

The Royal Borough of  
Kensington and Chelsea,  
and the City of Westminster  
present the exhibition



City of Westminster



# WINDRUSH GENERATION UNSUNG HEROES

An exhibition  
celebrating  
the Windrush  
Generation



**North Kensington Library**  
June 22 2022 - October 28 2022

**Queen's Park Library**  
June 22 2022 - July 30 2022



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Sundial honouring the Windrush Generation in the parish garden of St John, Kensal Green. Installed in with the support of Westminster City Council, August 2020.



Green plaque honouring the Windrush Generation installed in the Clock Tower archway of Paddington Station by the WCC Black Asian and Multiple Ethnicity Staff Network on Windrush Day, 22 June 2021.



# Note from our Leaders

**T**he vibrant cultural tapestry of this borough was built by the soldiers, teachers, artists, and nurses who came to here to help rebuild a nation ravaged by war. They overcame discrimination in finding housing and fair employment in order to play an essential role in the transportation industry, the establishment of the NHS and other key areas. The Notting Hill Carnival may be their most visual legacy, but our community also owes them a great deal for their contribution to politics, music, food and so much more.

This booklet is a chance to honour the contributions of the West Indians who lived, worked and raised families here. Kensington and Chelsea is proud of our ties with the Caribbean community and the Windrush generation, and glad that even after all these years, we remain open to all.



## Cllr Elizabeth Campbell

Leader for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea



**I**t is a real privilege to have hosted the Unsung Heroes exhibition in Westminster this summer, as part of a series of events commemorating the men and women of the Windrush Generation who came to Britain to make this country their home and to put Britain back together after the destruction of war. Their legacy is, in part, some of the wonderful communities that we have in Westminster today, which is why we take every opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the rich contribution that all communities make to our City.

I will always feel a sense of deep shame that so many of those who helped rebuild our country have had to go through a long and protracted process to feel secure in this country. That their immigration status was called into question and that such a high burden of proof was placed upon them will remain a blemish on this country's history, and the fight for their rights is not yet over for many.

Westminster Council stands in solidarity with its residents who were impacted by the Windrush scandal and will continue to advocate for justice.

## Cllr Adam Hug

Leader for Westminster City Council

# Note from the Unsung Heroes sponsors

## Kensington and Chelsea Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Team

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has decades of close ties with the Caribbean community. Therefore, it was highly important for us to support this positive initiative. Recognising the contributions that Black Africans and Caribbean people have made to the borough, in the form of an exhibition, commemorates and honours the Windrush legacy.

Shining the spotlight on the lives and experiences of everyday heroes such as doctors, nurses, soldiers, politicians and athletes, who came to Great Britain between 1948 and 1970, to aid the restoration of the country, following the devastations of World War II, ensures we value and appreciate those contributions, as well as acknowledging black history.

## Westminster City Council Diversity & Inclusion Team

We are so grateful to recognise the tremendous contribution of our Windrush Generation to the development of Britain. Let us not forget it was not an easy journey. It has been our pleasure to work collaboratively with our Westminster Windrush residents and their families on a range of initiatives to set in stone their legacy. They are simply heroes.

## Westminster City Council Black, Asian and Multiple Ethnic Network



The WCC Black, Asian and Multiple Ethnic staff (who form the Global Majority) network welcome staff representatives from all groups within society as we know that together we are strong and divided we fall. Therefore, we work together to eradicate prejudice, inequality and improve the chances of those currently under-represented in senior leadership, and support those within Westminster City Council who feel they need direction to contribute to this organisation becoming much more inclusive whatever their role is.

It is crucially important as we acknowledge the contribution of the Windrush generation and their descendants that we learn the lessons and as an organisation we do all we can for our staff and communities to ensure our Westminster is an organisation, a city where everyone is treated with equal dignity and respect by others and are included so that we all can feel part of one society, unified and not divided.

WCC Black, Asian and Multiple Ethnic staff (who form the Global Majority) network will continue to drive the equality agenda within Westminster by working with the organisation in celebrating diversity, championing inclusion and advance to wellbeing of staff irrespective of their ethnic origins or their cultural alignment.

The network applauds the immense contribution from our Windrush stalwarts in our community, those who served our Westminster and beyond with their tireless dedication to public services and this booklet aptly entitled Unsung Heroes really is an ode to them. We stand on your shoulders. We are because you did.

# Introduction

The Caribbean archipelago is a series of 700 islands, islets, reefs and cays throughout the Caribbean Sea spanning Florida to Venezuela, but also includes the mainland nations of Belize, Guyana and Suriname. The islands' indigenous people were the Tainos, Guanahatabeyes, Arawaks, and Caribs. During the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the islands became a gateway for the trafficking of gold, silver and gems from Mexico and South America. The Caribbean islands also became the port of destination for the approximately 80 million souls trafficked from West Africa into chattel slavery.

For five hundred years, the Transatlantic Slave Trade brought riches out of the Americas and into Europe. In the 1800's, the abolition of slavery created a workforce vacuum. Labourers from South and East Asia, some Muslim and others Hindu, were brought to the Caribbean to work the fields, known as indentured labourers. Over the course of the next 100 years, the Caribbean islands also served as a sanctuary to West Asian Jews from Syria and Ashkenazi Jews from Europe.



Arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush.  
 This print celebrates those who came to our church, St John's of Kensal Green.  
 Kindly loaned by The Parish of St. John, Kensal Green



This triptych icon is the first to represent the Windrush Generation in this form.  
 Kindly loaned by The Parish of St. John, Kensal Green.

This mix of indigenous Caribbean people, Europeans, West Africans and Asians created a unique and diverse cultural fusion known for a variety of music, food and languages, which was brought to Britain with the Windrush Generation.

While the people of the Caribbean have been arriving in Britain dating back to the Tudor period, the Windrush Generation marked an arrival en masse. Accepting an invitation from the British Government to rebuild a war-torn nation, the Windrush Generation, many of whom served the Crown in World War II, accepted the call to action and arrived with their strength, skills, hopes and dreams.

The definition of the 'Windrush Generation' is broad and does not only relate to those who arrived in 1948 aboard the ship HMT Empire Windrush. Rather, the term has expanded to encapsulate the thousands of men, women and children who left the Caribbean for Britain from the late 1940s to the early 1970s. They were encouraged by the 1948 British Nationality Act that granted citizenship and right of abode in the UK to all members of the British Empire. However, the term can also be used to encompass the many men and women of Caribbean origin who settled in the UK before 1948, having served in the British Armed Forces during WWII.

The exhibition *Unsung Heroes* brings to light just some contributions, both great and small, made by the Windrush Generation who came to build lives in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and The City of Westminster.

# World War II



Ψ Walter Tull (28 April 1888 – 25 March 1918)  
Kindly loaned by The Parish of St. John, Kensal Green

**T**hough Walter Tull lived and died long before World War II, he undoubtedly inspired the Windrush Generation to follow in his footsteps.

