

Derby West Indian Community Association (DWICA)

MAY 2020 - COVID-19 NEWSLETTER



DWICA Meal Delivery Service

It is now six weeks since we started the meal delivery service. The first four weeks the meals were prepared and delivered on Wednesdays. From Week five we changed to Saturdays until further notice. We are currently delivering over 80 meals per week. The feedback has been very encouraging. We continue to receive positive feedbacks from those receiving either meals or food parcels.



Find us on Facebook
[fb.com/DWICADerby](https://www.facebook.com/DWICADerby)

Derby West Indian Community Association
Community/Cultural Centre, Carrington Street, Derby DE1 2ND

Feedback From Recipients:

“A big thank you for the free meals I have been having from the centre. The meals are well presented and well-prepared. Thanks very much to the people who have given up their time to do the catering and delivery”.

“Thank you for your support with providing food parcels for the family we support last week. Is there any chance to organise one for another family this Wednesday, please?”

“Thank you for taking the time to help those like me during this time. I appreciate your kindness and effort during this time”.

“The meals are lovely and well presented”

“Due to the lockdown I have not been able to leave the house as often, so the hot meal delivery is a saving grace. It allows me to have cultural food and also stay safe in the comfort of my own home”.

Feedback From A Delivery Driver

“My experience with the hot meal delivery has been pleasant. It is nice to be able to give back to those within the community who need it the most during this time and it is also a great opportunity to engage with new people in the local Derby community and learn a little bit about their history. The houses I have delivered to have all been pleasant and grateful for the service we are providing. As we have all been affected by the pandemic in different ways, it is nice to have communication with people outside of lockdown”.

On Saturday 9th May as part of our weekly hot meal deliveries, we were able to deliver around 50 meals to our elders and members who are vulnerable and isolated at this time.

In response to demand from the elderly & vulnerable cohort we have expanded our services to include delivering food parcels. This new provision went live on Wednesday 29th April 2020 and each Wednesday these parcels are delivered to families recommended by DCC People Services/New Communities Achievement Team. So far, we have delivered to 15 families with up to 9 people per households; and the numbers for food parcels continue to grow.



A Big Thank You

DWICA would like to thank:

- Members of Unite, the Union at Rolls-Royce in Derby, whose kind donation to DWICA has helped us to support our Community in Derby who are in need of food at this difficult time (DWICA meal delivery service).
- Sinfon Neighbourhood Board, in particular Councillors – Baggy Shanker, Joanna West, and Nadine Peatfield for DCC rapid ward response to the COVID-19 pandemic and provided Financial support to the (DWICA meal delivery service).
- Derby Community Action - provided Financial support to the (DWICA meal delivery service).

We wish to say a very big thank you to the hard-working Volunteers and staff who have done the shopping, cooked the meals, prepared the food parcels, e.g. the Cooks, the Bakers, the Drivers and anyone else who have volunteered their time.

DWICA Events Cancelled

DWICA Annual General Meeting (AGM) had to be cancelled and will be reconvened when government's guidelines permit us to do so.

DWICA Based Activities – closure of the building has impacted on social / cultural activities because of social distancing. Young people's activities such as youth club and carnival troupe rehearsal sessions, tai chi, and other functions held in the centre had to be cancelled.

2020 Derby Caribbean Carnival



On Monday 11th May 2020 Derby Live Informed Derby Caribbean Carnival Planning group via email that Derby City Council had made the decision to cancel all events held on their land up until the end of August 2020. This obviously affects the Caribbean Carnival scheduled for Sunday 19th July 2020 at Market Place and Osmaston Park. As organiser's we are disappointed not to be able to host the carnival on Sunday 19th July (the procession – at Market Place and the family fun day at Osmaston Park), however we agree it is the responsible and correct decision to make. It is important to continue to follow government guidelines concerning social distancing, to which would be challenging in a mass gathering of carnival audience.

Call us on 01332 371529

Derby Caribbean carnival was established in 1975 and has never faced a challenge like this global pandemic which has government responding with critical measures such as the lockdown in order to reduce the spread of this pandemic. Please keep checking our website www.dwica.co.uk and our Facebook email info@dwica.co.uk or ring 01332 371529 for carnival updates.

On Wednesday 13th May DWICA Chairman Mr. George Mighty was interviewed on BBC Radio Derby's Ian Sky's breakfast show to discuss the cancellation of Derby Caribbean Carnival.

What DWICA Continues To Do

- Management and staff continue to keep in contact with members of the elderly cohort by making and responding to phone calls.
- Officers & staff frequent the centre to check on the building, take messages from the voicemail box and respond to queries
- Officers and staff like all other people working in the public, private and voluntary/community sector organisations are using online software/ smartphone apps to continue their work and attend virtual meetings via ZOOM and JITSI platforms as a useful means of maintaining and in some cases create new communication links.
- Staff are in contact with our children and young people via social networks which have been a point of reference for them

