

## RESISTANCE AND REMEMBRANCE

### RACE RIOT, 1949

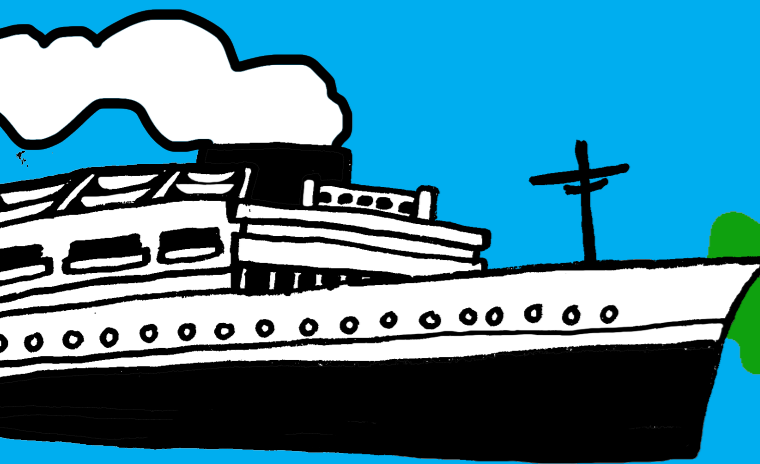
#### BROOKMILL RD, LONDON SE8 4HR

One year after the arrival of the Empire Windrush, Deptford was a scene of racial violence. Over July and August 1949, Black men were attacked on Deptford High Street and Deptford Broadway. Events culminated in a mob 600-strong launching an assault on Black men who were lodging at Carrington House, Brookmill Road. A police cordon was drawn across the road to keep the attackers at bay. Fifteen men, eight Black and five White were charged at Greenwich with assaulting the police or using insulting language or behaviour. This act of community resistance and solidarity ensured that Deptford (with its centuries-long African and Caribbean presence) would continue as a key site of Black settlement.

### COLOUR BAR IN DEPTFORD, 1958

#### CHURCH STREET, LONDON SE8

The operation of a colour bar (the refusal of service to people on account of the colour of their skin) was a feature of life for Windrush era settlers in south east London. Given Deptford's long-standing Black population its cafes and pubs had conducted business in this way for decades. In 1958 the MP for Deptford, Sir Leslie Plummer, described the situation as "shocking and deplorable". He threatened to oppose the renewal of a license to the Robin Hood and Little John (demolished in 1977) in Deptford Church Street if it continued to discriminate. At this time "several hundred West Indians" were living in Deptford.



DEPTFORD

## MONUMENTS AND REMEMBRANCE

### CHARLTON HOUSE JUNE BERRY TREE

#### CHARLTON ROAD, LONDON SE7 8RE

In 2010, Greenwich African Caribbean Organisation dedicated a juneberry tree in Charlton House's Old Pond Garden. It was dedicated to the 'memory of African ancestors in the borough' A ceremony is held in their honour every August.

### THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE REMEMBRANCE PLAQUE

The Stephen Lawrence Remembrance Plaque can be found outside 320 Well Hall Rd, London SE9 6UE where the 18 year-old was murdered in 1993. The original memorial was donated by Gordon Newton a stonemason from Maidstone. It was vandalised beyond repair and replaced in 1995. The replacement was been subject to further vandalism. The current plaque was installed in 2019.

Stephen Lawrence was buried in his parents homeland of Jamaica.

### ROY MCFARLANE

#### WICK TOWER, 138 POWIS ST, LONDON SE18 6LR

In February 1956 Roy McFarlane, a 24year-old Jamaican was refused a position on the sales staff of The Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society (RACS) departments store in Woolwich on account of his race. RACS was known to only reserve jobs for Black workers in its laundry. Despite protests to the media and the local authorities McFarlane failed to secure a post with RACS.

He later became an estate agent as well as co-founder of The Magnet, one of London's earliest Windrush era newspapers. The Magnet was edited by the Guyanese novelist Jan Carew and featured articles from high profiles West Indian authors and journalists.

