

Award Winning Magazine, Established in 1995

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2022

£2.50

MERRY
Christmas
and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Welcome to the Christmas 2022 issue of the Community Highlights Magazine. In keeping with the season of goodwill, I wish everyone a safe, warm, happy, and healthy festive season. Enjoy the festive season throughout, and don't forget to set those New Year's resolutions for 2023!

Please keep supporting us with your stories and advertising, and if you would like to donate or sponsor the next issue, email us at comhighlights@yahoo.com The Community Highlights journey book launch will take place early next year, alongside our 28th archive anniversary exhibition Jewel in the Crown. Watch this space !

Thanks for all of your support. May it continue into 2023 !

Best wishes,
Patricia



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WHAT'S ON

Let's Talk Leeds

Playhouse Playhouse

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Dear friends,

The Ford Maguire Society is holding its annual Tom Paine event on Sunday 29 January 1 pm at Viva Cuba, Kirkstall Road, Leeds.

In the 1890s radicals in Leeds met on Tom Paine's birthday to toast him and the struggle for Liberty. We are consciously following this tradition.

The meal will cost £20. This is a big rise on previous meals however it still represents a discounted price thank to the support of the owner.

Please email me if you are coming. This would be a commitment to pay on the afternoon.

You can cancel up to three days before otherwise you have to pay even if you don't come.

This allows the meals been prepared without wastage.

Please try to come . It always has been an enjoyable event with good food.

Garth Frankland

Ford Maguire Society



TALENT



Marcus Garvey is outside boots in merrion centre ... there is one in the Leeds Art gallery 2 outside Leeds town hall and one in London at Trafalgar Square .



Yes I was commissioned to produce the Globe for The World Reimagined which is an arts and education project that explored the history, legacy of Britains involvement in the Transatlantic Trade and the trafficking of Enslaved Africans. The art work was inspired by the Journey of discovery which had nine themes. My theme was Stolen Legacy Rebirth of. a Nation .My globe is called Church Windows of no return and it uses the idea of stain glass windows as a vehicle for story telling but I changed the narrative from the usual Christ/ gospel stories to tell the story of the enslaved Africans with 6stories ranging from how the church was the head of the Transatlantic Slave one of it s main beneficiaries, also how Britain and the Industrial Revolution wealth was built off slavery to the more recent truth how the slave masters descendants were paid billions from tax payers money upon till 2015 after the abolition of Slavery, while the descendants of the enslaved Africans got nothing and are fighting for reparations. This is contrasted with icons from the black diaspora that were integral to the liberation of black people such as Marcus Garvey and Haile Selassie and the Rastafari Community and roots reggae music.



Richard Smith is a radio and club deejay with deep roots in the Chapeltown area. Better known to many of his listening audience as Fluid Irie, he has hosted shows on local independent radio, BBC Radio Leeds, and elsewhere. Recently he spoke to Community Highlights Magazine about his life and career.

I was born in London and came to Leeds at twelve years old. I went to the famous Harehills Middle School before going on to Stainbeck High School (now Carr Manor). I went on to Park Lane College, then became a youth and community worker for over twenty-five years. Whilst at high school I became part of a sound system with some school friends, which was called Genesis Hi-Fi. This was the beginning of the public persona of 'Fluid', which was a nickname that I acquired at school. This part of my journey began when I was fifteen years old. My popularity as an individual grew to the point that it was almost inevitable that I would move on - which is exactly what happened. I joined a sound called Maverick, which was arguably the best sound system in Leeds at the time. Maverick enabled me to travel up and down the UK, and to cement my reputation even further.

Eventually I went on to pirate radio, where I had a few popular shows. That led

to my being head-hunted by Kiss 105, which had won a radio franchise for Yorkshire not long before. Later on they became Galaxy 105, and I spent four years at Galaxy. That was followed by four years at BBC Radio Leeds. During this time I was also deejaying at clubs and parties up and down the country, as well as abroad, which widened my experience. I am fortunate to still be asked to play at various venues. In my opinion, it boils down to three factors. Firstly, I engage with the audience. Secondly, I keep up with current trends. And thirdly, I play for the given audience demographic.

I have literally lost count of the amount of events that I have played at over the years, but one of my favourites would have to be when I played at Aiya Napa. That was in the year 2000 with DJ Swing from the Boogie Bunch, at a club called Rise. That particular night had all the elements that make a great event: a receptive audience, a great venue and great music. Of course, there have also been some bad events, but since I don't dwell on negatives I don't actually remember any of those!

I wouldn't say that I have been influenced by any particular deejay. Rather, I take positives from all deejays that I see perform. Good deejays play for their audiences, and not themselves. Getting paid for what I do is great, but my main motivation is seeing people enjoy what I do. That is the greatest feeling, and is probably the reason that I continue to do what I do. This includes the hosting work that I do for the Black Music Festival, the Leeds West Indian Carnival, the Jamaica Society, and The Leeds Black Film Club, among others.

Chapeltown has been a close-knit and vibrant area, and it continues to be so. The key strength of the area is its diversity and its communal spirit. At times though, this can also be its weakness especially in terms of decision-making processes. Chapeltown is chock-full of talented groups and individuals, and would benefit from an umbrella organisation to utilise them in a co-ordinated way.

As told to Sandra Muhammad (c) 2022 Queen Silver Jewellery. Some names or details may have been changed.



HIP HOP HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION 2022



This year saw the 9th annual Hip Hop History Month celebration at the Leeds City Museum, organised by the Hip Hop Historian Society and King Monk Studios. On the day there were live performances consisting of Hip Hop acts from Leeds, Hull and Darby, performed by Norty, Jonie D, Mc Daddy Speedo (Original Rockers), Red Eye Feenix, Oliver Rees, Just Sean R.A and Community Highlights very own Patricia Jones.

