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COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



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This issue is dedicated to the bereaved families, and all
whom have passed away from Corona virus.

Hi there everyone i do hope that your all surviving this lock down, community bereavements (well i mean world wide bereavements) due to this horrid Corona virus thats spreading like wild fire so many lives have been lost young old sick it does not discriminate. A big shout out to all nurses health key workers cleaners carers and all NHS staff who are soldiering through .we hope you enjoy this online issue email through your stories talents adverts projects youre working on. We have a new team in place now onwards and upwards. Community Highlights is run voluntary so any donations gladly recieved for items published will be greatly appreciated ,and dont forget if you know of a bereaved family email in there details then we will donate a uplifting bereavement package to cheer them up during these unpredictable times.

God bless you all and please stay home and keep safe.

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Provoke to love

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (Hebrews 10:24). Why would we want to do anything else? 'To provoke' might sound a wee bit challenging but if we were to pay close attention to the word of God and the social, political, economical and spiritual times that we live in, we might just realise that this challenge is what we need. We have to move out of our comfort zones, move beyond the four walls, beyond rhetoric and tradition and do more good works.

Jesus went about doing good, scribes and pharisees wanted to kill Him for doing good. The word of God says: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32 KJVLite). People of the world need us to tell them the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and show them how to live righteously. Not everyone will thank us for sharing the truth but we'll still be able to share the love of Jesus and do good works under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

Father God, I pray in Jesus' name, that as we seek your face, You would grant us wisdom and understanding and boldness to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Father, I pray thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Barry and Valerie

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Coronavirus is changing funerals and how we deal with the dead

Heather Conway, Queen's University Belfast

March 30, 2020 4.02pm BST

As the death rate climbs from COVID-19, what happens to the bodies of those who've died will become an increasingly pressing issue. People who have lost loved ones will have to contend with the additional trauma of not being able to give them a proper "send off", as funerals change dramatically in the short-term.

The law's treatment of human remains has always been premised on two things: respect for the dead, and public health concerns around bodily decay and risk of disease. And while all possible steps will be taken to uphold respect for the dead, in pandemics the emphasis inevitably shifts to public health.

The Coronavirus Act 2020 is the emergency legislation passed by the UK parliament to deal with an outbreak that could affect up to 80% of the UK population. The act introduces a range of sweeping powers that allow public bodies to respond to the pandemic. These and other government measures will have a significant impact on what happens to the dead and how funerals are conducted in the coming weeks and months – as I outline below:

1. Family-only funerals

As part of the lockdown introduced on March 23, funerals can still go ahead to prevent a backlog building up – but with attendance limited to immediate family.

This will make social distancing easier, protecting not only the small numbers of mourners, but also funeral directors and other cemetery staff who will play a vital role as mortality rates increase.

Of course, the emotional impact of altered funeral formats on the living will be horrendous. Closed coffins prevent families from seeing a loved one who may have died alone in hospital, or kissing them goodbye. And limiting attendance at funerals will upset relatives and friends of the deceased who cannot physically attend.

Live-streaming funerals may help – as some families are doing – but many people will feel that it's not the same – with the wider social support that funerals provide, which is such an important part of the grieving process, lost as well.

2. Death registrations

Deaths are usually registered by a family member who attends the registrar's office in person. But to allow greater flexibility as pressures on the system increase – and to curb the rate of virus transmission – the Coronavirus Act also allows funeral directors to register deaths, and for documentation to be submitted electronically.

When doctors certify the cause of death for COVID-19 victims, the rule that a

second doctor must also check this and provide a confirmatory certificate has also been relaxed to speed things up. The rule was introduced after Manchester GP, Harold Shipman, was convicted in 2000 of murdering 15 of his patients and cremating their bodies (though the suspected number is over 200).

Family only funerals will make grieving hard. Shutterstock

3. Scrapping inquests

Deaths by certain diseases trigger jury inquests as a matter of law. Jury members hear evidence and can return conclusions where there are questions over how the deceased died. But the act removes the legal requirement for jury inquests into confirmed or suspected COVID-19 deaths, since jury inquests take a long time to carry out. Delaying these inquests until after the pandemic would also be traumatic for families of COVID-19 victims.

4. Transporting, storing and dealing with bodies

Local authorities have been given extensive powers under the new act to ensure that bodies are treated with care and respect and that the system does not become overwhelmed. Examples of this have been seen elsewhere: in Bergamo, Italy, bodies had to be dispatched to other crematoria in the province when the city's own crematorium was struggling to cope.

In the UK, local authorities can now request that organisations help them transport and store bodies. Additional facilities can also be set up to handle the volume of deaths -- though it is hoped this won't involve converting an ice rink into a temporary morgue, as authorities in Madrid were forced to do when death rates soared. Increased space for graves will also be set aside and crematoria may have to increase their operating hours to

cope with the influx of bodies.

All over the world, coronavirus has changed the way we are carrying out funerals. Alzbeta/Shutterstock
Every society prides itself on how it treats its dead, and it is hoped that the more radical measures contemplated in the Coronavirus Act never have to be implemented. Yet, in a time of such fear and uncertainty, when governments worldwide are adopting emergency powers to protect their citizens, there are no guarantees. How we deal with our dead will change – and funerals, as we know them, will regrettably but necessarily, be another of our social rituals that must radically alter in the short term.