### ROLAN ADAMS

#### 11 ARNOTT CLOSE, LONDON SE28 8BG

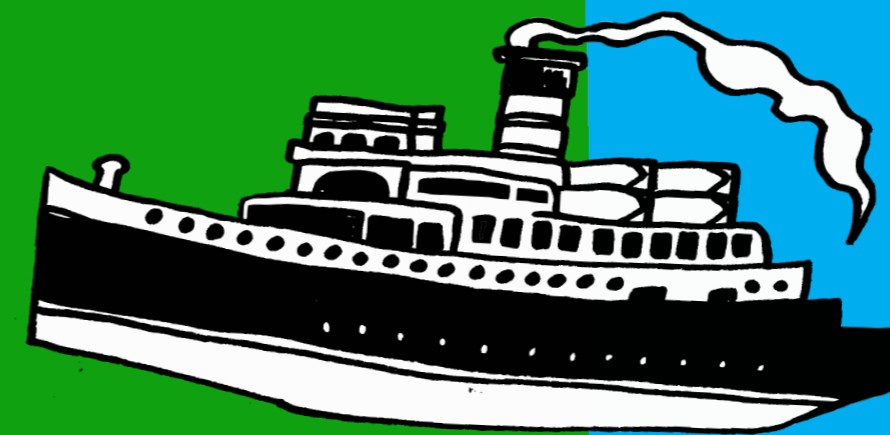
Fifteen year old Rolan Adams was murdered on the Thamesmead estate on 21 February 1991. The young man of Jamaican heritage was ambushed by a racist gang who had been drinking nearby in the Wildfowler pub. Rolan's parents experienced the lack of police concern and unfounded assumptions of their son's criminality that would plague similar murders for years to come.

They organised the Rolan Adams Family Campaign to extend support to the families of other victims. The Wildfowler pub has since closed and is now the Christian Life Centre – a Black church.

GREENWICH

WOOLWICH

THAMESMEAD



PLUMSTEAD

CHARLTON

ELTHAM

### STEPHEN LAWRENCE CENTRE, GALLERY, UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

#### 10 STOCKWELL ST, LONDON SE10 9BD

The Stephen Lawrence Gallery was founded in 2000 in the wake of the Macpherson report into the Stephen Lawrence murder enquiry. The positioning of the gallery was influenced by the fact that Stephen's mother, Doreen Lawrence (Stephen's mother), had been a student at the University in 1993 at the time of her son's murder. As well as showcasing architecture and the digital arts, the gallery promotes diversity and its programme hosts community based projects.

### ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

#### ROMNEY RD, LONDON SE10 9NF

The National Maritime Museum is the only major London museum to commemorate the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. This occurs yearly on 23rd August. In addition the museum works with the Greenwich-based Caribbean Social Forum and other interest groups to host Caribbean Takeover and Windrush Day. Records and resources relating to the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Windrush era passenger ships can be accessed by joining the museums Caird Library.