Tull was of English and Barbadian descent. He was the first black outfield professional football player to feature in the English top flight, and played for Tottenham Hotspurs. Tull was one of the first black men to hold a high rank in the British armed forces, as Second Lieutenant of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment during World War I.

Tull was killed in action during the First Battle of the Bapaume, France, 1918. His earthly remains were never recovered making him an eligible candidate for the Unknown Warrior entombed in Westminster Abbey.

# World War II

Caribbean women and men seeking to enlist in the British Army often faced official resistance. Nevertheless, over 5,000 served in the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom. Others made their way to the United States or Canada to enlist. While a few soldiers from Britain served in the Caribbean, the colonies were primarily defended by the local forces. Because of shortages of shipping and obstacles placed by the War Office, Caribbean troops were only transferred to Europe in large numbers in the final months of the war. In 1939, the Trinidad Royal Navy volunteer reserve was formed, recruiting from all over the British Caribbean. After training, the men were transferred to merchant ships, minesweepers and layers and harbour craft. As the majority of these volunteers served below decks in the engine rooms, casualties were high.

Excerpt from *The Caribbean at War: The British West Indies in World War II*, The North Kensington Community Series No.5, pg. 22

## The Royal Air Force

In 1939, the population of the Caribbean stood at less than three million people. From this, a total of 6,000 Black Caribbean men volunteered [not conscripted] for the RAF, 5,500 serving as ground staff and some 450 as aircrew. Another 80 women joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). The largest Caribbean contingent came from Jamaica, and in February 1945 there were over 3,700 Jamaicans in air force blue. Of the 450 Black volunteers that flew with Bomber, Fighter, Coastal and Flying Training Commands, over 150 were killed.

Excerpt from *Pilots of the Caribbean: Volunteers of African Heritage in the RAF* provided by kind permission of the Trustees, RAF Museum.

### Enlisted in the RAF or RAFVR

African Colonies	60
Bahamas	385
Bahrain and Seychelles	5
Barbados	132
Bermuda	78
British Guiana	272
British Honduras	40
Ceylon	62
Cyprus	10
Falkland Islands	20
Fiji Islands	30
Gibraltar	10
Hong Kong	6
Jamaica	3,720
Leeward Islands and Westward Islands	80
Malta	1,450
Mauritius	128
Palestine and Egypt	2,500
Straits Settlements	600
Trinidad	146
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,734</b>



## RT Hon Sam King MBE

 Jamaican and Mayor of Southwark

Photo of RT Hon Sam King  
MBE

**S**am King was born in Portland, Jamaica in 1926. In 1944, at the age of 18, Sam responded to an ad placed in a Jamaican newspaper to join the Royal Air Force. He served as an engineer and fought for the Crown in WWII. After the war ended, he answered the call from the British Government to rebuild Britain.

Sam was one of 802 Caribbean passengers who disembarked the famed HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks, June 22, 1948, and made Southwark his home in Britain. In 1955, Sam took a role as a postman in Waterloo. Though, he first applied to be a Metropolitan Police officer but was rejected based on his race.

In the face of racial discrimination, Sam was instrumental in the development of key resources which served the Caribbean community. The West Indian Gazette: Afro-Asian-Caribbean News was Britain's first major Black newspaper, which Sam helped Claudia Jones launch, as circulation manager in 1958. Later, in 1996, Sam co-founded the Windrush Foundation along with Arthur Torrington CBE.

Sam became first black Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark, from 1983-84. HM Queen Elizabeth II appointed Sam a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1998, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Windrush Day.

Sam became  
first black Mayor  
of the London  
Borough of  
Southwark, from  
1983-84.

More about the life, challenges and triumphs are detailed in his autobiography, *Climbing Up the Rough Side of the Mountain*. Sam was also featured in the RAF exhibition *Pilots of the Caribbean*, Southwark Council awarded him 'Freedom of the Borough' and named a road in his honour, Sam King Way.

Today, Sam's nephew, Frank Hamilton serves as Strategic Commissioner, Adult Social Care, for Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster.

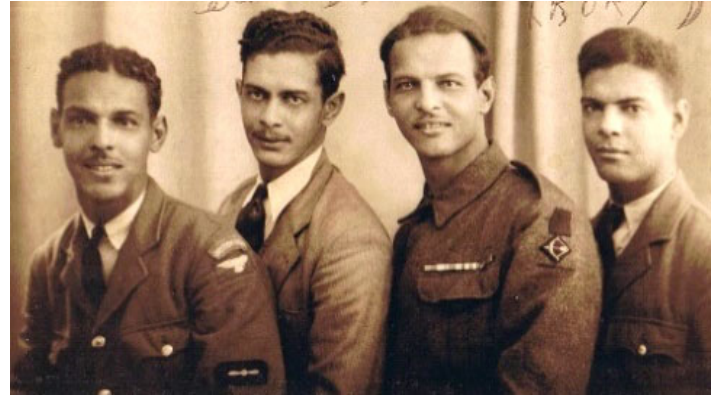


## Rory Westmaas

 Guyanese and Architect

In 1939, when the Second World War started, Richard Owen (Rory) Westmaas was living in Guyana, where he was born. Guyana, a British colony, was mobilised in defence of the mother country. All seven of Rory's brothers joined various forces either at home or abroad. At the age of 14, Rory lied about his age and signed up for the Royal Air Force. He served in WWII, stationed in England.

After the war Rory, travelled throughout Europe and studied Architecture at the Brixton School of Building. While studying, Rory along with two other students, Courage Togobo from Ghana and Kuok Choo Soo from Malaya, entered a blind competition in the Evening Standard to redesign Piccadilly Circus. They won!



Rory Westmaas (far right) pictured in his Royal Air Force uniform with his brothers David, Donald and Dennis.

Rory went on to become a member of the RIBA, a Professor of Architecture, a town planner, a political activist (of frequent CIA and MI6 interest), a saxophone player (with perfect pitch), a carpenter, a sculptor, a painter, a writer, a magician, a husband and father.

Rory's nephew, Rod Westmaas, once worked for Westminster City Council as a hospitality manager.

## Courage Togobo

## Rory Westmaas

## Kuok Choo Soo

 Courage Togobo (Ghana), Rory Westmaas (Guyana) and Kuok Choo Soo (Malaya) pictured with their 1961 winning design of Piccadilly Circus.



Articles depicting the winning 1961 Piccadilly Circus design by Rory Westmaas (Guyana), Courage Togobo (Ghana) and Kuok Choo Soo (Malaysia). Kindly loaned by Westminster City Council Archives. ▼

THE BUILDER February 10 1961 257

gness which is so essential can only be made when all three work together in unison.

