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*Preston Black History Group*  
*c/o Preston CVS,*  
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**The News Sheet for Preston's African Caribbean Community >>>** **Issue 4**  
**Autumn 2013**

# Have You Heard?

## **Preston's JNA Spread Good Works Around the World. >>>**

The Preston Jamaica National Association was formed in 1979 by a group of Jamaicans with many aims and objectives. We meet at Jalgos, Rose St, Preston on the second Sunday of every month at 6pm.

Since the early 1980s the group's main Charity has been the Jamaica National Children's Home in Kingston, Jamaica. Preston JNA has supported the Home over many years with fundraising and donations. The Home is privately run by the Methodist Church and relies mainly on donations and assistance from the Jamaican Government. The Association

recently completed their biggest challenge to date, by fundraising to provide the Jamaica National Children's Home with solar powered hot water system. This was made possible by five years of hard work by JNA members and with friends support. The children, especially the severely disabled, and staff can now enjoy plenty of free hot water in the Home.

JNA also recently assisted Albany Academy in Chorley, to fundraise for the purchase of a much needed photocopier for a school deep in a rural part of Jamaica. Gibraltar All Age School, Gibraltar, St Ann is sponsored by Association member Mr Earl Hibbert and his wife Joan, who made the presentation in February 2013 whilst visiting Jamaica.



*The installation of the solar powered water system to Matalon and Trueman House living quarters. Jamaica National Children's Home, Kingston, Jamaica.*



*Gibraltar students receiving the new school photocopier*

JNA also donated to many UK charities whenever possible and we thank everyone who has given support to our causes. God bless you all. Our fundraising evening at Jalgos on the 22nd Sept raised £621, proceeds going to our main charity and a donation to St Catherines Hospice, Preston.

## **Mark & Barbara Harris at Caribbean Spice >>>**

Mark and Barbara have been serving up Jamaican food in New Hall Lane, Preston for the last 15 months. Mark has lived in Preston for more than 20 years. He was born in Coventry and brought up in Jamaica returning to live with an Aunty in Preston. He says Preston has a lot more going on than Coventry. After a spell working in Holland, he and Barbara were encouraged by friends and family to make the most of Barbara's passion for cooking and open a take away restaurant. He says "everyone said we should do it, 'cos SHE CAN COOK!!!".

A friend, Allan, painted the mural on the back wall to bring Caribbean colour to New Hall Lane. Mark sources his

ingredients from Preston where possible and as far away as Birmingham where he gets drinks imported from the Caribbean to add an authentic taste to the take away meals. Barbara just loves cooking and doesn't have a favourite dish. She's been asked for "Goat Patty" and "Curry Goat Mutton" – she thinks people get a bit confused sometimes!! Mark is often asked "Is it really Goat?" and the answer is always "YES – on the bone, so you know its goat" he says it's too expensive boned and he wants his customers to have the authentic taste.

You can find them at 208 New Hall Lane, 01772 704486 and they are open every day except Monday.



## **Aise Ndiele and Delano Josephs at the A&D Lounge Bar >>>**

I met Aise Ndiele at Sticky Chops where he enthusiastically explained about his new venture with his partner Delano Josephs. Aise is originally from Manchester and graduated from UCLan last year with a degree in acting. He stayed in Preston as he thinks it offers a lot of opportunities, if you look in the right places. The A&D on Friargate, Preston is Aise and Delano's new Urban Lounge Bar bringing something different to Preston's Night Life. The bar has been open for a few weeks and

is a student friendly space. It is open Monday to Saturday till 1.30AM giving people the opportunity to relax with old style R&B and House music. During the day A&D is a wifi bar serving snacks and sandwiches.

