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**JDUK**

WEST MIDLANDS

**CHATBOUT**

THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER



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www.jamaicandiasporauk.org

# Welcome to West Midlands JDUK

**Maureen Scott-Douglas**  
West Midlands Chair



**Greetings one and all and welcome to the Christmas edition and launch of the new JDUK West Midlands Members & Friends' Newsletter.**

As we all know, this has been a challenging year, full of loss, sorrow and tragedy. At the same time, it has provided opportunity to reflect and examine our own life and seize new opportunities.

While some businesses have struggled, others have used this time to expand and improve their personal skills, knowledge and grasp opportunities presented to them.

This is an organisation where you can develop your interests and raise

concerns about issues affecting Jamaica and the Jamaican Diaspora. We are involved in campaigns which are aimed at enhancing and enriching our lives.

I would encourage all who are interested in joining us, to do so. The annual membership fee is a mere £10.00 - You can contact us on [wmjduk@gmail.com](mailto:wmjduk@gmail.com) or click on the link in the newsletter and complete our registration form.

Best wishes to you all in 2021. Let's be prepared for the year ahead, as we would say in Jamaica "No wait till drum beat before you grine you axe"

Maureen Scott-Douglas  
West Midlands Chair



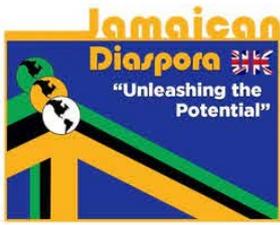
The West Midlands  
Jamaican Diaspora UK  
West Midlands Region  
**Members & Friends'  
Newsletter**

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Written and designed by  
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JDUK West Midlands  
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# Jamaica's Diaspora History

In 2004, the Government of Jamaica invited over 250 persons living in the UK, USA and Canada to Jamaica to convene the First Jamaican Diaspora Conference. At this conference, delegates discussed and debated a myriad of issues impacting Jamaicans, at home and abroad. Two main outcomes from that conference was the declaration of June 16 each year as Jamaican Diaspora Day and the formation of Jamaican Diaspora Organisations in the UK, USA and Canada. Delegates from the UK created and launched the Jamaican Diaspora UK (JDUK) in 2005, acting on a mandate from the conference that delegates from each international region, return and set up national organisations for participation in an operational framework linked to the Jamaican Government through the Diaspora Advisory Board (DAB).

The Diaspora Advisory Board comprises of representatives from the Jamaica Diaspora communities in the USA, Canada, and the UK, and is hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MoFAFT).

The Advisory Board member representatives are charged with representing the interests of the Jamaican Diaspora in their regions as they advise the Minister on matters relating to their respective communities.

The Jamaican Diaspora UK (JDUK) is a national organisation consisting of a membership of individuals and community organisations across the UK. The JDUK addresses issues affecting the Jamaican diaspora including trade and economic development, faith-based initiatives, health, education, and disaster preparedness. JDUK interfaces with community groups with a view to consolidating and advocating interests and concerns.

## Mission Statement

The Jamaican Diaspora UK seeks to promote and protect the interests of Jamaica and Jamaicans, and to contribute to the country's development.

## Objectives

1. Promote, develop awareness and conduct activities that impact on the lives of persons in Jamaica and people of Jamaican heritage in the UK through education, social, cultural economic and civic activities without distinction.
2. Facilitate and build the capacity of the JDUK network and assist in the co-ordination of the UK based Jamaican organisations and communities in the development of themselves and Jamaica.
3. Widen the participation of Jamaicans living in the UK in the affairs of Jamaica and to strengthen the impact and influence of the JDUK on Jamaica and the Caribbean Region.
4. Act as a support network for Jamaicans in the UK by addressing the key cohesion issues affecting Jamaicans and wider communities in the UK.
5. Promote and work towards the improvement of those socially and economically disadvantaged and to uphold their rights as citizens where necessary.

# JDUK question the diversity of Birmingham 2022 Games

The Commonwealth Games Federation consists of 71 member nations and territories and with the 2022 Commonwealth Games being held in the 'super diverse' city of Birmingham there was a concern that the Games Committee did not reflect this. JDUK sent a letter to the Commonwealth board with over 200 signatories supporting the letter.

In the 2011 British census, 42 per cent of people in Birmingham classified themselves as non-white and 60 per cent of young people in Birmingham are from a nonwhite British background. Birmingham has benefited from its diverse migrant communities who have settled in the city and successfully contributed to its economic vitality, becoming leaders in education, medicine, sports, arts and business and providing employment opportunities to local people.