WM. NICOL [I.B.E., B.Sc. FRIB].  
Chairman, Education Committee, Scottish National Building Trades Federation (Employers), 659-667 Pollokshaws-road, Glasgow, S1.

The Puzzling Bradshaw and Gass Partners

SIR,—Many must have been puzzled by the diversity of names and punctuation over a period of about eighty years in the styles of this well-known firm of architects of Bolton, Lancs., and especially by the apparently conflicting terms 'Bradshaw and Gass', 'Bradshaw, Gass and Hope' (with comma), and the same without comma. Is the Gass in the last the same as in the two former, for instance? The problem, having haunted the undersigned for many years, has now had to be resolved; after some lengthy information kindly sent at his request by

Mr. Arthur H. Hope, ARIBA, a present partner, the following facts emerge. The original partner was a Bradshaw, viz. Jonas James; the second, a nephew and doubtless forenamed after him, was John Bradshaw Gass, the partnership (founded 1880) being thus correctly named 'Bradshaw and Gass'. When Arthur John Hope joined the firm in 1903 the form naturally became 'Bradshaw, Gass and Hope' with the comma; but in or after 1912, the year that J. J. Bradshaw died, J. Bradshaw Gass—possibly, though this is uncertain—to express his own christian name preferred to omit the comma. Unfortunately, published sources greatly confuse this sequence.

This is a complex question solved, and it seemed right to make the facts generally known.

Yours faithfully,  
W. NICOL WORTH ROBERTS,  
Wallington.

W. Kenyon with considerable interest and enjoyment. They bring back some very happy memories, and I suggest that if ever Mr. Kenyon wishes to change his profession, he would make a first-class author.

I can assure him that what he has written in his article 'Site Meals' in 'The Builder' of January 27, is still true today, especially on the site where I am employed at present. There is no canteen as such, just the usual hot, and the mouth-watering odours that issue forth of frying steak, bacon, sausage, etc., always make me linger.

As an ex-bricklayer, now in the exalted position of clerk of works, I am not invited to this feast and regrettably I pass on to eat in solitude and loneliness—in the 'Office'—the usual packed lunch.

JOHN MILLAR,  
81 Northumbria-road,  
Maidenhead,  
Berks.

Site Meals

SIR,—I have been reading the series on 'More Everyday Things' by Mr. Arthur

**Competition Result**

**Replanning of Piccadilly Circus**

Assessors: E. MAXWELL FRY, CBE, FRIBA; EDWARD D. MILLS, CBE, FRIBA; NOEL MOFFETT, BARCH, ARIBA, AMTPI

PICCADILLY CIRCUS architectural competition sponsored by the Evening News Star and open to students of architecture and planning, has been won by K. C. Soo, C. K. Togobo and R. Westmaas, c/o Britton School of Building (entry No. 34, premium £300). Second Prize (entry No. 16, premium £200) was awarded to Julian F. Hannam and J. L. N. Pegrum, The Avenue, Bristol 9. Third Prize (entry No. 10, premium £100) was awarded to G. B. Noble and Shirley E. Noble, Palsley, SW15. Highly commended certificates were awarded to Edward Hardy Jnr. (entry No. 4); Terence Charles Stewart (entry No. 27); Digby C. Bridges and Anthony Evans (entry No. 35); Terence Jenkins and Peter Ellenthorpe (entry No. 43).

Assessors' Report

Scheme No. 34 (winning design) appeared to us to be the most comprehensive of the schemes submitted. It satisfactorily solves the problems of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, while creating an environment which would perpetuate the character of Piccadilly Circus. The scale is appropriate throughout, and the placing of the dominant elements is particularly fitting. The scheme offers a variety of experience both architectural and social. The handling of advertisements, detached from buildings, is to be highly commended. The scheme is based on a very thorough analysis of conditions.

Scheme No. 16 (placed second). This sophisticated scheme offers an acceptable traffic solution and caters exceptionally well for pedestrians. The buildings, though in scale with surrounding buildings, are not very suitable for Piccadilly

Circus, and are reminiscent of a university complex with a high measure of open and garden space. The presentation throughout is of the highest standard. The traffic solution is well integrated with that of the West End in general.

Scheme No. 10 (placed third) is a bold and imaginative solution, but lacks a sense of place and is physically unrelated to surrounding property. The major traffic premise is perhaps questionable, but the scheme's dual faults are a lack of identification and undistinguished placing of buildings. The idea of dealing with advertising signs behind louvred screens is a good one.

Winners' Report

Aim: To create a civic core fully integrated with the work and life of the people in keeping with the demands of this area. Problem: Inadequacy of roads—i.e. the domination of the Circus by vehicular traffic. Solution: segregation of vehicular from pedestrian traffic.

Vehicular traffic: increased volume accommodated in greatly widened roads in a one-way system—no disruption of traffic system outside area. Pedestrian traffic: access to piazza from Coventry Street unimpeded by vehicular traffic. Piazza a natural climax to Regent-street quadrant and to Piccadilly as well as to populous pedestrian way from Trafalgar-square through to Leicester-square, Coventry-street and Piccadilly-circus.

Advertising: a system of back protection in clusters on obelisks and pylons and on specially designed end walls to accommodate: plot ratio for all sites 1,558,000 sq. ft.; accommodation pulled down 1,693,000 sq. ft.; accommodation

provided 1,508,000 sq. ft.

The design is based on the closest adherence to the limitations imposed by conditions existing in the area. Traffic routes, vehicular and pedestrian, subways, main sewers, gas and water mains and ground levels have all exerted their discipline in the final scheme. Also, in the development of the design close attention was paid to the proposals of the LCC for the redevelopment of sites in the area.

The design is an architectural composition of basically three elements—linked office blocks, restaurant and hotel resting on a podium which houses a theatre, cinemas, exhibition halls, banqueting halls, offices, shops, kiosks, department stores, public houses, clubs, car parks, etc., as well as an all-night Post Office, all-night chemist and all-night café.

Traffic solution: (a) underpass from Shaftesbury-avenue to Norris-street; (b) widening of Norris-street; (c) Eros shifted into pedestrian concourse; (d) Denman-street realigned; (e) Rupert & Oxendon streets 'no through roads.' One way traffic maintained, capacity increased. Coventry-street a level paved pedestrian way to concourse or piazza. Wide subways with shops link surrounding pavements with concourse. Vehicles take passages to service cores via service roads from underpass. Headroom—14 ft. Vehicles leave site via ramps up to Norris-street and to Oxendon-street.

Car parking: semi-automatic car park north podium—438 cars; basement area main podium east of underpass—100 cars; basement area north podium—200 cars; basement area main podium to Norris-street—150 cars; hotel car park with link to public car park—50 cars.

**Piccadilly Circus Competition**

Other parking facilities:  
Lex Garage—multi-storey, self parking, corner of Lexington and Brewer-streets.  
Taxi cabs: Carlton-street converted into a Cab Rank for 24 cars.