Aise and Leroy from Sticky Chops both sponsor UCLan African Caribbean Society [www.facebook.com/UCLanSU](http://www.facebook.com/UCLanSU). ACS

A&D is at 135 Friargate, Preston 01772 111000

## **Phil Kaila and Community Help Africa/UK CIC >>>**

Community Help Africa/UK CIC is a community interest company dedicated to helping deprived people in Africa and the United Kingdom to achieve their potential through education and training. Phil Kaila, the companies CEO, is passionate about raising funds using Salsa, drumming, car washes and sponsored walks to send children to school in Choma, Zambia. It costs as little as £8.00 per year for school fees but more than £100 to outfit a child with the compulsory uniform etc. Having

(cont on following page)



## **Something to Shout About >>>**

### **Celebrating Preston's African Caribbean Business Entrepreneurs**



Alison poses with her wigs

Alison Came to Preston from Dominica in 1963 and is one of the early members of Preston's Caribbean Community. She has been in business for over 20 years, starting outside on Preston market and moving inside around 16 years ago. She runs the Island Beauty Salon upstairs in the back corner of the indoor market where she specialises in weaving and braiding all types of hair. She sells special products for African Caribbean hair and often gives hair and beauty advice. She stocks wigs for all ages. Her aim is to get a qualified hairdresser to help her with the business.

At Hat World, at the back of the upstairs indoor market, Alison stocks a wide range of hats for all occasions as well as Fancy Dress costumes. She says "come in and have a look".

Alison's customers often come to her with funny requests. One woman came looking for a black cap without a brim and explained that the one she has keeps hitting her husband in the face . . . she wears it in bed! The strangest request is for a 'wig to put under your nose' – a moustache!!! She recently had a surprise, American Rap star, Coolio, came in to have his hair braided – WOW!

## Alison James at Island Beauty Salon and Hat World >>>

**Should your Business Be Here???** Get in touch with *Preston Black History Group*, c/o Preston CVS, Units 23-27 Guildhall Arcade, Lancaster Rd, Preston PR1 1HR. [info@prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk) (news sheet contact 07772504644)

visited Zambia and seen conditions there for himself he wanted to help children get on in life, he says "We have 21 kids so far in about a year" since starting the project in August 2012. Not neglecting the younger children, Phil and the company are actively working to improve provision and access to nursery

and early years education in Choma working with Zambia's Minister of Gender and Child Development to support Early Years practitioners in the district by developing and delivering training in child development.

<http://www.communityhelpafrica.btck.co.uk/> 01772 752081



Pre-school class in Choma, Zambia

## Leroy Allen at Sticky Chops >>>

Leroy has lived all his life in Preston and started his restaurant 'Sticky Chops' Bar and Grill with his partner, Liz Knox, six months ago. They wanted to offer something a bit different to the people of Preston – HOT HOT sauces or mango and sweet, diners can customise their meals with their own choice of sauces. Leroy's speciality is chicken wing platters and sweet potato chips – unique to Preston! His strap-line on the Sticky Chops menus reads "Food & Music is Our Life" and the classy decor in the Harris corner of Miller Arcade, Preston reflects this passion with instruments and Artists all over the walls, a modern funky restaurant with

relaxing music to dine to. Leroy encourages more people from the African Caribbean community to do their own thing and is happy to help and advise people when they want to get going in business. I found him in conversation with another of Preston's African Caribbean entrepreneurs, Aise Ndiele, who opened a Bar in Friargate three weeks ago! (See article on A&D). One of Sticky Chops mottos is CHILLAX, Leroy says he wants to introduce Prestonians to a relaxed atmosphere where eating with your fingers is the business.

Contact Sticky Chops on 01772 933865 or [stickychops144@gmail.com](mailto:stickychops144@gmail.com)



# JALGOS - The Journey 1962 - 2012 >>>

Jalgos: The Journey 1962 to 2012. The Jalgos Sports & Social club is born out of our love for cricket. It started back in 1962 when a group of West Indians average around twenty got together on the park knocking a cricket ball about. As the number grew it became noticeable that there was some serious talent amongst these lads. A meeting was called by Mr Gladstone Afflick and steps were taken to join the Preston & District Cricket League and so we started to play cricket in 1963. As Jalgos W.I. Cricket Club As the team began to gain popularity more people started to take an interest in cricket. This was a big boost to our community as youngsters who would be engaged in other activities and sometimes get themselves into trouble with the police would come along and be part of this new pastime. Such was our progression we were promoted to the first division and Moor Park became our home ground. Moor Park was now transformed, as for the first time a new team have arrived and with them came supporters and they were spurring Jalgos along in vibrant colours with words of encouragement. Success breeds success and soon we had two cricket teams and a football team. Not only were we in the First and Fourth division but we had players that could challenge any team around and so we did by playing friendly matches against teams in the Palace Shield. The East Lancashire League Northern