Therefore, it is deeply troubling to observe that of the 20 individuals that make up the 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee only one member is black.

The letter highlighted:

"The Organising Committee is made up of a 7-member executive team in addition to a 13-member Board of Directors which includes representatives of organisations, i.e. local partners and four non-executive directors. To appoint only one black person who we understand represents the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Andy Street, appears as 'tokenistic window dressing' and in our view, an apparent case of systemic racism.

The current Organising Committee lacks 'cultural competence', for an event that claims to be not just about sports but a cultural festival.

For example, the community was invited to a meeting and the internationally acclaimed and well-known, Birmingham based, acapella group 'Black Voices' was not

included. Commonwealth Games personnel stated that they had never heard of the group despite Black Voices being one of Europe's finest female acappella quintet.

We note with major concern this disturbing trend that continues to marginalise and devalue the important roles that black people can contribute to yet another all-important project in Birmingham

We understand that for the past 18 months or so some individuals in the community were aware of this unacceptable situation and have expressed their concerns verbally on an individual basis to some Commonwealth Games board members, Birmingham City Council staff/leaders and elsewhere. However, for transparency and openness there are many questions that need to be tabled and duly answered with supporting evidence by you as to the entire process which led to the most glaring omission of a more ethnically balanced board for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022."

In exercising public functions the Birmingham Organising Committee is subject to the public sector quality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requiring the Birmingham Organising Committee to have due regard to the elimination of unlawful discrimination and the advancement of equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic including race.

Therefore, we would like you to respond to the following questions:

1. A breakdown of how the entire Organising Committee was chosen would be appreciated and were job descriptions/specifications/roles followed by formal interviews? If so, who carried these out and regarding the equality impact assessments, the ethnic diversity and names of who sat on the panels for all of these appointments?
2. We are led to understand that the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport appointed four non-executive members and if so on whose advice?
3. We understand some people would have been actively encouraged to apply for various positions on the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, so did anyone seek out competent people from the African, Caribbean, Asian and/or other minority ethnic communities? If so, why were they deemed unsuitable and if that process was not done, why not?
4. What is your action plan for increasing diversity in the Organising Committee leadership team and throughout the entire organisation in accordance with the Equality Act 2010?"

Ian Reid, CEO of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games agreed to a live webinar to address the concerns raised. You are able to watch this online via the JDUK YouTube channel. Search for 'Jamaican Diaspora UK'. Discussions are still ongoing - Look out for updates.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

## BIRMINGHAM 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

### DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Tuesday**  
**27th October 2020**  
**7PM - 8:15 PM GMT**

**JAMAICAN DIASPORA UK (JDUK)  
 & BIRMINGHAM 2022 COMMONWEALTH GAMES  
 PRESENTS A LIVE WEBINAR**

In July 2020 over 200 members & of JDUK in the West Midlands and nationally wrote an open letter to the Commonwealth Games 2022 Board of Directors regarding concerns of Diversity and Inclusion.

Join us on this webinar to discuss the changes that have been implemented, plans for the forthcoming event and opportunities for the community & businesses to participate in the Commonwealth Games 2022.

**Panellists include:**

**Ian Reid**, CEO, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games  
**Tony Kelly**, Secretary, Jamaican Diaspora UK West Midlands  
**Dr Kevin Brown**, National Chairman, Jamaican Diaspora UK (JDUK), UK North Representative, Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC)

Moderated by: **Jennifer Blake**, Specialist Advisor, Jamaican Diaspora UK

**Join In!**

**Submit questions and queries in advance to:**  
**publicrelations@jamaicandiasporauk.org**  
**www.jamaicandiasporauk.org**

**Facebook:**  
 @JDUKNational  
 @jamaicandiasporauk

**Youtube:**  
 Jamaican Diaspora UK  
<https://youtu.be/ainjRF9wBDQ>







Flyer Design - info@stellavisionfilms.com



Click the video panel above to watch or visit:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ainjRF9wBDQ>

# Kwanzaa 2020

Saturday 26th December 2020  
Friday 1st January 2021



**Happy Kwanzaa. Here we give an overview of the celebration. Here are a few facts about the annual celebration:**

### **Kwanzaa is less than 50 years old.**

Maulana Karenga, a black nationalist who later became a college professor, created Kwanzaa as a way of uniting and empowering the African-African community in the aftermath of the deadly Watts riots. Having modelled his holiday on traditional African harvest festivals, he took the name “Kwanzaa” from the Swahili phrase, “matunda ya kwanza,” which means “first fruits.” The extra “a” was added, Karenga has said, simply to accommodate seven children at the first-ever Kwanzaa celebration in 1966, each of whom wanted to represent a letter.

