

Retiring Ron

Growing old disgracefully

Edition: July 25



The Cool Ruler musical is amazing

It's an irie time for reggae lovers in London. Recent shows included the Cool Ruler musical at Catford Theatre, south London. Gregory Isaacs was the crooner who sent females wild with his dreamy lyrics and gentle rifts. I'm a big fan and despite mocking from friends I wore my 'International Gregory Isaacs Fan Club' badge with pride in the 80s. Saw him repeatedly live, first time at Maidenhead Leisure Centre on the coldest January night in 1980. Thanks for the memory Carol.



Terence Wallen looks and sounds like the star

Isaacs passed 15 years ago aged 60, but the Cool Ruler, best known for his 'Night Nurse' ballad left such a lasting legacy that a musical was inevitable. It is absolutely brilliant. It did the rounds briefly in London before moving abroad. Look out for its return soon. Unmissable. Give his official biography 'The Cool Ruler' a swerve though. Too poorly written and edited.



Like Gregory used to, his character mixed charmingly with the crowd



Isaacs was mesmerising in his prime in the 80s



Black Uhuru rocked the Jazz Café crowd

Reggae veterans Black Uhuru were in town. They packed the Jazz Café and left no one disappointed with classics like ‘Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner’ and ‘Shine Eye Gal’.



Fitting night to debut my new Exodus top



Marcia Griffiths is heading for London

Feast of vintage vibes. Marcia Griffiths plays next at the Jazz Café on August 1. Guess who’s not missing that?



The Windrush show was brilliant

June 22 marked 77 years since the first arrival of Empire Windrush, the liner that brought over the first wave of Caribbean immigrants from mainly Jamaica, Trinidad and Guyana in 1948. The Windrush generation experienced unbelievable hardships and racism but endured and eventually assimilated into British society. A show again at Catford Theatre celebrating Caribbean culture included comedy, song, dance, poetry and even opera. Promoter Tony Fairweather put it all together superbly. Massive respect Tone



Very understated in my Dominican outfit



Tony Fairweather put the show together



The CACE office was decked out like a 60s lounge

Another Windrush event was held by the Caribbean and African Collective, Ealing. Like the Catford show, they too recreated a typical Caribbean front room from back in the day. Radiogram, paraffin heater, tiny black'n'white TV and dodgy wallpaper was standard then. We were served with traditional nibbles like bun and cheese and carrot cake, all washed down with sorrel specially made by Agnes, the poet. She should market it.



Michelle Brooks served a lovely cake



Agnes is a gifted poet and sorrel maker



The sorrel was soo tasty

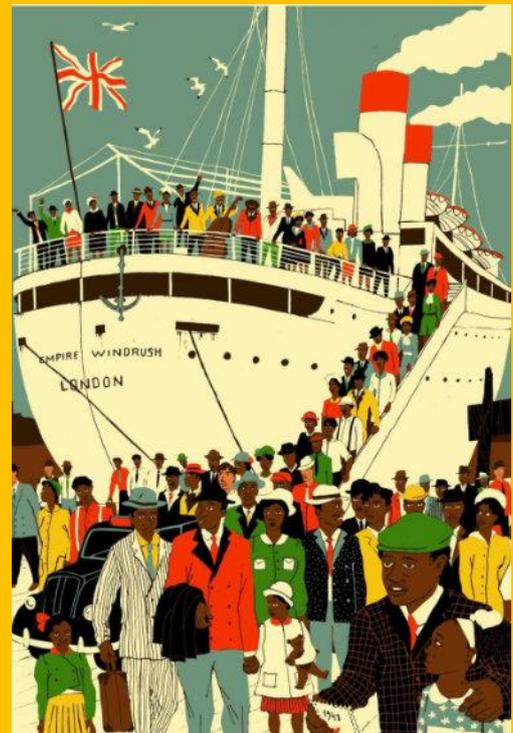


Waterstones Piccadilly hosted a Windrush evening

Three authors met to promote Windrush Day at Waterstones, Piccadilly. Kuba Shand-Baptiste moderated with writers Professor Patrick Vernon OBE, Lisa Smith and Mel Pennant. Inspiring evening.



Stylish newcomers but those arriving in winter from the Caribbean were totally unprepared for the cold!

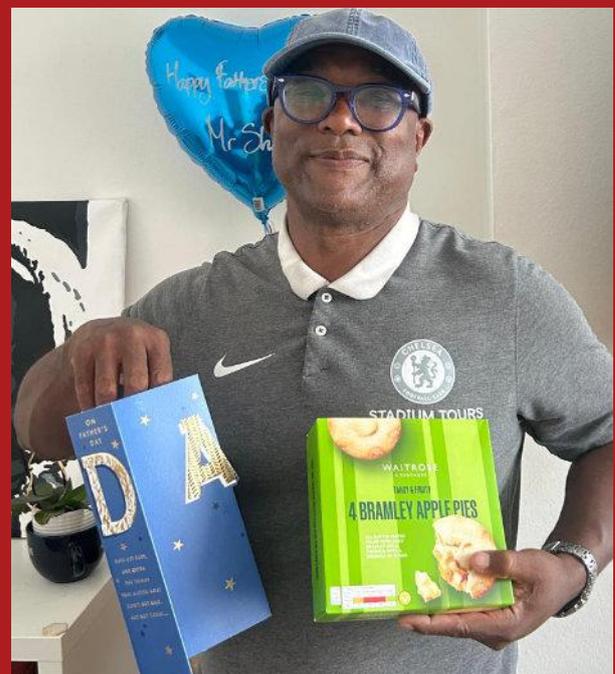


The Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury, Essex and many new arrivals went to Brixton to get jobs at the labour exchange



The Big Easy band sang soul classics

Father's Day meant I was indulged with lovely pressies and a trip to Boisdale, Canary Wharf for a vintage soul lunch with Mrs Shill. At the swish Scottish steakhouse, the Big Easy band entertained with classics like 'Respect', 'Am I the Same Girl' and 'Wonderful World'. Too much fun. Mrs Shill had to restrain me from joining them on stage.



Spoilt rotten on Father's Day



Connecting with my family

Happy family ties are important, everyone appreciates that. So I thought it would be nice to get to know my half-sisters Sharon and Shubie a little better. Same dad, three different mothers. We met on a sunny day in West Ealing and enjoyed lunch and chat with their offspring as well as our cousin Denny and his wife Sharon. Looking forward to the next one.



Cousin Denny and sister Sharon



It was great connecting with Shubie again



The swans were impressed with my moves

Hyde Park is so gorgeous when you're melting. Cooling breeze off the Serpentine helps. I got lucky and spotted that Trojan Sound System were doing a free gig there that evening. Even the swans were rocking to the ska and reggae vibes, wings flapping to the beat.



Trojan Sound System dropped some classics

If you're not a Chelsea fan, please look away now.



WE'VE WON IT ALL

1971 Athens 1998 Stockholm 1998 Monaco 2012 Munich 2013 Amsterdam 2019 Baku 2021 Porto 2021 Belfast 2025 Wroclaw



Only place in Europe you can see all five!

Conference League. Job done.



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