

# WFTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



## Annual Report & Accounts 2022-23

27th July 2023

Waltham Forest  
Town Hall  
Forest Road  
E17 4JF



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# CHAIRPERSON

## Mervin Caesar-John

I welcome our new Patron and Mayor Cllr Roy Berg and look forward to working with him during his mayoral year.

I also thank our outgoing Patron and Mayor Cllr Karen Bellamy for her great support and assistance during the last mayoral year.

My report covers the period since the last AGM, so from June 2022 to July 2023.

The Twinning Association has continued to work with our partners and collaborators which has contributed to our development as an active community organisation.

Our collaborations reached a new level during the last year whereby Waltham Forest Council and the newly formed Windrush Project Partners continued the partnership for Black History Month 2022 and Windrush 75 activities. The Windrush Project Partners are made up of various community groups who were involved in staging events and activities for Waltham Forest Council's inaugural Windrush Day commemorations for 2022.

I was honoured to be asked to raise both the inaugural Windrush Day and Windrush 75 flags on behalf of the community. The Twinning Association created a display of six pull-up banners for 'Windrush' and a further three banners for BHM to recognise Black people's contribution to the health service. The banners were used as a touring exhibition from 3rd October to 6th November at the Town Hall, various libraries and a community centre. At the Windrush 75 Festival the TA's very popular 'Know Your World' stall was efficiently hosted by Jacqueline, Jennie and Kathleen assisted by three additional WF volunteers including a Young Advisor and a 'Legend of the Forest'. It was a pleasure to share some culture from Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica by introducing 'Harry Hughes Steelpan players' and 'DONA Quadrille Dancers' to the audiences.

With the generous support of the Mayor Cllr Karen Bellamy we were proud to host 'Spotlight On Our Community' a community event with Afternoon Tea & Dance on 23rd March 2023 at Leyton Great Hall. It was a sold out event with many requests for another. Many thanks to our event partners ACEA, Mbilla Arts, Great British Carnival, Trodition, Age UK WF and Soho Theatre; caterers, our raffle sponsors, performers and MC Stephen Barnabis who brought his helpful youth team from Project Zero.

I am grateful to David Boote the Chair of Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society who has kindly provided the heritage context for our annual Health & Heritage Awareness Sponsored walk. On 10th Sept 2022 we walked from Whipps Cross Road to Bush Wood via St Peter-in-the-Forest Church, Walthamstow Forest, Gilberts Slade and Hollow Pond. We raised £547, half of which was donated to the Mayor's fund in support of the Whipps Cross Hospital Breast Clinic and Solace Women's Aid

In last year's Annual Report I reported our success at being granted funds for our Creative Writing Project through Waltham Forest council's Make it Happen grants scheme. Monthly workshops which took place from April to July 2022 were facilitated by Jane Ulysses Grell and led to a successful performance event at the William Morris Gallery on the 1st October.

These culminated in a publication 'Telling Our Story: an Anthology' which was launched on 25th March and 14th July at the William Morris Gallery and WF Town Hall respectively.

The book included artwork by TA members Sharon Foster and Jacqueline McFarlane as well as students from Frederick Bremer School. The writers were Eileen Rose, Jean Duggleby, Pamela Clarke, Peter Rogers, Marlene Walker, Nyasha Joelle Clarke, Pauline Cushnie and Beverley Butler-Hawkes. The project was in collaboration with the William Morris Gallery and I extend my thanks to the staff at WMG.

The Twinning Association has received many requests to participate in a variety of projects. Through my participation in the St Barts Health Community Forum during the Covid-19 pandemic I was invited by Waltham Forest's Public Health Directorate to join an independent Advisory Group chaired by Professor Sir Michael Marmot of the UCL's Institute of Health Equity. The Advisory Group's remit was to assess health inequalities in the borough, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, provide evidence about the drivers of health inequalities, and propose a practical set of actions to address them. The group included leaders from across Waltham Forest who "will act as advocates, input into the development and implementation of recommendations and the final report and guide the development of Waltham Forest into a health equity borough, which puts health at the heart of all policies, in line with the principles outlined by the Marmot reviews." The Report 'A fairer and healthier Waltham Forest: Equity and the Social determinants in Waltham Forest' was published in December 2022 for implementation from January 2023.