### **People celebrate both Kwanzaa & Christmas.**

Though often thought of as an alternative to Christmas, many people actually celebrate both. “Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday, but a cultural one with an inherent spiritual quality,”

### **Homemade/Educational gifts are encouraged.**

In order to avoid over-commercialization, gifts handed out to family members on the last day of Kwanzaa are often homemade. Alternatively, some participants buy books, music, art accessories or other culturally themed products, preferably from a black-owned business.

## Kwanzaa centres around seven principles

The seven principles of Kwanzaa are:

- Umoja (Unity),
- Kujichagulia (Self-determination)
- Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)
- Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)
- Nia (Purpose)
- Kuumba (Creativity) and
- Imani (Faith)

Kwanzaa also has seven symbols: Mazao (Crops), Mkeka (Mat), Kinara (Candleholder), Muhindi (Corn), Kikombe Cha Umoja (Unity Cup), Zawadi (Gifts) and Mishumaa Saba (Seven Candles)—that are traditionally arranged on a table. Three of the seven candles are red, representing the struggle; three of the candles are green, representing the land and hope for the future; and one of the candles is black, representing people of African descent. Some families who celebrate Kwanzaa dress up or decorate their homes in those colors.

# Kingston College Old Boys Association UK & Europe



**One of the biggest and most successful schools in Jamaica has launched the UK & Europe Old Boys Association website and are reaching out to Jamaicans who may have attended or been associated to the school.**

Since 2014/15, a few of the old boys resident in the United Kingdom, began having 'link ups' after spotting fellow 'Fortisans' sporting their graduation rings about town. In those days the numbers of were small and as often as possible by word of mouth and otherwise, meet-ups were organised, these included dinner meetings, football get togethers etc. Always underlying each of these events was the burning desire to do something for our alma mater and to continue the work of our predecessors around the world in making a contribution to the school and to give back in any way possible for the continuous benefit to the institution in any possible way.

Eventually this burning passion led to the inevitable joining of our collective forces to create and fill in the missing pieces and to 'link' and continue the worldwide spread of love for Kingston College.

During the last three months of Covid-19 lockdown 2020, driven by the various impacts the pandemic had created, a group of us got together on zoom and finally completed the formalisation of the Kingston College Old Boys' Association UK and Europe.

We hold regular meetings as we continue our efforts and are pursuing actions necessary for Registered Charity status. The committee have so far launched our new website [www.kcobauk-europe.org](http://www.kcobauk-europe.org) that will be used for updates, communications and access for registering as full or associate members.

Our first charitable event was our inaugural, "Annual 10K sponsored walk" and we chose Trent Park, Enfield, London in August 2020, as the location to host the event. Great efforts were put into this our first initiative and looked forward to the great camaraderie and a welcome reunion for our Fortis UK brothers. We look forward to building a strong relationship with JDUK West Midlands and growing together..

Fortis Forever, Forever Fortis!!!

Facebook:

Kingston College Old Boys Association UK and Europe.

Instagram: [Kingstoncollege\\_oba\\_ukeu](https://www.instagram.com/kingstoncollege_oba_ukeu)

# Small Axe

BBC TV Series / Podcast Review



**Small Axe is a series of 5 films written by Steve McQueen being shown on BBC1 presenting insights into the lives of young Caribbean communities in London in the 1970s.**

Steve McQueen, the west London-raised son of a Trinidadian mother and a Grenadian father, has already secured his place in cinema history. In 2014, he became the first black director of an Academy Award-winning best picture with *12 Years a Slave*, a film set in the 19th-century United States. An equivalent epic about black people's history in Britain had never been made, until now.

McQueen's five-part anthology series tells four true stories and one imagined, set between the late 60s and mid 80s. The fact that it is airing on television, on the national broadcaster's flagship channel, is significant. Watching *Small Axe* provides viewers of Caribbean

descent with the rare thrill of representation and should be supported and celebrated.

*Small Axe* began with the story of the Mangrove Nine's landmark Old Bailey trial. It was a hard hitting empowering episode. The eagerly awaited second episode entitled 'Lovers Rock' was faced with criticism as it covered lovers rock reggae music and many felt it was poorly done and a gave a false representation.

Episode 3 was entitled 'Red, White and Blue'. After seeing his father assaulted by police officers, a young black man is driven to join the force, with hopes of changing racist attitudes from within. He soon finds himself facing both his father's disapproval and racism in the ranks.

