

# Euten's story

## How long have you been in Devon?

Celebrating 10 years in August 2020.

## How would you describe you heritage?

African Caribbean-Jamaican

**Journey to Devon:** After accepting redundancy in 2009, having worked at Addington Palace for over 6 years, I was invited by a friend in 2010 to come and visit Plymouth for a well needed break. I visited Keyham, fell in love with Plymouth and decided it was time for a change! I travelled back to London, packed my bags and returned to settle in Plymouth the following day, without any regrets!

## Employment/profession:

1989-94 Attended Westminster Catering College.

City & Guilds: Cooking for the catering industry and Patisserie

1995-97: Launched my first restaurant: Euten's of Covent Garden

2003-2009 Executive Head Chef – Addington Palace, Gravel Hill, Addington Village, Croydon, Surrey.

2012-present: Fusion Cuisine, Plymouth - self-employed Chef/Owner

**Favourite childhood memory:** Growing up with my grandmother who I called mummy. She was very in touch with her African heritage. She taught me the importance of family, herbal remedies, and would send me to collect the various herbs required. My early cooking experience was ingrained, always by her side (hanging on to her frock tail). She would recite folk tales every evening.

**Favourite foods:** Bananas and grapes but not rice and peas.

**One thing you love about your heritage:** Fish and vegetarian foods - favourite fish is escovitch red snapper, ackee and saltfish, boiled/fried/roasted yams, banana, plantain, callaloo, sweet potato, rice and gungo peas, mango, guava, soursop...



**One thing you love about your heritage.** Being born Jamaican with its rich history, its diversity a melting pot of cultures and cuisines from colonial rulers Spain & Great Britain-UK, and impact from migrant workers Irish, Dutch, Indians, Asians, French, Syrians, Lebanese, Jews and of course my Africa.

**Do you feel a connection with Windrush? If so, What?** From 2010 I began having problems with the Department of Work & Pensions and the Home office, made sanctioned, not allowed any Public Funds, no NHS or dental treatment unless I personally paid, not allowed any benefits, not allowed to work due to loss of my Jamaican passport. Not allowed to travel out of Plymouth, unable to travel to London to see my three children, family or friends, having to report to Immigration officials weekly at Charles Cross Police station, Plymouth Devon. Always fearing I could be detained and deported.

In 2018 things became more serious. I was made aware that my status in the UK was illegal and I would be deported if I could not prove that I was granted 'Leave to Remain' in UK in 1973 when I arrived in UK age 9yrs 6 months old.

With help and support from Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support Group (based in Plymouth, Devon), Citizens Advice Bureau, Red Cross and my local Councillor, I provided 43 years of documentation and successfully resulted in attaining my NO SETTLEMENT with NO TIME LIMIT.

I am currently in the process of the tedious Windrush compensation, having been refused the hardship fund once already...