Comment on this article

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Community Heroes:

Honouring black people who have made a positive impact on the city

Danny Friar

Ian Winston Charles, MBE

Born in Trinidad in 1932, Ian worked as a teacher in Trinidad before coming to the UK in 1954. In the UK he spent 30 years working as a land surveyor for the local coal board. He was a founding member of the United Caribbean Association in 1964 and the Leeds West Indian Carnival in 1967. He served on the carnival committee for many decades and even provided financial support in times of need. He was an active member of the Chapeltown community during the 70s, working closely with the Chapeltown Community Centre and founded the Chapeltown Dance Theatre Steel Band. He later worked on the BBC Radio Leeds programme 'Calypso'. He also founded the Leeds West Indian Center in 1982 and still has an active role in the running of the center. He was honoured with an MBE in 2007 for 'services to the Leeds community'.

Albert Johannesburg

Albert Johannesburg was born in South Africa in 1940. He first came to England in 1961 and began playing football for Leeds United not long afterwards. He became one of the team's best players and by the 1963-64 season he had established himself as a powerful attacking force. In 1965 he became the first person of African heritage to play in the FA Cup final. Albert played with Leeds United until 1970 before joining York City. He remained with York City until 1972 when he retired from the game. Albert Johannesburg lived in Leeds until his death in 1995. He was honoured with a blue plaque in 2019.

Martha 'Grandma' Armstrong

Martha Agatha Stephens was born in Jamaica in 1897 where she married John Armstrong and had five children. In Jamaica she was an important member of her community and among other things she gave advice on politics. She had a similar role in the Harehills and Chapeltown communities in the 60s and 70s. She came to England in 1964 and lived in Harehills where she formed a Sunday School at the Harehills Lane Baptist Church. She was affectionately known as 'Grandma' or 'Mother Armstrong'. She taught local children Jamaican mento and folk songs and founded The Caribbean Children's Folk Group in 1976. The group made their public debut at the Caribbean Carnival Night in February 1977. Martha Armstrong passed away in Leeds in 1979.

Gertrude Maretta Paul

Born in St. Kitts in 1934, Gertrude Paul arrived in England in 1956 and began teaching at Cowper Street School in 1959. She was a founding member of the United

Caribbean Association in 1964 and was a campaigner for change in the Chapeltown community. She worked closely with the Leeds West Indian Carnival and organised a carnival troupe for many years. She served on the Chapeltown Community Center Committee and the Commission for Racial Equality. Gertrude Paul later set up the Leeds International Women's Group and the Afro Asian Organisation. In 1976 she was appointed as the headteacher of Elmhurst Middle School, making her the city's first black headteacher. She helped introduce steel pans into British schools, years before London. She continued teaching until 1991 and is still known as 'Ms Paul' in the community. Gertrude Paul passed away in January 1992 and was honoured with a blue plaque in October 2011.

Tafadzwa Tawonezwi

Born in Leeds in 1988, Tafadzwa Tawonezwi attended Primrose High School. After leaving school he became a record producer and under the name T2 he first produced The Monster Dubz EP in 2007. He remixed and produced the single Heartbroken the same year. The single, which featured vocals by Jodie Aysha, reached number two on the UK Singles Chart. Later in the year he worked with Addictive on the single Gonna Be Mine. He has worked on a number of recordings since then and has worked with Dizzee Rascal, Craig David and Pixie Lott among others. T2 continues to work on music and released six singles in 2019 alone.

Jodie Aysha Henderson

Jodie Aysha Henderson was born in Leeds in 1988 and attended Primrose High School. She began singing at a young age and wrote her first song at the age of 14. She made her recording debut, under the name Jodie Aysha, in 2007 with the single Heartbroken, a song she wrote herself. The single was produced by T2 and reached number two on the chart. Heartbroken was followed by the single So Typical in 2008, a top 40 hit, and Yes I Will in 2009. She has written over 300 songs for British and American artists and had further success with Turn Me Out in 2016.

Carmen Blake

Carmen Brown was born in Jamaica in 1940 and arrived in England in 1959. She married Sydney Blake in 1962 and the couple had eight children together. Carmen was a founding member of New Testament Church of God, the city's first black church and sang in the church's choir. She was a Sunday School teacher and took courses in counselling. Known as Sister Blake she was seen as a foundation of her church and community. She passed away in Leeds in 2017.

Errol James, MBE

Errol James was born in Costa Rica in 1926 but was raised in Jamaica. He joined the RAF and came to the UK in 1944, aged 18. After leaving the RAF he settled in Leeds. He was a founding member of the Caribbean Cricket Club in 1948, the United Caribbean Association in 1964 and the Jamaica Society, Leeds in 1977. In 1972 he was appointed the chair of the Leeds branch of the Community Relations Council. He was also a founding member of the Chapeltown Community Centre in the 1970s and Harambee House, Leeds West Indian Centre and Technorth in the 1980s. He received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the MBE in 1982. He became the Justice of the Peace in 1984. Errol James passed away in Leeds in 1994. St Clair Morris St Clair Charles was born in St Kitts in 1938. He married Gloria Rawlins and began a family with her before coming to England in 1961. He worked in a number of jobs and was a band roadie for a time before forming the Paradise Steel Band in 1973. The band was very successful and made several appearances on television and radio and even recorded. In 1987 they became the first steel band from the North of England to

take part in the Panorama steel band contest. In 1976 St Clair Morris became the first steel pan teacher in schools in the UK, teaching children across the country. Paradise Steel Band made regular appearances at the Leeds West Indian Carnival and St Clair served on the committee for a number of years. St. Clair Morris passed away in 2017. He was posthumously honoured with a C50 award in 2017 and with a Windrush Trail plaque in 2019.

