



Derby West Indian Community Association
Carrington Street,
Derby, DE1 2ND
TEL: 01332 371529/07908897084
Email: info@dwica.co.uk

December Newsletter

.....

Christmas Edition



Chairman's Remarks



“Merry Christmas and season’s greetings to all of our members. We are still closed for this month so please be reminded that all of our usual classes are now online through Zoom at the similar times as before. For full details see page 2. The centre and our staff all hope you have a safe Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again soon in the New Year.”

DWICA Notice Board

At DWICA we are continuing to support the community, this time it will be virtual though. If you are unsure on how to use Zoom or want to book a place for an activity in the New Year, feel free to call the centre on 01332 371529/07908897084 for some guidance.

NEW CLASS: Online Youth Club: Thursdays and Saturdays

The Derby West Indian Community Association's (DWICA) Online Youth club has begun. The youth led project combines drama, arts & crafts around the theme of shaping a fairer community. To sign up, please call the centre on 01332 371529 or email: info@dwica.co.uk to receive an online form. We hope to see some more of our DWICA youth on Zoom soon!
(Hollie White, CYP Officer)

DWICA's Covid Kitchen Enters Final Week

After ten months, the DWICA Covid Kitchen has reached its final week. The project, which has delivered thousands of meals across the city, has been a roaring success. Much of the work wouldn't have been possible without the support of our funders- DCMS Big Lottery and donors to the project, like Rolls Royce Unite Union and our generous DWICA membership.



Last Saturday saw DWICA deliver our Christmas meals

However, the unsung heroes of the project are our volunteers who have worked tirelessly to deliver the community our wonderfully prepared meals. From the fantastic cooks, Iona and Jackie, to the reliable drivers, Genevieve Gordon, Tony Sewell, Perry Egerton, Andy/Annet Johnson, Elaine Hudson, Jackie Macintosh, Delroy, Natalie and Samantha Hudson, they have all been instrumental in pushing the Covid Kitchen forward.

The Covid Kitchen has also allowed two Derby University students to undertake important research into black Caribbean attitudes and relationship with social care in Derby. This work could not have been possible without the help of you, the meal receives and we would like to personally thank all of you for taking the time to complete the survey with them.

Once again, a big thank you to all involved in the great project and we are hoping that we get some good news on funding so it may continue into 2021.

Windrush Scandal Politics Returns as Deportations Continue

This month has seen a return to Windrush scandal headlines in the media. The discussions began after 80 prominent black activists and celebrities looked to prevent a deportation flight back to Jamaica in an open letter to the Home Office. The letter prompted a fierce backlash from the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, who decried the “do-gooding celebrities attempting to conflate the victims of Windrush with these vile criminals set for deportation”.



The Daily Mail's front page

That being said, the letter did prompt the authorities to reconsider 23 of the deportees return, but went ahead with 13 others on Wednesday 2nd of December. The reasoning for the removal of some on the deportation flight was due to them having been here since they were children, others because they were victims of modern slavery.

The complexities and back stories for these deportees was sadly lost on the Home Secretary, Patel, who referred to them in her front-page Daily Mail interview as “rapists and murderers”. A similar line was taken by political radio host, Nick Ferrari, who nonchalantly claimed that the decision to reverse some of the deportations would leave "a Jamaican rapist or paedophile coming to a street near you".

This rhetoric stoked the fury of many and unsurprisingly, immigration lawyers referred to by name in the Mail’s article were sent death threats. Patel, who was recently forced to apologise for her bullying of staff, has launched a number of attacks on immigration lawyers in recent months. One lawyer told the Guardian, “It feels like I have become a target when I was simply doing my job.”