Different workshops were delivered on the different elements of Hip Hop by IQWON & DMW (Emcee/Beatboxing), HyroGraff (Graffiti Art), HelloHipHop (Breakdance), TenTonn (Breakdance), Dj Agent M (Production) and Dj OddBall (Deejaying). A Q&A panel explored the Past, Present and Future of Hip Hop Culture with pioneering members of the Hip Hop community. The panellists were Tom Nice

Things from Leeds, Ricky Rennalls (Hip Hop Alliance UK) from London and Leeds godfather of Rap, MC Daddy Speedo. The Q&A was hosted By Mark Anthony aka Black Prophetz from Birmingham. The day also featured different events such as Hip Hop movie screenings, Boom Chikka Boom's baby block party with the 0-6yrs of age participants, and a roller skating jam with Potternewton Park Rollers which took to the square outside with music and dance. There was also a Hip Hop market for local entrepreneurs. The Hip Hop Historian Society is currently working with Leeds City Museum and University of Leeds in putting on a first of its kind exhibition to celebrate 50 years of Hip Hop Culture from 28th of July 2023 to the 7th of January 2024. The exhibition highlights the culture's humble beginnings and the Leeds cultural Journey through Hip Hop. Several artists from Leeds and nationwide will be able to showcase their work through this exhibition. For volunteering opportunities and collaboration please get in touch with the society through www.hiphophistoriansociety.org. All photos are courtesy of King Monk Photography (www.kingmonkstudios.com)





Asian Fever FM



Whose idea was it to start up the radio station?

The idea was from a partnership with myself and Tamrez Khan, in the beginning it was just some fun and a hobby but after some community announcements we realized radio was a very effective and a huge platform.

How many people are involved?

We have 36 regular weekly presenters with various style of presenting and music. Each year we average 110 people involved with special programmes, campaigns and guests.

Describe the format of the broadcasts. What do you cover?

Our programmes are aimed at people of all ages. From musical & talent shows, including regular talk shows on health, crime, education and training opportunities.

Who do you serve? How many listeners do you have?

We are licenced for and serve the South Asian Community and reach out nearly 100K listeners per day. We have just launched our radio service

When was Asian Fever FM established?

Radio Asian Fever was established in June 1999 and registered in 2004 to pursue a full-time community radio licence from Ofcom. However, our history of radio for us first started back in the summer of 1989 as Radio Apni Awaaz meaning "Our Voice" our first transmitter was purchased with the help of Hopper of People's FM, much respect.

We were the first Asian station to broadcast Asian music and language in Leeds. After 9 RSL's (one month license) and nearly 10 years of pirate radio we were awarded the full-time Community radio licence in October 2005, we launched our radio service on 1st of March 2007.



throughout Bradford, Sheffield & Rotherham through the DAB+ service. We hope to double up our listeners within the next 12 months.

Is it a charity? No, we are a Community Interest Company (CIC)

Describe an outstanding event in your radio career?

We have many outstanding events on our radio, we have helped 4 volunteers to find full time posts with BBC radio, another volunteer went on to star in Dance India Dance and reached the semi-final, we campaigned for Flood victims in Pakistan in 2010 and raised £82K within

4 weeks and received a high achievement award by Islamic Relief Charity. Interviewed live in our studio Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan (Only Asian star to fill Leeds Arena) 2 young volunteers (12 & 9 years) broadcasted for 12 hours straight to help victims in Nepal raising £2,500.

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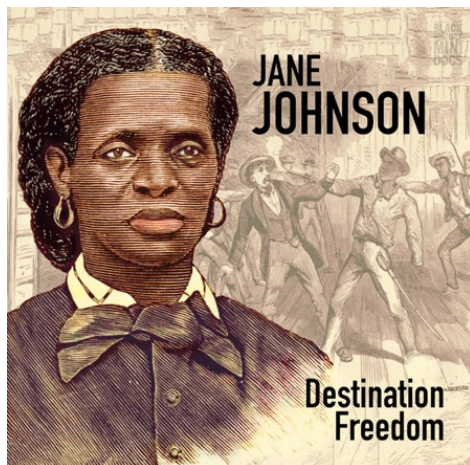
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BLACK HISTORY



DESTINATION FREEDOM

Jane Johnson (1814 – August 2, 1872) was an Black enslaved woman who gained freedom on July 18, 1855 with her two young sons while in Philadelphia with her slavemaster and his family.

Johnson's Slavemaster, John Hill Wheeler, had been appointed U. S. Minister to Nicaragua, and he and his family and servants were en route from Washington, D.C. to New York City to board a ship to South America. Her slavemaster had sold Johnson's eldest son, and she was determined that would not be the fate of her younger two sons. Through a locked door, she asked a Black deckhand for help. He contacted a Black abolitionist William Still and Still contacted, his friend Passmore Williamson, a white abolitionists of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society and its Vigilance Committee.

The two men raced to the docks as Wheeler, his family and Johnson and her sons were boarding the steamboat. Williamson educated both Johnson and Wheeler that Pennsylvania law did not recognize the

property rights of slaveholders, and she was free to leave Wheeler if she chose. As she and her two sons walked away with Still, five black deckhands helped restrain Wheeler, who tried to stop Johnson and her sons from leaving.

Pennsylvania had long been a free state and held that slaveholders gave up their property right to enslaved people if they brought them voluntarily to the state. This resulted in precedent-setting legal cases in 19th-century Pennsylvania, as a federal judge applied the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 in a controversial way.

Still and the black deckhands were all jailed and the judge sentenced the white abolitionist Williamson, to 90 days for contempt of court for failing to produce Johnson and her sons under a writ of habeas corpus, or tell their location. The jailing attracted even wider publicity, and widespread discussion of issues of state and federal laws related to slavery.

Johnson would eventually returned to Philadelphia from New York a month later in August of 1855, and testified in the trial of the Black abolitionist, William Still and five dockworkers, who were charged by her enslaver John Hill Wheeler accusing the men of assault while assisting in her escape. She testified at length about having planned to gain freedom in the North, and said she chose of her own free will to leave with Still, and would never go back to slavery. She helped win acquittal for Still, Williamson, three deckhands, and reduced sentences for two others. State and local officials protected her after testimony, and she and her sons soon moved to Boston, where they settled. She married again there and her son Isaiah Johnson served in the United States Colored Troops during the American Civil War.

BLACK HISTORY



THE FATHER OF PAN- AFRICANISM AND REPARATIONS.

Rev. Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden (August 3, 1832 – February 7, 1912). He was a Black Nationalist and Repatriations advocate in the late 1800s.

Born in St. Thomas, in the West Indies, Blyden was educated beginning at the age of twelve when a white pastor began to encourage him to make the ministry his life's work. At eighteen, upon coming to America, he was unable to find a seminary that would accept a black student. Instead he went to Liberia under the sponsorship of the New York Colonization Society to study at the new Alexander High School in Monrovia. 7 years later he was the principal of the school. As an adult, Blyden had two careers, a teacher and a scholar.

In his writings, he defended his race at every opportunity, exalted the achievements of other blacks, attacked slavery and advocated repatriation of his people back to Africa. As a teacher he was professor of classics from 1862 to 1871 and president of Liberia College from 1880 to 1884. At the same time as a politician and diplomat in Liberia, he was Secretary of State from 1864 to 1866, Minister of Interior from 1880 to 1882, Minister to Britain from 1877 to 1878 and 1892, and Minister Plenipotentiary to London and Paris in 1905.

