

About Isles in Harmony: Michael Dawkins

The Isles in Harmony Carnival Troupe is Jalgos Sports & Social Club. The Jalgos Troupe was formed in the late 70's and possibly one of the first troupes that started following the first Preston Caribbean Carnival in 1974 that has continued the tradition. The Troupe or band has been known by a few names over the years often confused with the name of the theme of that particular year but has always been JALGOS. However, it took on a new title in 2003 when the group began to reform and attracted new membership and began to be known as 'Isles in Harmony'. The name reflects the inclusion of all the Caribbean Islands joined in harmony to share cultures and a common love of Carnival. After being in the Troupe for several years, Elaine Webb became the Troupe/Band Leader in 2007/08. The theme was Ketch-A-Fire. It was a fun year especially in the costume making workshops; we still talk about the laughs we had with the artists and the other band members. The Troupe went touring for the first time that year also.

In recent years we have played a massive part in the Preston Caribbean Carnival Touring Band, performing in: Liverpool, Huddersfield, Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham and Manchester Caribbean Carnivals. Plus the Kendal Torchlight Procession in Cumbria. We won the Best Touring/Visiting Troupe at Huddersfield 2012.

I got involved in Carnival in 2007 when I took my 2 daughters to the liH carnival dance practice. During the early part of the session, Elaine asked me to stand at the back to fill a vacant place; the music began, I started to dance and the rest is history. To give Elaine a break this year, I agreed to be Troupe Leader for 2013. Our theme is 'Tropical Life in Harmony'. We've had a fantastic year so far winning best King & Queen; giving us the honour of leading this year's carnival and wasn't the weather almost tropical! We also won best Band/Troupe 2013 (The double). We are so pleased to have contributed so positively to our City and culture. Last year we took part in the Preston Guild Community Procession and even visited the Lord Mayor in the Council Chambers. Participation and a larger Carnival is what we are all looking forward to for 2014 the 40th Anniversary of our Caribbean Carnival "our biggest & best Carnival so far", sign up today!

Most Recent Achievements

- 2007 Runner up Best Band
- 2008 Band of the Year
- 2009 Band of the Year
- 2010 Runner up Best Band
- 2010 King & Queen winners
- 2011 Runner up Best Band

- 2012 Band of the Year
- 2012 Best Touring Band Huddersfield
- 2012 Participants in Preston Guild Community Procession
- 2013 King & Queen winners
- 2013 Band of the Year

Michael Dawkins

I was passed the baton by the late Sonia Sampson in 2008. Sonia was Band Leader from the 80's with the assistance from the women from Jalgos she controlled everything. From recruitment of band members (Sometimes on the day itself) to costume making. Sonia together with the late Mary Pond were the main seamstresses & manufactured costumes for every member of the troupe including the King and Queen. These were always designed & manufactured by Mary.

The rest of the team were often seen at the workshop when it was based at Oyston Mill on the 3rd Floor. Yep those stairs are killers and these women always took the Stairs.

During the Public Meetings for Carnival the request to get the workshop moved to the ground floor. This was done in 2008.

The Men of Jalgos assisted throughout and on the day were charged with decorating the Truck and handling the large pieces. The King at the time Joe Barrow was always involved up until Michael Dawkins taking that position in 2007 & 2008 alongside the new Queen Letitia Grant-Brown 2007-2009.

Keith Powell took over King in 2010 & has continued to Wow audiences with his gymnastic type dances & movements.

Our elders continue to support us and Jalgos' very own Spice Girls continue to provide the food for the road. This is one part of the Tradition which has continued throughout since the late 70's. They proud of our achievements, I'm sure as are Mary & Sonia (RIP)'

Michael and the team have done incredibly this year. They have made history for Jalgos Sports & Social Club by winning both King & Queen & Band of the year. (The double) Each year is different & brings it's own challenges, however the Carnival Vibe from the team is second to none.

Elaine Webb