We were pleased to receive Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill the High Commissioner of Antigua & Barbuda and Her Excellency Janet Charles the Acting High Commissioner of Dominica at the Independence Anniversary Flag raising ceremonies on 1st and 3rd November.

Other representations by me on behalf of the TA included: WF Community Participation Network, WF Community Resilience Partnership Board, Home Office meetings as part of post Windrush Reach activities.

Other collaborations and/or projects included: textile workshop on 17th July with WMG at WMG; textile art workshop on 27th November with Artillery CIC at WMG; Warm Space at Good Shepherd Studios.

Although we have delivered several projects in the last year there have been a few pressures on the TA due to various officers' additional commitments and other unforeseen circumstances. Many thanks and appreciation to the officers and general members who have continued to help deliver and/or participated in the numerous events and activities.

For the year 2022/2023 the Management Committee consisted of:

Chairperson	Ms Mervin Caesar-John
Vice Chairperson & Public Relations Officer	Ms Sharon Foster
Honorary Secretary	Ms Jacqueline McFarlane
Honorary Treasurer	Ms Jennie Gregoire
Membership Secretary	Miss Hilma Alfred
Education Officer	Mrs Lucy Callender
Welfare Officer	Ms Kathleen Hudson
MC Member	Mr Alfonso Peters
Ex-officio and Patron	Mayor of Waltham Forest

Special thanks to Mr Steve Myhill at Waltham Forest council for his constant support and assistance. At the Independence Flag raising on 1st November we expressed our appreciation to Mr Myhill as we presented him with a farewell gift upon his early retirement. We welcome Ms Lauren Jennings in supporting and assisting us following Mr Myhill's departure.

Since becoming a registered member of the TA in 2013 and immediately taking on the role of Public Relations Officer and subsequently Chairperson in 2017, I have worked consistently to raise the profile of the TA in all the linked areas. Although there has been a great deal of progress and success in that regard I believe a lot more remains to be done to ensure sustainability. One particular aspect requiring attention is the recruitment and involvement of young people in steering our projects. As I conclude my third two-year term as Chairperson I am looking forward to another enthusiastic existing or new member taking on the very stimulating role.

As recommended in my report in 2022 I can confirm that the TA has started reviewing the current Strategy & Action plan which states our Strategic Aim is 'to develop strong sustainable links and partnerships to preserve, learn and share our culture and heritage'. I recommend that the Strategy & Action Plan review is concluded by October 2023.

I am pleased to end my report by sharing the news that in November 2022 the TA was nominated for a Pride of Waltham Forest 2022 Award.

# TREASURER

## Jennifer Gregoire-Julien

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR CURRENT ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDING 31/03/2023

#### INCOME

	£	£
Membership 2022-2023	210.00	
Membership 2023-2024	20.00	
Sponsored Walk	547.00	
Donations	476.68	
<b>LBWF - MAKE IT HAPPEN GRANT: Creative Writing Project*</b>	6470.00	
<b>LBWF - BLACK HISTORY MONTH GRANT*</b>	1500.00	
<b>LBWF - WINDRUSH DAY GRANT*</b>	500.00	
Anthology book sales re Creative Writing Project	115.00	
Tea and Dance Event 23/03/2023	1510.00	
<b>GRANTS*</b>		<b>8470.00</b>
<b>WFTA</b>		<b>2878.68</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>11348.68</b>