League had some powerful teams in Birmingham, Wellingborough, Northampton, St Helen Chance Pilkington in Wales and Kirkham Prison. Our problem was that we enjoyed their kind hospitality at their grounds but were faced with the dilemma of how and where we could return the compliments to them when they visit us. The only solution was to find a place we could call our own and so the search began. In 1975 one of our members, Mr. Tommy Meade, got some inside information about this building in Rose Street and informed me and other officials about it, so we took the necessary actions. An agreement was reached with Daniel Thwaites Brewery in Blackburn and this club were bought on a mortgage and opened its doors September 1976 With all the other added indoor sports such as Darts, Pool, Don and Domino the name was changed from Jalgos West Indian Cricket Club to Jalgos Sports & Social Club. Our players now have a place they could take their wives or partners to for socialising , but sadly the Preston & District Cricket League folded in 1985 Several organizations have been formed within the club later such as The Jamaica National Association, Preston Montserrat Association, the Barbados Association, Preston Caricom, Preston African & Caribbean

Luncheon Club, Preston Senior Citizen Club and Isles in Harmony and they are all under the Jalgos Sports & Social Club Umbrella. The club membership is open to all sections of the community and caters for Weddings, Christening, Birthday Parties, Anniversaries and other events on request. With all of these new activities comes responsibility which require commitment dedication and honesty which we have found in our hard working Committee members and Volunteers. It is with their inspiration we are proud to be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. By L. Walker



A JNA Celebration at Jalgos

## Get Involved in Preston Caribbean Carnival 2014 >>>



Michael Dawkins with Isles in Harmony, Carnival 2013

Hello to you all. I'm proud to be sharing this message as the new Chairperson of the Preston Caribbean Carnival Committee (for 2014). We held our AGM on Oct 15th when I was elected. I was also a member of the 2013 committee led by Pete Stewart who did a sterling job (he really did) we all owe Pete a deal of gratitude. Preston Caribbean Carnival can only continue to

exist with the active help from the Preston AC community. In other words many, many more of us are needed to keep it alive otherwise we run the risk, a very real risk.

Many of you will be aware that Sunday 25th May 2014 will mark the 40th Anniversary of our beloved Preston Caribbean Carnival. 40 years of hard work, commitment, teamwork, loyalty and great pride in our cultural heritage. It hasn't all been smooth and positive; "Carnival isn't like it used to be, not like the old days" is what we have all said at one point or another. However, it's still very powerful and important to our community; our young people today need a strong sense of identity and

belonging just as much as we have needed it over the last 39 years.

I promise, you can do as little as you wish to help us but the more we receive the more success we will have. We will be holding public meetings which you are asked to attend; we have a fabulous website [www.prestoncarnival.com](http://www.prestoncarnival.com) and the face book group Preston Carnival. You can contact us using any one of these. We will communicate with you all on a regular basis.

Preston Caribbean Carnival 40 years young!! Be a real part of it !! Beginning with attending the Carnival Presentation Evening at Jalgos on 23rd November 7.00pm Michael Dawkins

# Carol Harris: a Passion for Food >>>

I come from two amazing cultures, Dad is Jamaican and Mum is English. It's never just been Hotpot or Roast Chicken in our house, there's also been curry goat, Ackee n Saltfish, rice n peas! Mum can cook Jamaican food just as well as Dad but Mum also experimented and sparked my interest in food and cooking. Moving to Brighton in my early twenties meant making new friends and one of the best ways to do this was to feed them. My new friends and I hosted endless dinner parties, experimenting with a different nationality's cuisine and learning about new ingredients along the way. As well as a love of cooking, I have very itchy feet. I moved to Florida to help look after my sister's pre-school boys, this provided plenty of opportunity to play with food and develop my skills. This led to working on cruise ships as the Office Manager in the Purser department, and travelling the

