

## **THE BARBADIAN COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

### **SHORT HISTORY OF THE BARBADIAN COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION!**

Today we celebrate 43 years of Barbados Independence, but we also celebrate 30 years of our Association here in Coventry.

The Coventry Association goes a long way back to the 1960's, it was formed to preserve some of our Bajan customs, back then it was known as the Coventry Choir. The choir took part in "Service of Song", competing against choirs from Birmingham, Leeds, Oldham and Reading. The choir also performed at old people's homes, weddings and many other events. There were also yearly family day excursions to the seaside as well as other social events.

The Association as it is today became a "Constituted Body" in April 1979 and was named the Barbadian Community and Choir Association. This was made possible when the male members of the choir donated £5.00 each. These members, some no longer with us, consist of:

Gordon Pollard; Ovie Williams; Bradley Estwick; Lloyd Lowe; Oscar Sealy and Shell Byer.

Gordon Pollard was elected Chairman,

Ovie Williams, Deputy Chairman

Bradley Estwick, Treasurer

Ann Riley, Secretary

Omin Clarke, Assistant Secretary

Other committee members: Mrs Olanda Williams, Miss Myrtle Gill and Mrs Wilma Reid.

We continue to have our yearly day excursions and our Independence celebrations. Over the past 14 years we have also hosted a "Social Evening/Quiz".

Unfortunately, the choir is no longer active due to the little matter of "age" creeping in, and because of this the association was renamed "THE BARBADIAN COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION".

For more information on the Association and its activities or becoming a member, please contact the Secretary Miss A Riley on 07890185763