

WINDRUSH FOUNDATION: 25 YEARS ON

HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

1995-2020

1995 was the year that first saw Sam King and Arthur Torrington (co-founders) working to establish in 1996 a registered charity which delivered heritage and community services, helping to strengthen the identity for Caribbean people, especially the youth, in Britain. 'Windrush', 'Empire Windrush' and 'Windrush Generation' have always been key words in our operations. Both men developed the idea, but Sam was the one to have led the first Windrush commemorative event (40th anniversary) in 1988, hosted by the Mayor of Lambeth, at Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. Sam was a passenger on the Empire Windrush, an RAF WWII serviceman and the first Black Mayor of Southwark, London. He was first to have coined the term, 'Windrush Generation', decades ago. More often he was referring to his own generation.

Arthur has been the Director responsible for publicity from June 1995. Sam brought together in 1988, 1998 and 2003 dozens of his fellow Windrush passengers to celebrate their arrival and as the years went by, most of them are no longer with us. With their supports, Windrush Foundation built the platform on which all other Windrush organisations or projects now operate. We were first to have promoted 'Empire Windrush' as an 'iconic' image of the Caribbean presence and significant contributions in the UK. We have set the standard from 1995 and established what can be termed 'Windrush goodwill' that determines how other Windrush organisations or projects function today. In 2018 the British Media (including the BBC), the British Government, other organisations and many individuals syphoned the terminology: 'Windrush Generation'.

Below are key WINDRUSH events, and associated activities over the past 25 years:

- 22.10.97: House of Commons Reception hosted by (the late) Bernie Grant MP
- 30.05.98: WINDRUSH - four-part series of one-hour documentaries on BBC2 TV
- 18.06.98: Windrush Reception at Foreign & Commonwealth Office hosted by Robin Cook MP,
and attended by Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister
- 22.06.98: University of London, Logan Hall: Participants included: Bill Morris, Baroness
Valerie Amos, Paul Boateng MP, Peter Bottomley MP, Professor Lola Young,
Simon Hughes MP, Trevor Phillips, Oona King MP, and others.
- 24.06.98: Thurrock Council Windrush Commemoration event at Tilbury Docks, Essex.
- 25.06.98: Windrush Reception at St. James's Palace, hosted by The Prince of Wales.
- 26.06.98: BBC Radio 4 Windrush "Any Questions" presented by Jonathan Dimbleby
- June 1998: Southwark Council Windrush Reception hosted by the Mayor of Southwark
- June 1998: Camden Council Windrush Commemoration, hosted by the Mayor of Camden
- 21.07.98: BBC2 Windrush Gala Concert at Alexandra Palace, London (shown on BBC 2 TV)

on 25 July 1998)

- 22.10.98: Windrush Reception at Imperial War Museum, London
- 24.10.98: Windrush Community Awards - City of Leicester
- 06.11.98: Windrush Reception, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, held at Tower of London.
- 21.01.99: Windrush Exhibition - Hammersmith & West London College, with Connie Mark (ATS)
- 21.06.99: Windrush Reception - House of Commons, hosted by Paul Boateng MP.
- 25.06.99: Windrush Lecture - at Mander Hall, London, by Richard Hart (Historian/Solicitor)
- 19.06.00: Windrush Reception - House of Lords, hosted by Baroness Howells of St David's
- 22.06.00: Windrush Celebration – Lambeth Town Hall, hosted by the Mayor of Lambeth
- 21.06.01: Windrush Celebration – HMS President, hosted by the Mayor of London (Ken Livingstone)
- 20.10.01: Windrush Play, performed by KCK at Warwick Park School, Southwark, London
- 14.06.03: Windrush Awards, Logan Hall, University of London.
- 15.07.03: Windrush Reception at 10 Downing Street, London, hosted by Cherie Blair
- 29.10.05: Commemorating the Contribution of West Indian Soldiers in WWII, Museum of London.
Speakers include Baroness Amos, Don Touching MP, & Air Vice Marshall Stephen Dalton.
- 25.11.06: Celebrating WINDRUSH 10 years of Community Service - Museum in Docklands.
- 22.06.08: 60th Anniversary Commemoration Service: Ruach Ministries, Brixton, attended by
the Mayor of Lambeth.
- 22.06.08: 60th Anniversary Event at the Band Stand, Clapham Common, attended by The Mayor
of Lambeth
- 28.07.08: Published BOOKLET/DVD titled 'WINDRUSH PIONEERS'.
- 08.11.08: WWII in the CARIBBEAN presentation at Museum in Docklands featuring ALLAN WILMOT (RAF WWII serviceman), ALWYN PAYNE (Merchant Seaman) & RUDOLPH 'NICK' COLLINS (Windrush Passenger)
- 22.11.08: WINDRUSH to LEWISHAM EVENT at CALABASH Centre, Catford, LONDON, in memory of UNCLE GEORGE (W. GEORGE BROWN) who arrived on MV Empire Windrush on 22 June 1948.