Blyden traveled to America eight times representing Liberia, his last visit was in 1895. He studied both Christianity and Islam, summing up his views in his influential book Christianity, Islam and the Negro Race. Between 1901 and 1905 he was Director of Education in Sierra Leone.

Blyden's ideas and speeches urging a return to Africa and the re-creation of an African Nation were to seed African consciousness movements all over the world. There is an unbroken line of black leaders that inherited his ideas, directly or indirectly. W.E.B. DuBois and Marcus Garvey exploded them into the twentieth century, continuing to champion the theme of a return to Africa. Their political ideas in turn became a source for the leaders of African independence movements of the fifties and sixties-Nkrumah, Nyerere, Sekou Toure and Blyden's own grandson, Edward W. Blyden III whose Sierra Leone Independence Movement (SLIM) played a key role in winning Sierra Leone's independence from Great Britain. Edward Blyden died in 1912.

BLACK HISTORY



ANNA MURRAY DOUGLASS

Anna Murray-Douglass (October 19, 1813 – August 4, 1882) was an American abolitionist, member of the Underground Railroad, and the first wife of American social reformer and statesman Frederick Douglass, from 1838 to her death.

Murray was born in Denton, Maryland, to Bambara and Mary Murray. Unlike her seven older brothers and sisters, who were born in slavery, Anna Murray and her younger four siblings were born free. A resourceful young woman, by the age of 17 she had established herself as a laundress and housekeeper. Her laundry work took her to the docks, where

she met Frederick Douglass, who was then working as a caulker.

Murray's fiancé Douglass believed in the possibility of his own freedom. When he decided to escape slavery in 1838, Murray encouraged him, and helped him by providing him with sailor's clothing, which her laundry work gave her access to, and also by giving him part of her savings, which she augmented by selling one of her feather beds. After Douglass had made his way to Philadelphia and New York, Murray followed him, bringing enough goods with her to be able to start a household, and they were married eleven days later, on 15 September 1838. At first they took Johnson as their name; upon moving to New

BLACK HISTORY

Bedford, Massachusetts, and later they adopted Douglass as their married name.

Anna Murray-Douglass had five children within the first ten years of the marriage: Rosetta, Lewis, Frederick Jr., Charles and Annie. She helped support the family financially, working as a laundress and learning to make shoes, as Douglass's income from his speeches was sporadic and the family was struggling. She also took an active role in the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society and prevailed upon her husband to train their sons as typesetters for his abolitionist newspaper, the North Star. After the family moved to Rochester, New York, she established a headquarters for the Underground Railroad from her home, providing food, board and clean linen for hundreds of fugitive slaves on their way to Canada.

Murray received little mention in Douglass's autobiographies; Henry Louis Gates has written that "Douglass had made his life story a sort of political diorama in which she had no role". His long absences from home, and her feeling that as a relatively uneducated woman she did not fit in with the social circles Douglass was now moving in, led to a degree of estrangement between them that was in marked contrast to their earlier closeness.

She nevertheless remained loyal to Douglass's public role; her daughter Rosetta reminded those who admired her father that his "was a story made possible by the unswerving loyalty of Anna Murray.

After the death of her youngest daughter Annie in 1860 at age 10, she was often in poor health; she died of a stroke on August 4, 1882 at the family home in Washington D.C. She was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester; her husband, too, was buried there after his death.



THE FATHER OF RAGTIME MUSIC - SCOTT JOPLIN

One of music's greatest, Scott Joplin was born on November 24, 1868. Black composer and pianist Joplin achieved fame for his ragtime compositions and was dubbed the "King of Ragtime" writers. During his brief career, he died at age 49, Joplin wrote 44 original ragtime pieces, one ragtime ballet, and two operas. His most popular pieces, the "Maple Leaf Rag", became ragtime's first and most influential hit, and he is recognized as "The Father of Ragtime Music".

Joplin was born into a musical family of railway laborers in Northeast Texas, and developed his musical knowledge with the help of local teachers.

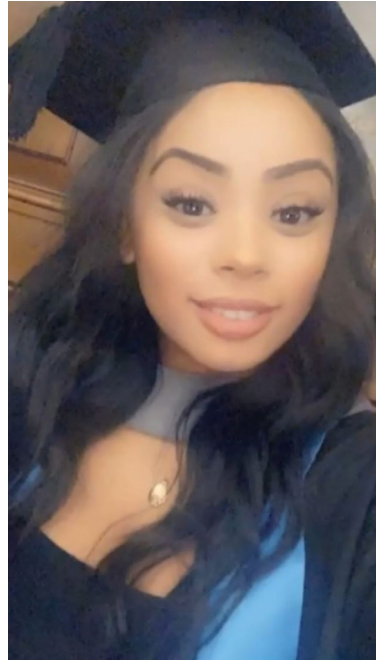
Graduations

Naomi Campbell

This year I completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Masters level, alongside gaining Qualified Teacher status. Prior to this, I studied at Leeds Beckett University before leaving for London. I studied at Kingston London University in 2017, where I completed degrees in Childhood Studies and Teaching and Learning.

My desire to study and research education stemmed from my own poor experiences in secondary education. Having left school in Leeds without GCSEs, I was determined to beat the odds and provide secondary education for the next generation. My experiences ignited my passion for teaching, and gave me the courage to fulfil my career goals.

I am currently teaching at an outstanding private school in London. I'm looking forward to progressing within the field, and I may also take on further studies in the future.



My name is **Surinder** and I work for **Leeds Mind**.

My current role is around developing and delivering one to one support for young people aged 16- 25, who are from culturally diverse communities.

We can offer support for up to 6 months. The support is aimed at young people who might be struggling with their mental health.

Currently, we have no waiting list. Leeds Mind offers free 1-to-1 and group mental health support for young people. Our team all have personal experience of struggling with our mental health, and we talk about our experiences when it is helpful. Lots of young people have told us this helps them to feel safe in sharing what's going on


for them and stops them feeling alone. Support for young people from culturally diverse communities We offer support for 16 to 25 year olds from culturally diverse communities (you may describe yourself as Black and Minority Ethnic/BAME, South Asian, an Ethnic Minority, from a Racialised Community, etc.) who feel that their mental health could be affected by experiences relating to their ethnic background (this could be due to identity, place, discrimination or racism). Self-referral or referrals on behalf of someone else can be made by visiting the webpage below.


