

# WINDRUSH DAY

COMMUNITY  
PACK

CELEBRATING  
GREAT BRITAIN'S  
DNA

## Introduction

This pack will help you organise your own event for Windrush Day, celebrated each year on June 22.

The arrival of MV Empire Windrush is one of those iconic moments in Britain's history. It's hard to imagine the experiences of those men, women and children, staring out over Tilbury Docks after crossing the ocean. Waiting to walk down the gangway, to start their new lives on British soil.



The Windrush Generation represents so much more than those fleeting moments over 70 years ago. It has come to stand for migration to Britain from the Caribbean and for the rich and diverse society that we call our own. And at this time in our country's story it is more important than ever for us to take a moment out of our busy lives to celebrate and reflect on our shared history.

That's why we've been working to make Windrush Day a national day in the calendar and pulled together this pack to make it easier than ever for communities to hold events across the country.

You'll find lots of useful tips in this pack to help you join other community groups across the country in commemorating the enormous contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants to Britain.



## What is Windrush Day?

The MV Empire Windrush was a ship that brought hundreds of passengers from the Caribbean to Tilbury Docks in Essex, docking on 21 June 1948 and disembarking on 22 June 1948. The passengers – who boarded the ship in Jamaica but came from many islands across the Caribbean – came to Britain to build a better life. In the years since, the ship and its passengers have come to represent generations of Caribbean migration to our country that has made our society richer and more diverse.

For generations, communities and groups have been celebrating and commemorating Windrush Day on 22 June by holding events and educating around the topic. And in 2018 the Government announced the first National Windrush Day to encourage more communities across the country to commemorate the Windrush story on Windrush Day and throughout the year.

There's lots of additional information, including featured interviews and inspiration for events, on [www.windrushday.org.uk](http://www.windrushday.org.uk)

## What can I do to mark Windrush Day?

Events can be big and small, and we encourage you to work with your local communities to mark Windrush Day in a way that suits you.

Some people might prefer to focus on celebration – holding get-togethers and parties with local community groups. Below is an easy guide for working with councils to hold public events and street parties if you and your community would like to go down this route.

Other people have preferred a focus on education and remembrance. In the past, community groups have reached out to those in their areas who arrived in the Windrush Generation to tell their stories in their own words. You could even work with local schools, colleges and universities to share these histories with the younger generation.

One of the easiest events to hold is simply to bring people together for a tea party. Maybe there are members of your community who would be happy to talk about their personal experiences coming to Britain as part of the Windrush Generation. This would be a good chance for everyone to get together for a chat and learn something new.

## Make your voice heard

If you don't have time to organise an event in your area, you could always use social media to get you and your organisation's voices out there.

It's always better to put out photos and videos than just text. Maybe people in your community have pictures from the past that could be posted with their stories. You could even capture a short video of someone telling their stories from your phone to post online.

So that whatever you decide to post reaches as big an audience as possible make sure you use the hashtag **#WindrushDay**.

## How do I plan a Windrush Day event?

It's very tempting to focus on the fun stuff and forget the boring bits like road closures, licences and other permissions. Bear in mind that councils will have guidelines and timetables for any applications, depending on the size and type of event.

Here's a really useful guide which is free to use.

Here are some key things to consider in holding an event. Many of these points won't apply for smaller events but it's worth just checking against this list to make sure before inviting anyone.

### Timing and duration of your event

Does it clash with anything else in the neighbourhood such as a sports fixture or music event?

### Event location

Is your event easily accessible?

### Transport

When are your attendees most likely to arrive and how? Check for any planned transport disruption and find out if you need roads closed or parking bays suspended for delivery of equipment you'll need for your event?

### Tickets

Is the event free or ticketed and how will tickets be sold or booked?

### Risk assessment

You should always do a risk assessment. Here's some useful advice for how to carry one out.

## Past experience

If possible, contact someone with experience in running your type of event for tips and advice at an early stage.

## Health and safety.

This is about on site first aid, barriers and safety measures for crowd control, limiting access to back stage or other areas.

## Using public areas

If you are proposing to use parks or open spaces, you will need to check with your local council about what's allowed and how to apply for permission.

## Council permissions.

Depending on the content of your event you may also need to contact other areas of the council for help and advice. This might include music, alcohol, noise, street cleaning (extra bins) food preparation and public liability insurance cover.

## Safeguarding

You need to check what safeguarding policies regarding children and vulnerable people should be in place. This might involve DBS certification or chaperones for children who are participating/performing and not accompanied by teachers, youth leaders or parents. Your local authority should be able to help here. Although further information is available online.

## Stewards

Whether volunteers or paid, stewards need to be easily identifiable and have a map of the event. They should also have a clear understanding of any emergency procedures and contact details for event organisers.

## Hire of equipment

From PA systems to dominoes tables, make sure you have what you need, when you need it. Have a clear plan in place for when key equipment will be delivered and how.

## Publicity and promotion

We've provided template artwork for flyers, posters and social media in support of Windrush events. You can download these for free on [windrushday.org.uk](http://windrushday.org.uk) or check out the Voice for the further links.

## Team

Share information with your team so everyone knows what's going on and any problems can be dealt with early on. Volunteers need refreshments and a secure space to store bags, coats and other items.

## Other resources

[windrushday.org.uk](http://windrushday.org.uk)

<https://www.bl.uk/windrush/articles/windrush-stories-creative-writing-activities-primary-students>

<https://windrushfoundation.com/>

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/section/the-windrush/>

<https://www.voice-online.co.uk/section/windrush/>

<https://editionbhm.com/>

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