Retiring Ron

Growing old disgracefully

Edition: June 25

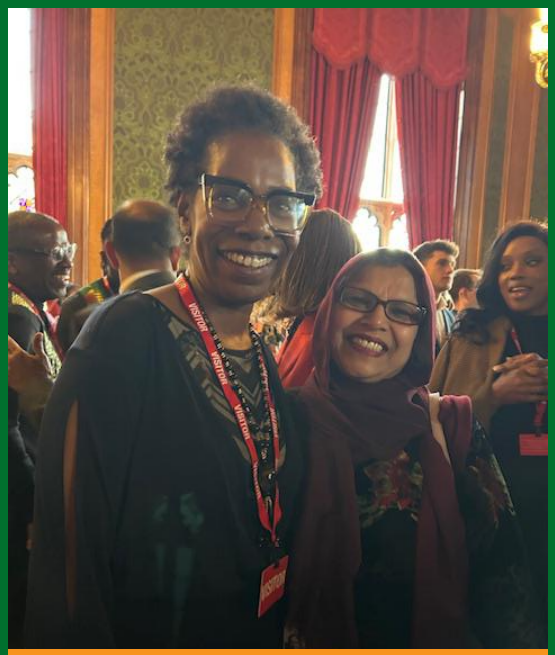
Liam Delap will smash it

Great season's finale. The Chels qualified for Champions League and gave us a scare before securing the Conference League in style. Signing Liam Delap is our most exciting arrival for a while. Proper No.9. Hope this one becomes a legend. Glad 'Ice Cold' is no longer No.20 and can now swagger in 10. Hope he can emulate legendary 10s like Pele, Maradona and Messi. Other London clubs smashed it too; Spurs boast the Europa League after the longest barren spell. Yet that didn't save poor Ange. Palace's Eagles soared to FA Cup glory. And into Europe!

The House of Lords was a great setting

Posh do at the House of Lords. Lots of absolutely posh darlings. I didn't feel out of place. My invitation came from Veronica Martin OBE, champion charity worker. It was a fundraising reception for The AVOCADO Foundation, a UK based charity giving financial literacy advice to youngsters and entrepreneurs here and internationally. It was founded in 2014 by Carol Akiwumi MBE who spoke humorously and passionately. Baroness Manzila Uddin gave the keynote speech.

https://theavocadofoundation.org/



Veronica Martin and Baroness Uddin

Veronica is a real social butterfly

The reception was in the River Room

The harpist dropped some reggae classics

Nice to link up with Majorie after decades

Carol Akiwumi is a brilliant fundraiser

There were many interesting stalls at the DUKA fun day

The Dominica UK Association (DUKA) held its annual Community Family Fun Day over the Spring Bank Holiday at Ilford Sports Club, Seven Kings. It also commemorated the Feast of Saint Isidore. Hundreds there. It included merchandise stalls, board games, karaoke, face painting, keep fit challenge, costumes showcase, various performances, Caribbean food and dancing by celebrated DJs including Stevie B. Thanks for the invite Vincent M John, DUKA's chair, who gifted me a cool vest.

https://duka.org.uk/

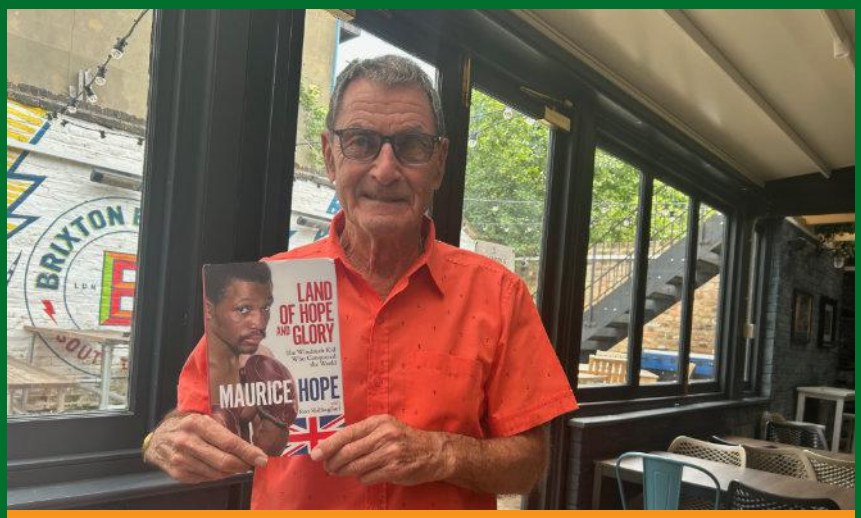
THE DOMINICA UK ASSOCIATION

Dominicans came in their national colours

DUKA chairman Vincent M John did a great job

Derek Haines is always great company

Being semi-retired means more time for catching up with besties like Derek Haines MBE who was over from the Cayman Islands to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary with the lovely Helen. Congrats. Nice to spend time with you chum.