Corinne Bailey Rae

Corinne Bailey was born in Leeds in 1979 to a Kittitian father, Chris, and an English mother, Linda. Her father's family had arrived in England from St. Kitts in the 1960s and lived in Chapeltown. Corinne began her musical career at school, where she studied classical violin before taking up singing and guitar. She studied English Literature at Leeds Uni, graduating in 2000. In 2001 she married Jason Rae. She released her self-titled debut album in 2006 which included the hit singles 'Like a Star' 'Put Your Records On' and 'Trouble Sleeping'. A second album 'The Sea' followed in 2010 with a live album in between. A third album 'The Heart Speaks in Whispers' was released in 2016. Corinne Bailey Rae has won two Grammys, two MOBOs, a Q award and several other awards for her music. Among her fans are Paul McCartney and Barack Obama.

Gerzita Frater

Born in Jamaica in 1922, Gerzita McKenzie married Cecil Frater in 1941. Cecil arrived in England in 1959 and Gerzita joined him the following year. The couple had ten children together. Gerzita worked at St James Hospital as a nursing assistant and was a member of the Meanwood Road Seventh Day Adventist Church. Gerzita was an expert baker and apothecary. She published a collection of her work in 1988 after her husband's death. She passed away in Leeds in 2010.

George Harriott

George Harriott was born in Jamaica in 1926 where he married Veryl Cruise and the couple had three sons together. In Jamaica, George played guitar with Byron Lee and the Dragonaires for ten years and even taught guitar to Byron Lee, a pioneer of Ska music. The band backed legends such as Harry Belafonte, Sam Cooke and Fats Domino and even performed for Queen Elizabeth. George Harriott and his family came to England in 1960 and George taught guitar to local youngsters. He was reunited with Byron Lee at the Leeds West Indian Carnival in the 1990s. George Harriott passed away in Leeds in 1999.

Veryl Harriott

Born in Jamaica in 1934, Veryl Cruise wed George Harriott and they couple had three sons together. The family came to England in 1960 and settled in Leeds. Veryl took an active role in her community and was a campaigner for equal rights. She was a founding member of the Afro West Indian Brotherhood in 1971 and of Chapeltown News in 1972. In 1975 she was appointed the Managing Director of the Chapeltown Citizens' Advice Bureau, making her the first black person to head a CAB. She was the Coordinator of Harambee House and Vice Chair of the National Racial Equality Council. She passed away in Leeds in 2018.

Dr Arthur France, MBE

Born in Nevis in 1935, Arthur France arrived in England in 1957. He first worked as a porter for British Railways before working in construction for over two decades,

working in Germany for many years. In Chapeltown he has been an active member of his community and church since the 1950s. He was one of the founding members of the United Caribbean Association in 1964 and in 1965 he was the first black Society Steward at Roscoe Methodist Church. He was also the captain of the Roscoe Methodist Church Cricket Team. He founded The United Caribbean Association's Steel Band in 1965 and co-founded the Gay Carnival Steel Band in 1967. He founded the Leeds West Indian Carnival in 1967 and has played an active role in the carnival for 50+ years. He co-founded the Los Caribos Limbo Dance Group in the 70s and the New World Steel Orchestra in 1984. He was awarded an MBE in 1997 and has been awarded two honorary doctorates - one in 2015 and another in 2018.

Norma Hutchinson

Born in Jamaica in 1948, Norma arrived in England in 1964 and became a nurse in Bradford before moving to Leeds and St. James' Hospital in 1968. She later worked at Meanwood Park Hospital as a nursing assistant. In 1991 she became the first Jamaican elected to Leeds city council, representing Labour in Chapeltown and Harehills. She served on the Chapeltown Citizen's Advice



Bureau and was the chair of the women's rights and environmental health/housing committees. She led a successful fund-raising health campaign which resulted in a diabetes clinic opening in Jamaica in 2004. Norma served on the Leeds City Council until her death in 2004. She was honoured with a plaque at the Mary Seacole Memorial Garden in 2006 and in 2009 the Recreation Ground on Chapeltown Road was renamed The Norma Hutchinson Park in her honour.

David Hamilton

Born in Leeds in 1963, David Hamilton took up dancing as a student at Harehills Middle School in the early 1970s. His teacher was Nadine Senior. He continued dancing at Intake High School where he was taught by John Auty and went on to study at London Contemporary Dance School. On returning to Leeds he founded the Phoenix Dance Company in 1981, a group that mixed classical western dance and contemporary dance with dances from the Caribbean. He was the company's Artistic Director from 1981 until 1987. As well as giving workshops and teaching at local schools, the company toured the UK and were the subject of a South Bank Show episode in 1984. David left the Phoenix Dance Company in 1987 to pursue a solo career. In 1993 he was a founding member of RJC Dance where he worked until 2002. After leaving RJC he formed his own dance studio, Regeyshun Dance in 2002. He was the choreographer for Carnival Messiah and has been the Dance Artist in Residence at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. He still performs today and is currently working on new pieces.