For more information, please visit <https://www.leedsmind.org.uk/services/youth-in-mind/>

YOUR NATURAL GOOD HEALTH

Q: I wash my hair once or twice a week. I always use conditioners, but I've heard that they can damage my hair. I'd rather use something natural. Is there a herb or something that you can suggest ?

A: Rice water is a simple but effective alternative to commercial conditioners. Not only will you find that the condition of your hair improves when you use it, but rice water is supposed to slow down hair fall as well. Rice water contains vitamins B, C and E which help hair to grow longer and stronger. To make rice water, just soak a cup of rice in a clean bowl containing two cups of water for an hour. Then, wash the rice in the same way as you would before cooking it. Instead of throwing away the rice water, decant it into a clean bowl. The rice water is then ready to use straight away, or you can store it in the fridge for a week. To use your rice water, just dip your fingers into the bowl of rice water and then massage into your freshly-washed scalp. Use your rice water hair tonic three times a week for best results.






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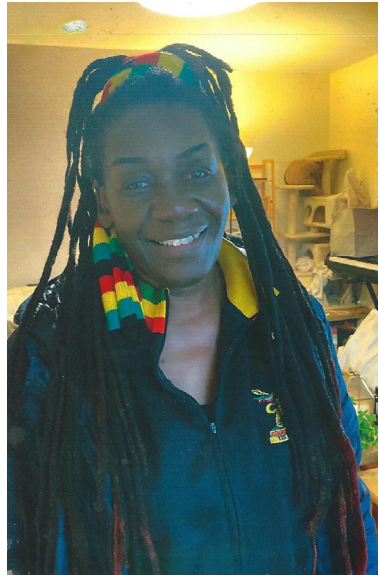
**"SO IF YUH LIKE DI MUSIC
IF YUH LIKE DI SOUN
YUH NOH MUSS LIKE FI DANCE
SO BRING YUISELF COME GO DANCE"**

FLU SHOTS

~6 Kale Leaves ~ 1/2 Bunch of Parsley ~ 1 Cucumber
~4 Celery Ribs ~ 2 Small Green Apples ~ 1 Lemon



Look out for Edwinas questions and answers section in the next issue



HEARTHSTONE PARTNERS WITH LEEDS HOUSING CHARITY

Latch (Leeds Action to Create Homes) has been named as the Corporate Charity Partner for Hearthstone Investments, a specialist in suburban private rented housing.

Latch purchases derelict and run-down houses in the Chapeltown, Harehills and Burley areas of Leeds and refurbishes them to provide modernised, energy efficient accommodation for people who are homeless or in housing need. The majority of its work is carried out by Latch staff and volunteers.

Intended as a stepping stone to independent living, tenants benefit from the help of the charity's support workers as they make the positive changes they need to eventually settle into permanent accommodation.

Through the partnership, Hearthstone will provide financial support to Latch through a range of fundraising activities. In addition, members of the team may also come and help out the Latch team during property refurbishments, as well as offering help in other ways

where there is a need.

Andrew Tarbit, Finance Director at Hearthstone Investments, said: "We are delighted to be working with Latch. The charity is making a significant positive impact in its local area by providing accommodation to those in need, with the practical support to help them get back on their feet so they can find a permanent home. As a regionally based charity with a focus on housing, there is a strong cultural fit with the strategy and philosophy of Hearthstone Investments."

James Hartley, CEO at Latch added:

"With living costs rising and the number of people in dire housing need continuing to grow, the need for our work has never been more important. We rely on the generous support of businesses, grants and individuals to raise funds for our vital work and we are thrilled that Hearthstone has chosen to support our cause. We look forward to Hearthstone helping to raise funds to help even more people to benefit from our services."

Faith Moves Mountains: The Onathson Chukwu Story

Onathson Chukwu is the owner of Onathson Enterprises, which is in Enugu Town, Nigeria. He is a man of faith, and it is this faith that he says is the foundation of his triumph over adversity. Recently, he told his story to Community Highlights Magazine.

I was born in eastern Nigeria to a loving and supportive Christian family. My parents were not necessarily wealthy, but they were hard-working and our family was reasonably comfortable. They weren't tactile, at least not in front of the children, but they were devoted to each other and their marriage was strong. Seeing how dutiful my parents were toward each other and to their family, taught me what marriage and home life should be like. When I grow up, I am going to find a wife who is as loyal to me and my family as my mother was to my father, I thought.

Years passed. Eventually, I met a young woman who lived in my home town. We began seeing each other. In time, we fell in love. I asked her to be my wife, and she agreed. A year or so later, we were married. We began to build a home together, and we had two beautiful children. I felt blessed. As far as I was concerned my life was going well, and I was happy.

Not long after my wife and I were married, I began a job as a driver. The salary was attractive, and it offered me flexibility. That meant that I could contribute to the running of the household in a practical way: as well as being the breadwinner I was able to operate more widely, geographically speaking. In turn, my wife stayed at home and looked after the children, who were very young at the time.

Then one day when I returned to the drivers'

base station, the receptionist called me over. She looked anxious.

"Mr Chukwu?" she said. "The manager would like to see you now, oh! Please go straight in." Immediately, she picked up the telephone receiver on her desk. "Mr Chukwu has arrived," she said.

"Send him in," a tinny voice on the other end of the line said. The receptionist looked at me. I made my way to the site manager's office. She watched me as I walked past her desk. I approached the site manager's door, and knocked.

"Come in!"

I had not been in the office since the day that I had been interviewed for the job, and had been offered the position, about two years before. Nothing much seemed to have changed in the room in all that time. It was still sparsely furnished, and the decoration was still spartan. It remained a clear advertisement that said, this company was no-nonsense. It was all about business here. The manager's personality was like that, as well. Back then, I had found the lack of frippery in his language refreshing. Then he spoke, interrupting my thoughts. He didn't offer me a seat. As usual, he went straight to the point.

"Mr Chukwu, we are downsizing our company. We have to cut costs. Now, this is not personal, Mr Chukwu. But, among the drivers you are one of the most recent arrivals. So, unfortunately, we have to let you go."

I was stunned. Immediately, my thoughts went to my wife. I wondered how she would react to the news, but I was confident that she would be loyal and supportive in the face of this challenge. I heard the rest of the site manager's words as though they came

from far away.

"I have no problem with your work, so you can work out seven days' notice ... Thank you for your service and good luck, Mr Chukwu."

