



# AFRICAN & CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# W E L C O M E

JULY - OCTOBER 2024

This past October, **Black History Month** was a poignant reminder of the rich heritage that runs deep in our community, *inspiring unity and reflection.*

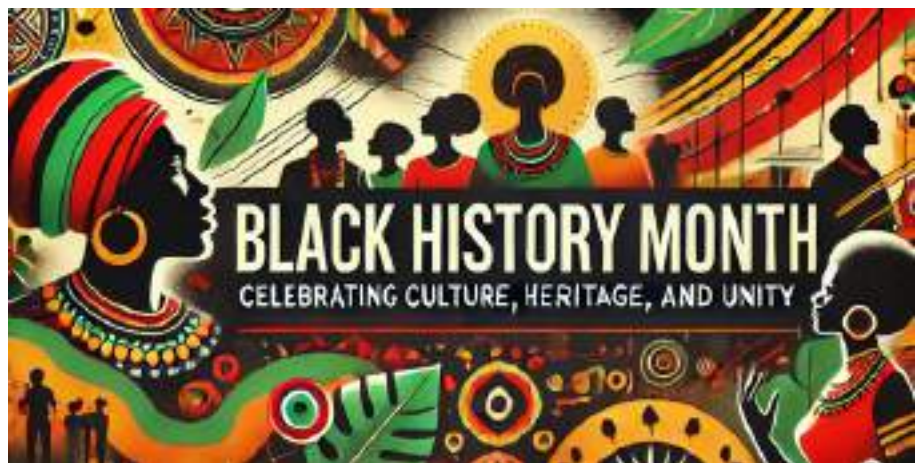
We continue to stand as a pillar of **support**, fostering a space where **diversity is celebrated** and **each voice is valued.**

Our mission remains steadfast: to promote the cultural, educational, and physical well-being of our members. This year, our initiatives have *strengthened bonds* and *enriched lives*, whether through our dynamic luncheon clubs, educational workshops, or our engaging involvement in local events and market stalls.

***We are grateful for your continued participation and support.***

At ACCA, we celebrate the beauty of cultural diversity and the powerful unity that comes from standing together.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.



Amid the recent unrest and the challenges our community has faced, we stand in solidarity with our members, offering a steadfast **support system** and a **safe haven** for those navigating difficult times.

Families have endured significant obstacles, impacting their daily lives and sense of stability. Throughout this period, we have remained committed to being a pillar of strength and inclusivity.

**Black History Month** provided an opportunity to *reinforce* these values as we shared its significance in schools, workplaces, and community events. Our dedication to educating and fostering understanding was also present during demonstrations, where we highlighted stories and contributions that inspire unity and resilience.



# BALANCING TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN OUR LUNCHEON CLUBS

**We're excited to share some updates about our beloved luncheon clubs.**

To better support our amazing cook, Pat, who tirelessly prepares each dish from her own home, we have recently transitioned our full luncheon clubs to a bi-weekly schedule. This change ensures that Pat gets the well-deserved rest she needs while still providing the community with the delicious, home-cooked meals she is known for.



With this new bi-weekly structure, we're also thrilled to introduce a variety of talks and special events on the alternate Thursdays. This allows us to bring a broader range of activities to our community, including **educational sessions, guest speakers, and wellness events**, ensuring that each gathering remains engaging and beneficial for everyone. We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we embrace these changes, keeping our community strong and vibrant.



**BBC  
NEWS**

## **ACCA FEATURED ON THE BBC: A TESTAMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY'S RESILIENCE**

We're proud to share that ACCA was recently featured in an article by the **BBC**, highlighting our ongoing efforts to support and uplift the community. This coverage sheds light on the dedication and hard work that our team puts into creating a safe, inclusive space for all. The article emphasises the challenges we've faced and overcome, particularly in recent times when families and individuals have struggled to find stability amidst social and economic pressures.

Being recognised by such a respected platform reaffirms our mission to remain a beacon of support, offering resources, connection, and a welcoming environment. It's a reminder of the importance of community-driven initiatives and the impact they have on creating meaningful change.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey and for continuing to stand with us. Together, we make a difference.