Hughbon Condor

Hughbon Condor was born in St. Kitts in 1953 and made his first attempt at costume designing at age 12. He came to Leeds in 1967 and was a pupil at Primrose Hill High School before studying engineering at University. At the request of Arthur France, he joined the Carnival Committee in 1971 and became a costume designer. He won his first Carnival Queen Show in 1979 and has won the title a total of 14 times. He has also had winning costumes in Huddersfield, Leicester and Nottingham carnival. Over the years he has given many workshops in costume design and costume making and has helped many other designers with their costumes. In 2013 he formed High Esteem Carnival Designs with his son Sephbon and in 2019 the pair won

both Carnival King and Carnival Queen at the Leeds Carnival.

Dr Geraldine Connor

Geraldine Connor was born in London in 1952. She is the daughter of the famous Trinidadian singer and actor Edric Connor. She spent her early life between London and Trinidad, studying music. In 1976, she began teaching at the Queen's Royal College in Trinidad. She also gave classes at the University of the West Indies and the Royal Schools of Music. As a vocalist she worked with Jimmy Cliff, Bob Marley and Tom Jones among others. Geraldine came to Leeds in 1990 to teach at the University of Leeds. In Leeds she worked closely with the New World Steel Orchestra and the Leeds West Indian Carnival. Geraldine Connor created or directed a number of theatrical and musical productions including All God's Children Got Wings (1993) Yaa Asantewaa – African Warrior Queen (2002) and Blues in the Night (2002 & 2003). However she is best known for her 1999 masterpiece Carnival Messiah. Geraldine Connor received many awards and honours in her life time. She passed away in 2011. The Geraldine Connor Foundation was established in 2012 to continue her legacy.

Lillian 'Jenny' Lynch

Lillian Brown was born in Jamaica in 1945 and arrived in England in 1962. She married Sterling Lynch and the couple had three children together. While working at Montague Burton tailoring, Jenny studied hairdressing and received a diploma in the 1960s. Along with her friend Millicent Samuels, she opened Jenny's Salon on Chapeltown Road, a popular salon in the area for many years. Jenny was a member of Jamaica Society, Leeds until her death in 2004.

Merlyn Francis

Known as Grace, Merlyn Williams was born in Jamaica in 1936. She married Edmund Williams and the couple had two children together. She came to England in 1961 and first worked in the kitchens of Leeds General Infirmary. She enrolled on a vocational course at Thomas Danby College and became a chef. After leaving the LGI she worked for Leeds Social Services for over 20 years and became a trades union shop steward. After her retirement she opened Dunn's River Café on Chapeltown Road.

Dr Nicola Adams, OBE

Nicola Adams was born in Leeds in 1982. She began boxing at the age of 13. In 2001 she became the first female boxer to represent England. She became the English amateur champion in 2003, a title which she kept for 3 years. In 2007 she won silver at the European Championships. She won silver at the World Championships in 2008 and 2010. In 2012 she won a gold medal at the Summer Olympics and in 2014 she won gold at the Commonwealth Games. In 2016 she won gold at the Rio Olympic Games. Nicola Adams has won a number of other medals and in total she has 8 gold and 4 silver. Nicola was honoured with the MBE



in 2013 and the OBE in 2017. In 2015 she was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Leeds. In 2018 she was picked as one of the people represented in the Barbie Role Models Collection. She has also been honoured with two gold postboxes and a Rainbow Plaque in Leeds City Centre.

Owen Wisdom

Owen Wisdom was born in Jamaica in 1947. He later migrated to England and settled in Leeds. He was a bass player and a founding member of The Bedrock Sunshine Band in 1966. The band shortened their name to The Bedrocks in 1967 and turned professional in 1968. Their debut single 'Ob-la-di, Ob-la-da' was a top twenty in the UK in 1969 and even went to number one in various countries around the world. The Bedrocks released four more singles in 1969 and 1970 but were best known for their unique live show. After the Bedrocks broke up in 1972, Owen played with a steel band for a while before moving to Scotland and joining the funk band Rokotto in 1975. Rokotto was another successful band who had hit singles, released an album and made appearances on television. Owen Wisdom co-wrote a number of songs for the band. The band broke up in 1982 and Owen returned to Leeds. Back in Leeds Owen founded Wisdom Coaches, a successful coach company and in 2007 he joined Cleveland Walker and the Love Disciples.

Khadijah Ibarahiim

Khadijah Ibarahiim was born in Leeds in 1967. She is a poet, playwright and researcher. Khadijah graduated from the University of Leeds with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in Arabic and Middle Eastern studies in 2000 and a Master of Arts degree in Theatre Studies in 2001. In 2001 she founded Sema Grass Roots Theatre and in 2003 she founded Leeds Young Authors, and the 'Voices of a New Generation' Youth Poetry Slam Festival. Her first book of poetry 'Rootz Runnin' was published in 2008 and a second book of poems 'Another Crossing' was published in 2013. Khadijah has also contributed to the anthology 'Creative Freedom' in 2010. She was one of the poets honoured by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace in 2013. Khadijah gives live performances of her poems and other works and has toured the UK and USA. She has performed at the West Yorkshire Playhouse and has been a part of the Ilkley Literature Festival. She also gives talks and lectures on Caribbean culture and has curated an exhibition at the Leeds City Museum. In 2018 she wrote the successful play 'Sorrel And Black Cake'.

