



## Nottingham's National Caribbean Heritage Museum launches books, beer and exhibitions to celebrate Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The National Caribbean Heritage Museum, known as Museumand, is based right here in Nottingham, and it's helping to lead the Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in the city and around the UK – including the launch of their very own Windrush beer, lager and pale ale to get the party started!

The Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrates 70 years since the pioneering Windrush generation arrived in Britain from the Caribbean – after being invited by the British Government to help rebuild the UK after the Second World War. The Windrush Generation are named after the SS Empire Windrush, the ship that brought the first passengers from the Caribbean, arriving at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948.

Museumand are marking the anniversary throughout the year with a whole range of projects, events and exhibitions, here in Nottingham and around the UK, including some innovative ways for people to get involved in the celebrations.

As well as their Windrush tipples, Museumand are launching a collectable, coffee-table magazine called '70 Objeks & Tings' which will feature 70 Caribbean-inspired activities for everyone to try – as a fun way of finding out more about Caribbean culture and the Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The magazine will also feature 70 objects associated with the Windrush era, which many Caribbeans in Nottingham may still have in their homes. The magazine will be available in time for Windrush Day on 22 June.

People can also mark the Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by sharing their stories with Museumand, or by donating or loaning items to the museum's collection and archive. You're welcome to donate anything that relates to Caribbean heritage and culture, including objects, photos, letters and memorabilia like posters.

The museum asks everyone who contributes to write 100 words about themselves or the item they're donating/loaning – to collect, record, preserve and share Nottingham's Caribbean history for present and future generations.

### **Caribbean Journeys**

Museumand have recently published a book called 'Caribbean Journeys' as part of their Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, with researchers Sofia Aatkar and Kelsi Delaney. The book features travel writing by Caribbean elders in Nottingham, recording their journeys from the Caribbean to the UK, providing a platform for their voices to be heard and creating a legacy for future generations.

The book has been funded by Midlands3Cities, a partner of Journey to Justice, and will be available online at [www.museumand.org](http://www.museumand.org). The book will also be preserved as part of UK and Caribbean history in The British Library in London.

### **National exhibitions and events**

Further afield, Museumand are working with many of the UK's biggest names to raise awareness of the Caribbean contribution to the UK, including The British Library, V&A Museum, the University of Oxford, Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood, the University of Leicester and BBC Radio 1Xtra.

The museum's national Windrush projects include working with The British Library and the V&A Museum on their Windrush exhibitions and events. Plus, Museumand will also be showing their own exhibition at The British Library on 7 July 2018. 'From Caribbean Isles to the British Isles: Home to Home' tells the story of some of the first pioneering Windrush passengers, through the things they brought with them to the UK in their suitcases.

In addition, Museumand is holding an exhibition exploring black dolls and childhood toys and games, in partnership with Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood in Derbyshire, which will open in late May and run until the end of October 2018.

### **TV specials**

Here in Nottingham, the museum's Windrush celebrations got underway on 10 April with a special Windrush episode of the heritage series 'Rediscovering Notts' on Notts TV. The episode is available On Demand at <https://nottstv.com/programmes/rediscovering-notts/>

Museumand's Founder and Director, Catherine Ross, co-presented the episode with Notts TV's Kate Chaplin, taking her on a tour of Nottingham to explore the historic roots of Nottingham's Caribbean community and trace how post-war workers became cultural revolutionaries.

In addition, Museumand are also working on Series 2 of their 8-part 'Caribbean Conversations' series with Notts TV, where Catherine Ross and special guests from different Caribbean islands chat about life 'back home' and in the UK. You can find out more and watch the first series at <https://nottstv.com/programmes/caribbean-conversations/>

Catherine Ross said:

*"We're a museum without walls in all senses and take Caribbean heritage and culture out on the road to share with all communities in a variety of ways – from exhibitions and events, to talks, workshops and experiential activities.*

*The Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to do this, both locally and working with organisations around the UK. We're very excited about being able to shine a spotlight on this key moment for Caribbean and UK history and celebrate the incredible contribution Caribbean people have made to life in Nottingham and around the UK.*

*History and heritage isn't only found in the pages of a book, it's about our lives, the things we do every day, the objects we use and treasure, the traditions and values we hold dear and the stories we tell.*

*We hope everyone will get involved with the Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by going along to an event or exhibition – or by sharing their story and donating/loaning an object to the museum."*

To find out more please call Catherine Ross or Lynda Burrell at Museumand on 0746 918 9550 or email [Lynda@museumand.org](mailto:Lynda@museumand.org)

Follow @museumand on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

#### **Full list of Museumand's Windrush 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities:**

- Launching a Windrush beer, lager and pale ale – available in time for 22 June 2018.
- '70 Objeks & Tings' collectable, coffee table magazine – celebrating 70 years of Caribbeans in the UK with Caribbean-inspired activities for all ages and communities and a guide to objects from the Windrush era – available in time for 22 June 2018.
- 'Caribbean Journeys' travel writing book – recording the Windrush journeys of Caribbean elders now living in Nottingham. Funded by Midlands3Cities, a partner of Journey to Justice, and delivered in partnership with researchers Sofia Aatkar and Kelsi Delaney. Will be available online at [www.museumand.org](http://www.museumand.org)
- Co-presented and produced a special episode of 'Rediscovering Notts' on Notts TV – exploring the Windrush generation in Nottingham. Available On Demand at <https://nottstv.com/programmes/rediscovering-notts/>

- Working with Notts TV on a second series of 'Caribbean Conversations' exploring Caribbean culture 'back home' and closer to home in Nottingham and the UK, through the voices of special guests from the city's Caribbean communities, presented by Catherine Ross. Find out more at <https://nottstv.com/programmes/caribbean-conversations/>
- Working with BBC Radio Nottingham to share reminiscences about the Black music station that started in Nottingham in March 1968. To be broadcast in June 2018.
- Working with The British Library on their 'Windrush: Songs in a Songs Land' exhibition – on from 1 June-21 October 2018.
- 'From Caribbean Isles to the British Isles: Home to Home' exhibition at The British Library – on 7 July 2018.
- Catherine Ross on guest panel for Windrush Women: Past and Present event organised by Wasafiri at The British Library on 25 June 2018 from 7pm-8.30pm – an evening of poetry and readings inspired by the lives of female writers from the Windrush era.
- Working with the V&A Museum on their Windrush exhibition 'Passport to the Motherland: Migration Dreams' on 8 June 2018.
- 'Black dolls and childhood toys and games' exhibition exploring identity at Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood – on from late May to end October 2018.
- Working with the University of Leicester on a project exploring country houses' involvement in the slave trade.
- Working with the University of Oxford and community groups to look at the contribution of so-called 'colonials' to Britain.
- Working with BBC Radio 1Xtra on their Windrush celebrations.