Second Prize-winners' Report

Traffic circulation: by amalgamating all existing basements, a new ground level is obtained 20 ft. 0 in. below existing ground level which can be inclusively used for through roads, service roads and two-storey car parking, and three when there is a pedestrian deck, thus leaving the pedestrian at ground level. This system could be applied throughout London, because in using this basement level which already exists for roads, the existing road level becomes in effect a pedestrian deck.

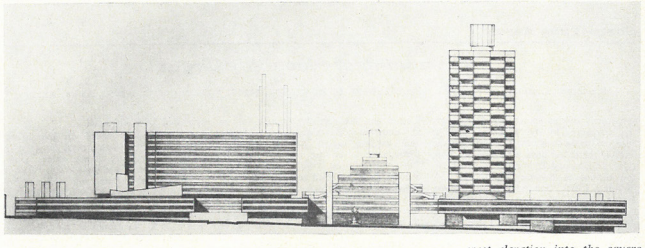
This being so, it would appear to be simpler and more logical to lower the existing roads than to have to raise pedestrians and buildings up to first floor level. Two-level pedestrian circulation, when it is desired in large central areas like Piccadilly, is then easily catered for.

Third Prize-winners' Report

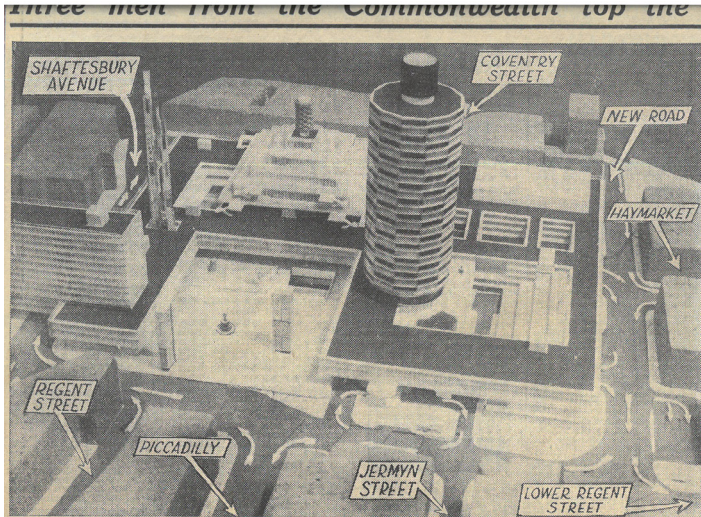
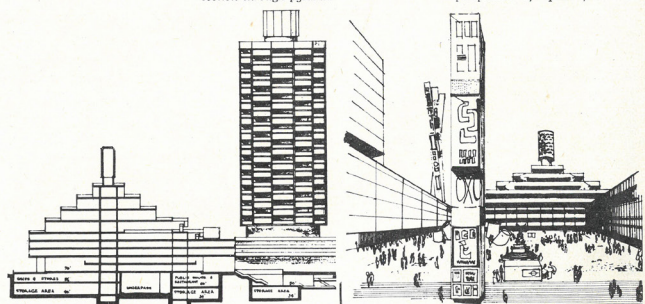
The road system provides two major through roads and a ring road for local traffic. The east-west fly-over links the LCC Park-lane improvement scheme, via Piccadilly, with a re-aligned Shaftesbury-avenue and the City. The north-south through road links Trafalgar-square, via Lower Regent-street with Great Portland-street. Both these roads have 3 traffic lanes in each direction and an overall width of 80 ft. Access to them will be outside the immediate area of Piccadilly.

The ring road passes under the east-west fly-over and over the north-south through road and links Coventry-street, Piccadilly and the lower part of Shaftesbury-avenue, and is intended for use by buses, taxis, service vehicles and other local traffic. It is a 3-lane road, giving access to buildings and multi-storey parking garages. (Traffic flow is one way in a clockwise direction.) But loading and unloading bays and taxi ranks are provided at intervals.

Pedestrian circulation is by a linked system of footways, subways, bridges, arcades and precincts provided for pedestrians, allowing them freedom of access to all the buildings and Underground Station without having to cross roads directly. Access from one level to another is by escalator, stairway, ramp or lift.



WINNING DESIGN BY K. C. SOO, C. K. TOGOBO and R. WESTMAAS



Three men from the Commonwealth top the Evening News Star contest for...  
EVENING NEWS 9/12/1961

# PEPPING UP PICCADILLY

On this page are pictures of the top three winning plans for Piccadilly. These models and other highly commended schemes will be on show at the Building Centre in Store-street, Holborn, from February 23 to March 11. There you will be able to see some of the many and varied ideas for the future of Piccadilly which were submitted in this contest.

THE second prize of £200 goes to Julian Hannam, of The Avenue, Bristol, and John Pegrum, of Kennington-road, Bath.

The assessors said of their plan: "This sophisticated scheme offers an acceptable traffic solution and caters exceptionally well for pedestrians."

The buildings, though in scale with surrounding buildings, are not very suitable for Piccadilly-circus, and are reminiscent of a university complex with a high measure of open and garden space.

"The presentation throughout is of the highest standard. The traffic solution is well integrated with that of the West End in general."

Bearded 21-year-olds John Pegrum and Julian Hannam are both in their fifth year at the West of England Academy of Architecture, Bristol.

THEIR SCHEME envisages the new Piccadilly-circus as the starting point in a vast development, expanding towards and incorporating Leicester-square, Cambridge-circus, and parts of St. Paul.

Their most dramatic idea: to turn every existing basement into a new level twenty feet below the ground.

This would be used for through-roads, service roads and two-storey car parking—three when there is a pedestrian 'deck,' thus leaving people on foot at ground level.

Car parks holding 1,200 cars each are also planned: one under department stores off Piccadilly-circus, another under part of Leicester-square.

**POWER OF LIGHT: the £300 winner**

HOW did the three young men overseas beat the cream of British student architects in the contest to re-shape the heart of the world's greatest capital?

One simple formula was their pattern for success in winning the Evening News and Star "Piccadilly Circus" competition.

That formula: the infinite capacity for taking pains.

Poetic vision

The prizewinning entry that sees £300 go to 27-year-old Malaya's Kuok Choo Soo, 26-year-old Courage Togobo from Ghana and 25-year-old Rory Westmaas from British Guyana is a mixture of drama and subtlety, a blend of poetic vision and down-to-earth logic.

For both the three students at benefit from its unique position. 2. To solve the traffic problem, and allow people to gather in complete safety. 3. To capture the spirit and character of the existing Piccadilly Circus, removing all existing clutter, and allow the area to develop to the limit of its undoubted possibilities.

HEADLIGH TOWER—The students describe their impressions like this: "Raised high above the street, the huge neon signs, a chaotic riot of moving colour, cluttered and dead, laden with heavy letters and shapes, and lined with wires and electric gear."