Glen English, MBE

Hubert Glendore English was born in Cuba in 1926 to Jamaican parents. He was raised in Jamaica and first came to the UK in 1944 as a member of the RAF. He settled in Leeds after the war and was a founding member of the Caribbean Cricket Club in 1948 and the Aggray Society in 1954. He continued to make important changes to the city throughout the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. He started or participated in The International

Council (1955), The Coloured Commonwealth Citizen Committee (1956), The Leeds Committee of Commonwealth Immigrants (1965), The Leeds Community Relation Council (1969) and Jamaica Society, Leeds (1976). He was also a producer of the BBC Radio Leeds programme 'Calypso' which was founded in 1972. In 1978 he became the first black person from Leeds to receive the MBE. Glen English passed away in 2018.

Melanie Brown

Melanie Brown, better known as Mel B, was born in Leeds in 1975 to a Kittian father, Martin, and English mother, Andrea. Her father's family had lived in Chapeltown since the 1950s and her aunt was once a member of the Leeds West Indian Carnival committee. Melanie grew up in Kirkstall and studied at Intake High School. For a time, she worked as a dancer in Blackpool before studying at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and teaching lessons at the Mandela Centre. She joined The Spice Girls in 1994 and the group had a string of hit singles around the world between 1996 and 2000. These included Wannabe, 2 Become 1, Spice Up Your Life, Viva Forever, and Goodbye. The group also released the movie Spice World in 1997. Mel B continued to have success after the Spice Girls' break up with a string of top 20 singles that included 'I Want You Back', 'Word Up', 'Tell Me' and 'Lullaby'. Mel B began her acting career in 1993 with a role on Coronation Street. Since then she has appeared in a number of movies and stage productions including a role in Chicago in 2016-17.

Community Heroes #1

For the past five decades, the Leeds West Indian Carnival has showcased some of the greatest talents Chapeltown has to offer. Some, like Hughbon Condor and Melvin Zakers, are well known by carnivalists young and old. Others are less known. Thousands of people work behind the scenes every year, for free, often uncredited, simply for the love of mas. Wilmot James was one of those people. Without people like Wilmot, the Leeds West Indian Carnival would never happen.

Born in Nevis in 1944, Wilmot James was raised in Russell Village in St. Kitts and came to England in 1961 at the age of 17. He joined two sisters who had arrived before him. Despite not being too fond of the city, Wilmot settled in Leeds because he had family here. Like a lot of West Indian people living in Leeds during the 60s and 70s, Wilmot was a victim of racism. The racist attitudes of English natives made it difficult for Wilmot to achieve his goals but Wilmot was not deterred. A skilled and talented man, Wilmot completed a five and a half year apprenticeship in engineering. When the Leeds West Indian Carnival began in 1967, Wilmot saw it as a positive step forward and many of his family members have been a part of the carnival over the years.

At the request of Arthur France, Wilmot James became a part of the carnival team in the early 2000s. Using his skills in engineering and welding, he was able to build frames for carnival costumes but his contribution to the carnival goes beyond building frames. Wilmot was known for his kindness and would help out wherever he could, adding finishing touches to many costumes. Seeing costumes he had worked on being worn on the big day was always a very proud moment for Wilmot. A very knowledgeable man, Wilmot offered help and support to young people involved in the carnival. Wilmot understood the importance of the carnival to the West Indian community in Leeds and wanted to make sure that the ownership of the carnival remained within that community.

Wilmot James passed away in Leeds on 20 October 2019. His tireless contribution to the Leeds West Indian Carnival and his contribution to the 2019 Colin Grant Book 'Homecoming' will be his lasting public legacy. On a more personal note, his love for carnival and helping others will live on in the people whose lives he changes, particularly his family members.

Leeds West Indian Carnival 2020

Cancelled - A message from Danny Friar of Leeds Mas Media

Dear Carnival Family,

On 28 March 2020 it was announced that the Leeds West Indian Carnival due to take place in August had been cancelled due to the Corona virus outbreak. This news came just a day after the announcement that the Black Music Festival due to take place during the same August Bank Holiday Weekend had also been cancelled.

In a press release the following day the chairman of the carnival Arthur France said:

As carnivalist, we know how to unite the city through joy, happiness and adversity and it's these qualities that will help us get through these difficult times. We will be back in 2021 bigger and better with an array feathers, gems, sequins, costumes and music. I would like to thank everyone involved in carnival over the last 53 years and especially the carnival committee who given up their time for the love of carnival. We support our long standing partner, our friends at Leeds City Council and together we'll be jammin again.

For the Leeds West Indian Carnival, this marks the first time the event has been cancelled since it first began in 1967. The first ten years of the carnival's history were often an uncertain time for the hardworking carnival committee and while

the carnival was close to being cancelled a couple of times, the committee and friends of the carnival worked extra hard to make sure things went ahead. Getting the first carnival on the road in 1967 was no easy task but it was the coming together of the community that made it happen. Leeds University students, NHS nurses, Burton's staff and many, many others all had a role to play that was equally as important as the carnival committee. Not to forget the work done by Leeds City Council and the West Yorkshire Police. People worked hard, for free, to make the carnival happen every year and it was that community spirit that kept the carnival going during those difficult early years.

In 1974 there was difficulty finding a venue for the Last Lap Dance and the Queen Show had to be cancelled in both 1976 and 1978. 1976 was the



Arthur France 1970 carnival pic credit

closest the carnival came to being cancelled during those years. The Queen Show had already been cancelled and the committee once again struggled to secure a venue for the Last Lap Dance, the two events helped finance the carnival parade. Leeds Other Paper reported at the time that "there was some doubt a few months ago about whether the celebration would take place". After negotiations with the Education Committee, a venue at Leeds University was agreed upon and the carnival was saved. In their July issue Chapeltown News were proud to announce "Chapeltown carnival is ON".