'Alex Wheatle' was the fourth instalment. The true story of award-winning writer Alex Wheatle, who spent his childhood in a mostly white

institutional care home and was jailed after the Brixton uprising of 1981.

The final episode was about a 12 year called Kingsley. When he is transferred to a special-needs school, a group of West Indian women uncover an unofficial segregation policy preventing many black children from receiving the education they deserve.

The show may be finished, but the conversation has not. The BBC have a podcast with some of the people that the films were based on.

This is available now via the BBC website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0914msj>

To view the missed shows see: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08vxt33/episodes/player>

# You are what you eat



**It is that time of year when especially due to the festive/holiday season including Christmas celebrations and the New Year some have over indulged in terms of the food and drink we have consumed.**

We now need to take stock and make decisions and New Year's resolutions bearing in mind the past year when health has been the main topic of conversation across the globe due to the pandemic brought on by the corona virus and COVID-19.

In Britain the Jamaican Diaspora community has experienced far more than its fair share of deaths, hospitalizations including admissions to intensive care units (ICU) and catching the dreaded virus more so than in places such as the Caribbean and Africa. Despite those geographical areas comprising of predominantly black people with a prevalence of diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, dementia, heart and kidney disease, they have not had the high percentage of fatalities, etc like Britain.

Health and racial disparities/inequalities and systemic racism have all played a vital part in the overrepresentation of black people in the situation aforementioned as the health care service over many years has not treated us in an equitable manner in comparison to our white counterparts. All the statistics since the disease surfaced in Britain earlier in 2020 now undeniably bear that out.

For a start to constantly being referred to as 'hard to reach' communities when we are not on another planet, in the rain forest, in the ocean, on a desert island or on Mount Everest is patronizing/ condescending, insensitive and offensive. The proverbial saying 'If Mohammed cannot go to the mountain, then the mountain must go to Mohammed' readily springs to mind. In my voluntary role raising awareness of diabetes, doing on average 140+ community events per year in England for the past eight and a half years means I do not subscribe to the myth previously mentioned which is sometimes changed to 'seldom heard' communities. The million dollar question is whose fault is that they are not heard?

We as black people need to eat healthily, build up our immune system in order to ward off viruses attacking our body and also engage with more physical activity instead of leading a sedentary/couch potato lifestyle. Movement is of paramount importance in our effort to keep fit and healthy.

May I encourage you with the motto 'Our health is our wealth' and have a prosperous New Year.

Tony Kelly  
Diabetes Strategic Patient Partner –  
NHS Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group.  
Diabetes Ambassador and Advocate.

# Make Dairy Free Sexy Juice



## A Vegan Jamaican Sexy juice

**This dairy free delicious beverage is like a little secret jewel sweet fresh pineapple blended with vegan condensed milk and nutmeg.**

If you're ever attended a Caribbean, more specifically Jamaican function you are guaranteed to find some Jamaican sexy juice aka pineapple punch on the menu. You'll probably find yourself wondering about the remarkable taste of this fruity beverage.

Where the name "Sexy Juice" actually derives from, nobody knows. Perhaps it's that sexy feeling which manifests itself or maybe it's a drink exclusively for sexy people!!!

## Ingredients

- 1 large fresh pineapple or use a large carton of fresh pineapple juice
- 1/2 100ml/4oz cup of vegan condensed milk, use more if required
- 1/2 tsp of nutmeg
- 1/2 cup of water
- 1/4 tsp of vanilla powder or extract

## Instructions

- Cut the top and bottom of the pineapple and slice away the skin on the outside to reveal the yellow flesh.
- Slice the pineapple horizontally and then chop into small chunks.
- Pour the pineapple chunks and water into the blender and blitz until it's all broken down.
- Use a large strainer or cheesecloth to extract the juice (press down or squeeze firmly, depending on your chosen method).
- Add the nutmeg, vanilla and vegan condensed milk to the jug of pineapple and sweeten to taste. Give the large jug of juice a good stir or you can use a blender instead which may result in froth which is normal
- Serve immediately

## Nutrition

Calories: 251kcal | Carbohydrates: 61g | Protein: 4g | Fat: 2g | Saturated Fat: 1g | Sodium: 33mg | Potassium: 564mg | Fiber: 7g | Sugar: 46g | Vitamin A: 459IU | Vitamin C: 220mg | Calcium: 129mg | Iron: 2mg

Time to prepare: 5 minutes

Servings: 2 servings | Calories: 251kcal

Taken from:

<https://thatgirlcookshealthy.com/jamaican-sexy-juice-vegan-style-no-dairy/>



# SuSu . . .

Verb Meaning: to gossip, labrish, to carry news.