Cleaner place

"One cannot suppress the feeling that, these hideous signs should be removed, the air and light into the buildings, and leave the Circus a cleaner, brighter place."

But somehow Piccadilly Circus, without, neon signs is hard to imagine.

THEIR SCHEME suggests a dramatic solution: three triangular pylons 200 ft. high, with projectors inside flashing advertisements on each of the sides.

And as for the restaurant, all-night chemist, and an all-night café. On top of the restaurant (the present Trocadero and Lyons Corner House combined) into a new pyramid-shaped building; "from which a vertical shaft of light will shoot into the night with coloured lights playing on the square and on buildings."

And as a contrast: "It is intended to re-visit, Piccadilly Circus with some of the simple human touches that have helped to add colour to London life—such as flower sellers, rosi-restaurant vendors, and an area set aside for pavement artists."

As for Eros: Still there, though dwarfed by the hotel, and moved some 20 feet from his present position.

An Underpass is the only practical solution to the traffic problem, the students have decided.

New buildings

Closed are Rupert-street, Oxendon-street, Haymarket, Regent-street, Haymarket, Denman-street and Carlton-street.

**The scheme that sinks the roads**

2nd PRIZE: £200

RUNNERS-UP John Pegrum and Julian Hannam

And the new Circus itself: Main feature is a large, enclosed piazza—for people on foot only, with Eros as the focal point.

Surrounding it: a 25-storey hotel 330 feet high; a big store; footbridges, cafes, and two cinemas.

Only the Windmill Theatre is untouched.

Twelve thousand square feet are put by for advertising—across one entire wall of the big store block.

"All neon signs would be concealed behind an obscure glass skin, so that nothing would be seen of them when they were not illuminated."

3 'VENETIAN BLINDS'—THE £100 BRAINWAVE



## Hector Watson



Jamaican, and Kensington and Chelsea resident

The Royal Air Force advertised in the papers in Jamaica for local volunteers. They had the Jamaica Regiment in the West Indian Regiment. Since the majority of the RAF personnel came to the United Kingdom and some of us remained here, we think it was only the Royal Air Force, but we had thousands of men in the armed forces and Merchant Navy. In the early stage of the war [WWII] adverts came out in the papers in Jamaica for technicians, tradesmen and these people went to Birmingham and Glasgow to work in the factories.

Excerpt from *The Caribbean at War: The British West Indies in World War II*, The North Kensington Community Series No.5, pg. 22



## Connie Mark



Jamaican, and Kensington and Chelsea resident

It was quite an achievement to even reach the rank of Corporal. When you are a Lance Corporal, army regulation stated that once one is promoted to Corporal you are entitled to 2d per day. I applied for my 2d per day and was turned down by the War Office. When I asked why, I was told the Jamaican ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) were not entitled to this. I was in a British regiment attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps but I still was not entitled. This was my first experience of racial discrimination. The Queen still owes me 8 years of 2d per day!

Excerpt from *The Caribbean at War: The British West Indies in World War II*, The North Kensington Community Series No.5, pg. 24



I was in a British regiment attached to the Royal Army Medical Corps but I still was not entitled. This was my first experience of racial discrimination.





## Ivoran Fareweather



Jamaican, and Kensington and Chelsea resident

**I** joined the Jamaica Home Guard in 1939 at the commencing of the 1939/45 war.

In the army, we met a lot of racial discrimination among the Americans and even some of the European soldiers. An example of that is a non-commissioned officer, who is black, must use the same dining room as the white soldier and they always call us monkeys, yobo's, and all kinds of names. Sometimes we punched them up. We had to defend our rights. While I was in England, Egypt and Italy, everywhere we go there was a black and white mix and we always met racial discrimination in the army. But we got the same pay as European soldiers.

I came into combat, active service, real service. I fought in Egypt, Italy and Africa doing actual defence for the King and Country. Luckily, I survived, no damage and was flown back to Egypt. When I was in Egypt, Port Said, they said the war was over. We were lifted back to England. After spending a couple of months in England we went to Jamaica and demobbed. We got rehabilitation for overseas service which gave us land and a house in Jamaica. I have some land up to today. The European soldiers didn't get rehabilitation because they were conscripted. We, the West Indians, were volunteers so we got rehabilitation. Some took cash, some took land. I took the land, and the land is still there.

The Caribbean at War: The British West Indies in World War II, The North Kensington Community Series No.5



## F. Maxwell



Barbadian, Pepper Pot Centre Treasurer, and Kensington and Chelsea resident

**I** grew up in Barbados near the Bussa Emancipation Statue in St Michaels.

I joined the British Army in 1961 and had the best years of my life.

I made the rank of Corporal and worked as a mechanic. I was treated well by fellow officers. We were truly comrades. Sure, there was discrimination by higher ranking officers, but I didn't let that bother me.

I was a natural athlete in those days. With the army, I played football, tennis and was a 400-meter tack champion in Berlin. I was


stationed in Berlin for two years, where we were posted to protect the war memorial, and this was by far my fondest time. I made plenty of friends of the German people and Soviet soldiers.

After the army, I moved to Notting Hill and worked for Ford as mechanic. I still reside here, where people are much friendlier today. I've always been a part of a West Indian neighbourhood and belonged to clubs and dances. I have enjoyed my life in Britain. I still miss Barbados, though.