## CULTURAL AWARENESS SESSION AT ASHGATE HOSPICE

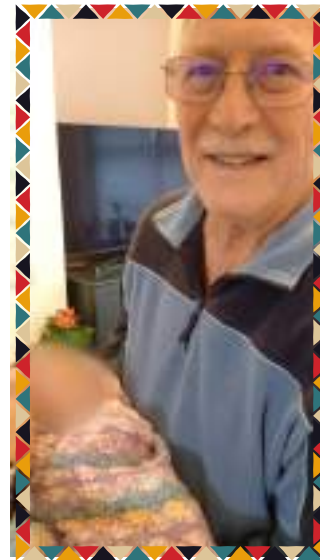


We recently had the privilege of delivering a cultural awareness session at Ashgate Hospice, an opportunity that deepened the connection between our organisations and enriched understanding across the community. Led by our dedicated chairperson, Lud Ramsey, and joined by Akshay, the session was designed to promote inclusivity, respect, and a greater appreciation for the diverse cultural tapestry that defines our community.

The response from Ashgate Hospice was heartfelt, reflecting the importance of these educational engagements. We are proud to be a part of fostering awareness and empathy, and we look forward to continuing our mission of cultural education and support.



## CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS



We are delighted to share some wonderful news within our community, our cherished members, Skip and Joan, have recently become grandparents! As active and valued members of our group, their joy is shared by all of us.

We want to extend our warmest congratulations to them on this special milestone.

Your ACCA family celebrates with you, wishing you and your growing family countless moments of happiness and love in this exciting new chapter.



## ENGAGING IN COMMUNITY SUPPORT



We had the privilege of attending the **Culturally Sensitive Information Event** held at *Hasland Village Hall*.

This gathering, organised with the support of **Derbyshire County Council** and **Links CVS**, provided a valuable platform to engage with and understand the resources available for substance misuse prevention and recovery. The event highlighted key aspects such as understanding substance misuse, accessing support services, and promoting healthy living through education and prevention.

It was a great opportunity to **connect** with other organisations and community members, sharing insights and reinforcing our commitment to fostering a supportive, informed, and healthier community. We look forward to participating in more events that align with our mission to promote well-being and inclusivity for all.

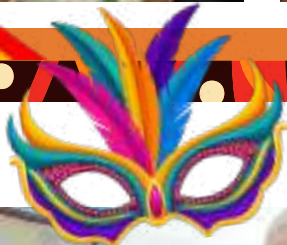


# BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT AT DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

We proudly participated in the Black History Month event at Derbyshire County Council in Matlock, where our dedicated chairperson, Lud Ramsey, delivered an inspiring speech. His words highlighted the importance of unity, cultural awareness, and resilience within our community. This event was a testament to our ongoing commitment to supporting and celebrating the diverse histories and stories that shape us.



Due to unexpected funding cuts, we faced a last-minute challenge and were unable to provide food at the event in Matlock. In response, we quickly adapted and extended an invitation for attendees to join us at our centre. There, we shared a warm and welcoming space, with food lovingly prepared by our incredible cook, Pat. We were delighted to be joined by the Co-Op, whose presence reinforced the community spirit that is central to everything we do.



## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SPIRIT



This year, we've had the pleasure of attending and participating in vibrant local carnivals, including the Burton Carnival. These days out have been a fantastic opportunity to come together, celebrate our culture, and showcase the energy and unity that define our community.

From colourful parades to lively music and dance, these events have strengthened our bonds and allowed us to share in moments of joy and pride





# OPEN DAY SUCCESS: WELCOMING NEW AND EXISTING MEMBERS

We recently hosted an **Open Day** filled with warmth, laughter, and the delicious aroma of a BBQ! It was a fantastic opportunity to welcome both new and existing members to our centre, allowing everyone to get to know one another, learn more about what we do, and see firsthand who we are as a community. The day was filled with engaging conversations, introductions, and shared stories, creating an inviting atmosphere for everyone to connect and feel at home.



