

DWICA Newsletter - Coronavirus COVID-19



A statement from DWICA Chairman

“In these unprecedented times and representing DWICA management trustees, I must send my extended thoughts and best wishes for health & wellbeing to everyone. In addition encourage everyone to follow Government guidelines to keeping safe and adhering to social distancing in order to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. Keep safe.”

George Mighty MBE
DWICA Chairman

In light of the coronavirus pandemic and following government advice/ mandate DWICA was forced to close the building on Friday 20th March. Below is the statement which has and is posted on the organisation’s website.

“As part of our enduring commitment to the health and safety of our employees, customers and surrounding communities, the Centre will be closed from 4:30pm, Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice. We reached this decision after considerable thought and input from our valued team and Government instructions.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will be reviewing the decision of when to re-open the Centre when the health and wellbeing of our employees, volunteers, patrons, customers and users can be protected.

Our thoughts are with all who have been impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak”.

*Derby West Indian Community Association (DWICA)
Committee of Management
20th March 2020*

Since this time the organisation has kept in contact with its membership and provided reassurance to members who have expressed concerns relating to COVID-19.

Through DWICA’s 66 years of supporting community development we should remember: -

- It was DWICA who created the only benevolent fund during the 60’s -70’s that cater for its members to help those facing financial and social difficulties.
- Fund raising for disasters in the Caribbean - DWICA members rising to the challenge to raise funds for floods and hurricane and earthquake disasters in countries in the Caribbean. In addition, supported many local charitable causes over this time.
- Some could say DWICA was established to support the community’s growth and development in conjunction with their health and wellbeing

Needless to say, DWICA has a wealth of experience and knowledge in dealing with supporting people who are vulnerable and or at a disadvantage.



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fb.com/DWICADerby

With the COVID-19 pandemic DWICA is once again called upon to provide support to the community. It is equally encouraging to be made aware that other African Caribbean organisations in Derby have risen to the call and are delivering services to the community.

It is now commonplace for organisations to work in collaboration to meet a range of community needs and COVID-19 is another opportunity for African Caribbean organisations to work in collaboration to meet the needs of the elders in our community.

DWICA staff have kept in contact via telephone calls and doorstep discussions, whilst adhering to social distancing, with its membership and provided reassurance to those who have expressed concerns relating to COVID-19.

Early findings show that the elderly who have been contacted are either isolated or living alone, and some people need prescriptions collecting from their local pharmacy, food and household goods shopping to be undertaken.

Caribbean meals delivery service

Further to discussions with Hadhari Project it became clear that Open Doors Forum and other like minded people were already responding to the needs of the African Caribbean community by providing Caribbean meals to their target group. What was also recognised was additional services were required to meet the gaps in services the elderly cohort had identified during phone call conversations.

DWICA will introduce a complementary “meals for the elderly & vulnerable service” to support the work Hadhari & the Open Doors Forum are doing and based on responses from its members, friends and supporters via telephone calls, social networks, etc.

Regular weekly discussions with Hadhari Project and Open Doors Forum will ensure that the service provisions will complement each other by operating on different days and no duplicate of menus.

Hadhari Project / Open Doors Forum (ODF) / All Nations Church are providing meals **Tuesday & Thursday**.

DWICA first meal will be delivered on **Wednesday 8th April** and the following **Wednesday 15th April** until further notice



Volunteers Appeal



In order for us to deliver this much needed service we are appealing for the following volunteers, having already secured a head chef:

- Additional chefs with current food hygiene certificate
- Chef assistants – (1 or 2, to help prepare the foods)
- Servers to put meals in containers
- Delivery Drivers

DERBY AFRICAN CARIBBEAN ORGANISATION COVID-19 QUESTIONNAIRE

Following a WINDRUSH PLANNING GROUP (WPG) meeting on Thursday 2nd April 2020 (via the ZOOM app) members recognised the importance of collating accurate information to have an accurate understanding of how African Caribbean organisations can respond to the coronavirus. On Sunday 5th April the WPG chairperson (Prof. Cecile Wright) was an invited guest on BBC Radio Derby African Caribbean experience show presented by Devon Daley and shared information regarding the organisation's active participation in the community regarding COVID-19.

WPG agreed to undertake a mapping exercise to establish what current services / work is being undertaken by African Caribbean Community Organisations in Derby during the coronavirus pandemic. The aim of this mapping exercise is to collate essential information that will be tabled by WPG representatives at a forthcoming meeting with Derby City Council.

Over 25 organisations were emailed on Friday 3rd April and invited to take part in the questionnaire as part of the mapping exercise.

If your organisation has not received a questionnaire and wish to take part in the questionnaire, please contact info@dwica.co.uk. There are three basic questions: -

1. What is most needed for the group you represent?
2. Who can deliver that help for you? If not, why not?
3. Any other comments.

FOOD BANK



In addition to the WPG meeting members agreed that a food bank for our Windrush generation and vulnerable people would be a flagship project which could extend post COVID-19 pandemic.

Through a rapid response Open Doors Forum (ODF), a member of WPG has established a food bank and now is planned to receive public donations of non-perishable foods and other goods. As of going to print - **Tuesday 7th April 5.00pm – 7.00pm** at All Nations for Christ Church, Walbrook Road DE23 8RY. Open Doors are recruiting volunteers to support delivering services to the elderly and vulnerable, that includes befriending.

For those who would like to drop off food bank items after **7th April** can do so by calling Bev Stewart on 07505 135598 who will make arrangements with you to receive your food bank donations

DWICA along with other organisations will continue to support the ODF foodbank

Other Local Derby Food Distribution

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| Hope Centre Tel:- 01332 341189 | 18 Curzon St, Derby DE1 1LL |
| Derby City Mission Tel:- 01332 460346 | 10 Normanton Rd, Derby DE1 2GW |
| Pakistani Community Centre Tel:- 01332 774055 | 103 Harrington St, Pear Tree, Derby DE23 8PB |
| ACT Alvaston Food Bank Tel:- 01332 757991 | Alvaston Children Centre, 875 London Road (next to Derby Homes, opposite Wickes). Derby DE24 8UZ |
| Aspire Wrestling Alliance Ltd Derwent Tel:- 07711 901 782 | (based in the church) Cornwall Rd, DE21 6DJ off Nottingham Road, near the cemetery |
| Revive Healthy Living Centre Tel:- 01332 288700 | 23 Roe Farm Lane, Chaddesden, DE21 6ET |
| Mandela Centre Tel:- 01332 347066 | 179-181 Pear Tree Rd, Derby DE23 8NQ food bank service over Easter period |

Other provision

The Samaritans – Telephone 116 123 free from any phone or 0330 094 5717 local call charge apply