

Black History Month

Celebrating Windrush 75



 Wandsworth
Carers' Centre

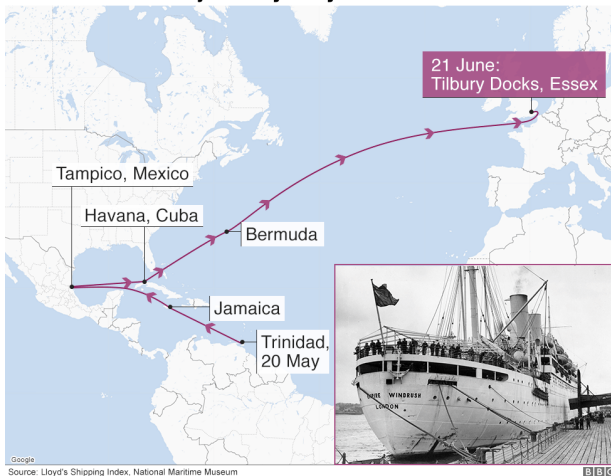
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Who are the Windrush Generation?



A poster advertising jobs on London Buses to people living in the Caribbean.

The Windrush's journey May-June 1948



A map showing the journey of the ship, HMT Windrush from May – June 1948. The ship travelled from the Caribbean and Mexico to Tilbury Docks in Essex.

After the Second World War, Britain was struggling to rebuild its economy. There was a shortage of people to work in areas such as transport. The NHS was also brand new and needed huge numbers of nurses, maintenance teams and doctors.

Britain asked people living in the Caribbean to come and work in the UK. In return they were promised British Citizenship.

Seventy-five years ago, on 21st June 1948, the ship, 'HMT Windrush', arrived at Tilbury Docks in Essex. 1,027 passengers were on board. They started their journey from different ports in the Caribbean and Mexico. Most passengers on board were of Black heritage. Many passengers had also served with the British Army during World War Two.

After this, between 1948 and 1971, thousands of people arrived in the UK from the Caribbean to work. They are known as the Windrush generation. Without their help, the UK wouldn't have been able to recover from the effects of World War Two.



Three of the passengers who arrived in the UK on HMT Windrush.

(Source: National Archives)

①	HAZEL	John	"	21	[REDACTED], St. Birkenhead, Boxer.
②	WILMOT	Harold	"	20	[REDACTED] Scot. Case Maker.
③	RICHARDS	John	"	22	No address. Rodfield, Carpenter.

Source: National Archives



Margaret Hazel, a member of the Windrush Generation, at the end and beginning of her successful career.

(Source: ITV News)

What is the Windrush Scandal?

In 1971, Britain passed a law to allow anyone from Commonwealth countries, who had come to rebuild the UK, citizenship and permanent leave to remain.

This included those who had arrived from the Caribbean since 1948, (the 'Windrush generation'). It also included people who had come from South Asia and Africa to work.

The UK Home Office did not keep a record of those who were granted citizenship. Landing cards for the Windrush generation were also destroyed in 2010.

The Government later asked people to prove that they had a right to remain in the UK. Without documents, those affected faced issues accessing healthcare, housing and work. Many people were threatened with deportation and at least 83 people were illegally deported.

The government have been looking into this scandal since 2018. A Windrush compensation scheme was set up, which 15,000 people may be eligible for.

There have been many delays and other issues with the government's review.

As a result, many people have worked hard recently to celebrate and raise awareness of the resilient Windrush Generation, who Britain owe a huge amount to.



Protests in support of the Windrush Generation.

(Source: The Independent)



The Windrush Monument, unveiled at Waterloo Station in June 2022 and created by sculptor, Basil Watson.

This sculpture shows a family who have arrived in the UK. They are full of hope and dressed in their 'Sunday best'.

Art Celebrating Windrush 75



Stamps for the Royal Mail created by Karen Cox



50p coin created for the Royal Mint by Valda Jackson

Permanent Sculpture in Hackney by Veronica Ryan

Art Celebrating Windrush 75



Artist Karen Cox designed stamps celebrating Windrush 75 for the Royal Mail.

Karen's aim is that via these stamps the celebration 'can travel internationally'.



Artist Valda Jackson and her parents are a part of the Windrush Generation. She designed a coin for the Royal Mint, honouring the Windrush generation and celebrating the way that they continue to enrich society.



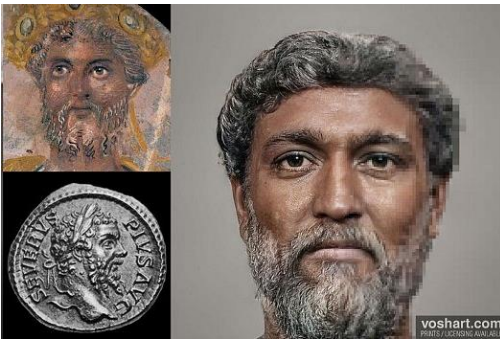
Artist Veronica Ryan created the first permanent sculpture celebrating the Windrush generation. It is the first permanent, public sculpture in the UK by a Black, female artist.

The sculpture, in Hackney, is of custard apple, breadfruit and sour soup. These fruits grow in the Caribbean.

People of Black Heritage in Britain before Windrush

People often think that people of Black Heritage have only been in Britain since Windrush, (1948) or after 1555, when Britain began enslaving people living in Africa.

