



# Reach Society

Building Connections

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Patrons: Lord Herman Ouseley, Prof Trevor Williams, Mr John Budu-Aggrey & Prof Sir Geoff Palmer Newsletter Issue: 010

**Welcome:** Dear Friends/Supporters,

**Reach Society wishes to salute and congratulate those pioneers who took that chance and sailed into Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948; if not for them, what we have today would not have been possible.**

This is a 'special' feature which shines a light on the celebration of our achievements 70 years since the landing of Empire Windrush on that "misty morning at Tilbury Docks" on 22 June 1948. For some of us in the community it seems like yesterday but over the 7 decades, much has happened with some major changes observable.

Perhaps one of the biggest change has been the presence of people of 'colour' from the Caribbean, Africa and Asia rising to the pinnacle of the British establishments. This is what Louise Bennett talked about when she wrote the poem, 'Colonization in reverse!'

**The Aristocracy** for generations was seen as the bastion and preserve of white upper class privilege is no more. On 19 May 2018 Meghan Markle, of African American and white parentage, married his Royal Highness Prince Harry of Windsor. Though some have argued that she was not the first 'person of colour' in the English Monarchy (Queen Charlotte Sophia is said to have been of mixed parentage, though this is disputed as that lineage is said to have been 9 generation deep). There is no doubt that she is of colour as her mother clearly testify and her presence in that bastion of privileges amply underscores.

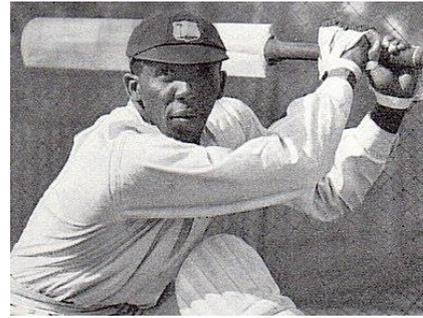
Reach Society warmly congratulate the Royal couple on their marriage and wish them all the best over the coming years.



**Emma McQuiston**, who married Viscount Weymouth in 2013, is the daughter of a Nigerian father, oil tycoon Ladi Jadesimi, and British mother, Suzanna McQuiston. She will become Britain's first black marchioness when her husband inherits the title

from his father: Marquess of Bath.

**Peers, Knights and Lords:** Well where do we start? Over the 70 years, across many fields, we have seen folks from within the modern Black community (or MBC) honoured as contributors and high achievers. The journey over the 7 decades has not been easy which makes their achievements all the more memorable: currently there are around **44 BAME Peers** in the House of Lords, of which **13 are black British.**



**Learie Nicholas Constantine**, Lord Constantine, Kt, MBE was a West Indian cricketer, lawyer and politician who served as Trinidad's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and became the UK's first black peer in 1969.

**David Thomas Pitt**, Lord Pitt of Hampstead, was a British Labour Party politician, general practitioner and political activist. Born in Grenada, he was the second peer of African descent, to sit in the House of Lords in 1975.



**Patricia Janet Scotland**, became Baroness Scotland of Asthal PC in 1997. She is a barrister who served in ministerial positions within the Government, most notably as the Attorney General for England and Wales and Advocate

General for Northern Ireland. At the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting she was elected the 6th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations and took office on 1 April 2016. She is the first woman to hold the post. She is a dual citizen of the United Kingdom and Dominica.

**FUTURE EVENT: Reach Society's Conference 2018!** We are pleased to announce that our **7th Recognition Awards Dinner and 70th Anniversary Celebration** of the MBC will take place 20 **October 2018** at The **Royal National Hotel**, London. See our website for more details. **To register your interest send your name to:** [info@reachsociety.com](mailto:info@reachsociety.com)

*We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued help and support.*