

REPORT

June 2015/September 2016

Our Annual General Meeting was held in June 2015 and the following officers Winston Pinder Chair, Joyce Grandision Treasurer, Harry Cumberbatch Secretary, committee members Ron Reid, Dona Henriques and the late Cheryl Philips were elected.

The Foundation held their Annual Lecture on Saturday 21st November 2015 at the Stratford library titled 'The Caribbean Contribution to the Panama Canal'. Vasco Stevenson delivered a well-researched lecture and slide presentation which was well received. The panel discussion which followed stimulated much interest and Matthew Parker author of the book Panama Fever 2007 contributed to the discussion. The committee was supported by two friends of the Foundation Loleta who did the refreshments and Nailah for videoing the event. Over thirty people were in attendance and one participant stated 'They should have more events like this throughout the whole year. Absolutely excellent and very educational'. We thank the Stratford library for their support.

As it was the 50th anniversary of the British Race Relations Act. The committee selected two former East London Community Relations officers Joe Hunte from Tower Hamlets and Eddie Warner from Newham for our 2015 Award for outstanding services to the community.

The Newham community umbrella organisation NUSHO who the Foundation is affiliated to loss their Stratford premises which meant that we had to find a new meeting place. However, we have continued to work with them and attended a training day they recommended in October 'Telling your story-communications and social media'. The Foundation also did a presentation on our exhibition 'From Discovery to Independence' and ran a workshop for The Tower Hamlets African Mental Health Organisation (THACMHO) Black History Month celebrations.

Our funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was again unsuccessful and highlights one of our biggest challenges that without funding we are unable to fully achieve the Foundation aims. However, we continue to self-fund and work has started on our Oral history project. The committee have identified some community elders who are willing to tell their stories and is seeking volunteer interviewers to help us deliver.

It is pleasing to report that we launched our website www.tonycfoundation.com in September 2016. This was made possible due to the generous support of Roderick Rose a web designer from the company Atomic concepts.

It has not fully sunk in that our committee member Cheryl Philips passed on the 2nd January 2016 and left this world at the tender age of 49. We extended our deepest sympathy to the family and attended her memorial service in April which was organised by the Windrush Foundation. Sadly, we also loss Sam King MBE who was the first recipient of the Foundation Community Award in November 2012. Our condolences were expressed to the family and committee members attended his funeral service at the Southwark Cathedral on the 19th July 2016. May their Souls rest in Peace.

The Tony Cheeseman Foundation had the opportunity to work with the London Museum in Docklands by making an educational input to their weekend family event Hello London Hello Barbados in August 2016. Our contribution was well received and included displaying our exhibition 'From Discovery to Independence', the showing of the Barbados film maker Claude Grahame documentary 'Crossing the Seas' and an exhibition borrowed from our fellow heritage organisation THACMHO titled 'Harrison Line Seamen who came to the West India Docks during the 1950s and 60s'. Many positive comments were made regarding our contribution and the Foundation takes the opportunity to welcome all the members and friends who signed up at the event.

The Committee would like to thank Mark Vaughan and Pearla Boyce who resigned during the year for the valuable contribution they made to the Foundation and wish them success in all their future endeavours.