That night, as I drove home from work, I wondered what I would do next. I thought that I ought to keep my eyes open for other driving jobs being advertised in newspapers, or online. Or perhaps I could try finding a job as a security guard instead. Whatever happened, I reasoned that I had to find another position, quickly. With a wife, two small children and a house to keep up, I hadn't been able to save very much money from my earnings from driving. Food prices, gas prices, electricity costs - they seemed to rise in Nigeria on a weekly basis, I thought grimly. And as well as taking care of the children, my wife needed to be kept happy, too. After all, she was doing a good job looking after two small children at home. They were so young then, that she could not leave them to go out to work, and her retired mother and other relatives lived several miles away. The least that I could do was to give her money to spend, or to buy her new clothes, or pay for her to get her hair done when she needed it.

When I arrived home that night, the children were already in bed. My wife was still up, preparing dinner for me. I could smell the delicious scent of her cooking, wafting towards me from the kitchen. The television set was on in the living room, playing to a vacant sofa. I closed the front door, loud enough for her to hear, signalling my return. I went straight into the bathroom to wash after my busy day, then entered the dining room and sat at the table. A pitcher of water and a tall glass stood side by side on the table, waiting. I picked up the pitcher, filled the glass with water, and then set it back down. I sipped the water from the glass, slowly.

My wife came into the dining room. She was carrying two covered plates of food. "Nna,"

she said. She set the plates down in front of me, and kissed me on the cheek. "How was your day?"

I took another sip of water, then set the glass back onto the table. I sighed. "Baby," I said. "Today was not good."

"Sorry! What happened?"

"After this week, I will no longer have a job. They have asked me to leave the company."

She shook her hands as though she was drying them. "Ohhh!" she exclaimed. "Why, now?"

They say that the company has to cut costs," I told her. "It is not only me," I said, reading her mind. "They have asked the three most recent employees to go. It could not be helped."

To my surprise, my wife went quiet. Then she said evenly, "You will have to find another job quickly. I cannot downsize my life, you know."

It wasn't the reaction that I was expecting from her. But then I thought, she was right. It was the push that I needed to impel me into taking action.

At the end of the week, I attended my driving job for the last time. That final evening, I was very sorry to be leaving. I had enjoyed the relative freedom of driving on the open road. I knew that I would miss the straight-talking site manager; and even the good-natured, if sometimes emotional, receptionist. And of course, I would miss a wage coming in - at least for a while. It would feel strange not coming back here to work again, I thought. I made my way home.

In the days that followed, I spent more time at home. For the first time, I was able to spend quality time with my children. I marvelled at how my wife was able to look after them, and the house too, single-handed. I certainly developed respect for the job that she had to do at home!

Even so, I was relentless in looking for

another position. I still remembered her comment on the evening that I had gone home with the news about losing the driver's job. I prayed that the Divine would make a way for me, out of my predicament. Then one day I was walking along suburban street in my town. I passed a large house which had a hand-painted sign hanging outside. Curiously, I approached. The sign said, "Gardener wanted, enquire within". I couldn't believe my good luck !

I took the sign down, and carried it to the house's front gates. Bypassing the high front gates themselves which was obviously for vehicular traffic, I approached a smaller side door, designated for pedestrian use. I knew that there would be a sentry manning the gates, probably seated behind the smaller door, even though I couldn't see anyone. I knocked on the narrow, solid metal door to attract his attention.

A man opened the door. He was of medium build, and not particularly tall. He wore a khaki shirt, with trousers which stopped way above his ankles. Instead of boots, he wore black shoes. On his head he wore a black beret, and at his waist he carried what looked like some kind of baton. He glared at me.

"Good afternoon," I said. "Me na come bout de gardener yob. Me fit do am."

He narrowed his eyes. "You fit do am before?"

"Yes, oh ! I get experience for am. Me nabi de best man for de yob."

He paused, then noticed the sign which I still held in my hand. "Wait here !" he barked, before slamming the metal door in my face. A few minutes later, he returned and opened the door again. When he invited me in, I knew that I had the job. Those sentries were notoriously difficult to get past !

I soon settled into my new job. I liked the work and got on well with my employers,

who were a married couple of lawyers. My wife was delighted that I was earning a living again.

Just over a year later, I was working in the grounds to the rear of the property. From the corner of my eye, I saw the lady of the house walking across the grass as she approached me from the house. This was unusual. Normally the househelp might come outside and offer me something to drink or some of what she had prepared for lunch, but otherwise I was mostly left to my own devices. The next thing I knew, the wife was standing over me. I stood up.

"Onathson," she said. "I'm here to give you some news. My husband and I have both been promoted to senior positions at the law firm."

I had already heard this from the househelp. She had told me when she brought out my lunch earlier that day.

"Congratulations, ma," I said.

"They are very high-ranking positions. In fact, the firm is sending us to join the team at the Head Office in Lagos. We're moving there in the next few weeks."

This, the househelp had not mentioned. I was surprised.

"We have already sold this house," she went on. "But, Onathson, my husband and I have been pleased with your work during the time that you have been with us. We have discussed it, and we would like you to come with us to Lagos and work for us there."

I was taken aback. I had not thought of leaving Enugu Town before. And yet, if I had been a single man, I might have considered it. But of course, I had my family to think of.

"Well, ma," I said. "As you know, I have a wife and two young children."

"Well, you think about it, Onathson," she said, walking away.

That evening, I sat at the dining table with

my wife. The children were sitting on the living room floor, playing, as she and I talked together.

"It is a very attractive offer," I said. "They are being promoted, which means that if they earn more, I could make more money too."

"Yes, that is true," she replied. "But that extra money would be swallowed up by housing costs in Lagos. Besides, I like this house."

"But think of the children," I said. "They could go to better schools in Lagos."

"They haven't begun school yet," she said.

"And they are closer to family members here."

I could tell that my wife didn't want to move. I would have to turn the position down. Effectively, I was working on a month's notice. The next day, I went to work and told my employers that I would not be moving to Lagos with them, after all.

"It is a pity," the husband said, when I told him. "But I am going to help you, Onathson. I have a friend in Enugu Town who is a doctor. As it happens, he is looking for a gateman. I will recommend you to him. It will save you looking for another job."

I felt relieved. I had hated the instability of looking for employment before. It made me feel useless. Immediately, my employer pulled out a mobile phone which was in his trouser pocket. He tapped one button, and then I heard the ringing signal. Whoever it was on the other end, picked the phone up. "Hello?"

"Doctor, it is your go-to legal expert here." The male voice on the other end of the telephone line, laughed.

"How are you, Barrister Obadigie?"