Our **Open Day** was not just about showcasing our work but about fostering relationships and reinforcing the sense of belonging that makes our community so special. We are **grateful** to everyone who attended and made the day memorable. Your support continues to inspire us, and we look forward to many more moments like these!



## CELEBRATING OUR PRESENCE



We had the pleasure of participating in the **African & Caribbean Food, Business, and Entertainment Experience** at *Sadacca* in Sheffield. The event was a vibrant celebration of culture, featuring stalls from Black-owned businesses, an Afro hair and fashion show, and a variety of delicious East, West African, and Caribbean foods. The atmosphere was lively, with music from a live DJ, engaging guest speakers, and plenty of moments captured at the photo booth.



We were especially proud to see our own community members in the spotlight. Skip shared his inspiring book with attendees, sparking conversations and leaving a lasting impression.

Teresa showcased her beautiful handmade jewellery, adding a personal touch and sparking admiration among attendees.

Local artist Sue also displayed her incredible art, resonating with many and celebrating the rich history and stories within our community.



# ENGAGING WITH SCHOOLS: EDUCATING AND INSPIRING DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Black History Month** is always a busy and meaningful time for us, marked by our visits to schools to educate and inspire younger generations. This year was no exception, as we had the privilege of bringing *engaging, tailored talks* into classrooms to fill the gaps in the standard curriculum and shine a light on **Black history** that often goes unmentioned.

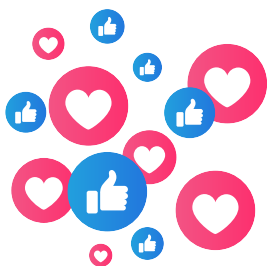


Our visits focused on sharing stories of **influential figures, historical events, and cultural contributions** that have shaped society. We believe in making these sessions interactive and impactful, encouraging students to think critically and appreciate the richness of **Black heritage**. The response from students and teachers alike has been incredibly positive, reinforcing the importance of these educational experiences.



## MONTHLY DISCUSSION GROUPS: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Our latest discussion group was a dynamic and thought-provoking session centred around the ever-evolving world of **social media**. We delved into its *rapid growth* and examined both the **positive** and negative effects it has on our daily lives. It was enlightening to hear personal stories and experiences, understanding how social media impacts individuals and how they navigate **fact-finding** and **staying informed** amidst the fast-paced digital landscape.



These discussions are an invaluable opportunity to **connect, share insights, and learn** from one another, creating a supportive space where everyone's voice is heard. We hold these discussion groups monthly, providing a platform for community members to explore relevant topics and exchange perspectives.



To find out more about upcoming sessions where you can join online and in person, be sure to check the last page of this newsletter and follow us on our social media channels for updates. We look forward to seeing you at our next discussion!





# WEEKEND VISIT TO LIVERPOOL AND BLACKPOOL: A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY



Our recent weekend trip to **Liverpool** and **Blackpool** was a memorable and educational experience that brought our community closer together. We extend a heartfelt thanks to *Alan* and *Lud* for ensuring everyone's safe travel and making the journey smooth and enjoyable for all.



During the visit, we explored museums and sites of historical significance, including places tied to the transatlantic slave trade. These visits were profound, offering insight into the deep and complex history that has shaped the Black experience in the UK. It was an eye-opening opportunity for learning, reflection, and fostering a deeper understanding of our shared history.



Beyond the educational aspect, the trip was a wonderful chance for bonding and connecting as a group.



The shared experiences, stories, and moments of reflection brought us closer and strengthened our sense of community. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this journey so impactful. We look forward to more trips that enrich our knowledge and build lasting memories together.



## HONOURING HISTORY: THE WINDRUSH EXHIBITION

We proudly hosted the **Windrush Exhibition** from Tuesday the 18th to Saturday the 22nd at **Chesterfield Library**, culminating in a special day of stories and talks on the 22nd. This event was a heartfelt tribute to the Windrush generation, celebrating their **resilience, contributions**, and the **enduring legacy** they have left within our communities.