#### EXPENDITURE

Insurance	204.72	
Creative Writing Project Perf and Anthology*	3605.61	
Annual Zoom Licence Renewal	143.88	
Mayor's Charity (50% of Sponsored Walk)	273.50	
Black History Month*	809.00	
Windrush Day*	312.77	
Community event: Tea and Dance 23/03/23	693.75	
Retirement gift and card for Steve Myhill	35.43	
Reimbursement to Mervin Caesar-John (re money donated to MCJ (20/05/19) for Youth Project cancelled due to Covid-19	750.00	
Miscellaneous (Lanyards & plastic holders, DBS, Weebly, Annual Report and stamps)	379.43	
<b>GRANTS*</b>		<b>4727.38</b>
<b>WFTA</b>		<b>2480.71</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>7208.09</b>
<b>*Combined Excess Income over Expenditure</b>		<b>4140.59</b>

# TREASURER

## Continued

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/03/23

	£
Accumulated Funds:	
Restricted Funds (Black History Month*)	691.00
Restricted Funds (Windrush Day*)	187.23
Restricted Funds (MIH – Creative Writing Project*)	2864.39
WFTA Excess	397.97
<b>*Sub total Excess Income Over Expenditure</b>	<b>4140.59</b>
<b>Opening Bank Balance – Nat West - 01/04/2022</b>	<b>15120.93</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>19261.52</b>
<b>Less Windrush Reach Restricted Funds 31/03/2022**</b>	<b>9646.16</b>
Windrush Reach Restricted Funds** (Amount paid out £9428.23)	217.93
<b>Closing Balance as at 31/03/2023</b>	<b>9833.29</b>

### DISASTER FUND ACCOUNT 2022-2023

#### INCOME

Donation – Easy Fundraising	88.60
Opening Balance – Nat West 01/04/2022	3144.50
<b>Closing Balance as at 31/03/2023</b>	<b>3233.10</b>

# EDUCATION OFFICER

Lucy Callender

It has taken some time to resume the same level of engagement as pre Covid-19 with our local partner school, Holy Family Catholic School, as they welcomed a new Headteacher as well as a new Head of Upper School at the start of the school year.

As part of a team I was tasked with the review of the TA's Strategy and Action Plan which was adopted in 2017. The review team has assessed the TA's strengths, challenges and opportunities and now we are considering the questions "What do we want to achieve?" and "How can we achieve it?"

I anticipate that we will find the answers to these questions with the input of the general TA membership.

It should be noted this is an important aspect of the future growth and sustainability of the Association.





# PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

## Sharon Foster

The TA has been busy over the period in the report with the community and members meeting up in person to attend the events and activities which was welcomed following the challenging last couple of years.

Due to unforeseen circumstances I have not been able to work on the TA website or the two social media platforms from March.

List of events since our last AGM in 2022, in descending date order:

### 2023

- 14 July 2023: Book Launch – Waltham Forest Town Hall
- 24 June 2023: Windrush Festival - Fellowship Square
- 22 June 2023: Windrush 75 Flag Raising event - Fellowship Square
- 25 Mar 2023: Book Launch - William Morris Gallery
- 23 Mar 2023: Community Event with Afternoon Tea Dance - Leyton Great Hall
- 13 Mar 2023: Commonwealth Day - Flag Raising
- 9 Mar 2023: Ordinary General Meeting

### 2022

- 27 Nov 2022: WFTA/Artillery CIC textile - art workshop - WMG
- 24 Nov 2022: Ordinary General Meeting - WF Town Hall
- 3 Nov 2022: Flag Raising at LBWF – Dominica Independence 44th Anniversary
- 1 Nov 2022: Flag Raising at LBWF - Antigua & Barbuda Independence 41st Anniversary
- 3 Oct-6 Nov 22 :Black History Month - Touring exhibition of Banners depicting The Black community's role in the health service
- 1 Oct 2022: Creative Writing Project - performance at WMG
- 10 Sept 2022: Health & Heritage Awareness Fundraising walk
- 17 July 2022: WFTA/WMG Textile workshop
- 25 June 2022: Windrush Festival - Fellowship Square & St Peter-in-the-Forest
- 23 June 2022: Annual General Meeting - WF Town Hall

The events list can be found on the Events page on the website  
<https://www.wftwinningassociation.org/events.html>

Pictures of some events are featured on the Photo Gallery pages

# WELFARE OFFICER

## Kathleen Hudson

This year marks my second year in this role. I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for supporting and encouraging me as I establish my relationship with our members.

