:

Vital statistics!

Name: Olive Elaine Morris

26 June 1952 – 12 July 1979

Born: Jamaica (moved to UK Brixton)

Famous for: Community leader and activist in the feminist, Black nationalist, and squatters' rights campaigns

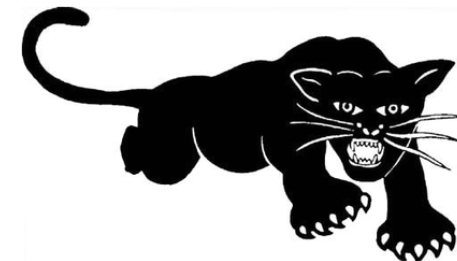




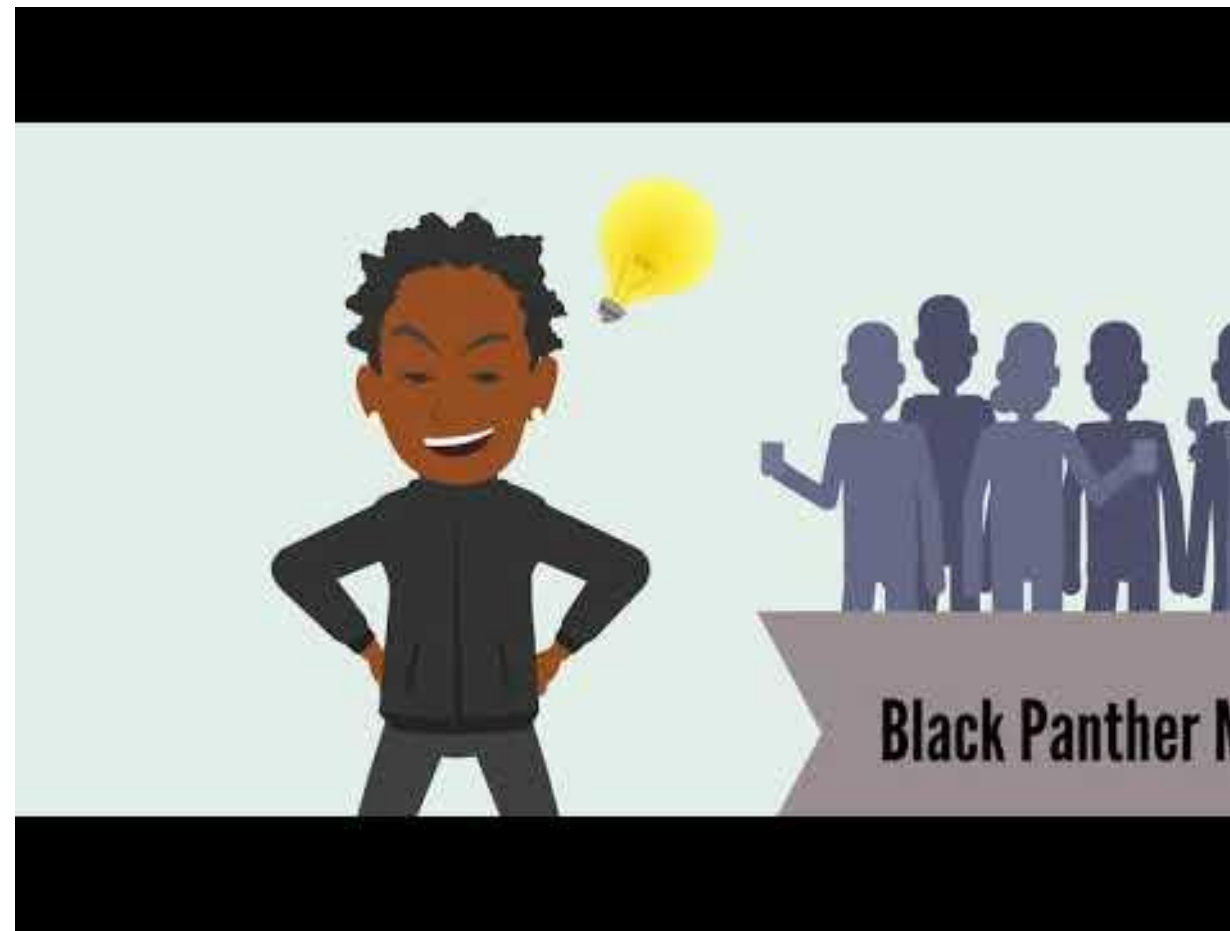
Need to know

Olive Morris was a Jamaican-born British-based community leader and anti-racist activist. She was a key organiser in the **British Black Panther** movement and co-founded the **Organisation for Women of Asian and African Descent**.