"I am fine. Doctor, I have a candidate for the position that you want to fill. My gardener won't be coming to Lagos with us, after all. If you are looking for a reliable and hard worker, I can personally recommend him."

"Well, if you say so, then I have no problem.

Tell him that I can see him on Saturday afternoon at half past two, and give him my address. What did you say his name was?"

"Onathson Chukwu."

"Alright. I expect to see him on Saturday."

"The doctor was very affable," I told my wife on Saturday night as we watched television together. "He actually offered me the job on the spot."

"I am happy for you," she replied. "Lagos is a long way from home. It is better that we remain in Enugu Town. We are established here."

I had some misgivings, but my wife convinced me that our young family's stability was important. By now our children were approaching school age, and perhaps it would be better not to uproot them and relocate to another city.

I liked working as a gateman for the doctor and his wife. They were elderly people though, and didn't go out much except to his surgery and to church. As a result, my days were not very busy. Occasionally their children would come to visit, bringing their families. But such visits were few and far between.

Then, after a couple of years, tragedy struck: the doctor died. He was quite an old man by that time, and so that was not unexpected; but, even so, his passing was a loss. He had been well-liked by his family, his friends, his employees, and even in the wider community.

At first, I continued working for the household as usual. Then a few weeks later, I was called into the house by the househelp. "The madame wants to see us," she said. By the time we arrived in the living room, the gardener and the chauffeur were already there. The househelp and I completed the group gathering of employees. We stood before the doctor's wife, waiting to hear what she had to say.

"Well," the doctor's wife said. "The

doctor's passing was very sad for the entire household. I know that you were all personally affected." She paused, but no-one said anything. She continued. "this house is too big for me to live in alone," she said, sadly. "I will be moving in to live with my daughter and her family. Unfortunately, I will have to let you all go .."

I couldn't believe my ears.

"You were all very capable employees," she went on. "I know that you will all find other jobs. You can continue to work here for the next three weeks while the moving process takes place."

When I broke the news to my wife that night, she frowned. "You na be jobless layabout again ?" she sneered.

My mouth flew open in astonishment. "What are you talking about ?" I exclaimed. "Have I not worked diligently on every job that I have had ? Have I not ?"

"I deserve a better life than this," she said. "You should be promoted by now. Instead your mates are steadily advancing, and you are in the same position. In fact, you are going backwards. Yes ! Price of foodstuffs are rising. You cannot support am. Look at the dresses that I have to wear. Na be three months since I dey get new dress. Them na laugh at me for church. I cannot stand it anymore."

"We could have gone to the city," I reminded her. "There are more opportunities there. There is more money there. But no, you wanted to stay here. I have done everything that a man can do, and it's still not enough for you. What do you want me to do ?"

"Don't do anything," she said. "Just stay as you are. I will go. I have had enough of you and your joblessness. Please, oh ! I don have strenth. Finish !" Angrily, she stalked into our bedroom, and slammed the door.

I was thunderstruck. I had never seen my wife like this before. I wondered what had

come over her. I decided to allow her some time to cool down, and then I would go into the bedroom after her. I would talk to her reasonably, and then we would make amends.

Imagine my shock and dismay when she emerged from the bedroom. She had a suitcase in her hand ! It was obvious that she was not going to simply check into a hotel for the night to collect herself. The case was so large that she was struggling to carry it. I realised at once that she was leaving home for good. My heart sank.

"Where are you going to ?" I asked her. She continued struggling with the suitcase towards the door. At any other time I would have helped her, but this time I couldn't. I didn't want her to leave. I took a step towards her.

"Please, abeg !" she shouted, waving me away angrily. "My ears dey pain wid tori, tori, tori. I have had enough !" I was wondering where she was going to. How would she transport that heavy luggage ? Then I heard a vehicle pull up outside. I looked through the window. I saw a car which I recognised as belonging to her brother, waiting outside, with the engine running. She went through the door, and was gone. She got into the car with her brother, and left. She didn't even say goodbye to the children, who were in bed. I felt betrayed.

I sat down, with my face in my hands. I could hardly believe it. It had all happened so suddenly. I tried to think back, wondering whether there had been signs heralding the end of my marriage that I had missed. Had she ever loved me at all ? I felt so confused. What should I do now, I asked myself. How could I look after two children alone ? Just then, the children emerged sleepily from their bedroom. They made their way towards me.

"Daddy," they said. "Where is Mummy ?"

I took them both in my arms. It's only the

three of us now, I thought. I wanted to be strong for their sake, but at that moment it was impossible. I hugged them, and burst into tears. How would I feed them, clothe them, and take care of them now that my wife was gone ? I didn't know what to say to them.

Eventually I stopped crying, and put the children back to bed. I had to be strong. Now was the time to lean into my faith. My children were relying on me. Even if my wife had abandoned me, God had not, and He never would. Of that, I was certain.

I am a regular churchgoer. I am a man of faith, and I pray daily. I have been a believer all of my life. I invoke His name not only with my loved ones, but also with my friends online and overseas. I continued to praise God with many of them, and continued to find their faith encouraging.

Weeks went by, but my wife never returned. I was left to cope with my children alone. I began to share my story with a few trusted friends. They sympathised, but none of them was able to help. To pass the time whilst the children were at school, I spent some of my days at a shop which was run by my friend, Okonkwo.

Months passed. Christmas came and went. It was a sad and lonely time for the children and me. Because I found it difficult to find a job that fit around school hours, I wasn't able to buy them gifts that year. Although my sister wanted to help, she lived in another town.

One Saturday morning, I awoke and said my prayers as usual. Almost as soon as I had finished, the phone rang.

"Onathson ?" It was Okonkwo.

"How far, my friend ?"

"I am fine. How are you bearing up ?"

"I am still here. And I thank God ..."

"Amen. God is good." I agreed.

"Yes," he affirmed. "And He has given me some good news for you !"

"What do you mean ?" I asked.

"Well, I really appreciated your help in the shop, last year. You were honest and reliable, and you never complained. I think that you would do well, managing a shop of your own. After everything that you have been through, I think that you should be given a chance. By way of thanks, I am calling you to lend you the funds to open one."

I was so happy. My prayers had been answered ! The past few years had been challenging, but I always knew that help from the Divine would come in the end. And, here it was !

I had endured pain and heartbreak, but that had only served to make me a stronger person. They had shown me whom and what truly belonged in my life. They gave me experience and understanding, and elevated me. It was all part of God's plan for my life.

Of course, I accepted the offer. Okonkwo not only provided me with the funds to start up my small business, but also support and advice. As I like to say, it's when you are at your lowest point that you see who your real friends are !