world for almost ten years. One of the greatest pleasures whilst working on board was exploring new places, but more importantly, trying the food! Now that I'm back in Preston with my young daughter, my greatest joy is feeding family and friends and creating new dishes that not only tantalise their taste buds but that win competitions! I was recently a runner up in ITV's Britain's Best Pie competition, and I then went on to win the BBC's One Show competition with my Jamaican Turkey Patties. In addition, I "Spiced Up Valentine's Day" for BBC Radio Lancashire and featured on their Saturday Lunchtime Favourites show, sharing my recipes with the region. I've catered events and parties where the food has ranged from BBQ, to Brazilian cuisine (yum), to Caribbean fusion...it's all good! I'm now excited to be using my

management skills, my creativity with food, and experience of the hospitality industry, with Windrush Initiatives. Our first event was a community cricket match and family day held at the Preston cricket ground. Generations of families turned up to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the Empire Windrush bringing the first influx of Caribbean immigrants to the UK. The event was such a success that my Partners, Adrian Murrell and Melissa Cartwright, and myself, will be hosting future initiatives.



## Carol's Classic Caribbean Curry Powder >>>

4 tablespoon whole coriander seeds  
2 tablespoon whole cumin seeds  
2 tablespoon mustard seeds  
3 star anise  
1 tablespoon fenugreek seeds  
1 tablespoon allspice (pimento) berries  
3 tablespoons ground turmeric

Place all the ingredients, except the turmeric, into a dry frying pan. Toast the spices over a medium heat for about 5- 6 minutes or until they colour slightly and release their aroma. Allow the spices to cool and then grind them to a powder with a pestle and mortar or use a spice grinder. Mix in the turmeric and store in an airtight container.

This recipe makes a mild, aromatic curry powder and does not contain any heat. Cayenne pepper can be added for a hotter version but traditionally Scotch Bonnet peppers are used for heat in Caribbean food, they impart a wonderful flavour and aroma as well as being fiery!

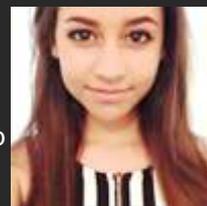
## Caroline's Prize Winning Photo >>>

In July 2013 I was fortunate enough to visit Iceland, a country with masses of geological interest. I went with the GCSE Geography group from my school, Archbishop Temple. During our five day trip we visited many fascinating places and attractions such as Reykjavik (the capital centre of Iceland), geysers, hotspots, many waterfalls and various other places. After tea, during first day in Iceland we went for a walk down the stretch alongside the sea. As we stopped to take in the breathtaking view I seized the opportunity to capture the strange site of British garden flowers, lupins, growing along the shore line. On my return to school it was announced that there was to be a competition for four of the best photos taken in Iceland. I entered three of many photographs



and was absolutely delighted that I won one of the categories but even better my "Lupin Meets Sea" photograph was awarded the overall winner. In assembly a few weeks after I was awarded with the photograph; enlarged and framed.

Caroline Dawkins aged 15, year 11 at Archbishop Temple School





Creole Day is held all over the Island on the last Friday before Independence. This is by far the most colourful day on the Island. The traditional outfit is worn on that day by everyone. The girls wear a "jupe," the

women wear a "robe dwiyet" and the men wear black pants, white shirt and a red sash around the waist. If one does not have all the ingredients, then substitutes can be found - straw hats or anything with a floral pattern



## Island News >>>

In the last weekend in October 25th-28th, Dominica held its annual WORLD CREOLE MUSIC FESTIVAL now in its 17th year the festival held over 3 nights celebrates the music of the islands showcasing the best in Caribbean music from Jamaica to Trinidad, Barbados to Haiti and of course Dominica. Artists who performed this year Michel Montano, Triple K, Carimi, Busy Signal, Patrice Roberts, Kassav, Ziggy Marley WCK and many more

Where you there? Let us know send in a review we would love to hear from you.



## Celebrating Dominica's Independence >>>

November 3rd 1978 Dominica gained its Independence from the UK. This year Dominica celebrates 35 years of independence, with Celebration being held all over the Islands. Parades, cultural singing and dancing are some of the activities planned. Up and down the UK dances to celebrate will be taking place.

- **National Dress** - The Wob Dwiyet is the centrepiece of this stunning costume and is widely worn.
- **Jing Ping** - Our traditional music, it is formally known as the Accordion Band and features the

Bamboo Flute, the Boom Boom (a long bamboo wind instrument), the Gwaj (an idiophone) and of course the Accordion.

