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PRESTON
**BLACK
HISTORY**
GROUP



A News Sheet for Preston's African Caribbean Community >>> **Issue 3**
Summer 2013

Have You Heard?

Celebrating Carnival >>>

The African Caribbean Community in Preston have created a splendid, vibrant tradition of Carnival. For nearly forty years Preston Caribbean Carnival has WOWed the crowds. We'd like to thank all the people who work tirelessly in the background to make Carnival a fantastic spectacle every year.

LOTS MORE PICTURES INSIDE!!



Isles in Harmony: Tropical Girls 2013

To make sure you and your friends receive a free copy of 'Have You Heard' please contact:
Preston Black History Group
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Units 23-27 Guildhall Arcade,
Lancaster Rd, Preston PR1 1HR
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Carnival winners 2013 - Isles in Harmony >>>

The Isles in Harmony Carnival Troupe won the Double this year, 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 with our theme 'Tropical Life in Harmony'.

Isles in Harmony is Jalgos Sports & Social Club. The Jalgos Troupe was formed in the late 70's, possibly one of the first troupes that started following the first Preston Caribbean



Carnival in 1974 and that has continued the tradition. It took on a new title in 2003 when the group began to reform and attracted new membership. The name reflects the inclusion of all the Caribbean Islands joined in harmony to share cultures and a common love of Carnival.

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.

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 carnival dance practice. 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.

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!**
Michael Dawkins

Isles in Harmony >>>

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 was made 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.



Isles in Harmony: Ice Angels 2008

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're 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 its own challenges, however the Carnival Vibe from the team is second to none.

Elaine Webb



Isles in Harmony: Cleopatra



Pauline Harris - Carnival Queen 1976

Carnival Through the Years >>>

Can you remember which year these photos are from???



Thanks to TJH, Carol Harris, African Heritage Lancashire Life Archive for photos

Carnival Artists Bob and Sam on what carnival means to them! >>>



Carnival Workshops

>>>

Carnival workshops started 39 years ago set up by the African Caribbean community after the Guild in 1972 because they felt they could do a better street procession. In the 10 years I have been involved in creating for Carnival I have seen it progress from small scale bamboo structures to large scale wheel drawn structures.

In the 1980's the arts workshops were mainly done by the African Caribbean community and not much English was spoken, they spoke mostly patois. There was a lot of drinking and merry making during the creative process. Today things have become a lot more professional; where the community doesn't have the time in the same way and funding pressures etc. There are 4 lead artists and a consultant Engineer and Carnival artist, Hughbon Condor. Individuals also come to the unit to create their own pieces. Each band has its own way of working and needs support in different ways, some bands will create their own costumes and the artists create king and queen pieces only, while others need contribution in all facets.

Bob Heath and Sam Aylwin

Memories of Carnival

>>>

I started working on Carnival in 1988 as part of my Degree - Art in Society. It was the first time I had really encountered African - Caribbean People in Preston and the experience was a real eye opener.

On my first day I sat with a very quiet dark skinned man who was a friend of Gana Mcoy's as he seriously and intently placed Christmas Baubles onto a strange looking Backpack piece... a sort of cross between a tree and something used by North American Indians in Shamanic rituals...I was intrigued by the seriousness of the event but also the underlying comedy, even absurdity, of the act.

At this time Gana Mcoy was the head artist and a very imposing figure he was indeed. He would come around and get upset about something- some act of sabotage or band that had asked him to do something he clearly wasn't interested in doing and then put us rookies from College to task... He made myself and Alastair Price, another artist from College, make and remake "The Santa Maria"

Christopher Columbus's Ship (made out of hardboard and painted up) five or six times- just to make sure it would get out the doors of the Catherine Beckett club (situated on Meadow street in Deepdale).

Anyhow through all the various shenanigans I began to realise I was hooked on Carnival.

What I think intrigued me about carnival was you only got a small glimpse of what it was or what it meant - to me - to Gana - to the greater Afro Caribbean community of Preston. Like peeling away the skin of an onion to find another layer.