But the main thing that I learned was that God never fails, and that faith moves mountains. I never stopped believing that His help would come. If I were asked today what kept me going through my darkest hours, I would say: I kept trying, and I kept believing. God's answer to our prayers will come eventually, and He will replace all that was lost with that which is better. I say, keep the faith. God's promise is true. He will never let us down.

As told to Sandra Muhammad. (c) Queen Silver Jewellery 2022. Some names and details may have been changed.

Peace in trouble

In the mighty name of Jesus, I declare the enduring, keeping and everlasting peace of God among the people of God. In Jesus' name, I speak salvation and reconciliation from God in all the families of the earth. Through the blood of the cross, I declare chains broken, habits and curses broken, addictions and all things that prevent people from coming to the Lord broken. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May our children be free from the lies, trappings, attractions and strongholds of the enemy, in the name of Jesus Christ. I pray in Jesus' name for repentance and refreshing from the presence of the Lord so that our prayers can be answered. Father in heaven, I speak those things that are not, as though they were, and right now I speak peace. I speak life to every dead situation needing life, a balm for every pain and restoration for brokenness. And, that You my God, in Jesus' name, will raise up and restore those who are suffering affliction, defend the meek, strengthen the weak, and bless the peacemakers. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

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PrayItNow Ministries

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Email: prayingthroughchrist@virginmedia.com

The King's First Visit to Leeds

King Charles III visited Leeds on 8 November 2022. It was his first visit since he became monarch and head of state. He held a number of engagements in the city on that day, including one at Leeds Central Library and Art Gallery on Calverley Street. There, he was shown some of 'The World Re-imagined Globes' which had been on display since late September. The globes were part of a national project to explore the history and impact of the transatlantic slave trade.

Following that the King met young achievers, including the Leeds Children's Mayor. His Majesty was also introduced to members of the Jamaican community, and he toured the Jamaican Society Leeds's Rebellion to Romance exhibition.

The King was also shown a plaque marking his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II's, visit to the building in 1982. He was then introduced to a range of representatives from the Leeds financial sector at the Leeds Building Society, on Sovereign Street.

Richard Fearon, chief executive of the Leeds Building Society said: 'We're extremely honoured to have the opportunity to welcome His Majesty the King to the Society, and to officially open our head office. We hope to show His Majesty how we, and the wider financial sector in the city and region, are helping people to manage their money at this very uncertain and challenging time.'



INSPIRATION

On this important moment in my life, I am profoundly honored receiving the Queens Award with colleagues of the Hawa Dal Peace of Mind charity. Personally, it was a moment of shock when I heard the announcement that we were among the 244 voluntary groups selected to receive the Voluntary Service award in 2022. Thank you to the Queen's Office (now the King's Office) for exalting our organisation -- we couldn't be prouder. Thank you to all who made this possible.

The Queens Award would not be achieved without you. Thank you so much again for your continuous and generous time, energy and commitment to our causes. Hawa Dal would like to thank all involved in awarding us this honor and celebrating with last tonight. One thing is to be hard-working; another is to be seen, heard and celebrated. This award is a big picture of what we do, who we are, and where we are going. Let it remain a constant reminder that good work comes with unbelievable achievements.

I want to express my gratefulness for enabling me to receive the Queens Award. I appreciate every one of you for coming out last tonight and celebrating this great moment with me.

May God bless you

Madame Diallo Hawa Bah



INSPIRATION

Levi Roots

This morning I've been with Ford on Electric Avenue in Brixton to collect my new electric E-Transit van!

Ford is partnering with me, alongside Healthy Eaters Brixton and K & N Fresh Meats, to help electrify this famous market street and guide local market traders to reduce carbon footprint as a contribution to protecting the environment.

[#paidpartnership](#) [#fordpro](#)
[#etransit](#) [#EV](#)



An advertisement for Afrikan Market Leeds. The top half features a colorful illustration of a busy market street with stalls, people, and a Christmas tree. The text 'Afrikan Market Leeds Stalls available' is overlaid in white. The bottom half has a black background with a colorful geometric pattern of triangles in green, yellow, and red. Text includes 'Every 3rd Saturday in a month', 'Email: afrikanmarketleeds@gmail.com', and 'Telephone: +44 (0) 7732 367 190'. There are small logos for 'AFRIKAN MARKET LEEDS' and 'AFRIKAN MARKET LEEDS' at the bottom corners.

An advertisement for the Sensation Sound Annual Christmas Eve Party. The background is purple and pink with a woman in a black sequined dress and a Santa hat. The text 'SENSATION Sound ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE Party' is prominently displayed. A red box says 'SAT 24 DECEMBER'. Below that, it lists 'FREE ENTRY DOORS OPEN 10PM TILL LATE DJS ON ROTATION' and 'TRAX NIGHTSPOT 148 CHAPELTOWN ROAD LEEDS LS7 4EE'.

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Our classic Sorrel and Ginger, which is the original and most popular beverage across the islands, which can be served hot or cold. We've added our own modern twist on this to give a more unique tasting experience, for those who may be familiar with Sorrel.

Our mango Infusion is one of our sweeter Infusions, complimenting the ginger very well, and with the mango being undoubtedly a staple fruit of the Caribbean, it was only right we found a way to add this to our menu. Taking care in making sure the Hibiscus and Mango complement each other well.

Our pineapple Infusion was one the first ideas when moving away from just the



classic Sorrel (Hibiscus Flower Juice) and deciding to add fruit for an ultimate taste experience with this being our first option, the feedback from this Infusion was outstanding and one of the main reasons we continued to excel and create more of our wonderful Sorrel Infusions. If you love Pineapples, we promise you've never tasted anything like this combination of Hibiscus and Pineapple.

Our Coconut Infusions is a blend of Hibiscus Flowers and 100% Pure Coconut Milk giving a creamier texture than the rest of our juices. If you love Coconut, we recommend this unique combination for a pleasant surprise and even more fulfilling when served ice cold. Coconut is another staple fruit in the Caribbean and contains an abundance of minerals, making this infusion very substantial to your health.

Our Strawberry Infusion is like a burst of summer in a bottle. Another one of our sweeter combinations with the kick from all the Ginger in our Sorrel (Hibiscus Flower Juice), and fruity sweet caramel, spice and green notes coming from our Strawberries. This infusion will have you feeling good inside and out, like a breeze on a summer's day.