He will dive into Land of Hope and Glory on his travels

David Upshal may be a Gooner but is still a top fella. We first bonded working at 'The Voice' back in the day. He's a top TV producer now. You've probably seen his brilliant work over the years.

David is cool, despite being Arsenal

Solina is very supportive

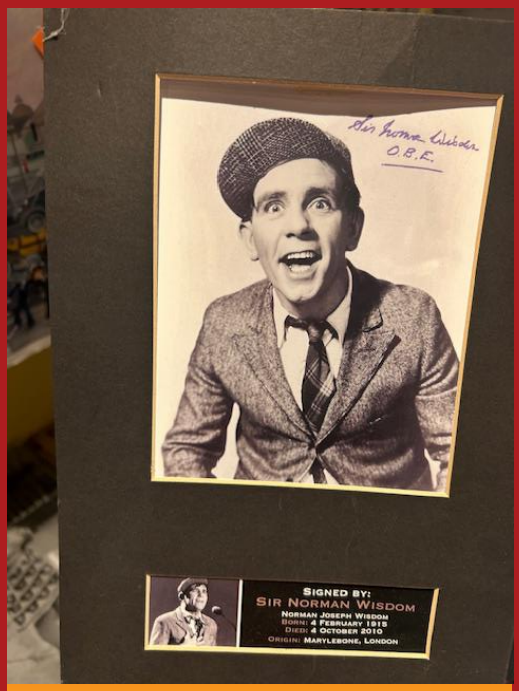
Solina has always been very supportive. She bought tons of books, boxing gloves and photos when Maurice's autobiography came out last year and always tucks into my Tropical Creole cuisine. At Rosa's Thai, Ealing Broadway she treated me. Thanks hun.

Brother Jerry lives in picturesque Haywards Heath, not a place where Caribbean cuisine is easily found. So to celebrate his birthday (June 7) and give him some much needed sustenance, I popped down there. Just in time.

Jerry loves my dumplings and curry goat

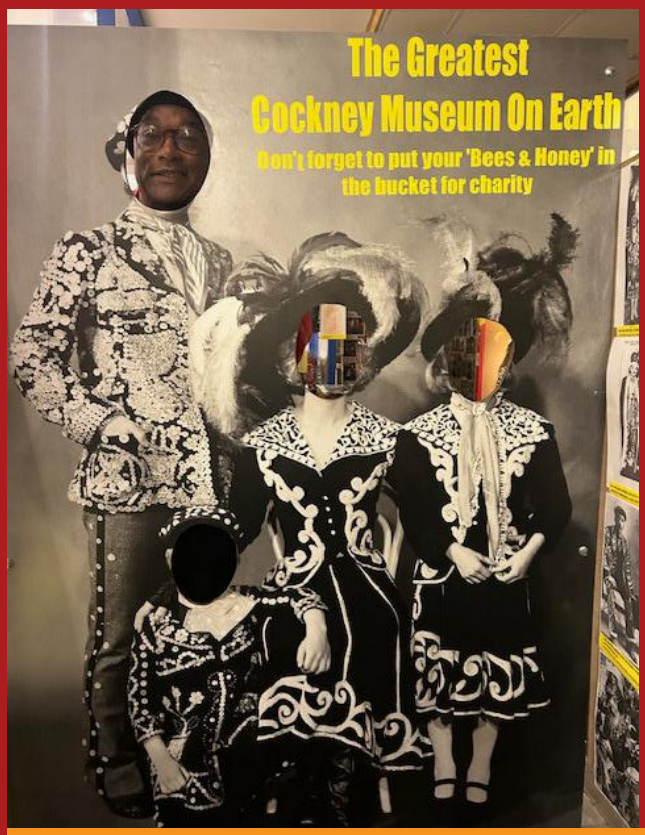
Took a trip to The Original Cockney Museum down sarf in Stoneleigh, created by George Major, the Pearly King of Peckham. Now 87 and pretty much retired, his daughter Tammy, a former pearly princess too, was running it that day. The museum is full of cockney artefacts, images and memorabilia. Pukka. Although a celebration of cockney culture there is plenty of evidence of poverty and hardship from George's childhood. Well worth the visit me old Chinas in a pretty part of Surrey. Nice cup of Rosy after.

