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A Quarterly News Sheet for Preston's African Caribbean Community >>>

Issue 1
Spring 2013

What's My Name?

Can you help? >>>

This is the first Issue of our community news sheet – can you give it a name?

Preston Black History Group seeks to reach out and unite the African Caribbean Communities in Preston.

We need a name that reflects our African and our Caribbean heritages and our base in the Preston area.

£10.00 shopping voucher for the selected entry.

Contact us by post at
Preston Black History Group
c/o Preston CVS, Units 23-27 Guildhall
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For more information go to
www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk

Elaine Marshall: Honorary Guild Burgess

“In the Guild this year is the first time that they have honoured a woman – not only is Aunty Elaine the first African Caribbean person, she is one of the first women that was nominated as well” Christopher Balcon

In Preston Guild week, September 2012 Elaine Marshall was made an Honorary Guild Burgess. A burgess is a registered member of the Guild Merchant whose history goes back to 1179. Originally, anybody who wanted to trade in Preston was required to be a member of the Guild Merchant. A Guild Court was held to admit people to the Guild, in 1542 it was agreed that this would take place every 20 years – a tradition still in place today.

In 2012, for the first time, the Council asked members of the public to nominate people to become an Honorary Burgess based on who they thought should be honoured for their contribution to life in Preston. The 20 people chosen from the nominees received the honour at the Adjourned Guild Court on the morning of Saturday 8 September 2012 in the Guild Hall. Honorary Burgesses pass their burgess status down to their sons and daughters.

In Feb 2013 Elaine Marshall was interviewed about her experiences by Clinton Smith (PBHG Chair). She related her surprise at being nominated by Sahara in Preston and her excitement on receiving the official letter from the Guild Mayor.

“Invitations came for all the functions and from the Guild Mayor – dinners, events, awards – it was lovely”
Elaine Marshall

“When the letter came we sat down and read it fifteen times – we looked up what’s a Burgess and realised what a serious thing it is. Elaine has nominated her nephew, David Ferguson, to continue the family line as Guild Burgess.”

In 2032 he and his family will continue this 1100 year old tradition”

Christopher Balcon

“I think most of the African Caribbean community in Preston will be extremely proud of your achievement, the recognition as a groundbreaker for that. I think you’re on a pedestal that most people will simply look to admire.”

Clinton Smith

You can find the transcript of the whole interview on the PBHG website
www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk



Montserrat

Recent news >>>

Montserrat Government reports that drilling for geothermal energy will start in February 2013. This is good news for the island's economy. Since the outbreak of volcanic activities in 1995, the island's economy has been almost non-existent, thus putting a strain on government. The Hon. Rueben T. Meade Premier of the Island is excited with this news, as his government has worked hard to make this happen. Government sources are confident that enough energy can be extracted, to supply the island with cheaper electricity, plus

allowing them to supply to other Caribbean islands.

Another positive for the island, is the news that for more than 18 months, thousands of tonnes of building aggregates from the volcano, are being shipped to other Caribbean islands. This material is shipped out Plymouth, the original town which had been abandoned, following the eruption in 1997, but is being used now, since there has been no serious activities from the volcano.

We wish them well.

More news from the Islands in our next issue.



Drilling has now started in the Cok Hill area. Deputy Premier Honourable Charles Kirnon says, these are exciting times for Montserrat. Drilling is carried out by the Iceland Drilling Company. According to officials the exploration stage is estimated to last 45 to 60 days.. Supervising the exercise is the Capuano Engineering Company from Santa Rosa, California

Jonathan Pond.



Did you know? >>>

It was the Guild of 1972 that inspired the tradition of Preston's Caribbean Carnival. After experiencing the Guild and seeing how the people of Preston were so involved and passionate about it, members of the African and Caribbean community wondered why only do it every 20 years? Carnivals and processions are held all around the world on an annual basis, so with that in mind people came together to organise the Preston Caribbean Carnival.

Get involved >>>

Can You Help?

Can you write a small piece to share the recent news from your island?

Could you join our steering group?

Do you have a recipe you'd like to share?

Are you a poet or a writer?

Could you contribute to 'Kiddies Korner' or 'Prayer for the Day'?



You'll find our contact details at the end of the news sheet

Recipe >>> Johnny Cakes >>>

Johnny cakes were originally called Journey cakes as they were packed as part of a snack for the plantation workers or for a long lasting journey.



Ingredients >>>

makes about 12-15 cakes

450 g self raising flour
50 g butter
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking powder
150 ml water or milk
oil for frying

Tracey Edwards

Mix dry ingredients – flour, baking powder and salt - in a large mixing bowl. Work in the butter with your fingers to resemble breadcrumbs. Make a well in center and add some of the liquid stirring with a fork. Add a little more of the liquid a little at a time till the mixture forms a soft dough. Sprinkle some flour into the bowl and knead for around 5 mins. Cover and rest the dough for 30 mins.