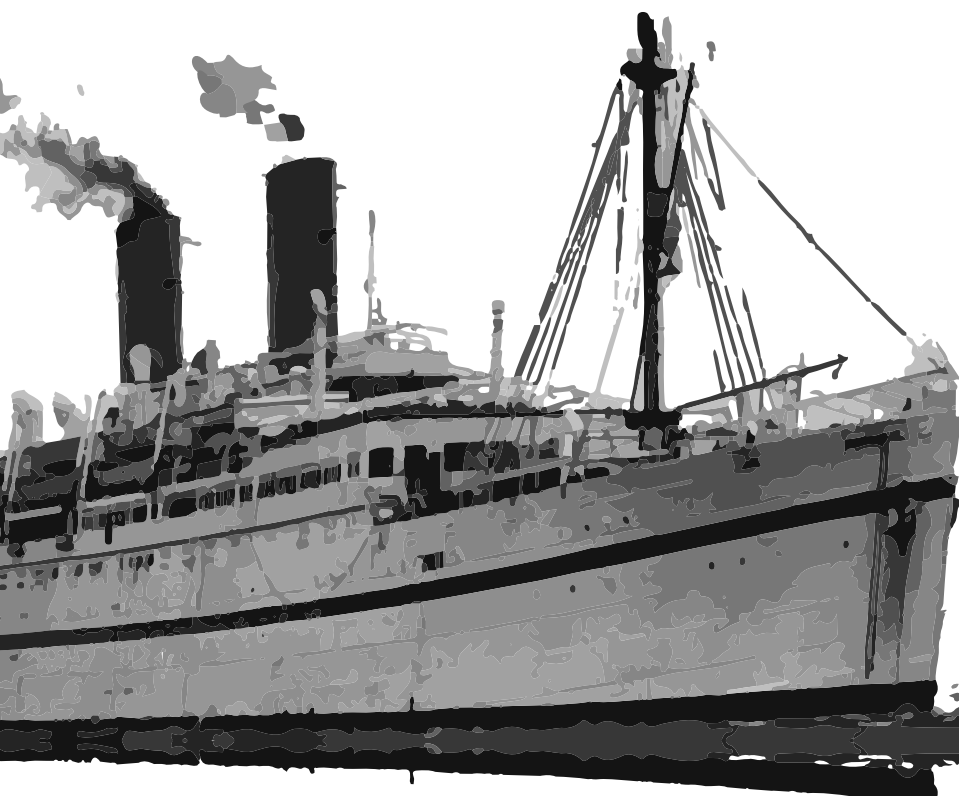
# The Journey



◀ Last Sunday in Montserrat  
 Kindly loaned by Royal Borough of  
 Kensington & Chelsea Archives &  
 Local Studies

 This postcard features three women – Cecilia Wade, Elanor Henry and Gene Martin.

The main photograph is titled, 'Last Sunday in Montserrat' and shows Cecilia Wade in 1956. The photograph in the top corner is of Elanor Henry at a friend's wedding in 1959, and the photograph beneath that features Gene Martin, pictured on Denbigh Road, Westbourne Grove, in 1965. Each of these images tells a story of the life left behind, the life built in the UK and the friends made along the way.



**I**n 1948, the HMT Empire Windrush stopped in Kingston, Jamaica to pick up some British servicemen on leave. The ship was relatively empty, so a Jamaican newspaper advertised the opportunity to travel to Britain for work. 802 men, women and children made the journey to Britain, with various ambitions. Among those who travelled were many servicemen who hoped to re-join the Armed Forces, primarily the RAF. Others went on to take up vital roles in rebuilding post-war Britain, such as working for the NHS and National Rail.

Excerpt from the West Indian Soldier: A Timeline, National Army Museum

## Sonny Osbourne John

Trinidadian and Westminster resident

With his prized treasure, a brown labelled grip case, Sonny arrived in the UK in 1956 at the age of 27 from Trinidad. He travelled on the SS Colombie, taking 14 days to arrive at Southampton. He was met at Victoria station, London by his best friend and future brother-in-law, Joseph Whittaker. He trained as mechanical engineer then decided to further his career by attending evening classes in college to gain an extra qualification. This led to a better job at Palmer Aero Products Ltd on Penfolds street, NW8, making parts for aeroplanes.

Happily married to Madeleine John for 60 years, raising four children between Harrow and Church Street, Lisson Green Estate.



Mr Sonny Osbourne John and his grip ▼



## Madeleine John

Trinidadian and Westminster resident

I arrived in the UK, 12th March 1956, age 23, on a cold day, to pursue a career in nursing. The journey by sea on the SS Antilles Dutch ship took 14 days from Trinidad to Genoa, Italy. I was then given a packed lunch for the next stage of my journey by train from Italy to Victoria Station, London, where I was reunited with my brother, Joseph Whittaker. My first home in the UK was in Westminster and I still live here today.

At the age of 29, in 1962, I made the difficult decision to send my three children back to Trinidad due to the hard conditions, poor housing, cold weather and v. During this time, they were cared for by my husband's grandparents. My Trinidadian qualifications didn't stand in the UK. I had to study and resit the nursing exams. We were set apart from the white nurses and found that I had to work harder than my white colleagues. My children didn't return to Britain until 1971.

I trained in St Marys Hospital on Harrow Road to be a nurse and from there moved to St Charles Hospital in Ladbroke Grove until I retired in 2008 age 74.



- ▲ Menu featuring French cuisine from the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique French Line, 1962
- As a passenger of the Transatlantic French line, returning to the UK in October 62, Madeleine received this menu of French cuisine to choose from.
- Kindly loaned by Mrs Madeleine John

## Joseph Whittaker

 Trinidadian and Westminster resident

Joseph Whittaker was one of 8 siblings and older brother of Madeline John. He arrived in the UK in 1956 at the age of 26. He travelled on the Ship SS Colombie from Trinidad to Martinique and then onto the UK, arriving at Plymouth. His fare cost him £75.

Before arriving in the UK, he was an apprentice engineer in Trinidad. He had various jobs working at the docks in London, before finally pursuing a career as a Mechanical Engineer at Ford in Dagenham until he retired. Joseph lived for many years in Westminster before relocating to Waltham Forest.

Professional portrait photo of Joseph Whittaker taken at a well-known Ladbroke Grove studio, late 1950s.



Antricia John is the daughter of Sonny and Madeleine John, and the niece of Joseph Whittaker. Today, Antricia is a Westminster resident and Business Support Officer for the Church Street Regeneration programme for Westminster City Council. Antricia is also a member of the Windrush Taskforce, who volunteered her time and services to bring this exhibition to light.

## Norma

 Pepper Pot Centre patron and Kensington & Chelsea resident

As far as I know, it was the Windrush people who came first, and they were mainly from Jamaica.


It was an invitation from the British Government that I heard over the radio in 1953 or 54, "Come to Britain, your mother country needs you." There were offers to work in nursing, London Transport, the Post Office, etc. We Barbadians took great pride in our education and saw this as an opportunity. My grandmother would always say, "I don't want you to end up like me, I want you to do better."

Many of us didn't have the money to make the journey, so we sold our land, homes and whatever we could to come to England. I came to Britain on an Italian liner called the Serento.

"Come to Britain,  
your mother  
country needs  
you."

"I don't want you  
to end up like me,  
I want you to do  
better."

## Kenneth Loy Ruddy

 Jamaican and Notting Hill resident



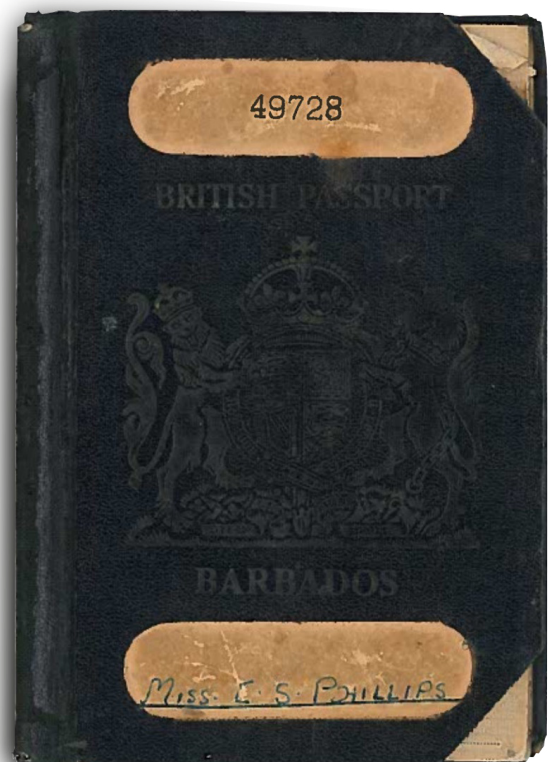
Suitcase belonging to my father, Kenneth Loy Ruddy, as he travelled from Jamaica to make his home in Notting Hill. - Loy Seattle Phillips ▶