### ORVILLE BLAIR

#### THAMESMEAD ESTATE, LOCATION UNCERTAIN

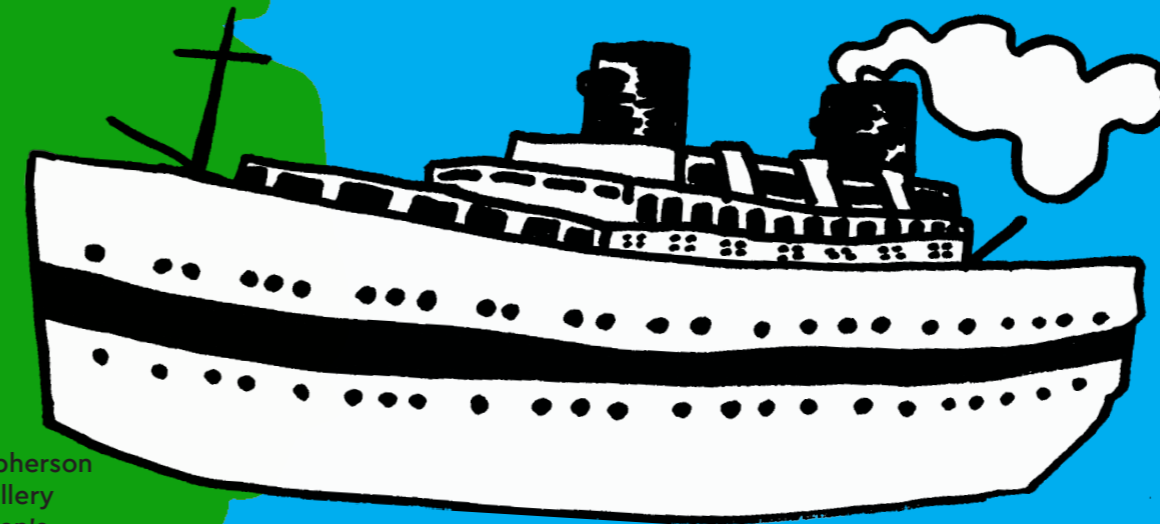
Orville Blair was murdered in May 1991 by a local White gang. Orville belonged to one of the oldest Black families on the estate. His murderer was one of his friends Paul Snell. Snell served a three year sentence for manslaughter.

### STEPHEN LAWRENCE

#### 320 WELL HALL RD, LONDON SE9 6UE

Stephen Lawrence was murdered on 22 April 1993 by a group of White teenagers in Eltham. His death drew attention to the the indifference and hostility of the Metropolitan Police towards Black victims of racist murder and their families. The inquiry which followed his death and the subsequent MacPherson Report prompted public bodies, especially the police, to reconsider their dealings with visible minorities.

Legislation to promote equality and diversity was also initiated as a result of the Lawrence family's tragedy.



### EDUCATING AGAINST RACISM IN GREENWICH

Resources to help recognise and tackle racism in education can be found at the link below. The resources are suitable for CPD, curriculum development and governance in schools



The Great Greenwich Windrush Trail is part of Royal Museums Greenwich's Windrush Festival. The Festival has been generously supported by Greenwich Council, allowing RMG to take the festival out across the Royal Borough of Greenwich with a series of events across Greenwich Centre, Woolwich and Thamesmead. As a borough, Greenwich has a rich history shaped by the Windrush Generation and their descendants. Working with historian S.I. Martin and illustrator Olivia Twist, this trail and the surrounding event series have been created to mark the people and stories that make Greenwich the place it is today.



## LEGACY

## INTRODUCTION

The transport ship Empire Windrush appeared at Tilbury docks on 22 June 1948. On board were hundreds of West Indians (mostly Jamaican and mostly men) who, as British citizens had come to seek their fortunes in what many thought of as the 'Mother Country'.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich soon became home to a slowly increasing number of families from the Caribbean. Initially Woolwich with its light industries and parts of the borough close to Deptford (which had long-standing links to Black seafarers) were preferred areas. As the new arrivals ventured into Kentish London they faced challenges common to Caribbean settlers across Great Britain; the colour bar, securing employment and accommodation and casual racist violence.

Despite these obstacles, the Windrush generation's pioneering spirit laid the groundwork for much of the social and cultural landscape of Greenwich today.

This map can serve as an introduction to a handful of these trailblazers and sites connected to their impact on the arts, medicine, local government and much more.

### WOOLWICH SIMBA PROJECT 48-50, ARTILLERY PLACE, LONDON SE18 4AB

Founded in 1979, the Woolwich Simba Project was a community centre for people of African and Caribbean heritage living in Greenwich. As well as hosting musical artists and visiting sound systems, Simba was a centre for civil rights organisation and a Saturday school. The project closed its doors in 2006 but its influence still resonates across the borough through the Simba Housing Association and other groups which have adopted its philosophies.