JDUK West Midlands have a members' WhatsApp Group and we share a range of topics, debates, posts and social media feeds. There are a range of subjects that people find information about from various sources online - Here we will share some of the recent discussions & topics. *The sources can not always be verified for accuracy but that doesn't mean it's not worth discussing!*

## McDonald's is accused of 'cultural appropriation at its finest' over its new Jerk Chicken Sandwich

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8986751/McDonalds-accused-cultural-appropriation-finest-new-Jerk-Chicken-Sandwich.html>

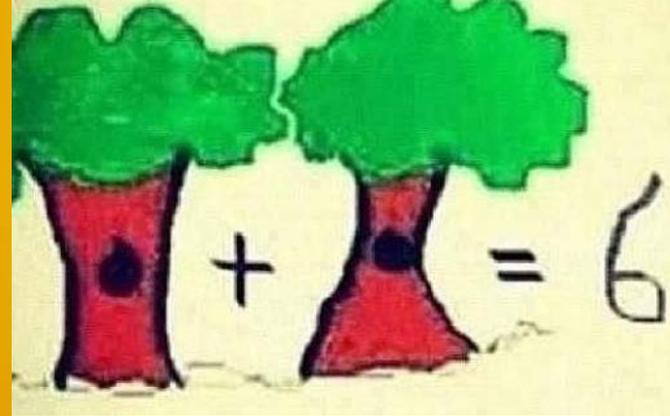
Here is a member's response raised in the WhatsApp group:

### **"Imitation is the best form of flattery."**

A Chinese person once recognised coco bread as a Chinese milk bread. Given that historically most bakeries in Jamaica were Chinese owned it could very well be that the product originated from China. We can also trace our much loved buns, patties and rum cake back to Britain, curry goat and roti to India, jerk pork was taught to the slaves in Jamaica by the indigenous people and the varied cuisine in the Caribbean was influenced by Africa, China, Britain, India, Syria and all the races that settled there. . . . So shouldn't we just chill and enjoy the McJerk Chicken Sandwich . . .?

Send us your opinion! Email: [wmjduk@gmail.com](mailto:wmjduk@gmail.com)

Views shared here are NOT those of JDUK - But people may want to discuss these subjects and research for themselves.



# Joke wi ah run!

A lady met a man in a bar in Ocho Rios  
"Excuse me, what's your name cause  
Jamaican me crazy."

The Jamaican Alphabet:

Hay, B, C, D, He, Hef, Gee, Hayitch, Hi, J,  
K, Hel, Hem, Hen, Ho, P, Q, Har, Hes, T,  
Hugh, V, W, Hex, Y, Zed.

Only in Jamaica . . .

- Will people rub white rum rather than Vicks
- You watch 'Youchube'
- Bush Tea cure everything
- Do you make sound effects in conversations like: Ehheeeeh, mhm, ehhe and awoah!
- You go funeral and see people stop bawl when food start share
- You watch 'flim'
- Do you have a 'Birth Cerfiticket'.

# Jamaican Brown Stew Chicken



**Brown Stew Chicken is a classic Jamaican stew made with chicken, vegetables and a heavy amount of aromatic spices. The end result is tender chicken, flavourful and rich brown stew gravy and a wonderfully scented kitchen.**

**Tip** - If the chicken becomes tender before the sauce reduces, just remove it and keep it warm while the sauce continues to simmer. If the sauce reduces and thickens before the chicken becomes tender, just add a splash of water and continue to cook until chicken is done.

## Ingredients

- 1 cup diced yellow onion / 1 bunch of scallions chopped / 4 garlic cloves minced / 2 tsp packed dark brown sugar / 1 tsp browning sauce / 2 sprigs fresh thyme chopped / 1/2 tsp sweet paprika / 1/4 tsp ground ginger / 1/4 tsp chili powder / Kosher salt / Freshly ground black pepper / 8 boneless, skinless chicken pieces / 3 tbsp canola or vegetable oil / 4 cups low sodium chicken stock / 2 carrots sliced / 1/2 cup ripe tomato chopped / 1/2 cup ketchup / 1/2 tsp ground allspice / 3 dried bay leaves
- For the Browning sauce, the brand suggested for this recipe is the Grace brand which is labeled as “Browning”.