## Emelda Seattle Phillips



This passport belonged to my mother, Emelda Seattle Phillips. She came to London to study physics at the University of London. I love how young and mischievous she looks in the photo.  
Loy Seattle Phillips ▶





# Life in Britain

The Goodwill Party for Representatives of The West Indies Organisation, 1959

To foster community convergence a goodwill party was hosted to encourage British and Caribbean neighbours to integrate. This photo is part of Kensington & Chelsea's archive collections.

Kindly loaned by Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Archives & Local Studies



By way of invitation, the Windrush Generation came to re-build Britain after the war. They were asked to join transportation fields, the fledging NHS and other areas. But difficulties in finding adequate housing, fair employment and racism were challenges the Windrush Generation had to face. Many could not return, as they had sold everything to start their lives in Britain. The Windrush Generation often use the word 'trapped' to describe their predicament. Despite these challenges, the Windrush Generation worked hard to contribute to Britain and build their lives here.

## Ivan Weekes

 Barbadian - Notting Hill Methodist Church parishioner and Kensington & Chelsea resident

You were glad to get a space, you didn't know any better. The accommodation was in one of Peter Rachman's houses and in those days the iniquitous thing that Peter Rachman used to do was, he would buy a whole package of houses and let them out to middlemen, he would charge hundreds of pounds per week and then those middlemen would fill it with people like us and charge £12 pounds a week. I lived in one of his houses but didn't know at the time that Peter Rachman was the big boss. You only saw the middleman who was your boss, and he was a Nigerian. He had sort of sub-contracted/franchised. Rachman gave him, and there were several like him, two or three houses. 'I want a £100 pounds a week for each house, and you guarantee him you would do that because you knew immigrants were coming and these middlemen were smart. They had friends in high places who would tell



Songs of praise. Ivan Weekes lighting a candle at Notting Hill Methodist Church. Photo by Sue McAlpine, kindly loaned by Ivan Weekes/Notting Hill Methodist Church

them when the boats were coming in. So that they knew a boat was arriving tomorrow with six hundred people and they'd got no place to go, they screw you for every penny you had so that was it. It was alright, one was grateful to get somewhere but in those days you...The middleman didn't charge the three of us for a room. He would charge you per head. We used to be charged a guinea a week – a guinea from him, a guinea from me and a guinea from him.

If you didn't pay up your rent each week then Rachman's boys would come around and intimidate you.



## Pansy Jeffrey

 Guyanese, Pepper Centre Founder  
and Kensington & Chelsea resident

**P**ansy Jeffrey was born in New Amsterdam, Berbice, Guyana, in 1926. She arrived in the United Kingdom in 1946, at a time when Britain was recovering from the Second World War and rebuilding a worn-torn economy.

Pansy soon joined the West Indian Student Union, which was the meeting place for West Indian students studying in England. Many of these students were to become Prime Ministers of the emerging independent countries of the Caribbean e.g. Michael Manley and Forbes Burnham to name but a few. During this period, she met her husband to be, Lionel Jeffrey (Jeff), who was studying law at Oxford and was Vice-President of the West Indian Students Union and later President of the overseas federation of students' unions in England. They married in 1951 and remained a union until his death.

During this period in Britain's history there was a great demand for nurses and doctors. Pansy joined the National Health Service and trained as a nurse. She worked as a Ward sister at St Charles Hospital, Midwife at Hammersmith Hospital and a Health Visitor for the London Borough of Camden. Like so many of our young women from the Caribbean at the time, they were filled with caring and humanity and wanted to be of service to others.



In 1959 after the Notting Hill race riots, Pansy joined the Family Welfare Association Department of the Kensington and Chelsea Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and was appointed to the post of West Indian Social Worker, to improve race relations. The job required her to liaise with political parties, social workers, religious leaders and many other groups. Pansy became a governor for three schools in the Kensington and Paddington area; this gave her great insight into the educational needs of the emerging population of school children of Caribbean and African origin.

Crucially, Pansy was a peacemaker after the Notting Hill riots, she supported the creation of the first Notting Hill Carnival and was its treasurer for a period of time.

During the mid-1960s, it was the work of organizations like the Notting Hill Social Council that took up the baton of social action in North Kensington with "social work" morphing itself into "community development" as the decade wore on. The Council was designed to actively support local community development. The tendency was to see all power as outside the neighborhood, i.e. in the Town Hall located in the southern part of the Borough. Much of Pansy's work was carried out via dialogue in the streets and shops, at school gates and in laundrettes etc. The basic problem was that people did not believe they could do anything, they had no power. At the Social Council, Pansy and others sought to become 'good neighbours' in the area, giving residents a sense of power to solve local problems by holding open monthly meetings and arranging a range of other activities.

In the late 1970's Pansy became increasingly concerned at the number of elderly people she was seeing from the Caribbean who were suffering from loneliness and isolation. Pansy realised that good social relationships and active integration were key determinants of a long and happy life. In response to these concerns, Pansy established the Pepper Pot Centre, which formally opened its door to members in 1981. The Pepper Pot initiative started in the mid 1970's as a drop-in centre for Caribbean elders, organised in Pansy's office at the Citizens Advice Bureau.

To this day, the Pepper Pot Centre empowers Caribbean elders to take charge of their own lives after sacrificing so many of their youthful years for the United Kingdom. It provides a culturally specific and familiar environment for its members. The Pepper Pot offers hot Caribbean meals, care, and advice on how to access statutory services for the over 50's. It also promotes healthy ageing and independent living, thus avoiding the need for hospitalisation.

Pansy was a peacemaker after the Notting Hill riots.

She supported the creation of the first Notting Hill Carnival and was its treasurer for a period of time.

## Margaret (nee, Margo)

 Barbadian, Pepper Pot Centre patron and Kensington & Chelsea resident

**M**y parents named me Margo but at baptismal a Scottish bishop changed my name to Margret, after Princess Margaret. I have lived as Margaret ever since.

Growing up in St Joseph, Barbados was known as 'Little England'. The British ruled everything. I was quite young when I heard the advertisement from the British Government over the national radio in school to come to London to study nursing and work for the newly formed NHS. When I boarded the French liner, Antilles, I had sold everything to invest in my new life in Britain.