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BLESSED EARTH STRONG TO DRUMMIE ZEB

Angus “Drummie Zeb” Gaye was born on 24 September 1959 in London to Windrush generation immigrant parents from Grenada. He grew up in the Ladbroke Grove area of West London and studied at the Holland Park School in his hometown where he met his future bandmates Tony Robinson and Brinsley Forde.

He took an interest in drumming after a cousin, who was a drummer, started living at his family home as a tenant. He would use anything he had at hand to use as a drum. His father bought him his first drum at the age of eight so he would stop damaging family property and Gaye eventually became a kit drummer in the local steelpan band called the “Metronomes”

In 1975, Gaye saw an advertisement for the band Aswad and turned up for the audition, where he was successful in getting the part of the drummer. They became the first British reggae group to sign with an international label, signing up with Island Records in 1975. Gaye was the only member who remained a part of the band throughout its existence.

As the songs of the band became more commercial-oriented in nature in the 1980s, he started assuming most of the lead vocalist duties and eventually replaced Forde.

Aswad gained popularity after the release of their debut single “Back to Africa” in 1976. They followed this up with *Love Fire* (1981), *Rise and Shine* (1994), which earned a Grammy nomination for Best Reggae Album, *Dub: The Next Frontier* (1995), and *Cool Summer Reggae* (2002). Aswad ultimately released 21 albums and received two more Grammy nominations.

He died on 2 September 2022, shortly before his 63rd birthday. He leaves six children behind. Rest in Peace...

by Roland Lundberg





JOYCE BERNARD



THE FUNERAL OF
Mrs Joyce Bernard

Please join us as we say goodbye to our
Mum, Nana, Aunty, Sister, Friend

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3:30PM
ADDRESS OF REPAST
THE EGAN SUITE, SAVILLE DRIVE, LEEDS LS7 3EG



*Keep This Candle
Burning*

*In Memory Of
Our Loved Ones
In Heaven
This Christmas*

*Always In
Our Hearts
Forever*

*Merry
Christmas
I miss you*





Joyce Elizabeth Sims-Sandiford (August 6, 1959 – October 13, 2022) was an American singer and songwriter, whose biggest hit single, “Come into My Life”, reached the top 10 in both the US Billboard R&B Chart and the UK Singles Chart in 1987/8. Rochester, New York, U.S.

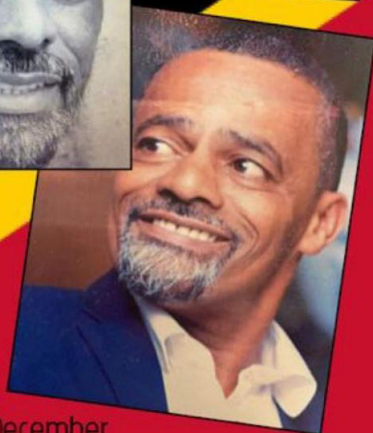
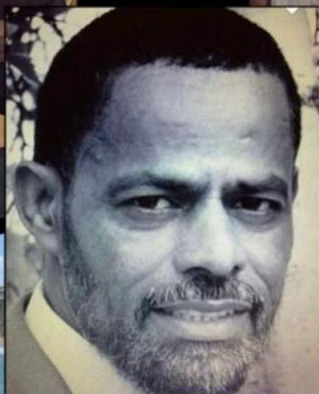


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Email: tickets@beyondcancer.org.uk

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Christmas Carol Service
Sunday 18th 11am - 11.5

Christmas Morning Service
25th Dec 9am - 10.30

Watch Night Service
31st December 10pm - 12.30am

New year's Day service
1st Jan 2023 11am - 12.30pm

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We now have a Sunday Bike Fix at Latch, which is run by volunteer bike



mechanics from Leeds-based project, The Pedallers Arms. They are providing hands-on help for residents and community members to fix their own bikes. The project is already proving hugely popular and we are thrilled to have received fantastic feedback from local residents.



info@latch.org.uk
0113 2374482



2022 CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTION CALENDAR

If your normal bin day would have been...	Your AMENDED collection day will be...
Monday 19 Dec	ONE DAY EARLY on Sunday 18 December
Tuesday 20 Dec	ONE DAY EARLY on Monday 19 December
Wednesday 21 Dec	ONE DAY EARLY on Tuesday 20 December
Thursday 22 Dec	ONE DAY EARLY on Wednesday 21 December
Friday 23 Dec	ONE DAY EARLY on Thursday 22 December
Saturday 24 Dec	ONE DAY EARLY on Friday 23 December
Monday 26 Dec	TWO DAYS EARLY on Saturday 24 December

Tuesday 27 Dec onwards **NO CHANGE TO COLLECTION DAYS**

Please put your bin out by 6.30am on your collection day and bring in again as soon as possible after emptying.



Please note our Household Waste and Recycling Centres are only closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. leeds.gov.uk/recycling

Top 3 Christmas recycling tips



Don't put glass in your green bin, we can't recycle it from there. Perhaps reuse a cardboard box to store it neatly before you bring it to a glass bank. Use the Leeds Bins app to find your nearest glass bank.



Remove any glittery parts from cards and recycle the rest. Do the scrunch test on wrapping paper - if it stays crunched up it can be recycled, if it bounces back then it can't.



Donate any unwanted gifts to charity or drop them off in the reuse container at your local household waste recycling centre. Put unwanted clothes and electricals in a recycling bank.



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Dr. Bryds Original Rum Punch 'The Gully Creeper'

The Dr Bryd Original Rum Punch has taken from a traditional rum punch recipe, handed down through generations and tailored with a modern twist. It uses a now patented blend of rums including uncle Wray and his Nephew to produce a intermixingly unique taste with the kick of a mule.

Its sneaky in the way it creeps upon you, hence the nickname of 'The Gully Creeper'.

Perfect for all occasions and a must at Christmas.

No celebration is complete without cocktails magic of Dr Bryd Rums Punch.

Cost £10 per .5 Litre / £20 per 1Litre

Get yours now @

WhatsApp or Text **+447743822592**

Email **drbyrd2022@gmail.com**

Weekend Drop Off in Leeds Area for Orders of 2 Litres and More.

Card Payment Accepted

Also the Rum Punch is sold on a satisfaction guarantee. If you don't like it you don't have to commit to any pre-order. No open bottle can be returned but refills on bottles are done

@ 10% discount



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SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2023

DESIGN BY: JAM HAMEED 0791151525

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£5 WRISTBANDS ON SALE FROM SENSATION BARBERS, MOTD
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Steel pan ministers Caribbean Breeze

Sunday 18th December 2022 from 6:30pm

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