



Derby West Indian Community Association
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October Newsletter

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Black History Month Edition



Political activist, Paul Stephenson OBE, pictured in 1964 (see the article, Black British Heroes: Paul Stephenson, on page 3)

Chairman's Remarks



” October is a special month for our community and it is only right that we celebrate our history the best way we can, despite the pandemic restrictions. On page 2 you will find our plan for Black History Month and we encourage you to come visit us at the centre, be it for the exhibition or the various classes we run. Our doors are always open!”

DWICA Notice Board

At DWICA we are continuing to support the community, here is what's coming up this next month. Times listed and classes are subject to change. There is a limited availability due to Coronavirus restrictions. Please call or email to confirm places.

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Tai Chi 11.30am- 12.30pm	Computer Class 2-3pm	Hot Meals Delivery	DCCT Chair Exercise 10.30- 11.30am	One Love Tea and Coffee Club 10am- 12pm	Hot Meals Delivery

Black History Month at DWICA

October is the month parts of the globe celebrate black culture and history. At DWICA, we are no different and will have a number of events celebrating our culture. Here is what is going timetabled for the rest of the month at the centre:

Week	Event(s)
Week 1 (5-10 October) 10 am - 4pm Monday – Friday	DWICA Carnival Exhibition: We will have Carnival footage from yesteryear playing in the main hall. Feel free to pop in, enjoy a drink and reminisce on carnivals gone by.
Week 2 (12-17 th October) 10 am - 4pm Monday – Friday	Carnival Man Behind the Mask: Sam Carnival, a Fine artist, former carnival queen and community leader will showcase her exhibition 'Carnival Man Behind the Mask'. Stream a zoom Meeting between Mr Mighty & Sugar 2 Men in Carnival similarities and differences between Leicester & Derby.
Week 3 (19 th -26 th October) 10 am - 4pm Monday – Friday	EMCCAN Exhibition: We will have an EMCCAN exhibition which will celebrate different Carnival's across the East Midlands.
Week 4 (26-31 st October) 10 am - 4pm Monday – Friday	Across the Decades Exhibition: celebrating the powerful work that DWICA has done over the last 60 years for the British, Caribbean and African community. In partnership with partner organisations like Leicester Caribbean Carnival and Spice Queen Productions DWICA will showcase 3 documentaries; Black British and Brilliant in Derby, Black British and Brilliant and Black British and Creative.

Black British Heroes: Paul Stephenson



Paul Stephenson pictured with his wife (Source: The Guardian)

Many of you may have heard of American, Rosa Parks, famous for her refusal to move from her seat on the bus in Montgomery. But sadly, our very own version of Mrs Parks, Paul Stephenson, is rarely spoken of, yet his contribution to black history is just as strong.

In 1964, nine years after Rosa Park's iconic refusal, Stephenson walked into his local pub in Bristol, the Bay Horse, and ordered a drink. Before he could take a sip, the pub manager came over and said: "We don't want you, black people, in here – you are a nuisance." Rather than apologise and make a swift exit, Stephenson, much like Parks, refused to move. The response? Eight officers came to arrest him.

The police took him away for the crime of wanting a drink. Yet, what was most shocking of all is that the pub was acting justly in the eyes of the law. During that time, pubs, estate agents and other private facilities were allowed to refuse entry or service based on race.

For Stephenson, this law meant a night in jail and a court hearing. His trial later that year was followed keenly by the press. However, instead of falling on his side, local newspaper, the Bristol Evening Post wrote the headline: "West Indian leader made a fool of himself." Fortunately, the five day magistrates court hearing ruled in his favour, with the case dismissed and a measly 25 pounds of compensation paid out to him.

Yet, the true victory for Stephenson and the black community he represented was found in the form of a personal telegram from the newly elected Labour Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, who promised he would change the law. A year later, Britain's first Race Relations Act was made law and saw the banning of discrimination in public places.

Since then, Stephenson, who was a leading figure in the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963, has been rightly crowned as a civil rights hero. His activism in Bristol saw him invited to the US by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and gain meetings with the likes of Muhammad Ali, with whom he set up the Muhammad Ali Sports Development Association (Masda), a charity to get disadvantaged children into sport.

Now 77 years old and living in Bristol, Stephenson was made Freeman of the city in 2008, 44 years after he was denied a drink. His book, titled, Paul Stephenson OBE: Memoirs of a Black Englishman is definitely worth a read this month as we celebrate the contributions black people have made to society.

Top News Stories from the West Indies

Jamaica re-elects the Jamaica Labour Party

Jamaica's 18th general election saw a victory for Andrew Holness' Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) in a landslide win for the centre right party. Taking 49 of 63 seats, the JLP swept aside their opponents the People's National Party (PNP) and the newly formed Jamaica Progressive Party. However, voter turnout was at only 37% as voters stayed away from the polls which required temperature checks and face masks. The task of rebuilding Jamaica following the Coronavirus crisis will be Holness' biggest task as he enters office again. With 19% of the population, according to the 2017 World Bank report, experiencing poverty and this number looking likely to rise after a huge drop in tourism revenue, the incumbent Prime Minister's task is unenviable.

Barbados Announces Plans to Drop the Queen as Head of State

Barbados has begun plans to remove the Queen as head of state and become a republic by November 2021, the month it celebrates its 55th year of independence. The move to full independence has long been talked about in the nation, but never before has it been as likely to go ahead. Requiring a two thirds majority in both houses to become law, the change is likely as both main parties support the idea. The reaction in the UK has been mixed, with one Conservative MP, Tom Tugendhat claiming "Chinese interference" was behind the decision, rather than the Windrush Scandal and Black Lives Matter movement which has exposed Britain's problem with race as many have suggested.

Frederick "Toots" Hibbert, the lead singer of Toots and the Maytals, dies



Lead singer of Reggae group, Toots and the Maytals, Frederick Hibbert died in Kingston on September 12th aged 77. The legendary artist shot to fame before Bob Marley with his Ska, Rock Steady and Reggae style hits like 'Pressure Drop', 'Funky Kingston' and 'Bam Bam'. Born in May Pen, Jamaica in 1942, Hibbert's life had many ups and downs. One low point was a year spent in jail in 1966 for false charges of cannabis use- inspiring the groups most famous song, '54-46 Was My Number'. The group was still releasing original music and performing to this day with their album, 'Got To Be Tough', released in August. He is survived by his wife and seven children.

This Month in Black History

- *St Vincent and Grenadines gained their independence on the 27th October 1979 and will celebrate independence this month.*
- *On October 16, 1995 a huge political demonstration was held for Black residents in Washington DC called the Million Man March- the largest gathering of its kind in the USA.*



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