Things ran a lot smoother over the next decades. Come rain or shine the carnival went on. Even the heavy downpour of 1988, which forced the Reggae Concert to be cancelled, was no match for the carnival. The riots that took place in the summer of 1981 and the two deaths in 1990 left the public uncertain of the carnival's future but the carnival committee and supporting groups worked hard to ensure the carnival would remain a safe environment for all and would continue to go ahead as planned. The arson attack on the carnival centre in 2011, just three weeks before the carnival parade was due to take place, was perhaps the most difficult period in recent history for the organisers. With many costumes destroyed and the fear of further unrest the

carnival came close to being cancelled. The carnival did go ahead but the decision was made

to not include any steel pan bands. As recent as 2019, a murder the night before the parade meant part of the route was cordoned off by police and the jouvert morning parade had to change its route last minute. With the police cordon still in place in the early afternoon there were fears that the parade would be cancelled but after a delay the parade went ahead.

For many of us who have been a part of Leeds West Indian Carnival in one way or another for years or even decades, this cancellation has hit hard and it was a hard decision for the committee to make. However, we must understand that it was the correct decision to make, for our safety and the safety of others. The Leeds West Indian Carnival is a symbol of what can be achieved when we work together. Now we must work together to beat the Corona virus, to save lives, to protect the NHS and to save the carnival from future cancellations. Please follow the government's guidelines. Stay indoors as much as possible, protect yourself and others and practice social distancing at all times when you do go out. Stay safe and we'll see each other on the road in 2021.



Carnival pics credits calvin B 1974



Carnival pics credits calvin B 1974

Young Gifted And Black:

The Youths of Chapeltown

Danny Friar

We have to hand it to the youths of Chapeltown. Being young in a Tory Britain is no easy task. It's even harder if you happen to be black as well, especially if you come from Chapeltown. Chapeltown has a reputation that precedes itself. It's a reputation of crime, drugs, violence, and prostitution. Of course, that's an unfair, unbalanced and bias reputation based on the media's portrayal of the area over the last 50 years. The media blame the youths but the youths know better, the youths have always known better. Chapeltown isn't an area where youths rule the streets, mugging unexpected victims, burning out cars and shooting each other in street. Chapeltown is a place where the youths are making music, art and poetry, where the youths are acting and dancing and not only that but they are making successful careers out of it.

This has always been the case for Chapeltown. In years gone by we have seen the likes of David Hamilton, Annette and Paulette Morris, and Melvin Zakers show us exactly what kind of young people Chapeltown produces. With each passing



generation comes another group of young, gifted and black individuals. The very young and very talented 8-year-old Carmen Howarth is one of them. She is one of the regular princesses at the West Indian Carnival. She made her TV debut on the Britain's Got Talent/M&S advert earlier in the year. She has a beautiful singing voice too and has made a number of appearances in front of a live audience. Keep an eye on this one!

18-year-old Halima France-Mir is another one to watch. She is a fantastic steel pan player and talented poet who has appeared on the BBC. 21-year-old Kaiden James is another talented performer. Not only can he sing, dance, act and play steel pan but he composes his own music too. His performance in last year's 'Sorrel & Black Cake' was one of the highlights of the show. 24-year-old twins Tila and Tavelah Robinson received national media attention after they appeared on The Voice in 2014. They didn't win the contest but they did win the Rare Rising Stars award in 2015. They released the single 'So Good' in 2017 and continue to make regular live performances.

20-year-old Jovanni Sterling is better known as Graft. He's a Grime artist who has been making music since the age of 15. In the last couple of years he has gone from strength to

strength. He built up a fanbase through live performances and social media. He released the album 'All Sorts' in 2017 which included fan favourites 'Ringing My Line' and 'Man Like'. The same year he performed at the Black Music Festival. He won the 'Best Upcoming Artist' Award at the 2017 Yorkshire Entertainment Awards. He's collaborated with other Leeds artists including Boyski and Dialect and in 2018 he even tried his hand at soca with the track 'Macaroni'. In his live performances he has shared a stage with acts such as Stylo G and Wiley. He returned to the Black Music Festival in 2018 and also performed at their Unsigned event earlier in the year. In 2018 he won the MOBO Unsung award and has been heavily supported by BBC Radio Leeds and BBC Radio 1Xtra. He released the EP '5 Roses' especially for Valentine's Day 2018. The EP included the track 'Caught Up'. In 2019 he performed at the Salute To Reggae concert at Millennium Square and released the successful singles 'Ignited Flows', 'My Calling' and 'Clean Sweep'. He also released the three track EP 'Hat-Trick Hero Series' which included 'Money Walk'. In 2019 he won the Best Male Artist award at the Yorkshire Entertainment Awards and the Arts & Culture award at the Legacy Awards.

