Derby West Indian Community Association

NEWSLETTER

July – September 2026

Charity Number
517068

George Mighty *Chairman, Derby West Indian Community Association*

I am delighted to say a few words as regards this quarter's Newsletter.

It has been a busy year with the take-up of activities that we have in the Centre, including the warm hub which is very well attended.

Despite the challenges we have faced, we were able to deliver another successful Derby Caribbean Carnival, albeit in a new location at Osmaston Park. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the event such a success.

On Thursday, 17 September, a film celebrating 50 years of the Derby Caribbean Carnival will be screened for one night only at Quad. Tickets will be available through Eventbrite, and we encourage everyone to support this special celebration of our history and achievements.

The cost-of-living rise is still a challenge for the organisation, and our funding has come to an end, which means that we have lost our permanent staffing. Nevertheless, we are actively exploring alternative funding opportunities to help secure the future of our services

Our regular activities, however, continue with the invaluable help of the Management Committee and dedicated Volunteers and we would encourage all members to take part in the opportunities the next quarter brings. Have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy the holidays.

George Mighty
Chair
Derby West Indian Community Association

WHAT'S ON @ DWICA

TAI CHI / QIGONG
MON * 11:30am – 12:30pm **£5**
Improve Balance

STEEL PAN
TUE * 6:30pm – 8:00pm **FREE**

WALKING GROUP
WED * 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Walk with others

WARM WELCOME SPACE (Seniors)
THU * 10:00am – 4:00pm
Hot meal, gentle exercise, connect with others and fun social interaction.

CYCLING CLUB
SAT * 10:00am – 12:00pm **FREE**
Explore Derby
Bikes available on request
Return to DWICA for refreshments

SUN * CLOSED
Private hire * 01332 371529

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

01 AUG — **Coffee Morning**

03 AUG — **Annual Summer School Starting**

08 AUG — **Singing for Empowerment**
A welcoming new programme where everyone can enjoy singing together

15 AUG — **Family Day**
Celebrating the rich heritage of Caribbean Islands

DWICA Community Open Day *6 June 2026*

We welcomed members, local residents and visitors for a day of friendship, refreshments and community spirit. Guests enjoyed homemade cakes and Caribbean snacks and were entertained by DWICA's Steel Pan. Feedback gathered will help shape future activities.

8th Annual Windrush Service of Thanksgiving *21 June 2026*

DWICA joined **AFB Derby Church** for the 8th Annual Windrush Service of Thanksgiving, celebrating the faith, courage and contribution of the Windrush Generation. Refreshments and celebration followed at DWICA.

Motown & Soul Night *3 July 2026*

DJ Errol Cole took us down memory lane, tunes to 'Stop In The Name Of Love' and 'Get Down On It' on the dance floor. A fun interactive musical and dancing quiz was enjoyed by everyone. By popular demand, Jamaican patties and rum cake were a great addition to the evening. It ended with a raffle. DWICA volunteers received so much positive feedback that they're already asking, 'when the next one.' Watch this space!

Carnival Troupe Rehearsals

Leading up to 15 July 2026

Rehearsals were led by **Vehdance Dance & Movement** in preparation for Derby Caribbean Carnival, with the final rehearsal held on 15 July 2026 at DWICA

Warm Hub (Senior Members)

Carnival Banner: 9 July 2026 • Carnival Masks: 16 July 2026

Donna Fox (Silk painting artist, carnival parades/costumes, projects and workshops) led the Warm Hub senior members in creating colourful Carnival silk-printed flags. They were proudly displayed along with Donna's daughter **Miyah Fox-Taylor** who wore her own designed Batik hand painting, to create a magnificent 'Pantheress Princess' costume, with help and support of DWICA volunteers. DWICA sponsored Miyah's costume. Well done, Miyah.

The following week Liz Perry led the senior group in making Carnival masks, as you can see, the activity was a great success.

Derby Caribbean Carnival

19 July 2026

It's **Derby Caribbean Carnival Season**… and you know what that means. We had Sunshine, Soca, Sound Systems, Troupes dancing to the rhythm. Soul Food and live international artists and Derby local artists, entertaining us on Osmaston Park! One of our Reggae Jamaican roots reggae artist **'Bushman'** was the headline international act at the Carnival. He performed a live concert accompanied by his full backing band. Bushman treated fans to both his classic hits—such as "Call the Hearse" and "Fire Bun a Weak Heart" and newer material.

Bushman

Flava Fresh

Artist Spotlight – Flava Fresh Derby-based entertainer '**Flava'**, originally from Linstead, St. Catherine, Jamaica, has been performing since the age of seven. Singing, dancing, MCing and entertaining have always been his passion, and he is committed to sharing the energy and joy of Caribbean music and culture. Reflecting on his performance at this year's Derby Caribbean Carnival, Flava described it as a real honour to represent both his Jamaican heritage and his adopted home of Derby. Seeing the crowd singing, dancing and celebrating together made the experience unforgettable and inspired him to continue pursuing his musical career.

Deeply influenced by his Caribbean roots, Flava says reggae, dancehall and Jamaican culture are at the heart of every performance. His aim is simple: "to leave audiences feeling happy, uplifted and united through the power of music." Looking ahead, he is working on new music and preparing for more live performances across the UK as he continues to proudly represent both Derby and Jamaica. Flava also expressed his heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported Derby Caribbean Carnival, paying tribute to the organisers, volunteers and the enthusiastic audience whose energy helped make the day such a memorable celebration of Caribbean culture. **One love and blessings to you all.**

Photos By **Riley O'C**

Message from **Labour MP Catherine Atkinson** for North Derby: "Amazing to see so many people lining the Derby Caribbean Carnival route, dancing to the music and enjoying one of the best days in our city's summer calendar. For more than 50 years, the carnival has brought people onto Derby's streets to celebrate together. Congratulations to Derby West Indian Community Association and everyone who made this year's event so memorable.

Annual Summer School starting

Monday, 3rd to Friday, 28th August 2026
Open 10:am to 4:pm (Staff)
Children's Time: 11:00am to 3:00pm
Age: 8 to 16
Bring pack lunch Monday – Thursdays
Free Lunch on Fridays Activities: - Educational, Social, Cultural and Recreational
Apply online or ring or email for an application form
01332 371529 **info@dwca.co.uk**

GET INVOLVED WITH DWICA If you would like to get involved in any area of DWICA or have ideas for future activities, we'd love to hear from you.

☎ **01332 371529**
✉ **info@dwica.co.uk**
⌂ **Carrington Street, Derby DE1 2ND**
Follow us on Social Media • facebook.com/dwicaderby • instagram.com/d_w_i_c_a • dwica.co.uk

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING DWICA

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Derby West Indian Community Association. Whether you attend an activity, volunteer your time, perform, organise events, help to fundraise or simply encourage others to get involved, you are helping to strengthen our community. Together we continue to celebrate our rich Caribbean heritage, support one another and build opportunities for future generations.