## Instructions

- In a gallon-size plastic storage bag, combine onions, scallions, garlic, brown sugar, browning sauce, thyme, paprika, ginger, chili powder, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Add the chicken and massage the marinade into the chicken, tossing well to evenly coat. Seal the bag and refrigerate for 2 hrs or overnight.
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Remove the chicken pieces from the marinade and lay them on the baking sheet. Pat off excess marinade with paper towels. Set aside for about 10 minutes. Reserve marinade.
- Heat the oil in a large heavy-bottomed pot or dutch oven over medium-high heat until hot, about 5 minutes. Working in batches if needed, add the chicken to the hot oil and fry, turning it occasionally, until deep golden brown on all sides, about 10 minutes total.
- Once all chicken pieces are golden brown, stir in the stock, reserved marinade, carrots, tomatoes, ketchup, allspice and bay leaves.
- Cover the pot and bring the mixture to a boil, about 10 minutes. Remove the lid and reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook until the chicken is very tender and the sauce has reduced by half, about 45 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove bay leaves.
- Serve the chicken with rice and peas



# Black (of) MPs

Source: JDUK West Midlands Political Planning Group

**JDUK West Midlands wrote to the main UK Political Party leaders with concerns regarding Black representation within the major political parties in the Houses of Parliament.** There is only one MP of African or Caribbean heritage (in Coventry) representing any of the West Midlands constituencies and that is lamentable and unacceptable in this day and age.

The management committee was tasked with writing to the leaders of the three main political parties with a view to redressing this imbalance. Given the current demographics of the region and their varying political affiliations and aspirations, the African and Caribbean residents present an ideal opportunity for all political parties to attract a new and more diverse membership.

However, it is imperative that in selecting candidates to represent the region as members of Parliament due consideration is given to how these candidates reflect the diverse ethnicity of the constituents they aspire to represent.

In recent years all parties have strived to ensure that women are adequately represented at the selection stage and this process needs to be further extrapolated to include candidates from the African and Caribbean communities.

All leaders were asked about their plans to rectify this anomaly. To date there has been one response from the Labour Party after the letter was sent again. This will be discussed further in the regional meetings.



## Blue Mountain Coffee

Did you know that Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee is one of the strongest coffees in the world?

That most coffee, is “cut” with Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee because Jamaican coffee is so strong they have to mix it?

That Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks and other coffee mega stores use this process in making coffee for you?

Did you know Japan is Jamaica’s biggest purchaser of coffee but they purchase the coffee so cheaply that Jamaican coffee farmers hardly see the benefit?

Did you know that Jamaica does not have a single store outside of the country selling authentic coffee? . . .

We wonder why . . . ?



# Jamaica deportation flight goes ahead

The Home Office deported 13 convicted offenders to Jamaica on a controversial charter flight at the end of November 2020 after a significant number of other offenders were granted a last-minute reprieve following a legal challenge.

The mass deportation became a high-profile issue after a series of campaigns including one from 82 black public figures – among them the author Bernardine Evaristo, the model Naomi Campbell and the historian David Olusoga – who urged airlines not to operate the Home Office flight. Home Secretary Priti Patel has criticised Labour MPs and celebrities for invoking the Windrush scandal in their efforts to stop a flight deporting convicted criminals to Jamaica.

The Home Office minister for immigration compliance, Chris Philp, said the flight had removed 13 “serious foreign criminals” from the UK. A number of others due to be onboard are said to have been granted a reprieve after the ministry acknowledged they may have been victims of modern slavery.

Charter flights to Jamaica are particularly controversial because of the Windrush scandal, and because some people earmarked for deportation came to the UK as children or have lived in the country for decades with established families.

An informal agreement was made stating that Jamaicans who arrived in the UK before the age of 12 would be exempt from deportation at this stage.

What are your views on this matter?  
Email: [wmjduk@gmail.com](mailto:wmjduk@gmail.com)

Read the full article on The Guardian’s website:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/02/home-office-proceeds-with-disputed-jamaica-deportation-flight>

# New Style Radio COVID-19 Claims

**Ofcom is considering whether to fine a Birmingham's Black Community radio station after a presenter spent two hours discussing Covid-19 conspiracy theories.**

Simon Solomon, who has presented New Style Radio's Sunday night show entitled 'The Family Programme' for 18 years, claimed the virus has been pre-planned by Governments to reduce the world's population, also being made worse by 5G and that face masks are harmful to our health`.