DELIVERING IN COMMUNITY

Credit Pat Jones



SHIFA PHARMACY

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OPENS DUE TO COMMUNITY DEMAND SO CALL FIRST

MAUREENS CARIBBEAN FOOD

105 ROUNDHAY ROAD

01132406006

DUTCHPOT CARIBBEAN FOOD

160 CHAPELTOWN ROAD

01132627280

THE CABIN CARIBBEAN CUSINE

57 REGINALD ROW

01132620336

JERK EXPRESS CARIBBEAN FOOD

159 CARDIGAN ROAD

01134405980

KHAN PHARMACY

01132359377

Coronavirus and staying safe online

Over the past few weeks we've all had to think about how we can do things differently, and while face-to-face is no longer an option, more often than not this means doing things digitally. It's been amazing to see how quickly third sector organisations like [Leep1](#), [Cross Gates and District Good Neighbours](#), and [LASSN](#) have adapted their offer to connect with service users using digital tools, and the 100% Digital Leeds team has been inundated by requests for help to get vulnerable and isolated people online so that they can access vital services and stay in touch with people during quarantine, via the new [100% Digital Leeds COVID-19 Fund](#) and traditional channels.

In the rush to adopt new platforms and encourage people to embrace digital, eSafety is a concern. There has been a [reported increase in online scams](#) and much discussion on the safety concerns of newly popular video calling platforms like Zoom and Houseparty. As organisations and individuals develop their digital skills it's important that their knowledge of how to stay safe online is developed at the same rate.

The 100% Digital Leeds team has pulled together the best tools to help keep people safe online over on our [tools page](#) and here are some of our top tips for staying safe online.

Staying safe online: the basics

Everyone who can get online – no matter what level they're at how much they make use of digital – should know the essentials of how to stay safe online. Here are some of 100% Digital Leeds' favourite tools that cover the basics of eSafety.

[Learn My Way](#) has a useful module that covers the essentials, is accessible, and doesn't take too long to complete.

[Age UK](#) has a simple guide to staying safe online which touches on things that might be particularly relevant to older people such as health scams and relationship scams. The information is also available as a [leaflet to download and print](#)

[Get Safe Online](#) has an easy-to-follow checklist designed for people new to the internet.

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) is a great place to find out how to keep children and young people safe online and publish lots of easy-to-follow guides to help people understand the risks of the latest apps, platforms, and games.

[The National Cyber Security Centre](#) is the UK's independent authority on cyber security, offering advice to everyone, including businesses of all sizes. They also publish lots of simple easy-to-understand guides like this one published on their Twitter page – give them a follow to keep up with internet safety trends and concerns.

Top safety tips for video calling, whatever the platform

There has been lots of recent concern about the safety of popular video calling apps like Zoom and Houseparty, which has triggered Zoom at least to improve their security and privacy options. Avoid unwanted chat guests by following these top tips.

- 1. Get to know your privacy settings:** make sure you're avoiding random people being able to drop by. If you're not sure, Google it. There are lots of guides on optimal privacy settings such as these for [Zoom](#) and [Houseparty](#) and UK Safer Internet Centre have [published a guide to the privacy settings of the most popular platforms](#). Just make sure the guide is recent as platforms have been working hard to update their settings as safety concerns have been risen by users.
- 2. Think about how you're inviting people to your chat:** don't share access information on public platforms without using other safety features. If anyone can access the information to join your chat, anyone can join your chat, and that how you get 'Zoom bombed'. Instead of sharing login links and passcodes on open platforms like Facebook and Twitter, consider asking people to email you for an invitation. Use features like Zoom's [Waiting Room](#) to further vet who is entering the chat.
- 3. Think about who can control the chat content:** know who can do things like share their screen, play media, and share instant messages. Check the platform's settings to find out how you can restrict this access before the chat starts.
- 4. Know how to manage attendees if they say or do anything inappropriate:** If you come across trouble makers it's best to know in advance how to mute them, throw them out of the chat, block them and, if appropriate, report them.

Staying safe from online scams

The key to avoiding online scams is staying vigilant and keeping up the scams currently doing the round. Here are three resources to keep you and your service users up to date.

[Action Fraud](#) is the UK's national fraud & cyber reporting centre where you can report fraud as well as getting advice and up to date information. Their site includes an A-Z of fraud and guides to different types of fraud. Follow their social media for update with new scams and trends.

[Friends Against Scams](#) is a National Trading Standards Scams Team initiative, which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams. They offer free scam prevention [online training](#) and have published this handy guide to scams that are particularly prevalent during the current crisis.

RAY OF GINGER

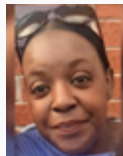
Ray of Ginger had a successful Launch of their new Hairdressing shop, rum punch lovely food and awesome people.

We all got pampered, nails beauty treatments, hair styles ,great music by Cleve Freckleton. Money raised was in memory of Ray Mackenzie and was donated to St Gemmas well done all great event P Jones



BEREAVEMENT SECTION

Credit Patricia Jones

**Beverly Idita Richards:**

Sunrise: 29th May 1969

Sunset: 30th March 2020.

Beloved Daughter, Sister and Mother to Sholah and Grace. We will miss you sweetie. From all your family friends near and far xx

Address: 11 Reginald Terrace LS7

**Yvette Rudder**

Born 8th February 1955

Passed 24th March 2020.

Yvette was such a woman of faith and prayer. She kept the faith and finished her race. The Wyatt family would like to thank each and every one for their prayers, kind words and support during this difficult period. May God bless you

**Madline Simpson**

Sunrise 23rd Dec 1938

Sunset 4th March 2020

Madline Simpson will be sadly missed by her friends family and all who knew her.

Raymond Devon Neville Tony .

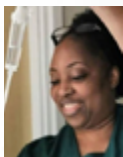
Her smile laugh humour will be missed

**Leo Smalle**

Sunrise 3rd September 1955 -

Sunset 10th April 2020 (Good Friday). Cremation 11th May 12pm at Huddersfield Crematorium. Due to the current situation this will be a closed service.

