

East Anglian Daily Times

INSPIRING JOURNEY: FRANSTINE JONES

In a heartfelt tribute to her parents and their indomitable spirit, Franstine Jones, recently honoured as one of Suffolk's 100 Inspiring Women, sheds light on the challenges her family faced as Antiguan immigrants in Ipswich during the late 1950s. Jeremiah and Gwendolyn Limerick, Franstine's parents, left their three children and homeland behind with dreams of a brighter future.

The Limericks found employment at Cranes, with Gwendolyn working tirelessly through the night and Jeremiah taking on day shifts. Franstine reflects on their dedication, saying, "I always saw how hard my mum and dad worked and thought to myself: 'Wow, it is a hard job' – heavy, dirty, noisy, and a hot environment to work in."

The transition to life in Suffolk, however, was far from smooth. In an era where Black communities were scarce, the Limericks faced significant hurdles. Housing proved elusive, leading them to rely on private accommodations. Basic amenities, such as a washing machine, were a luxury, and the family often frequented laundrettes and St Matthew's Baths for daily needs. Franstine,

the first in the family to be born in Britain, vividly recalls a modest upbringing, complete with outdoor toilets and tin baths.



Crane Factory – Now closed and demolished.

Despite the adversities, the Limericks maintained an allotment, growing lots of fruits and vegetables. Franstine reminisces about the community spirit among Caribbean Islanders in Ipswich, many of whom shared allotments.

Franstine emphasizes the courage it took for her parents and others to leave their homelands for a foreign country, facing not only the challenges of an unfamiliar environment but also pervasive racism. The hardships extended to securing housing, employment, and even finding familiar products like hair and skincare items.

Who were the Windrush Generation?

Many skilled professionals were relegated to low-paid jobs or forced to establish their own businesses due to the discrimination they encountered.

Reflecting on her parents' journey, Franstine expresses deep admiration: "I just looked at my mother and father and thought: 'Gosh, it took great courage for you to do that.' I don't know if I would have done that, but you wanted a better life for yourselves and you wanted a better life for your family, so I absolutely and totally respect my parents for that."

Franstine's recount stands as a testament to the resilience and fortitude of the Windrush Generation, highlighting the adversity they faced and the lasting impact that they made.



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In the 1950s and 60s many men, women and children arrived in the UK to start their new life.



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Who were the Windrush Generation?

Discussion Questions

After reading the article, discuss the thought bubbles with your partner. Reflect on each question the thought bubble raises and prepare to share your thought with the rest of the class.

Why did Franstine's parents decide to move to the UK?

What was life like when they arrived in Ipswich?

What challenges did Franstine's parents face?

Why is it important to show admiration towards the Windrush settlers?

What would make you feel proud about having this in your heritage?



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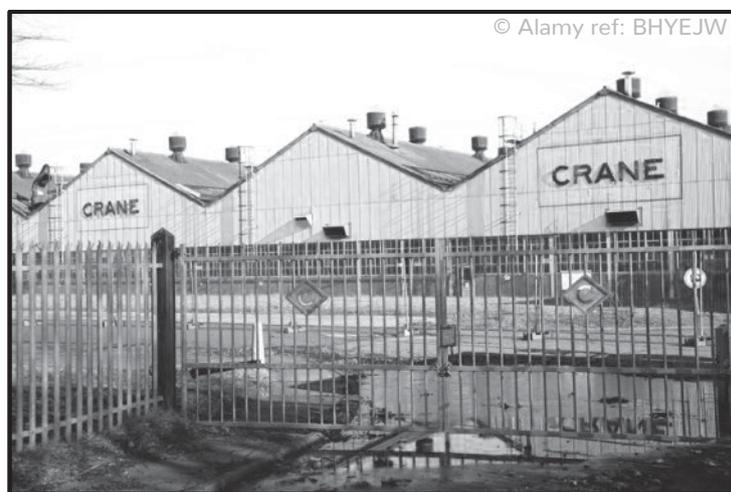
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Ipswich

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Teacher's Pet



Historic England

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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.