Despite what the Home Office and bigoted political commentators will have you believe, the Windrush scandal is still ongoing and the effects still felt to this day. Just ask the family of Hubert Howard, who are in a court battle against the Home Office this week. Howard, who came to England as a three-year-old, was denied citizenship due to the “good character” requirement. The violation of this requirement came when he snatched papers out of a receptionist’s hand, with this conviction in 2018 meaning he wasn’t granted citizenship after a 13 year long attempt which saw him lose his job and denied him the chance to attend his mother’s funeral in Jamaica. Eventually, the decision was reversed as he lay in intensive care. Three weeks after his citizenship was granted, he died. The family are now looking for a judicial review into the initial denial of citizenship, which they say targets Windrush victims unfairly.



Hubert Howard (Pictured above) saw his life ruined by the Windrush Scandal. His family are now suing the government

Windrush compensation scheme barrister, Martin Forde, bemoaned the lack of action from the government in terms of reparations. Speaking to a House of Commons Committee on the 9th December, Forde revealed that just 2.2 million of the promised 200 million had been paid out to the victims, with only 226 claimants receiving anything out of the 15,000 thought to eligible. However, Patel would act quickly on these claims changing the compensation minimum payment from £250 to £10,000 and the maximum from £10,000 to £100,000 on Monday. An act from the Home Office which wouldn’t have happened without the activists and lawyer’s work.

Top News Stories from the West Indies

Caribbean Islands Poisoned by Colonial era pesticide as Cancer risk revealed

The Caribbean Island of Martinique is in a healthcare crisis as a toxic pesticide called chlordecone continues to infect the soil and water. Scientists believe there is a link between the toxin and unusually high rates of prostate cancer and other long-term illnesses. According to reports, in the French West Indies there are 50 to 100 new cases of prostate cancer per year, out of a population of just 800,000. The chemical was first used by French colonisers on banana plantations and were placed under trees to ward off insects. Despite knowledge of its health implications, the French only banned its usage in 1993, fourteen years after the World Health Organisation had identified its deadly effects.

French President, Emmanuel Macron apologised in 2018 for his nation's part in the disaster and had pledged a reparation fund to those affected. Two years later, no payments have been made. This problem does not look like going away soon as 92% of Martinicans have traces of chlordecone in their blood and the chemical can stay in the soil for centuries.



A map of the French West Indies nations

Bahama's Kristal Ambrose wins Goldman award for her Fight against Plastic Waste

Kristal Ambrose, a marine biologist from the Bahamas has won a top award for her climate change work as she targets plastic waste reduction. The 30-year-old has had to fight post-colonial prejudices as many saw her waste reduction efforts a result of being "around white people too long".



Kristal Ambrose on a beach cleanup.

Ambrose says the Bahamas plastic problem is caused not only by dated attitudes to single use plastic within the nation but also due to the Sargasso Sea pushing plastic waste towards the island's waters. Her organisation, the Bahamas Plastic Movement, have managed to change ideas, with the group successfully lobbying the government to ban single use plastic. Other notable black winners of the award are Chibeze Ezekiel, whose four-year grassroots campaign in Ghana succeeded in blocking the country's first coal power plant and a renewable energy promise from legislators.

US Sanctions Jamaican Policemen accused of Extra Judicial Killings

The US government has brought sanctions against six Jamaican police officers of the Reneto Adams-led Crime Management Unit, who are said to have murdered multiple victims whilst on duty during May, 2003 in Kraal, Clarendon. Officers Adams, Devon Orlando Bernard, Patrick Anthony Coke, Shayne St Aubyn Lyons, Leford Gordon, and Roderick Anthony Collier were hit with sanctions due to "their involvement in gross violations in human rights in Jamaica". However, this assessment is at odds with Jamaican judicial system as the officers accused were acquitted in December 2005. Many online comments from Jamaica's The Gleaner have suggested the US should clean their own house with regards to police murders before looking over the Caribbean Sea.

This Month in Black History

- *On December 1st, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to leave her seat for a white man in Alabama, Montgomery sparking a boycott of the buses. Just over a year later on December 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in the city.*
- *Carter Woodson (1875-1950) who was one of the first historians to introduce black studies to American colleges and universities*