

# Key Locations Britain since 1948



# Section 14

## Migration and Windrush

### Curriculum Links

This section provides links to History Unit 13 'How has life in Britain changed since 1948?' and to Geography Unit 22 'A contrasting locality overseas'.

At Key Stage 3 there are links to Geography Units 3 'People everywhere' and 20 'Comparing countries'.

### Outcomes

The children could:

- identify important changes since 1948
- suggest some reasons for these changes
- place these changes on a time line

### Objectives

Children should learn:

- about changes that have occurred in Britain since 1948 and some of the reasons for those changes
- to make links between the changes
- about the changes to the population structure of Britain since 1948
- about migration
- about the reasons for migration

### Activities

1. Discuss with the children the topic of Migration. Ask the questions: 'What is migration?' 'What can cause migration?' 'What were the reasons for migration from the British West Indies?'
2. Discuss with the children some of the main changes in the population structure of Britain since 1948. Explain some of the changes by introducing specific questions: 'What was Windrush?' 'When did it happen?' 'Why were African-Caribbeans invited to Britain?' 'What contribution have they and other groups made to life in Britain?'
3. Using Support materials and DVD script ask the children to write their own account of the experiences of the Windrush generation of West Indian migrants. Questions could focus on: 'Was life in Britain what they had been expecting?' 'Why did they migrate?' 'What kind of jobs were available?' 'How were they greeted?' 'Were there any difficulties in getting accommodation?'

### Migration and Windrush

Migration means a movement, and for people usually means a change of home. Permanent international migration is the long term movement of people between countries. Immigrants are people who arrive in a new country. Emigrants are people who leave a country.

Forced migration is when people have no personal choice, they have to move because of factors beyond their control, such as:

- enslavement or forced labour
- war, creating refugees
- racial, religious or political persecution or discrimination
- famine

- natural disasters – drought, flooding, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes

Voluntary migration is when migrants choose to move because they are looking for:

- work; to find a job or to earn higher wages
- a better quality of life and social amenities such as housing, schools, hospitals
- better climate
- to be with friends and relatives

## **SS Empire Windrush**

### **Background Information**

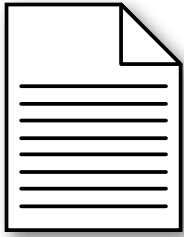
An important migration in the history of modern Britain took place in 1948. In June the British troopship SS Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury docks in Kent carrying 492 passengers. The passengers were the first large group of West Indian migrants to Britain after the Second World War.

If it hadn't been for the Second World War there wouldn't have been a Windrush voyage. The troopship Empire Windrush docked in Kingston, Jamaica en-route from Australia to Britain. Many of the passengers were young men who had served with British Forces in Europe during the war and were keen to return to rejoin the armed services. Others had seen an advert in the Jamaican newspaper the "Daily Gleaner" offering cheap transport for anyone wanting to work in Britain. A passage on the troop deck cost £28.10s.

There was high unemployment in the West Indies but plenty of work in Britain where there was an economic boom and a shortage of labour, particularly unskilled labour. Between 1948 and 1958, about 125,000 West Indians came to Britain. This migration was mostly in response to recruitment campaigns in the Caribbean by British industry, including London Transport, the Post Office, The National Health Service and the railways.

This migration had been encouraged by the 1948 Nationality Act which stated that British passport holders were citizens of the 'United Kingdom and Colonies'. Every Commonwealth citizen was also a British citizen with the right of entry to Britain.

In post-war Britain accommodation was a problem and London had a huge housing shortage as a result of war time bombing. The Windrush arrivals were given temporary accommodation in the deep air-raid shelters on Clapham Common. This was less than a mile away from the Coldharbour Lane Employment Exchange in Brixton, where some of the arrivals went to look for work. As a result many of the Windrush's passengers remained in the Brixton area, establishing the roots of a new community there.



## Support Material

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### Clifford Fullerton

I came to London from Jamaica on 21st June 1948 on the Windrush. I came because I wanted to gain more knowledge towards the making of clothes.

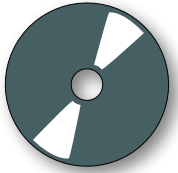
First of all I had to find somewhere to live. We arrived in June and we didn't have anywhere to go, we were put up in a deep shelter in Clapham. They were old air raid shelters from wartime. Most of the fellows who came with us were fellows who had been here during the war.

The shelters were run by the London Borough of Lambeth and they gave us the food. Those of us who had money paid 2/6d (about 12p) for a meal, if you hadn't any money you were given it free. There were about 250 of us in the shelters.

Every day we had to go up and go around the area and see if we could find any jobs. We went to a jobcentre, where they would try to find a job for you, and one man asked me "What work do you do?" I said "I'm a tailor". He said "We haven't got any jobs for tailors right now, would you mind working in a mine?" I said "Oh, no sir". I was anxious to get something to do. I'd do anything rather than steal. I would work anywhere.