Heat the oil in your pan. While waiting for the oil to heat make about 12-15 round balls of dough, flatten each between your hands to look like mini pizza bases. Check the oil temp, fry the johnny cakes in small batches at a time - do not overcrowd the pan, when the underside is golden brown (between 5-8 mins) turn & fry till golden brown. Remove from the pan and drain on some kitchen paper.

Your News Sheet >>>

Q: *What do you want to read about?*

A: *Suggestions so far . . .*

- What's coming up? Anniversaries/Fashion/Entertainment
- Listings/contact details for all the Preston Island groups
- Religious corner
- Profiles of inspirational people/ sporting heroes
- Learning about our culture
- Births/marriages/deaths within the community
- Health issues
- Story corner
- Food info



We want to hear from you >>> You'll find our contact details at the end of the news sheet



In the Picture >>>

For Black History Month 2012, Lancashire County Council's Cultural Services funded a Photographic project (Changing Faces). The project's aim was to empower and 'up skill' young people in the African and Caribbean communities in Preston in photographically documenting and recording elements of their culture and communities. This involved 3 one-day workshops where we worked with young people from the Pathfinder Group at the 7th Day Adventist Church in Preston.

The young people worked alongside a professional photographer, Peter Sanders and Rick Bailey a videographer. They were trained in photography, filming and interviewing techniques and have recorded oral histories to underpin the photographs.

During the 3 days we held a Community Day where we invited members of the African and Caribbean community to join the young people and have their photographs taken, be filmed and interviewed.

This resulted in a Photographic Exhibition and a Documentary DVD which has been exhibited at the Museum of Lancashire from October 2012 to March 2013. The exhibition will then tour a variety of Cultural Service sites after its duration at the Museum of Lancashire.

These resources will be deposited in the Lancashire Archives and the North West Sound Archives creating a lasting legacy.

Gill Irvine

About Preston Black History Group >>>

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

Black History Month happens all around the world, in February worldwide but in the UK we celebrate in October, it is a longer month. Preston's Black History Month coordinating group has existed for many years. In 2010 the group decided on a vision for the future and in January 2011 Preston Black History Group appointed a committee and completed all the paperwork to enable us to be an independent group. This decision came at the right time as it was about to be a very important year in Preston City's Calendar.

The group have been very busy during 2012 with the "once a generation" Guild celebrations. When the Heritage Lottery fund announced its £10,000 fund for community Guild projects, Preston Black History Group took the opportunity to record and document the Guild stories of Preston's African and Caribbean community. History is very important as looking at history and knowing where you come from gives insight to look forward.

We began researching existing archives documenting the African and Caribbean presence in Preston. Our results were disappointing, there seemed to be little materials that we could find. In fact the North West film archives have asked us for a copy of our Guild film and other agencies have asked us for copies of pictures and sound so there are resources available in the future. The project has been fun and challenging at times and we have learned an awful lot. It has been fantastic empowering people in interviewing, filming techniques and skills and through speaking on camera about their own personal experiences. It has been really rewarding for Preston Black History Group to see the community involvement and have such a collection of histories and traditions captured in this way.

Contact us by post at
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We have discovered some interesting things through this project. The Secretary of Preston's Montserrat Association, Jonathan Pond, took a letter and a commemorative Preston Guild plate presented by our Guild Mayor, Carl Crompton, to Montserrat to present it to the premier of the island. The plate was to express appreciation for the commitment and the work of the organisation following the Volcano in Montserrat. "It was such an honour and I felt so proud to be able to present the Premier of Montserrat with the letter and the plate. They were unaware of Preston Guild and the history behind it but now we feel so much closer." Jonathan Pond.

We learned that a member of the community had created a guild song from the 1992 Guild, giving an old folk song a Caribbean twist. It can be found on you tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0prHa5LshKw>

Chair of Preston Black History Group, Clinton Smith says " It is so important that stories and memories like these are captured and document and seen by the public and to see the diverse community of Preston coming together to showcase Preston. History is so important to everyone and it should be celebrated. This project has enabled us not only to bring the community together but has uncovered some really interesting memories that need to be shared. We are so grateful for all those that have made this the success that we believe it is. Thank you to all those that have taken part in some way, whether it be through interviews or supporting the work that Preston Black History Group has done."



Coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

- Listings for Preston's Island Groups
- Jalgos 50th: share your memories
- Do you know an Inspirational Person from the community that you would like to interview?
- A new name for the news sheet
- Your Recipe?

Completing the Guild project has inspired the group to seek further funding to do a collaborative community project. We have been successful with an Awards for All bid called 'Spread the Word'. This news sheet is the start of this project.