- **National Dance** - Our Quadrille and Bele dances evoke a time of elegance but with a distinct Caribbean flavour.

- **Market Day with A Difference** - Our markets are generally a riot of colour, but at Independence they embrace the mood. Each week at one market around the island vendors will dress in national costume, and Jing Ping will be playing!



## LEISURE >>>

**Being self-sufficient, an allotment holder, or plotter as the case may be.**

Having a leisure garden is a great past time, you are your own boss and you work at your own pace. Do not be put off by the word leisure, it's hard graft digging, weeding and bringing on tender plants ready for sowing, although the preparation is hard, the rewards are great. Don't be downhearted, plotting has its down sides as you are battling with the elements and the bugs

that will destroy your crops, nature is a battle of uncertainties.

You will get plenty of exercise, fresh air and community spirit is great, it's like being part of a family. Having an allotment and being self-sufficient, but not totally so, the season is short, but the joy of watching your plants grow from tiny seedlings you so carefully nurtured to maturity is sheer pleasure. then the proud moment comes, when you lift or dig your first potato or harvest your cabbage, the delight of tasting the rich flavour of strawberries, you are able to

grow what you wish within the legal limits.

The season is short and there's always seasoned plot holders always willing to offer advice on how and where to plant to get the best results, although there's plenty of tips and ideas from media sources available. There is also the friendly banter and a cup of tea or coffee with other plot holders, in saying that plotting is rewarding and can be a source of fun. Try it you might like it, good planting.

Burgess Jay Barrow

# Tropical Rhythms: BHM at the Harris >>>

Anke dje, anke be.  
Come together,  
Come together in Peace  
We came together  
At the Preston Discovery Gallery  
We came together  
And made Djembe  
We came together  
And sang to the Mento beat  
We came together  
To celebrate Black History.

The Preston Discovery Gallery at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery was alive with tropical rhythms on Saturday 12th October at the first of their Black History Month events. Over 20 people of all ages took

part in a music-based workshop. They were able to learn some of the history of the Djembe and Kalimba African Thumb Piano and hear a range of African and Caribbean music. They even had a go at singing some Caribbean folk songs.

They learnt how the djembefola believe that each Djembe has its own individual unique spirit, which gives each Djembe its distinct voice. The belief the spirit of the tree from which the wooden base of the Djembe is made, the spirit of the animal whose skin was used and the spirit of the craftsman who makes the Djembe combine

within the Djembe giving it its own form or spirit.

All the participants were able to make and take home their own Djembe drum made from paper cups and balloons or a hand shaker instrument.

Susanna



Participants make Djembe at the Harris

## What's going on @ Jalgos >>>

### NOVEMBER

- 9th Nov Dun Night with Government Sound
- 16th Nov 7.30pm Jalgos 50th Celebration party
- 23rd Nov 7.30pm Carnival Presentation Night

### DECEMBER

- 1st Dec 4pm Senior Citizens Xmas Dinner, this occasion is free of charge, persons wishing to attend must book in advance c/o Mr George Afflick at Jalgos
- 8th Dec 4pm Jamaica National Members and friends Xmas Dinner. Tickets £20.00 inc 3 course meal, disco and entertainment.
- 25th & 26th Closed
- 31st Dec New Years Eve Party.

### YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CELEBRATE JALGOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1963 TO 2013

Date: 16th Nov 13.  
Time: 7.30 AT  
Jalgos Sports & Social Club, Rose st, Preston  
PR1 3XY



Come and Celebrate Jalgos 50th Anniversary and make it a Night to Remember  
Music by your Host DJ Bobby G & DJ Silky from Manchester  
Pas from Abelwell Foundation Band (Midlands)

### JALGOS

FREE ADMISSION  
MEALS WILL BE ON SALE  
DRESS CODE. SMART



## Puzzle Answers for 'Have You Heard' Issues 2 and 3 >>>

### "National Dishes" from the islands >>>

SEKAB DEIRF  
N E P U  
K P T R C O S  
C M A C  
I I O C  
H R G C A L L O U A  
C H D U C A N O L E  
S D E H  
N I E S H E  
A U R O T U O H W  
T N R O R Y G S R C  
N O R E B O  
U C C C O H O B L O P O T  
O O O I L D O W N  
M C E L E B E B  
S H A R K A N D B A K E  
S E L B U O D  
C O N C H C U R R Y