Fortunately the Salvation Army sent to the shelter to find out if there were any tailors there, so four of us got a job at the Salvation Army making uniforms.

*Extract from "The Motherland Calls",  
The Ethnic Communities Oral History Project.*



## Windrush Passenger



It was 22nd of June 1948 when I arrived here on the Empire Windrush. The journey was a long and uncomfortable, it took us just short of a month to get to Tilbury from Kingston. But as Mama always says 'if yuh waan good yuh nose ha fi run' ('if you want good your nose has to run').

During the war I served in the RAF. I fought against Hitler for this country and the Commonwealth. But yet Britain is not at all what I expected. I have been spit at and called names in the street. People don't want us here. Nobody will rent me a room and many of us from the Windrush have to stay in an old air raid shelter in Clapham Common.

I plan to stay here for 5 years and work. I am a bookkeeper by trade. I want to earn enough money to send home to my mother and maybe when I go back I will have saved enough to open a little shop of some kind.

## Section 15

# What can we learn about recent history from studying the lives of people linked to Hammersmith and Fulham?

### Curriculum Links

This section can provide links with History Unit 13 'How has life in Britain changed since 1948?' and Unit 20 'What can we learn about recent history from studying the life of a famous person?'

There are Key Stage 3 links to Geography Units 3 'People everywhere' and 24 'Passport to the world'.

### Outcomes

The children could:

- assess the significance of individual people's lives on history
- summarise the key events of individual lives in a chronological sequence

### Objectives

Children will learn:

- to begin to evaluate the impact of an individual on the history of their time
- to select information to represent key aspects of a biography
- to develop their historical understanding of the period

### Activities

1. Divide the class into small groups. Using DVD scripts, support material and photographs, ask the children to research one selected individual, from Randolph Beresford, Janet Adegoke or Linford Christie. Discuss how to represent each individual's life and achievement; they could consider displays, play scripts, narrative accounts, drama or multimedia presentations.
2. Have a class discussion about each individual. Ask questions such as:
  - What should each person be remembered for? Why?
  - What impact did they have on the history of their time?
  - Have their lives made an impact on our lives today?

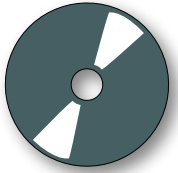
### Introduction

In this section children learn about aspects of recent history through the study of three individuals:

- Randolph Beresford
- Janet Adegoke
- Linford Christie

as examples of people who have made a significant impact on the political, social and sporting life of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Their lives portray some of the key social and cultural changes of post war Britain.



## DVD Script

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# Janet Adegoke



I came to England to study nursing when I was nineteen. I was born in West Africa in the Nigerian town of Ibadan.

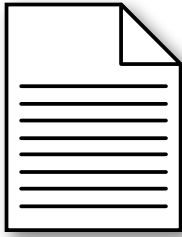
I campaigned strongly to unite Black and white communities as the secretary of the Emlyn Gardens Tenants' Association, a post I held for twelve years. I was also a founding member of Hammersmith

African Link, an organisation formed to support fellow Africans.

Only two years after becoming a councillor, I was elected Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham. I was the first Black woman Mayor in London.

Janet Adegoke Swimming Pool,  
White City





## **Janet Adegoke**

Janet Adegoke will go down in history, not only as a former mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, but also as the first Black woman in London to be made a Mayor.

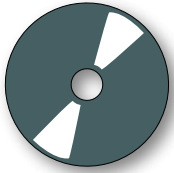
Janet Adegoke was born in West Africa in the Nigerian town of Ibadan. She came to England in 1961, aged nineteen, to study nursing. Later she became involved in community work, and was especially concerned with the issue of improved housing and living conditions. She was a popular local figure and gained a reputation as a tireless worker for the community. Janet Adegoke became well known as Secretary of the Emlyn Gardens Tenants' Association, a role she held for 12 years before joining the council. She was elected a councillor for the Starch Green ward in 1986 and became Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham in May 1987.

Janet Adegoke was co-founder of Hammersmith African Link, an organisation formed to support her fellow Africans in the borough. Equally she is remembered as a moderate who worked hard to unite Black and white communities. Alongside her dedicated work for the community she had a full time job and, as a single parent, brought up three children.

Sadly Janet Adegoke died of cancer in October 1987, but she continued to carry out her official duties and engagements until a week before her death, aged 45.

The new Janet Adegoke Swimming Pool in White City was opened in March 2006. The old leisure centre, knocked down in 2003, had been named as a tribute to Janet Adegoke and the new pool keeps her name.





## Randolph Beresford

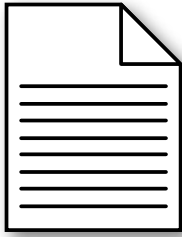


In 1975 I became the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham. It was a proud moment for my family and I. Although I was born in Guyana I have always thought of myself as British. Guyana was a British colony and although we were thousands of miles away we would wave and honour the Queen and the union flag.