June 2008 to April 2010: Contributed to the Imperial War Museum's Exhibition: From WAR TO WINDRUSH

OCTOBER 2011: COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS project funded by The BIG LOTTERY

2011/2012/2013: EMANCIPATION 1838 project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund

2013: WINDRUSH 65th ANNIVERSARY / COMMEMORATION; SERIES OF EVENTS

2014: DR JAMES RISIEN RUSSELL IN WWI project celebrating his contribution to World War One.

2014: MAKING FREEDOM TOURING EXHIBITION was displayed at the HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT and featured EMANCIPATION STORIES from 1816 in BARBADOS to the ARRIVAL of the ship EMPIRE WINDRUSH on 22 JUNE 1948, and to INDEPENDENCE of a few CARIBBEAN COLONIES in the 1960s

2016: LOTTERY FUNDED PROJECT for WINDRUSH'70, LEADING THE 'COMMEMORATION IN 2018'.

2017-2017: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CY GRANT – TOURING EXHIBITION in association with London Metropolitan Archives and Cy Grant Trust

2017: 'MAKING FREEDOM' (EMANCIPATION 1838) EXHIBITION TOURS BRITAIN AND THE CARIBBEAN

2017: Major Windrush event in association with Mayor of London Sadiq Khan at Bernie Grant Arts Centre on 22 August 2017 in acknowledgment of UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade & its Abolition, attended by Matthew Ryder, Deputy Mayor.

2017: AGREEMENT reached with Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to resume yearly event at City Hall in acknowledgement of UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade & its Abolition; August 23.

2018: WINDRUSH'70; WINDRUSH PIONEERS & CHAMPIONS Publication; EDUCATION PACK KS2 & KS3

JUNE 2018: WINDRUSH EXHIBITION, at BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON.

2018: The HOME OFFICE created what became known as the 'WINDRUSH SCANDAL'

2018: Prime Minister TERESA MAY MP forced to meet Commonwealth Leaders about the SCANDAL.

2018: MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT debate the SCANDAL after a major campaign led by PATRICK VERNON

2018: The BRITISH Media syphons the term 'WINDRUSH GENERATION' when sharing information about the SCANDAL.

2018: The BRITISH GOVERNMENT apologies, also syphons the term, which is used in all their schemes and projects that address the injustices inflicted on the 'WINDRUSH GENERATION'

2018: THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT created a national WINDRUSH DAY and provided £500m annual funding to community organisation and Local Authorities in the UK.

22 June 2018: WINDRUSH SERVICE at WESTMINSTER ABBEY, attended by Teresa May MP, Prime Minister

22 June 2018: WINDRUSH'70 RECEPTION at No 10 DOWNING STREET, hosted by Teresa May MP, Prime Minister

30 June 2018: WINDRUSH'70 event, CITY HALL, hosted by MAYOR OF LONDON, SADIQ KHAN

19 October 2018: 7th International Biennial Steelpan, Calypso & Mas Conference, The Tabernacle

21 June 2019: WINDRUSH'71: EVENT HELD AT THE BROADWAY THEATRE, LEWISHAM, LONDON.

MARCH 2020: WENDY WILLIAMS' - 'WINDRUSH LESSONS LEARNED REVIEW' published

2020: WINDRUSH'72 VIRTUAL EVENTS HELD IN JUNE 2020 and other months also in COMMEMORATION of the 25th ANNIVERSARY of WINDRUSH FOUNDATION.

FROM 22 JUNE 2020: TWENTY-FIVE VIRTUAL WINDRUSH HERITAGE EVENTS HELD, EIGHT OF WHICH WERE FOR HOME OFFICE, IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

WINDRUSH FOUNDATION DIRECTORS: December 2020: Verona Feurtado, Dione McDonald, and Arthur Torrington CBE.

Sam King left this world in June 2016.

FOUR WINDRUSH PIONEERS, ALSO WWII RAF SERVICEMEN



FROM LEFT: DONALD CLARKE, GEORGE MASON, SAM KING, ALLAN WILMOT



www.windrushfoundation.com