



Sam King



Birth:

Born in 1926, in Portland, Jamaica.

Early Years:

Sam King responded to an advert in a Jamaican newspaper that called for volunteers to join the British RAF in WW2. Once the war was over, Sam King returned to Jamaica, before he emigrated to England in 1948, on the Empire Windrush. He settled in **Camberwell** Southwark.

**“A legend...London is a better place,
Britain is a better place, thanks to
him and his family.”**

**Jeremy Corbyn on
Sam King.**

Achievements:

Sam King was heavily involved in London’s West Indian Community. He helped to organise a Caribbean-style festival in 1959, the pre-cursor to Notting Hill Carnival and he was a founder of the **West Indian Gazette**. He was elected Southwark’s mayor in 1983, the first black person to run for this role. King also set up the **Windrush Foundation** in 1993, to preserve the memories of those who arrived on that voyage and campaign on behalf of West-Indian immigrants. He was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1998.

Death:

King died in 2016. His funeral was held at Southwark Cathedral and had over 500 mourners.