What I can say is it meant a lot of things to the Afro- Caribbean Community and in those days on Carnival Monday Preston was full of Afro-Caribbean families and friends up to see the first Carnival of the season. People dressed neat- looked sharp. Preston was packed- at night there 'blues' – informal dances going on in Caribbean houses everywhere. The towns clubs were packed... The Caribbean club would be rocking till 4.00 or later in the morning. Outside during Carnival day sound systems would set up with Bass

Since arriving in Preston 9 years ago, I have been very fortunate to participate in making large scale artworks for members of the participating groups who "jump up" and celebrate their cultural heritage of Caribbean Carnival. Involvement with the community has shown me something of the deep and multi-faceted meaning that is behind this event. It has its roots in the Catholic observance of Lent when the Italians began a wild, dressed up, event on the first day of Lent (Carnevale – to take away the meat). It soon spread to many other countries in Europe. It was exported to the Caribbean Islands during the expansion of Europe and the slave trade. It is estimated that 6 million slaves were brought to the Caribbean Islands. Banned from participating in the celebrations, they held their own masked celebrations partly to jest at their colonial masters and partly to express their power as individuals, drawing on their own rich cultural traditions. Carnival celebrations in the streets became progressively popular and has grown into the festival we now know as Caribbean Carnival which was exported to the little town of Preston by the migrating Caribbean peoples in the 60's. Sam Aylwin



Bob's drawing of 1990 Carnival . . . Gana, Pyro, Holly and Ashton, Old John, Cecil Walsh, Alastair Price, Caroline Johnson, Rhedd Lewis, Cath Whelan, Angela Chapell, Tony Killeen are all present.



Bob with Spectrum Association 2013 bins that would churn your stomach they were so loud playing the latest mix of soca and reggae... Needless to say lots of alcohol was consumed and dancing done... It was better than raving!! Bob Heath

Preston Caribbean Carnival





Island News >>>

Do you know what CPL stands for?.....

CARIBBEAN PREMIER LEAGUE CRICKET is coming to the region this summer. In its first year 6 teams will be doing battle to be crowned CPL champions.

Picking the teams for each teams are some cricketing legends. For the Hornbills - Sir Vivian Richards, Amazons - Roger Harper, Tridents - Desmond Haynes, Tallawahs - Paul Nixon, Zouks - Andy Roberts, Steel - Gordon Greenidge

The 6 islands taking part are:-
 ANTIGUA—Antigua Hornbills
 BARBADOS—Barbados Tridents
 GUYANA—Guyana Amazon
 JAMAICA—Jamaica Tallawahs



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO—T&T Steel
 ST LUCIA—St Lucia Zouks

The opening match July 30th in Bridgetown Barbados will see the Tridents take on the Zouks .

At time of writing unsure if matches will be shown on British television, let's keep our fingers crossed.

If you're visiting the islands this summer maybe try and take in a match or two. Send in a review of the game, we would love to hear from you

Dominica >>>

When is a "National Dish" not a "National Dish"??
When you can't eat it I guess.

In recent years there has been a sharp decline in Dominica's National Dish of Crapaud (Mountain Chicken) due to being over hunted, predators and disease.

Recently the question was asked should the National dish be changed?

So Dominica -on- line have been running a poll asking you to vote on a new national dish.

The choices were :- Callaloo, titiweee, broth, fig & codfish and sancoche.

Which would you pick? Let us know what you think. Should it stay the same or should it change?



Mountain Chicken

More Cricketing News >>>

West Indian opening batsman and World Record holder Chris Gayle, was in the UK recently for the ICC Champions Trophy.

He took time out to talk about his exciting new project. Gayle



who has formed *The Chris Gayle Foundation* is teaming up with *Cricket for Change* and funders *Comic Relief* to create the *Chris Gayle Academy* in London and Jamaica.