George Major is a celebrated Pearly King

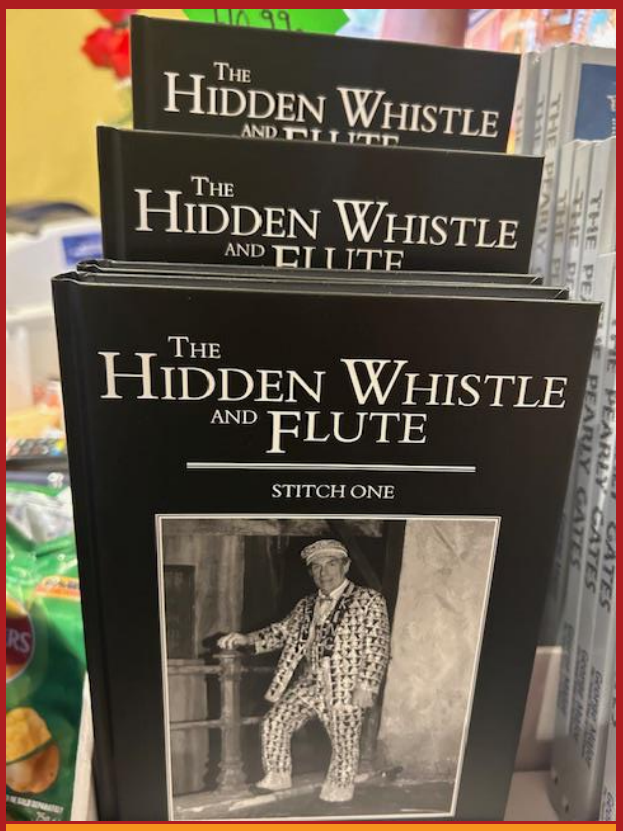


Norman Wisdom was a big fan of George's

Tammy holds a pearly costume from her childhood

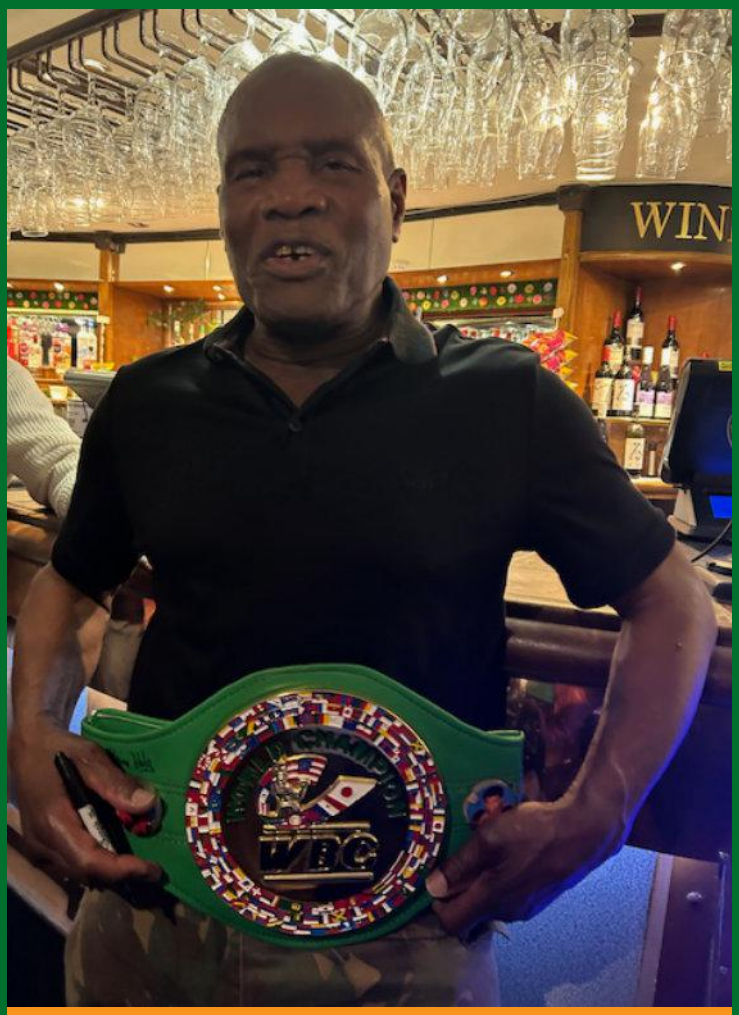


Cockney Ron is Pearly King of Stamford Bridge

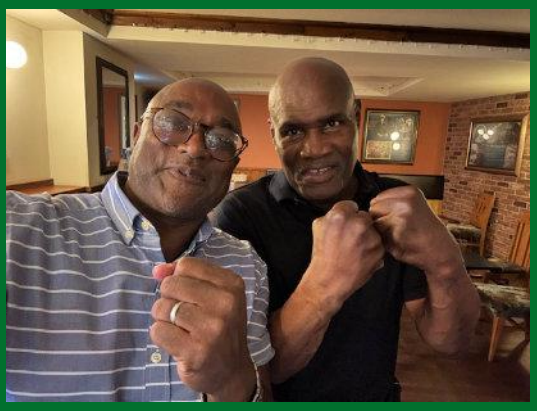


George's biography covers his early life in poverty

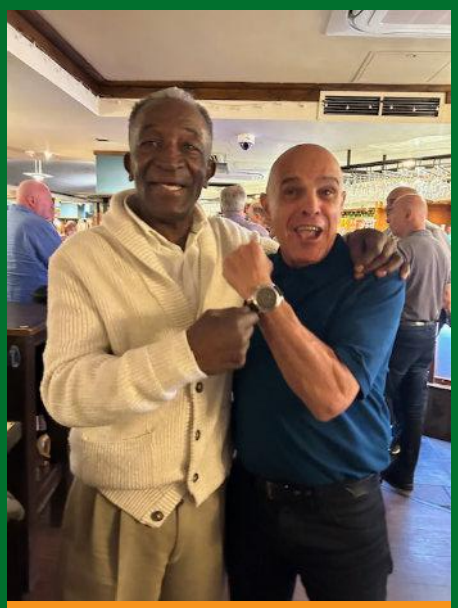
Hogarth Boxing Club former champs Tony, Ron, Rocky, Gary



Dennis Andries made a guest appearance at LEBA



At the June London Ex-Boxers Association, former cruiserweight John William came for the first time and brought his bestie Dennis Andries, the former three-time light-heavyweight champ. Still in great shape, Dennis was pleasantly surprised by his warm reception. During the LEBA meeting, the sad news came that Mike McCallum, the great Jamaican former champ, fell suddenly ill and died whilst driving to a Las Vegas gym. He was only 68. I met McCallum a few times in London. Terrific athlete and always respectful to everyone he interacted with.