She lived in Brixton, where she helped to organise grassroots squatter campaigns. Along with other community leaders, Olive **“reclaimed” private property** to establish self-help community spaces.

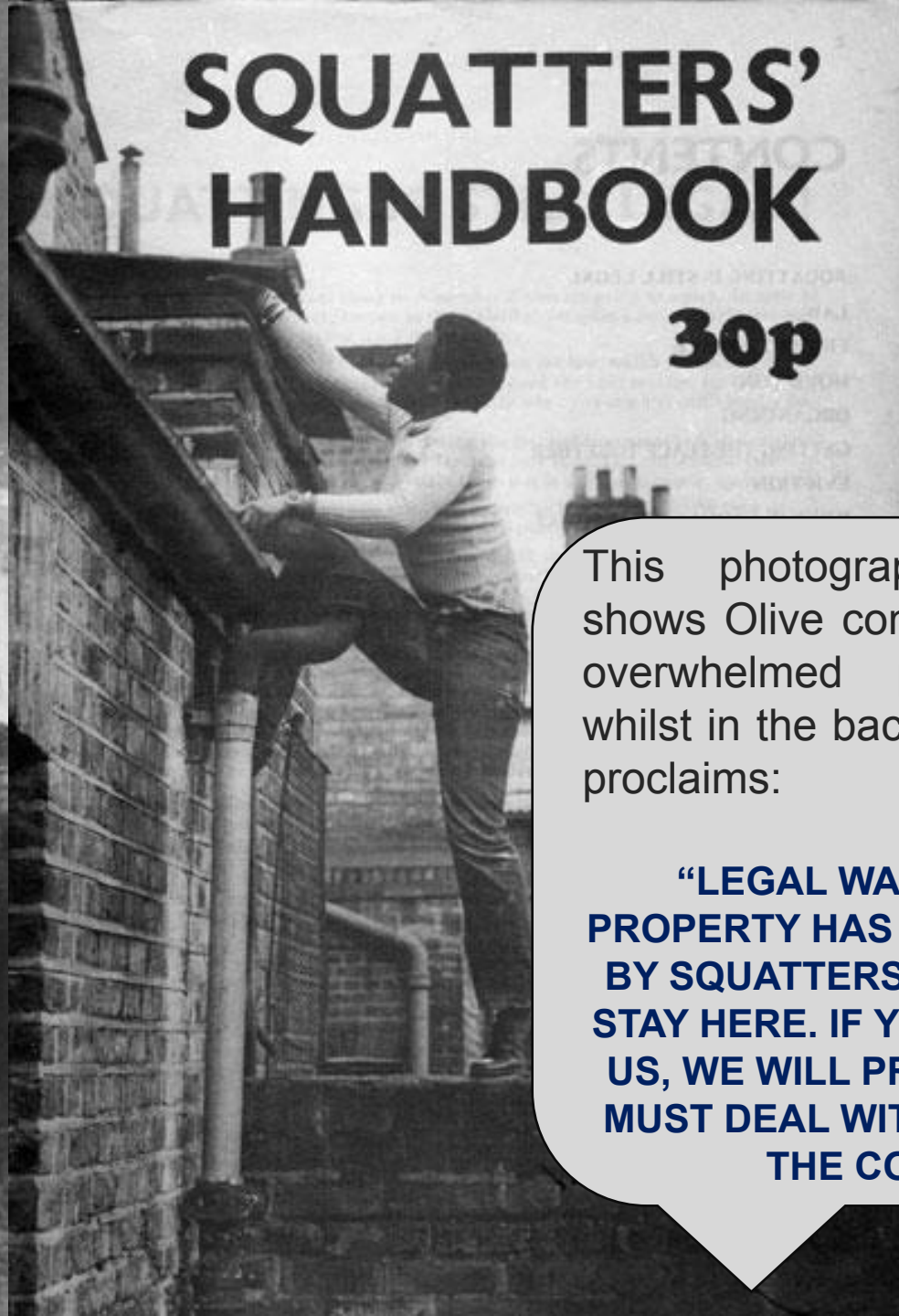


Watch this video to find out more:



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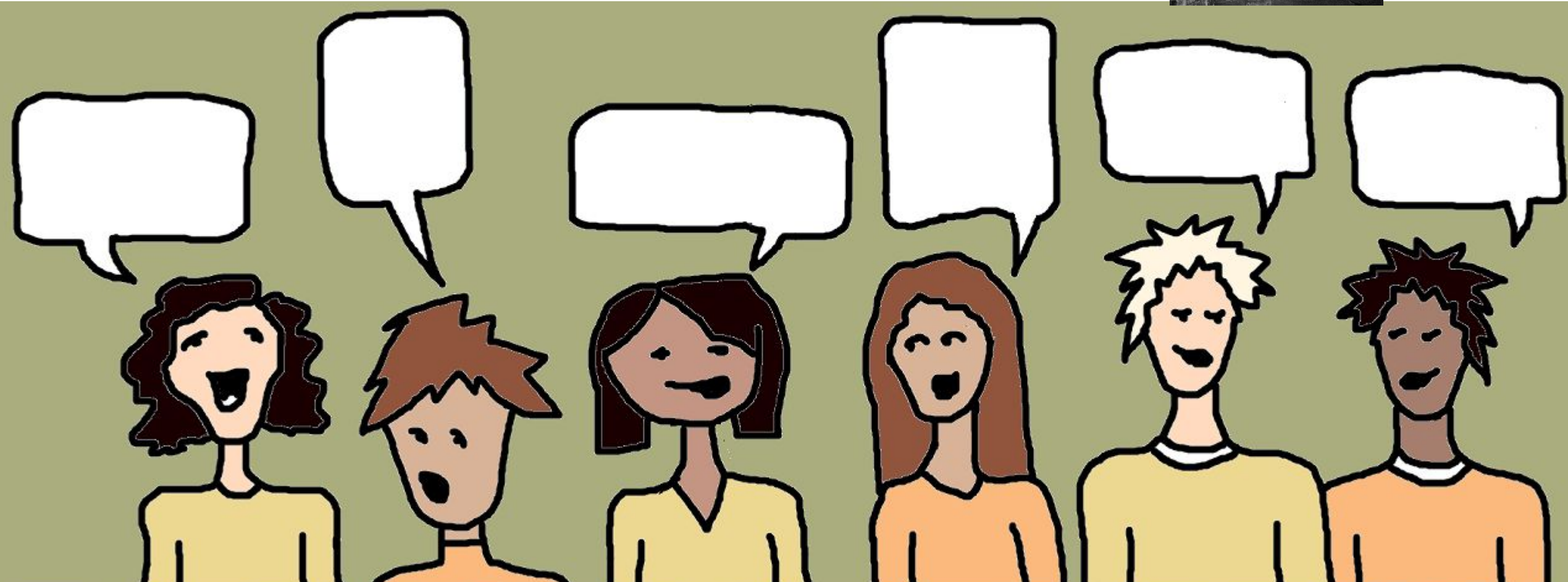
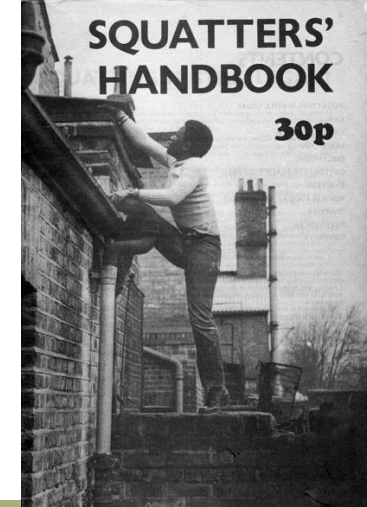
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This photograph from 1973 shows Olive confronting a rather overwhelmed property agent, whilst in the background the sign proclaims:

“LEGAL WARNING: THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY SQUATTERS. WE INTEND TO STAY HERE. IF YOU TRY TO EVICT US, WE WILL PROSECUTE. YOU MUST DEAL WITH US THROUGH THE COURTS.”

DISCUSSION: Do you agree with the squatter's movement – why might some people disagree with people like Olive Morris?



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Unfortunately Olive passed away at the young age of twenty-seven. She **left behind a legacy**, particularly in our local borough, Lambeth. She has been **celebrated** as a Google Doodle (bottom left), as the face of the Brixton pound (top left) and has a building named after her in Brixton (top right).

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Now you know

Today's black history local hero:



Olive Morris - Community Leader and Activist