### Mixed up Stars >>>

|    |                     |                    |
|----|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1  | MICROSUET           | TOM CRUISE         |
| 2  | FIND LIFE RACE LAD  | DANIEL RADCLIFFE   |
| 3  | DISLOCATE TOWN      | CLINT EASTWOOD     |
| 4  | RAJAH NOT VOLT      | JOHN TRAVOLTA      |
| 5  | CHEETAHS PROWL RINK | CHRISTOPHER WALKEN |
| 6  | CHINCHILLA REAP     | CHARLIE CHAPLIN    |
| 7  | A HERALD LAUNDRY    | LAUREL AND HARDY   |
| 8  | NO BARMAN LORD      | MARLON BRANDO      |
| 9  | REALLY HERB         | HALLE BERRY        |
| 10 | OCEANIC GALLS       | NICHOLAS CAGE      |
| 11 | DO ON BALLROOM      | ORLANDO BLOOM      |
| 12 | NIL NACHOS LOCK     | JACK NICHOLSON     |
| 13 | HOT HAMBURG PREY    | HUMPHREY BOGART    |
| 14 | RENOWN DAIRY        | WINONA RYDER       |
| 15 | RENAME MAN FROG     | MORGAN FREEMAN     |
| 16 | GRINDING AMBER      | INGRID BERGMAN     |
| 17 | NYLON DAHLIAS       | LINDSAY LOHAN      |
| 18 | MASTER WAS JET      | JAMES STEWART      |
| 19 | THY LEAKIER KING    | KIERA KNIGHTLEY    |
| 20 | SPHON INTO KHAN     | ANTHONY HOPKINS    |
| 21 | CLEARLY KEG         | GRACE KELLY        |
| 22 | WILL USE CRIB       | BRUCE WILLIS       |
| 23 | WANTS A MEMO        | EMMA WATSON        |
| 24 | MERRY WARDROBE      | DREW BARRYMORE     |
| 25 | FINDS A HORROR      | HARRISON FORD      |

### Caribbean Islands >>>

|    | X  | Word       | X Y | Direction |
|----|--|------------|-----|-----------|
| 1  | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | ANGUILLA   | 6   | 9 n       |
| 1  | 1  | ANTIGUA    | 1   | 9 n       |
| 1  | 1  | ARUBA      | 11  | 16 sw     |
| 2  | 1  | BAHAMAS    | 11  | 17 e      |
| 3  | 1  | BARBADOS   | 11  | 16 w      |
| 4  | 1  | BARBUDA    | 18  | 12 n      |
| 4  | 1  | BERMUDA    | 18  | 12 s      |
| 5  | 1  | CUBA       | 4   | 16 se     |
| 6  | 1  | CUBACAO    | 2   | 20 e      |
| 7  | 1  | DOMINICA   | 1   | 18 n      |
| 8  | 1  | GRENADA    | 6   | 7 ne      |
| 8  | 1  | GRENADINES | 15  | 16 w      |
| 9  | 1  | GUADELOUPE | 15  | 15 n      |
| 10 | 1  | NEVIS      | 6   | 7 w       |
| 11 | 1  | GUYANA     | 9   | 9 w       |
| 11 | 1  | HISPANIOLA | 10  | 9 n       |
| 12 | 1  | HONDURAS   | 4   | 11 ne     |
| 13 | 1  | JAMAICA    | 12  | 11 n      |
| 14 | 1  | MARTINIQUE | 11  | 11 w      |
| 14 | 1  | MONSTERRAT | 10  | 11 w      |
| 15 | 1  | NEVIS      | 10  | 11 s      |
| 15 | 1  | PUERTORICO | 11  | 11 w      |
| 16 | 1  | REDONDA    | 13  | 13 n      |
| 17 | 1  | STKITTS    | 11  | 10 n      |
| 18 | 1  | STLUCIA    | 9   | 11 s      |
| 19 | 1  | STVINCENT  | 9   | 11 sw     |
| 19 | 1  | TOBAGO     | 1   | 19 s      |
| 20 | 1  | TRINIDAD   | 8   | 11 sw     |

# Preston Black History Group >>>

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



## A Strike and a Stabbing: Preston 1897 >>>

Hiram Stokes was a black American in Preston in 1897. He wound up in Preston Prison after a fracas outside the Wheatsheaf Inn on Water Lane, and that's the only reason we know he was here.