Maurice Hope and Vernon Sollas

Mike McCallum was a great champ

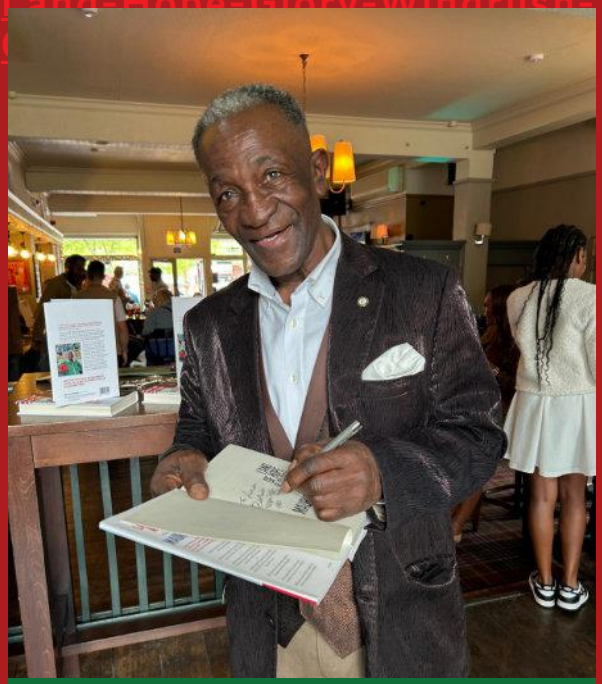
Nice to see David Smith debut at LEBA beside Ray Caulfield and John Conteh

Mrs Shill celebrated her birthday with loved ones. We had a nice time at Tutta, a Chinese diner in Soho.

Mrs Shill had a nice birthday

Maurice Hope's next signing of 'Land of Hope and Glory' which I ghost wrote, is after the next LEBA meeting. It's in the basement bar of Penderel's Oak 283–288 High Holborn, Holborn, Camden, WC1V 7HP from 12.30pm. Signed copies £25 cash. For more info: contact me on 07931 686672

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Land-Hope-Glory-Windrush-



Maurice Hope's next signing is on Sunday 6 July

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First one is free.

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