I provide regular telephone and text messages to our members to find out about their wellbeing, remind them of our events and basically keeping in touch with them.

I have reintroduced home visits. Some of our members prefer to have a relaxing face-to-face chat within their homes. This is a service that I am happy to give and have done so. I get as much pleasure from these visits as our members!

Visits can also be arranged for those who are unwell and recuperating at home.

I have also shared and encouraged wellbeing initiatives such as free swimming sessions and Tai Chi classes run by local groups.

As a caring and culture promoting Association, we continuously explore ways to address Wellbeing and inclusiveness. My thanks to our member June Nicholson who came with me to visit the Good Shepherd Studios based in Leytonstone. We explored the many activities and programmes that they offer to see how we may incorporate these to suit our members' needs. We are focusing on having regular sessions where our members can engage in a variety of activities.

I will keep all members updated of these matters.

I am thankful and much appreciative to all of our members who have embraced me warmly into their lives.

# MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Hilma Alfred

As your returning membership secretary for another term, I would like to thank all those members who have continued to support the Twinning Association. Thankfully, we are now able to have more face-to-face meetings and events, which has given us an opportunity to physically engage with the community. I am therefore pleased to report that 4 new members and 1 new associate member joined in 2022-2023.

The Associate membership allows for members who wish to support and participate in events but are unable to regularly attend meetings to be a part of the association. They do not however have the right to vote.

## Membership Statistics

Registered members total 51 including 4 organisations.

Any member failing to pay their annual subscription shall lose their voting rights until full payment is made (Constitution clause 11).

## Organisations

ABNA (Antigua & Barbuda National Association)  
DONA (Dominica Oversea Nationals Association)  
LBWF (London Borough of Waltham Forest)  
Aquilative Technologies Ltd

Gender	Number
Female	31
Male	16
Organisations	4
Total	51

Category	Number
Indiv/Family	39
Associate	8
Organisations	4
Total	51

# PHOTO GALLERY







# Black people's contribution to the HEALTH SERVICE

## Mary Seacole



Mary Jane Seacole was a British-Jamaican nurse and businesswoman who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War. (Crimean war 1853-1856)

For many people the first known black person to contribute to the Health Service is Mary Seacole yet it was 135 years following her death before she was publicly honoured.

On Thursday 30 June 2016, a statue honouring the Mary Seacole was unveiled in the gardens of St Thomas' Hospital. Sculptor Martin Jennings' striking work is believed to be the first



### Moving on...

Credit: Transport For London

Credit: Mirrorpix via Getty Images

In spite of the barriers, Caribbean migrants were generally determined to make the most of the opportunities and get on with their lives. Many continued to contribute and have become prominent and successful in their fields of work.

Above: Athina McNeil | Credit: William Morris Gallery  
Left: Baroness Patricia Janet Scotland | Credit: Jean Marc Farné

Supplementary Saturday schools, run and financed by members of the Caribbean community were set up to counter the effects of discrimination and low expectations present in the mainstream school system. These extra lessons were provided in an environment that inspired a sense of pride in Caribbean identity and heritage.

As a 7 year old, I so disliked having to get up on a Saturday morning to attend The Saturday Supplementary School. The Teachers there were stricter than my normal school and they gave me a lot of homework to do. I did not understand at the time the benefits being given to me. I am now a Teacher and now appreciate those Teachers who gave up their Saturdays to help me with my educational needs.  
D.H. Waltham Forest Resident



**WALTHAM FOREST, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AND DOMINICA  
TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

**SHARING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

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