I came to Britain in 1953 looking forward to a warm welcome from the motherland. But things were very difficult for me. Like most of us who came over from the Caribbean, finding a job was extremely hard, many of us were turned away for being Black. I became a member of the Hammersmith and Fulham Trades Council and fought hard to stop racial discrimination.

Hammersmith Town Hall





## **Randolph Beresford BEM MBE**

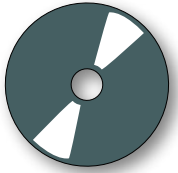
Born in Guyana in 1914, Randolph Beresford was a skilled carpenter and had worked in America before coming to Britain in 1953.

Typical of most Caribbean migrants to Britain, Randolph Beresford saw himself as British. Migration to the 'Motherland' was seen as an opportunity to achieve financial stability and extend work skills. In the colonies the 'Motherland' was presented as a welcoming and inclusive home for all, the reality upon arrival was very different. At work and in a social context there were obvious examples of inequality, discrimination and prejudice.

Randolph Beresford, like many Caribbean migrants, experienced difficulty in finding work and accommodation. Living conditions were difficult and by today's standards most of it was uninhabitable. Often there was more than one family sharing a small room. Shocked by the state of housing and accommodation he fought for the rights and betterment of working people through his trade union activities and as a Hammersmith and Fulham Councillor. In 1959, Kelso Cochrane, a young Antiguan was murdered in Notting Hill by a gang of white youths. The police were indifferent to the feelings of the local Black community and Randolph Beresford was key in the organisation of a fund to finance justice for the murdered Kelso.

Randolph Beresford became Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham in 1975, despite opposition from many of his contemporaries and local residents. For his contribution to the local community he was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in 1979 and made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1986.

The Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre in White City has been named as a tribute to Randolph Beresford.



## Linford Christie Fan



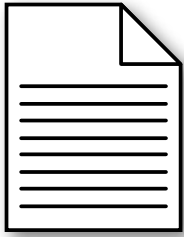
Linford Christie was born in the Jamaican parish of St Andrew in 1960. He came to Britain aged 7 to join his parents who had emigrated a few years earlier. Linford was raised in Shepherds Bush along with his brothers and sisters and attended Henry Compton School in Fulham.

As a member of the Thames Valley Harriers Athletics Club he trained at the White City Stadium which was renamed The Linford Christie Stadium in 1993.

During his career as an athlete Linford won 23 major championship medals and 26 national titles. He won Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth gold medals in the 100 metre sprint. He is also the current British record holder at 100 metres, a time of 9.87 seconds which he ran in 1993.

The track at Linford Christie Stadium





## **Linford Christie OBE**

Linford Christie has won more medals (23) in major events than any other British male sprinter. He is the only British man to win Olympic, World, Commonwealth and European 100m gold medals. He was once the fastest man in the world, over 200m holding the indoor world record of 20.25 sec, which he set in 1995. He is still the British record holder at 100m, with a time of 9.87 seconds, set at the 1993 World Championships.

Born in St. Andrew, Jamaica in 1960 he came to England, aged 7, to join his parents who had emigrated five years earlier. He was raised in Shepherds Bush with his six brothers and sisters and was educated at Canberra and Henry Compton Schools. He left school at 16, held a variety of jobs and did not take up athletics until he was 19. He became a member of the Thames Valley Harriers Athletic Club and trained at the White City Stadium, which was renamed the Linford Christie Stadium in his honour in 1993.

His early track career was not outstanding and he failed to make the Great Britain Summer Olympic Team of 1984. However, in 1986 he won gold at the European Championship and his international athletic career took off. He competed over sixty times for his country and captained the Men's British Athletic Team from 1995 to 1997. Among many of Linford Christie's awards are the 1993 BBC Personality of the Year Award and Men's European Athlete of the Year.

Away from the track, Linford Christie runs his own company 'nuff respect', hosted the BBC television children's series "Record Breakers" for a while, co-hosted a series on TV called "Garden Invaders" and writes a gardening column for a national newspaper.

Linford Christie came out of retirement, at the age of 38, in January 1999. In August it was announced that he had tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid after a sample had been taken at an indoor race in Dortmund, Germany. Linford Christie denied any wrongdoing and was cleared by the UK Athletics arbitration panel, but his ban was upheld by the International Athletic Federation.

**Linford Christie**  
Background Information

<b>Medal Record</b>		
<b>Olympic Games</b>		
Gold	1992	100m
Silver	1988	100m
Silver	1988	4x100m
<b>World Championships</b>		
Gold	1993	100m
Silver	1993	4x100m
Bronze	1991	4x100m
Bronze	1987	100m
<b>World Cup</b>		
Gold	1994	100m
Gold	1992	100m
Gold	1989	100m
<b>World Indoor Championships</b>		
Silver	1993	60m
Silver	1991	200m
<b>Commonwealth Games</b>		
Gold	1994	100m
Gold	1990	100m
Gold	1990	4x100m
<b>European Championships</b>		
Gold	1994	100m
Gold	1990	100m
Bronze	1990	200m
Gold	1986	100m