The exhibition showcased *powerful displays, artefacts, and stories* that highlighted the journeys and experiences of those who arrived on the Empire Windrush and beyond. Attendees had the chance to engage with personal narratives, learn about the historical and cultural significance of the Windrush generation, and connect with the past in a meaningful way.

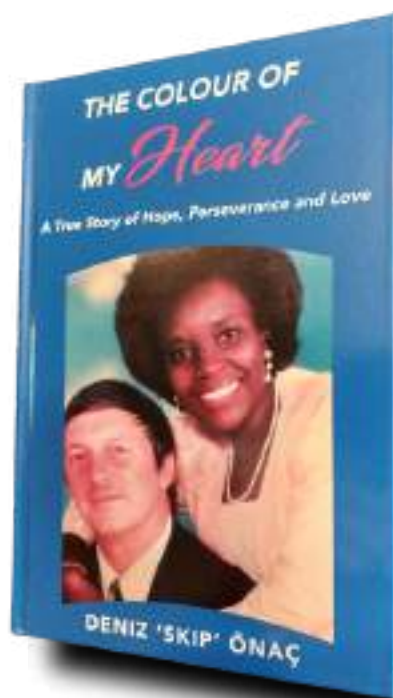


# NEW BOOK SPOTLIGHT: "THE COLOUR OF MY HEART" BY DENIZ 'SKIP' ÖNAÇ

We are delighted to introduce a **powerful** and **heartwarming** new book, "**The Colour of My Heart - A True Story of Hope, Perseverance, and Love**" by Deniz 'Skip' Önaç.

This autobiographical account chronicles Skip's 14 years teaching Physics in **Jamaica**, from 1971 to 1985, and the profound journey that follows. The story reveals Skip's life-changing decision to embrace Christianity and the beautiful, transformative relationship that unfolds between him and Joan, a Jamaican History teacher he falls in love with. Their inter-racial marriage, and the challenges they face, bring depth to this story of commitment and resilience.

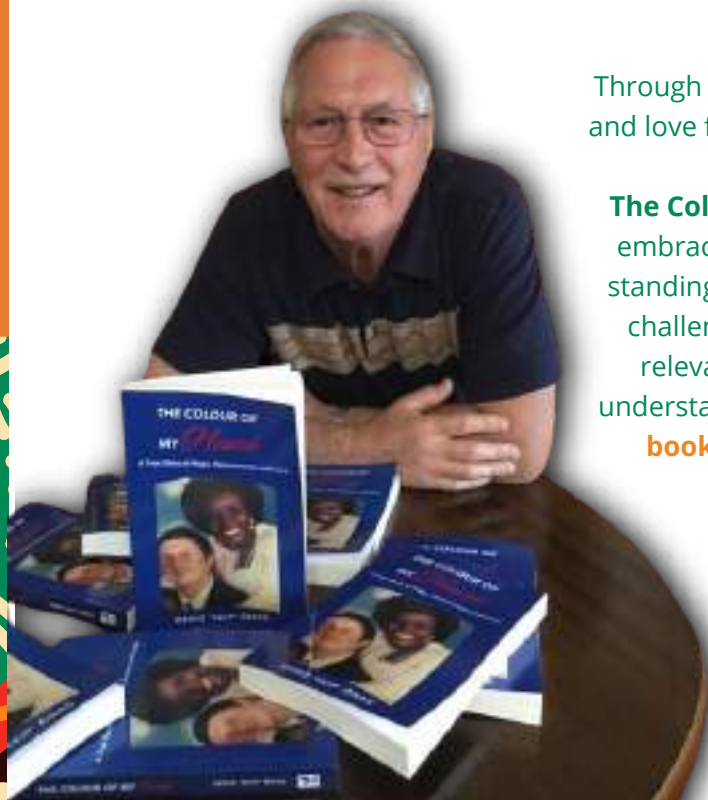
Filled with *thrilling, humorous, and dramatic episodes*, Skip's narrative showcases life in **Jamaica** through vivid, unforgettable moments: encounters with famous musicians like Stevie Wonder and Bob Marley, playing the drums in various bands, navigating dangerous river floods, and even facing life-threatening situations.