During his 6pm programme on 1 November, the day after the second lockdown in England was announced, Solomon discussed at length two documents by a former United Nations editor and trainer, Claire Edwards, entitled 'The COVID-19 Genocide of 2020' and 'Our Children Are Now In Grave Danger'.

Although Solomon had a right to discuss the conspiracy theories, he had a responsibility to offer "substantial and robust" challenges to the theories and put them in context to protect listeners. The station arranged for this to be done 2 weeks later with a panel including: Dr Justin Varney - Director of Public Health / Birmingham City Council, Councillor Paulette

Hamilton - Cabinet Minister for Health and Tony Kelly - Diabetes Strategic Patient Partner - NHS Birmingham & Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group.

New Style must now broadcast a summary of Ofcom's 25-page decision and the regulator is still considering whether to impose any further sanction but the station's licence has been extended which is a positive reflection.

Simon Solomon faced the 'big elephant in the room' by discussing what is a very pertinent issue in the Black community. As a radio show presenter he did have a responsibility to present a balanced show looking at the subject matter from all sides and evidencing the information. With training it's hoped New Style Radio will continue to present community focused shows and not be afraid to discuss these issues.

The station was launched on 14 August 2002. It was born out of 15 years of short-term radio broadcasting and training, including a long run of 'Restricted Service Licence' activities. New Style Radio is run mainly by unpaid volunteers and is part of the Afro-Caribbean Millennium Centre, a registered charity set up to support the educational and social needs of the African and Caribbean community in the West Midlands.



# 'Our' Friend Jen

**Jenica Leah is a British born young lady with Jamaican grand-parents. She is a well-known author and specialist speaker in the field of sickle cell. Jenica has won multiple awards for her educational children's book series about sickle cell entitled 'My Friend Jen', which is the first and only one of its kind in the UK.**

She has also featured in Forbes magazine for her sickle cell blog and has most recently been nominated for Best Sickle Cell Education Platform in the UK.

As an individual living with sickle cell, Jenica is dedicated to bringing more awareness to the condition, not only in the UK but world-wide; since it is the most common genetic disorder in the world and affects the black

community more than anyone else. So far in the last 4 years, Jenica Leah has impacted the lives of over 5,000 children in 9 different countries with her educational children's books about sickle cell. Not to mention the hundreds of professionals she has enlightened at various conferences and events she has presented.

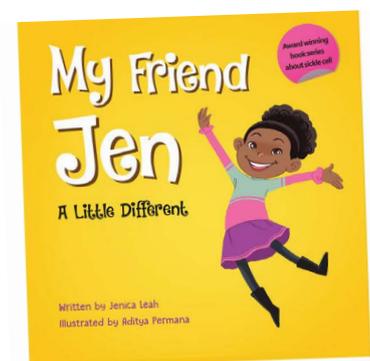
Realising that many children who would benefit from her educational books may not be able to get access to the series, Jenica Leah started the 'My Friend Jen' Book Donation Project so that she could raise money to support different sickle cell organisations around the world. She donates her children's books so they can be distributed within these communities for free.

So far, she has managed to donate hundreds of her 'My Friend Jen' books to sickle cell organisations

in The Gambia and Nigeria and she is currently raising money to help the Sickle Cell Support Foundation of Jamaica.

Jenica is currently in Jamaica distributing books whilst still accepting contributions to aid schools and young people over there (19 Dec 2020).

For more information and to support sickle cell communities all over the world please visit [myfriendjen.co.uk](http://myfriendjen.co.uk) or email: [jenica@myfriendjen.co.uk](mailto:jenica@myfriendjen.co.uk)



# Meet one of our JDUK members

## Melrose Stewart MBE

**Dr Melrose Stewart MBE is a health and well-being enthusiast with a specific focus on the challenges of ageing. She received an MBE in 2020 for services to physiotherapy.**

As one of the experts on the multi award-winning Channel 4 TV documentary “Old Peoples’ home for 4 Year Olds”, she sees the adoption of intergenerational activities as an effective and enjoyable way of overcoming some of the mental and physical problems associated with it. Melrose was BAFTA nominated for her documentary. Melrose is also a Lecturer at University of Birmingham.

Melrose believes given that we all age, it is not something to be feared, denied or covered up, especially when pressures from friends, family, media and society are pushing us to think otherwise. Her mission is also to counteract the negative stereotypes and rhetoric surrounding getting old.

In addition, Melrose sees the fight for equity and justice as a fundamental part of her activities. She was founder member of the BAME (Black And Minority Ethnic) Network of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and is a current member of Her Majesty’s Judiciary in Employment and Disability Appeals and Personal Independent Payment Tribunals.