### SIMBA HOUSING ASSOCIATION 21 B VICTORIA WAY, CHARLTON SE7 7NX

Simba Housing Association (Greenwich), was created in 1995 as an offshoot of of the Simba Project. Formed to address discrimination in housing within the borough it still works to provide shelter and housing to single young people of African/African Caribbean heritage.

### CARIBBEAN SOCIAL FORUM 51-53 WOOLWICH NEW RD, LONDON SE18 6ES

Founded in 2015, The Caribbean Social Forum was started by Dr Pamela Franklin (of Barbadian heritage) for Windrush era elders and their "matured children". With more than 600 members the forum works to preserve the history of Caribbean people in the borough as well as sensitively supporting its members through their senior years. The organisation also works with the National Maritime Museum, The University of Greenwich as well as local and national heritage institutions to centre the Caribbean experience in their practice through arts, music and writing.

### GREENWICH AND LEWISHAM YOUNG PEOPLES THEATRE (TRAMSHED) 51-53 WOOLWICH NEW RD, LONDON SE18 6ES

Greenwich and Lewisham Young People's Theatre was creative hub which attracted and nurtured the talents of several Black actors and playwrights including Bernardine Evaristo and Michael McMillan. The theatre closed officially in 2019 but its tradition of community engagement continued after it was relaunched as The Tramshed.

## PEOPLE IN PUBLIC SERVICE



### MAVIS BEST 35 WELLINGTON STREET, LONDON SE18 6HQ

Mavis Best came to Britain from Jamaica in 1961. She trained as a community development youth worker and dedicated her life to working tirelessly for the civil rights of Black people across London and further afield. She was central to the scrapping of earlier 'stop and search' laws and was awarded the MBE in 2002.

From 1998-2002 Mavis Best served as a Councillor for the Royal Borough of Greenwich after which she was an Alderwoman, being granted freedom of the borough in 2021. She died aged 83 in 2022.



### ANN-MARIE COUSINS 35 WELLINGTON STREET, LONDON SE18 6HQ

Together with Mavis Best, Anne-Marie Cousins was instrumental in setting up Greenwich African Caribbean Organisation (GAC). She is its current chair. Fabian Best (widower of Mavis Best) is its treasurer. In her role as an elected Greenwich councillor, Ms Cousins strives to raise the political cultural and economic profiles of African and Caribbean communities resident in the borough. She is British-born of Jamaican heritage and sits as the cabinet member for Community Safety and Enforcement.



### PROFESSOR NOLA ISHMAEL QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, STADIUM RD, LONDON SE18 4QH

Born in Barbados in 1943, Nola Ishmael trained as a nurse in Britain at a time when the National Health Service was heavily reliant on African-Caribbean healthcare staff. In 1988 she became the Director of Nursing for the borough of Greenwich and the first Black person in London to hold such a post. She was awarded an OBE in 2000 and an honorary Doctorate from Birmingham City University in 2003.



### BARONESS ROS HOWELLS, OBE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH, PARK ROW, LONDON SE10 9LS

Born in Grenada in 1931, Ros Howells has been a long-standing campaigner for racial equality in Greenwich and Lewisham. She campaigned for victims of the New Cross Fire in 1981 and for the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign. Director of the Greenwich Racial Equality Council in 1994. Ros Howells was the first female member of the Court of Governors of the University of Greenwich. She was raised to the peerage as Baroness Howells of St Davids, of Charlton in the London Borough of Greenwich in 1999.



### BERNARDINE EVARISTO OBE, FRSL, FRSA LONDON SE18 3SJ

The Booker Prize-winning author was brought up in a large ramshackle house (since demolished) at 173 Eglinton Rd in the 1960s and 1970s. The Evaristos were amongst the first Black and mixed families to move into Woolwich and were often subject to racial hostility. Lara, a semi-autobiographical account of her time there was published in 1997. Her novel Girl, Woman, Other won the Booker Prize in 2019.