However, people of Black Heritage have been in the UK for over 2000 years. Sadly, we do not have many records of this and this history is not widely taught in schools or shown on TV/in films.



Roman Emperor Septimus Severus AD 193 – 211, brought forces to Britain to protect Hadrian's Wall, later invading modern day Scotland. He was born in Libya and is buried in York.

(Source: World History Encyclopedia).



John Blanke was a musician in King Henry VII's court from 1501. He was of African origin.

In 2020, he was named as one of 100 Great Black Britons.

(Source: Historic Royal Palaces and Wikipedia).

People of Black Heritage in Britain before Windrush



Olaudah Equiano, (1745–1797), was a writer and abolitionist. He was born in modern day Nigeria. He was enslaved as a child and forcefully taken to the Caribbean.

He purchased his freedom in 1766 and travelled to London where he was active in the anti-slave trade movement. He is a key figure in ending Britain's slave trade.

(Source: Wikipedia)



Mary Prince, (1788 – 1833), was born in Bermuda to an enslaved family of African descent. She escaped to London and wrote the first autobiography of a Black woman to be published in the UK.

Her writing was essential to ending Britain's slave trade.

(Source: Wikipedia)



Mary Seacole, (1805 – 1881), was of British and Jamaican heritage. She was a businesswoman and nurse who nursed soldiers back to health during the Crimean War.

She used herbal remedies in her practice, drawn from the Jamaican and West African tradition of doctresses.

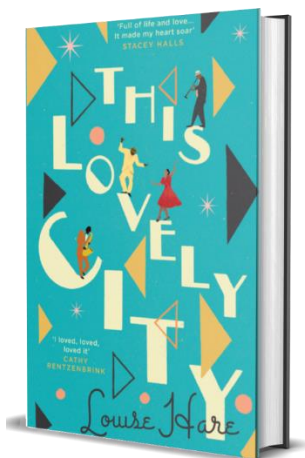
(Source: Wikipedia)

Celebrating Women of Black Heritage

Each year, Black History Month is celebrated in October in the UK.

The theme for 2023 is 'Saluting our Sisters', (#WeMatter), with an aim to highlight the crucial role that women of Black Heritage have played in history, in bringing about change and contributing to communities. This includes their contributions to various areas, such as literature, music, sport and healthcare.

Spotlight on Wandsworth author, Louise Hare



Louise Hare is an author who lives in Wandsworth. Her first novel 'This Lovely City', was published in 2020 by Harper Collins. The book has been described as a Windrush Novel that vividly tells readers what it was like to be an immigrant in Britain following the Second World War.

The book is set in Brixton in the 1950s. It is a murder mystery, with a strong focus on the community. Her latest novel, 'Harlem After Midnight', was released in June 2023.

(Source: Black History Month website – events page)

Carers of Black Heritage



Statistics about Black Carers are grouped within statistics about BAME, (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic), Carers.

- BAME Carers save the UK £7.9 billion via the Care that they provide.
- There are 44,402 Carers of Black Caribbean descent in the UK.
- 1 in 3 Carers in London are from a BAME background.
- BAME Carers are more likely to be caring for someone with a mental illness or long-term disability.
- BAME Carers are more likely to face extra costs, to have restricted opportunities for education/employment/promotion and they are more likely to face social isolation.
- Services supporting Carers need to be sensitive to the specific barriers that Carers of Black heritage, (and other BAME Carers) face.

(Source: Carers Factsheet (basw.co.uk))

Wandsworth Carers' Centre Events

October 2023 for Black History Month

We would love to see you at the following events to celebrate Black History Month 2023. Please call our office, (020 8877 1200), to sign up and for more information:

Walking Group Tea and Talk Wednesday 4th October at 11am	Walking Group trip to explore Kennington Park and view a memorial to victims of the Blitz during the Second World War. The memorial has an inscription by Black author, poet, activist and historian, Maya Angelou
Writers Group Event Thursday 5th October 2pm – 4pm Balham Library	Writers Group event celebrating the Windrush Generation and the topic 'Memories of Home'.
Cinema Trip Friday 6th October 4pm – 6.30pm The Exhibit, Balham	Cinema Trip to watch 'Hidden Figures', a film about a team of African American Women who worked as mathematicians for NASA and helped the USA to win the 1960s space race.
Soul Food Supper Club Wednesday 11th October 5pm – 7pm Wandsworth Carers' Centre Balham Office	A special, Soul Food edition of our Wednesday evening Supper Club. Come along to meet other Carers and celebrate Black History Month with music and food.

<p>Interactive Gathering Event Monday 16th October 1pm – 3pm Balham Baptist Church</p>	<p>(Please kindly note that this event is only for Carers of Black Heritage. Our other Black History Month events are open to all Carers). Meet other Carers of Black Heritage. Share your thoughts about what it means to be a Carer of Black Heritage in a friendly, informal group discussion. Enjoy some music and culture specific refreshments. Express yourself with creative activities.</p>
<p>Bring Your Own Book Discussion Session Friday 20th October 11am – 12.30pm Putney Waterstones</p>	<p>An event where you can bring your own book related to Black history, community or culture and enjoy a friendly, informal discussion as a group. Please feel free to bring any book you have read or would like to read in the future.</p>