Be a Buddy >>>

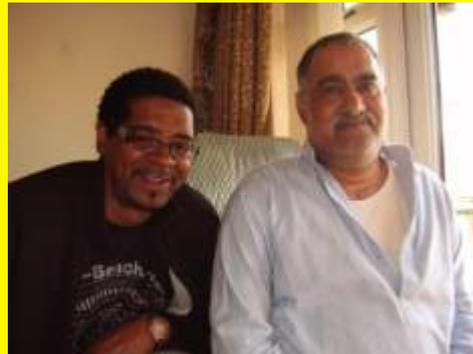


Photo shows Lancashire County Council befriending volunteer, Fonz Howard (on left). As well as working full-time and being involved in the organisation of the Caribbean Carnival in Preston, Fonz also visits Habib who suffers from a muscle wasting condition and is housebound. Fonz sometimes takes his laptop to Habib's house and they enjoy surfing the web. Lancashire County Council are always glad to hear from anyone who has a few hours a week to spare to visit a vulnerable person or support them to go out.

Please check out the website www.lancashire.gov.uk/volunteer or telephone 01257 516035.

In Sympathy

Chairman of the Jamaica National Association, Preston, Mr Gladstone Afflick, who recently lost his Partner, Sybil, (affectionately known as Milly) is at this time in Jamaica. He went out to visit his elderly Mother who had not been well for a long time. Unfortunately soon after he arrived, she passed away. Our condolences to Mr Afflick and his family from all of his friends and family here in Preston.

WINDRUSH 65 >>>

On the weekend June 22nd-23rd Caribbean communities all over the United Kingdom were celebrating 65 years since the SS Empire Windrush came to Tilbury in 1948 to make new lives in the "mother country".

Events are to be held at a later date. Will let you know when.

In the next issue we will be focusing on members of the community hearing their stories of arriving in the "Mother Land"



Recipes >>>



Jamaican Lamb Curry

Serves 6

800g diced leg of lamb, mutton or goat
 2 heaped tablespoons Caribbean Curry Powder
 1 large onion, chopped
 2" piece of root ginger, grated
 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
 1 scotch bonnet pepper, seeded and chopped
 Small (approx 2") piece of cinnamon stick
 Salt and black pepper
 Oil for marinating and browning
 Approx ½ pint of hot water



Place the lamb in a bowl and stir in the onion and curry powder, add a little of the oil as this helps the spice stick to the meat. Cover with cling film and leave to marinate in the fridge for at least 1 hour but preferably overnight.

Heat a glug of oil in a heavy frying pan or wok. Scrape away as much of the onion as possible from the lamb and set to one side. Brown the meat in batches until well coloured.

Reduce the heat and add the onion, garlic, ginger, scotch bonnet, salt and pepper and fry gently for 5 minutes until the onions begin to soften.

Add the water and cinnamon stick to the pan, give everything a good stir, cover and leave to simmer for 1 hour. Check the pan half way through and add more water if required.

After 1 hour taste check for seasoning and sauce consistency, the gravy should be nice and thick and the meat tender. Boil rapidly to reduce if necessary.

Serve with Rice n Peas and a green salad!

Carol Harris

BBC's One Show competition winner Carol Harris brings you her recipes in association with Shotta TV FOOD. Join Carol as she shares her multi cultural cuisine from around the world. Youtube link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ptr3o5PJN8s>

For other dishes search Food.Shotta TV Carol Harris

WHAT'S ON at JALGOS >>>

July 13th - Preston Montserrat and friends are having a Caribbean Night, starting at 8pm. Tickets £5. Free glass of rum punch

August 3rd/4th - Jamaica Weekend
August 3rd - Jamaica's 51st Independence dance. 9pm till late. Tickets £6

Come out and enjoy! See you there!!