Through it all, Skip's passion for teaching, cultural engagement, and love for Joan shine through, illustrating the power of love to overcome any obstacle.

**The Colour of My Heart** is a testament to the importance of embracing different cultures, investing in young minds, and standing strong in the face of adversity. With today's ongoing challenges around racial tensions, this story is particularly relevant and resonates deeply with themes of unity and understanding. **Suitable for both adults and teenagers, this book is a captivating read that is hard to put down.**

Looking for a meaningful Christmas gift? Signed copies are available directly from Skip.



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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH TALK WITH GHADA RAZUKI: A TRAILBLAZER'S STORY

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we were honoured to host Ghada Razuki at Chesterfield Library on 1st October 2024. Ghada, recognised as the first female firefighter and a dedicated peace advocate, shared her incredible journey from Iraq to becoming a powerful voice for equality and justice. Her involvement in the Stop the War Coalition highlighted her unwavering commitment to peace and the transformative impact she has had on her community.

This event was an inspiring opportunity for attendees to hear firsthand about Ghada's courage, resilience, and determination in breaking barriers and making history. Her story is a testament to the strength of those who fight for change, and it resonated deeply with everyone present. Thank you to all who joined us for this memorable evening.



## CELEBRATING DIWALI WITH THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION



We had a wonderful time at the **Asian Association's Diwali celebrations**, enjoying an evening of *light, music, and community spirit*. With our own table, we had the chance to connect and celebrate together. A special highlight was our very own **Sue Dickens'** exhibit, where her stunning artwork added to the evening's cultural vibrancy. A big thank you to the Asian Association for a memorable night, we look forward to future events!

## SUE DICKINS' WINDRUSH ARTWORK FEATURED ON HASLAND MAGAZINE

We're **incredibly proud** to see *Sue Dickens'* beautiful **Windrush-inspired** artwork featured on the cover of Hasland Magazine. This stunning piece, commissioned for the Windrush Exhibition at Chesterfield Library, captures the resilience and strength of the Windrush generation.

Sue's work serves as a powerful reminder of our shared history and the contributions of those who helped shape our community. Congratulations to Sue on this well-deserved recognition!



# THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

As we close this edition of our newsletter, we want to extend a **heartfelt thank you** to everyone who makes the African Caribbean Community Association (ACCA) such a **vibrant** and **supportive community**. Your participation, enthusiasm, and support are what make all our activities and initiatives possible.

Whether you've joined us for *events*, *volunteered* your time, or simply been a part of *our journey*, your contributions are invaluable. **Together**, we are building a **stronger, more inclusive community** where everyone can learn, connect, and thrive.

We look forward to sharing more exciting events, stories, and opportunities with you in the future. Thank you for being part of ACCA, and for your continued support and involvement. Let's continue to grow and make a positive impact together!

## GETTING INVOLVED

### Are you passionate about making a positive impact on the community?

At ACCA, we believe that collective efforts can bring about meaningful change, and we invite you to be an essential part of our journey.

Our organisation thrives on the commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers, and we are always looking for individuals who share our vision for a more inclusive, diverse, and vibrant community.

Volunteering with ACCA provides you with the opportunity to support and empower your fellow community members. Whether you're interested in participating in our events, lending your skills to educational initiatives, or contributing in any other way, your involvement can make a significant difference.

Your *time, skills, and dedication* can help us continue our mission of promoting unity, celebrating cultural diversity, and fostering understanding. **Join us** at ACCA, and together, we can create a stronger, more connected community. Get involved today and be a part of the positive change we're working to achieve.

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## WHAT'S ON BI-WEEKLY THURSDAY

Thursday 7th November  
Luncheon Clubs, 1pm  
ACCA Centre

## DISCUSSION GROUP

Friday 22nd November,  
Black policing - 7pm Online and  
ACCA centre

## BI-WEEKLY THURSDAY

Thursday 7th November  
Luncheon Clubs, 1pm  
ACCA Centre



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all our funders who have supported the African Caribbean Community Association (ACCA) through grants, donations, and other contributions. Your generosity and commitment are crucial to our ability to provide vital services, organise events, and support our community.