When we are all able to come together again, the family will be arranging a celebration of Leo's life. Details of which will be released when confirmed. Thank you all for your kind words and thoughts. Yvette, Natuley and Nathan.

**Zaua Eklol**

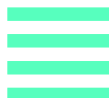
aged 55 sadly passed away on April 13th with the Corona virus.

A agency nurse who worked in Harrogate from Chapeltown Leeds she had 5 children and will be sadly missed by family friends and work colleges may Zaua rest in peace



The bereaved family of the nurse who worked in harrogate





What is this?

As we continue responding and adapting to the coronavirus pandemic, we are aware there is a significant amount of information being shared with people and with local organisations. This can lead to confusion, at a time when people more than ever need clarity.

Therefore, we have developed this bulletin to try and bring our key health and care messages together in one place, so that you have the most reliable information to share with your networks.

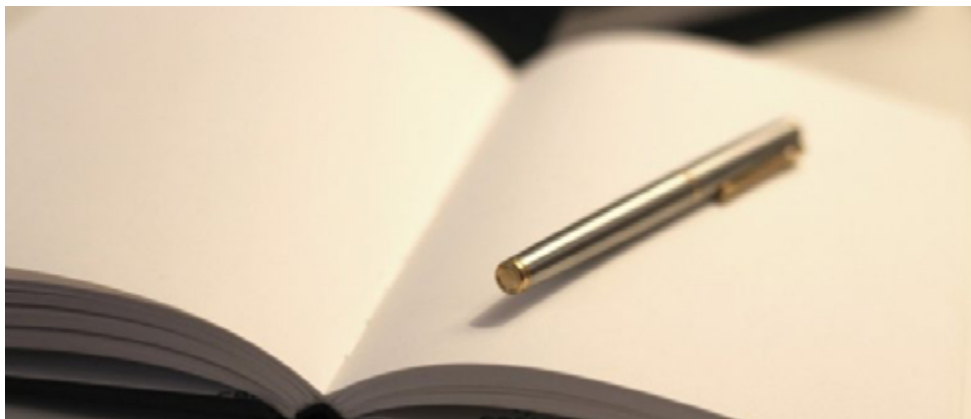
We know there are lots of other working happening right across the city, to help all local people, especially those in greatest need. Various different bulletins are being distributed to support those, but this one focuses primarily on the health and care sector in Leeds.

We hope you find this useful, and that through the collective efforts of our colleagues in the community and voluntary sector can make a real difference. Together we're stronger, together we can reduce the impact of coronavirus on our communities and together we can support our local people. **#TogetherLeeds**



Get Writing: Our 2020 Competitions Now Open PLUS Fringe Performers Wanted

We are pleased to announce that our annual poetry writing competitions and applications for our Fringe Festival are open for entries!



2020 Walter Swan Poetry Prize

Run in partnership with **The Walter Swan Trust**, the competition is for writers of poetry **aged 18 and over**. Now in its fifth year, the prize was established in memory of the late writer Walter Swan.

The prize will be judged by the 2020 ILF Poet-in-Residence, who will be announced shortly.

The top three prize winners will be invited to read their poems at an event at the 2020 Ilkley Literature Festival. First, second and third prize will receive £200, £100 and £75 respectively. The winner will also win a one-to-one feedback session with a research fellow at the University of Leeds Poetry Centre.

Poems should be no longer than 30 lines and should respond to the prompt '**A Kindness**'. Entry fees are £6 per poem.

The closing date for entries is **Friday 31 July 2020, 11.30pm**.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



Fresh Lemon

Fresh Lemon freshens your breath, boosts your immunity, improves your skin, and helps with digestion, among many other benefits. Ginger works as a detoxifier, helping remove unwanted chemicals from your body. It is also known to improve digestion, suppress your appetite, and keep your metabolism fired up

Honey & Ginger Warm Lemon Water



Whilst many nurseries are closed Chapeltown Community Nursery remains open to support critical workers and their families.

- Providing childcare in Leeds since 1973.
- Rated **Good** by Ofsted in February 2020.
- Open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.
- No registration fees or hidden costs.
- Easy to park and convenient to North Leeds and city centre.

**Call us to arrange your place on (0113) 237 4696 or contact us
by email at chaptownnursery@aol.com.**



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Coping with Bereavement Project (CWBP)

The Coping with Bereavement Project (CWBP) is a community focused bereavement service, with a difference, providing practical coping strategies and support to individuals and groups struggling with bereavement.

Our aim is to address issues associated with bereavement such as:

- **Low moods**
- **Anxiety**
- **Stress**
- **Panic attacks**
- **Anger management**
- **Sleep deprivation**

We have our own highly trained and experienced complementary therapists who provide a wide range of healing therapies to address the above issues.

Our health and well-being programme is geared towards improving the physical and emotional well-being of those who are facing or currently going through the bereavement process.

- **We support you if you are at least 18 years of age**
- **We cover two main areas of Leeds, Chapeltown and Alwoodley, making our service more easily accessible**
- **We are client focused and always put your needs first**

For more information please contact the CWBP right away...

Chapeltown & Harehills Office:

Calm & Centred

T. 0113 834 5141

E. info@calmandcentred.co.uk

W. www.calmandcentred.co.uk

Alwoodley Office:

Magic Hands Massage Therapist

0113 418 2989

hugh@mhmassage.net

www.facebook.com/hughmassage





