

Windrush Day, 2020

22nd June 2020

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windr
ush Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windrush_Day)



What was the Windrush?

The Empire Windrush's voyage from the Caribbean to Tilbury took place in 1948. Believe it or not, very few of the migrants intended to stay in Britain for more than a few years.

If it hadn't been for the Second World War, the Windrush and her passengers might not have made the voyage at all. During the war, thousands of Caribbean men and women had been recruited to serve in the armed forces.

When the Windrush stopped in Jamaica to pick up servicemen who were on leave from their units, many of their former comrades decided to make the trip in order to rejoin the RAF.

More adventurous spirits, mostly young men, who had heard about the voyage and simply fancied coming to see England, 'the mother country', doubled their numbers.



An important landmark in the history of modern Britain June 22nd 1948, the day that the Windrush discharged its passengers at Tilbury, has become an important landmark in the history of modern Britain; and the image of the Caribbeans filing off its gangplank has come to symbolise many of the changes which have taken place here. Caribbean migrants have become a vital part of British society and, in the process, transformed important aspects of British life.

In 1948, Britain was just beginning to recover from the ravages of war. Housing was a huge problem and stayed that way for the next two decades. There was plenty of work, but the Caribbeans first clashed with the natives over the issue of accommodation. But alongside the conflicts and the discrimination, another process was taking place.

Excluded from much of the social and economic life around them, they began to adjust the institutions they brought with them - the churches, and a co-operative method of saving called the 'pardner' system. At the same time, Caribbeans began to participate in institutions to which they did have access: trade unions, local councils, and professional and staff associations.



Read some of the passengers recounts of their journey:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/modern/arrival_01.shtml

Was it only the Windrush ship that brought Caribbeans to Britain?

No. The arrival of the Windrush was the start of a period of migration from the Caribbean to Britain that did not slow down until 1962.

By 1955, 18,000 Jamaicans had moved to Britain. This outward flow of people to settle in Britain was an important event in the history of the West Indies. It also changed the social landscape of Britain.



Brixton past and present

Look at the photos to see how it's changed!

<http://www.urban75.org/brixton/history/acrelane.html>

Windrush Square now and then.

In 1998 the area in front of the Tate Library in Brixton was renamed "Windrush Square" to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush.



The Windrush Generation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/43793769>