Dr Stewart, Chartered Physiotherapist, TEDx and international speaker has delivered several keynote speeches on intergenerational practices. She sees the adoption of bringing generations together through shared intergenerational activities as an effective means of achieving mutually beneficial physical, social and psychological benefit.

Born in rural Jamaica in 1954 during the Windrush era, migrating to the UK in 1965, Melrose is particularly aware of the health challenges of diabetes, high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease affecting black populations within the UK and abroad and inequity in access to appropriate health care. Her desire is to ensure that the message of healthy ageing and achieving equity in health reaches these communities and beyond.

Melrose would like everyone reading these pages to take up the mantle of promoting the benefits of physical activity, achieving equity in access to health care and to mutually encourage each other. She aims to fight for equity and to motivate individuals of all ages and in particular older people to share in the joys and the challenges of remaining physically fit as they get older.

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/melrose.stewart.5>  
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/melrorestewart1>



# JDUK Youth Entrepreneurs

## TARA Cosmetics

**We caught up with a young lady who is studying Health & Social Care while also setting up a business making and selling cosmetics on-line. Taish is British born of Jamaican parent.**

Her mother was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. After years of struggle and lack of opportunity she decided to seek a better life by coming to England. She then perfected her skills in Hair & Beauty as a Braider and established a business now known as 'HairMazingBraids'.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Taish set up an online business to follow her passion. Her slogan is very inspiring "Let your happiness be the sparkle of your life." Taish spoke passionately about her venture:

"I am a 17 year old entrepreneur that has always been inspired to have my own business and really see my potential in what I love doing best, which is cosmetics!

"I created the business as I want to help people embrace their natural beauty and feel comfortable within themselves, as I myself, battled with both depression and anxiety.

"This business has really allowed me to think outside the box and be creative with my imagination.

"I really customers like what I have to offer to the world! My plans are big for this business and I can't wait to show people what I have to offer in the future!

"As for the name of the business, no, that isn't my actual name - it is my name and my sisters name put together (Taish+Tyra= Tara) when she is older, hopefully she

will be able to run this business with me :)

"I am amazed at the support I have received so far, and I pray I will continue to receive continued unconditional support! Thank you everyone!"

*Taish Warner*

Please support and help spread the message of 'Tara Cosmetics' Her products are available via:

**Instagram:**

**@tara\_cosmetics\_**

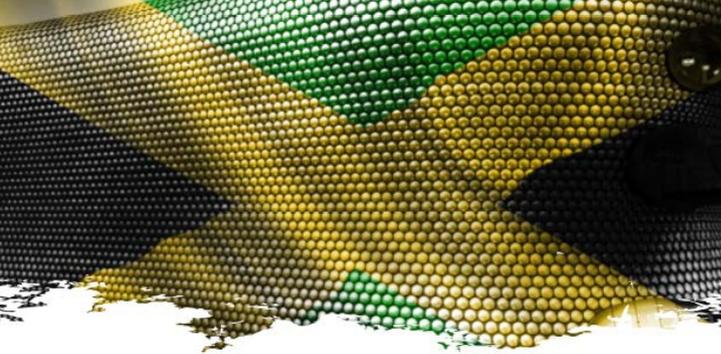
**Facebook: taracosmetics**

**Tel/WhatsApp:**

**07506 358 933**

**E: taracosmetics237@gmail.com**





WEST MIDLANDS

# Become a JDUK Member for **ONLY £10** per year

- Become part of regional and national network with others who share a passion for Jamaica's development.
- Be part of a support system drawing on members skill sets, experience and knowledge
- Have opportunities to drive agendas and have your voice heard
- Take part in meetings, seminars and receptions
- Be part of an organisation driving to strengthen the impact and influence of the JDUK on Jamaica and the Caribbean Region.
- Get updates on community events
- Be part of the WMJDUK Business Directory
- Have your business showcased on the WMJDUK Social Media Channels
- Opportunity to vote for officers at elections.
- Contribute to Jamaica's development through a comprehensive and coordinated program.
- Get reduced conference fees

WEST MIDLANDS  
**JAMAICAN DIASPORA UK**

Are you Jamaican? Born in Jamaica, any parents or Grandparents from Jamaica?  
If yes, come and get involved with West Midlands JDUK and be alongside like minded people and businesses tackling issues in the West Midlands for the Jamaican Diaspora.



@wmjduk



wmjduk@gmail.com



www.jamaicandiasporauk.org



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