Many port towns and cities had substantial black populations by the late 1800s, a result of the merchant trade depositing sailors from around the globe in places where they could pick up work. Dock work has always been strike-prone, and Preston proved no exception. On a Saturday evening in August 1897 a group of strikers congregated outside the Wheatsheaf, not far from the dock itself. They spotted Hiram and started throwing stones at him. 30 strikers and one frightened stranger in town. Perhaps it's no surprise that the pigeon-pouting led to bloodshed, when Hiram sliced open Peter Feron's throat. Stokes fled up Fylde Road, shouting threats at the angry mob. It may have been for his own protection that PC Levi Corless arrested him. The incident attracted quite a lot of press coverage, detailed accounts appearing in the Liverpool Mercury and Preston's

Lancashire Evening Post. It's only in these two that the colour of Hiram Stokes's skin is mentioned. There is no suggestion that the incident had any racial overtones. It's also interesting that to the Liverpool paper Hiram Stokes was a "negro", but to the Preston paper he was "coloured". Neither account mentions that Hiram was American. The prison register, at Lancashire Archives, also states that Hiram was 36, a Baptist, and five feet five inches tall. His complexion is not recorded there, nor in the trial accounts. Sometimes the records are no

**THE PRESTON STABBING CASE.**—Yesterday, at Preston, Hiram Stokes, 36, a negro, was charged on remand with unlawfully wounding Peter Feron, a coal carrier at the Preston Docks. The case arose out of the recent dock strike at Preston. Feron was one of the strikers, and Stokes had been working during the strike. From the evidence of several witnesses it appeared that on Saturday, August 7, as Stokes was passing a group of the strikers, someone threw a stone at him. Feron then went up to him and said, "Well, blackleg, are you leaving the town?" Stokes then pushed Feron, and on the latter retreating Stokes drew a knife, stabbed Feron in the throat, and ran away. He was arrested before he had gone very far, by Police-constable Corless, to whom he said, "I have stabbed a man. Here is the knife; take it, and take me." Feron, who lost a good deal of blood, is still an in-patient at the infirmary. Dr. Murray, who dressed the wound, said it was five inches long, had severed one of the jugular veins, and only just missed the carotid artery. The wound was a very dangerous one, and had it not been promptly attended to Feron would probably have bled to death.—The mate of the vessel on which prisoner had been working said that on the day prior to the occurrence a number of the strike hands threatened to "do" for prisoner if he continued working.—Prisoner was committed to take his trial at Preston tomorrow.

*Liverpool Mercury, 17 August 1897*

help when you're trying to write black history! At his trial the jury acquitted Hiram of malicious wounding: perhaps given the aggravating circumstances they sympathised with his reaction to the situation. I suspect, however, that if Peter Feron hadn't recovered – as he did - Hiram would have been in deep trouble. Hiram hasn't been found in any other local records, so it's impossible to say what happened to him after his release. Many Hiram Stokeses appear in American records, so unless a descendant comes forward his story for the moment has no proper ending.

Neil Sayer, Lancashire Archives

## Preston Black History Group AGM >>>

Tuesday 12th November  
6.30pm at Jalgos Sports and Social Club, Rose St, Preston  
**Come along and Join us - All Welcome**

**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](http://www.prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk) and find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/prestonblackhistorygroup](http://www.facebook.com/prestonblackhistorygroup)**

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

Preston Black History Group

c/o Preston CVS,

Units 23-27 Guildhall Arcade, Lancaster Rd, Preston PR1 1HR

[info@prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@prestonblackhistorygroup.org.uk)

07772504644 (news sheet contact number)

**Do you know someone who would like a copy? We produce a limited number of printed copies so please give us email addresses if possible.**