Wanting to go to the away matches? Contact Jalgos for ticket details
 Tel: 01772 556109

Domino fixtures >>>

JULY

20th - Jalgos Away to Nottingham
27th - Home to London

AUGUST

10th - Home to Bradford
17th - Away to Wolverhampton

"People will speak ill of you for no reason. People will return your good deeds with unkind unloving words and deeds. Just realize that the more unloving a person behaves, the greater THEIR need for loving and healing"

Iyania Vanzant

Have you heard?... "When yuh en' got horse.....ride cow"

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Q	S	E	L	B	U	O	D	A	Q	H	E	B	K	R	Z	M	M	G	P
Y	I	C	O	N	C	H	G	C	U	R	R	Y	K	L	A	H	Z	H	A

Wordsearch >>>

"National Dishes" from the islands.

answer on PBHG website
www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk/?attachment_id=424

- COCONUT SHRIMP
- SHARK AND BAKE
- BROTH
- MOUNTAIN CHICKEN
- CONCH CURRY
- OILDOWN
- CURRIED GOAT
- GYRO
- COHOBBLOPOT
- ACCRA
- DUCANO
- SOUSE
- BEBELE
- FRIED BAKES
- CALALOU
- COWHEEL SOUP
- DOUBLES

Preston Black History Group >>>

Researching, Preserving and Celebrating Black History and Culture, a shared culture FOR ALL.

The Battle of Bamber Bridge 70th Anniversary Symposium at UCLan >>>

23rd June 2013 was the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Bamber Bridge. Never heard of it?? On Friday 21st June, UCLan School of Language, Literature and International Studies and Preston Black History Group with Collegium for African American Research (CAAR) and support from the American Embassy, presented a symposium including a film showing and performance to commemorate the events of 23rd June 1943

Professor Alan Rice gathered academics from all over the country and the USA. We learned about the segregation of the American servicemen and the frustrations that erupted in an armed uprising between the African American soldiers and the white Military Police. Townspeople of Bamber Bridge were frightened by the shots fired and one African American serviceman was killed.

The symposium explored the context of the battle and events countrywide and in the USA. We watched Gregory Cooke's film 'Choc'late Soldiers from the USA', a very moving account of the experiences of African American Soldiers and support staff

during World War 2. We heard about multi Ethnic relationships in Tiger Bay, Cardiff at a time that marriage between people of different heritage was illegal in the USA.

The most important thing I learned was how crucial the experiences of the African American Servicemen during the war were in shaping the following years. These men and women took home with them a determination to change the world that led to the Civil Rights movement in the USA. The rest, as they say, is HISTORY! *Bernie Velvick*



PBHG committee members with Gregory Cooke

Bustling at The Battle of Bamber Bridge History Walk >>>

To round up the weekend of celebration a history walk took place tracing the steps from the night of the mutiny. Approximately 80 -100 people took part in this unique event.

Dr David Hunt (South Ribble Historian from the Leyland Museum) led the group through the streets of Bamber Bridge describing the events and highlighting the key areas where the battle took place, including the buildings that were once used as army dwellings, air raid bunkers, a community hall where the locals welcomed the black troops, he also pointed out where the Black American GI was fatally shot.

The group listened intently to Dr David Hunt as well as eye witnesses Eunice Byers (96) and Elizabeth Cole (nee Watson, 90) who remember the battles events. The walk was a fantastic way to end the weekend! Thank you to all those who attended. *Christina Cooper.*

A Weekend of Events >>>

Saturday *Choc'late Soldiers* at the Methodist Church – a wonderful event with around 30 (mainly locals) in attendance – in particular Eunice Byers was there who witnessed the event – now 96 she told her story to Gerry and chatted to all. She was very sprightly. The film was very well received and the Minister (literally got into the spirit of the

event) inviting everyone to the Hob Inn where beside the old newspaper report about the mutiny they kept the pub open late.

Sunday, a marvellous ceremony led by the minister dedicated to the mutiny with its centrepiece a short interview with Eunice who told the congregation of her memories of the events. *Alan Rice*

Come and join Preston Black History Group. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at CVS in Guildhall Arcade. Meeting dates are on the calendar on our website at www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk

To submit articles, announcements, creative writing, recipes, puzzles, photo teasers and events information for the news sheet and the website please contact:

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