To be described as part of the Windrush Generation is new to me. I have never considered myself as Windrush. West Indian, yes. Barbadian, yes. But as far as I know, the

[Empire] Windrush never came to Barbados.

Like most, I struggled to adjust to life in Britain, but I didn't let the discrimination I faced bother me. I studied nursing in Paddington for a while, but it wasn't for me. I then focused on making enough money to stay and make London my permanent home.

I love going back to Barbados and thought about returning but my three children and grandchildren are all here in Britain and they consider this to be there home. I have lived in Britain for over 50 years. I know the British national anthem, but it recently occurred to me that I cannot recite the Barbadian national anthem. I would like to learn it again. It's a beautiful song.

# Gwendolyn Dennis

 Jamaican and Westminster resident

**G**wendolyn Dennis (later Gwendolyn Clark) was born on the 3 January, 1930 in Bog Walk, St Catherine's, Jamaica, West Indies. Growing up on a farm with her six siblings, she was a bright student and had a spirit of caring and helping others. She had always wanted to be a nurse, having been inspired by volunteering at a local mental asylum. After her secondary schooling she applied and was accepted to train as a nurse in Bellevue Hospital in the capital, Kingston.

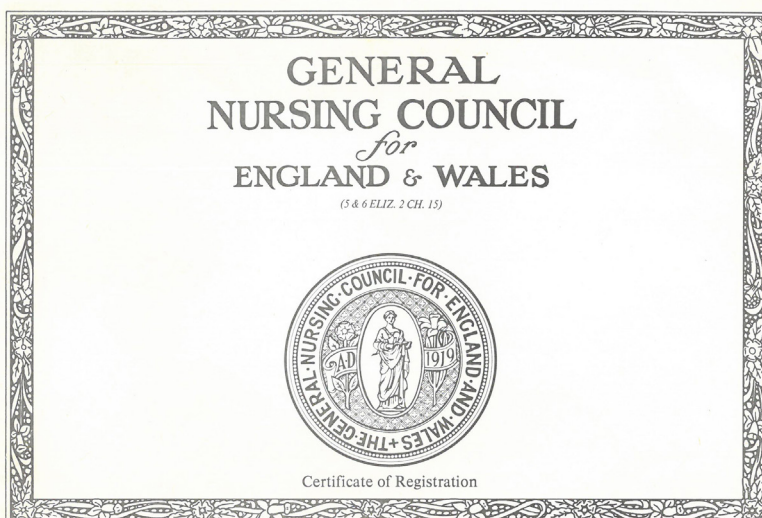
In the 1950's, England extended an invitation to professionals and non-professionals in Commonwealth countries to help rebuild the post war dilemma their country was in. Gwendolyn got help from a friend to apply to Hull Royal Infirmary in Yorkshire to continue her nurse education. She was successful and relocated to England in 1956 (age 26) where she later achieved her State Registered Nurse qualification, going on to gain posts as head nurse and matron, specialising in accident and emergency and intensive care. She worked in several hospitals including two in Westminster; St Thomas's Hospital and the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital where she met her future husband.



▶ Gwendolyn Dennis pictured in her nurse uniform

Life in Britain for Gwendolyn's generation was very challenging. As a black woman she experienced the discrimination and racism of the age, as well as domestic violence, and had to work much harder than her white colleagues to get ahead. Despite this she pressed on to give her best and to maintain a positive attitude, which she passed on to her three children, for whom she worked hard to send to the best schools and having the pleasure of watching them excel in their careers and become active accomplished British citizens.

I am proud to have had her as my grandma.  
 – Genevieve Peattie, Programme Manager for Communities, Westminster City Council and Westminster resident.



◀ Nurse Practitioners' Certificate belonging to Gwendolyn Dennis

## Wilston Samuel Jackson

 Jamaican and Kensington & Chelsea resident

**D**river Wilston Samuel Jackson, Bill to his friends, was born in the Jamaican parish of Portland in 1927. At age 17, his 45 year old father died suddenly, shattering Bill's dreams of being a dentist. Bill decided to move to England, the Mother Land, where workers were needed to help rebuild after the devastation of the Second World War.

Arriving in London in 1952, Bill was shocked to be met with blatant racism, something he had never experienced in Jamaica. Regardless of the hostility, he determined to become a train driver. In those days there were no black train drivers, an unspoken rule that the driver's job was reserved for whites only. Even fellow black railway workers believed a black man could never become a driver, many quitting their rail jobs because of the lack of prospects. Bill remained resolute.

### The First Black Train Driver, Fireman and Driver Of The Mallard, Elizabethan, and Flying Scotsman

For years, never late or missing a day, Bill endured a fireman's punishing regime, shovelling 10 to 12 tons of coal a day in hot and filthy conditions. He was overjoyed when in 1962 he passed his exams with flying colours to become a fully-fledged locomotive driver and The First Black Train Driver. But his troubles were not over. His white colleagues were astonished and furious that Bill was now a



driver and so they organised, forbidding any white man to work with Bill.

On Bill's first day as a driver, he was congratulated by the white foreman on his achievement and told to prepare an engine to take out. What happened next would have crushed a lesser man, as while Bill was happily preparing the engine his allotted white fireman told him he would not work with him. The fireman then repeated his decision to the foreman, who, surprisingly, told the fireman to go home as he no longer had a job. The traumatised fireman returned to where Bill was preparing the engine and asked if he could work with him. Bill replied, "I don't have a problem with you, it is you who have a problem with me. If you do your job well, we'll get along fine".

Years later, when a signal man gave the green signal in error, causing the Bill's train to crash into the back of a stationary train, Bill saved his fireman by telling him to jump just before they hit. The young fireman sustained a sprained ankle, but Bill had no time to jump and had to be cut out of the wreckage. After many months in hospital and numerous operations on both legs, Bill left hospital on crutches. Months later, he was once again driving his beloved trains.

In 1966 Bill immigrated to Zambia formerly Northern Rhodesia to train men to be drivers and while continuing to drive trains throughout that vast country, later becoming a farmer and helping his neighbours by arranging the erection of an iron bridge over a river.

Bill passed away at age 91 on 15th September 2018. In acknowledgement of Bill's achievements, on 25th October 2021, he was awarded the Blue Heritage plaque, which hangs in a prime location in Kings Cross Station.

## Levi Decourcey Husbands

 Barbadian and Westminster resident

Levi was born, 15 April 1932 in Speightstown, St Peter Barbados. He was a chauffeur and cobbler by trade and was one of 8 children. He was a big cricket fan and a dab hand in the kitchen.

Like many Caribbean countries, when the advert came up asking for people from the commonwealth to come and work in England, he took up the opportunity and came to London 1963. He came alone at first, then joined a year later by his girlfriend and two young sons. They got married in September 1965 at Westminster Registry office on Harrow Road.

His first digs in London was on Tavistock Road, just off Portobello Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington Chelsea and later he moved to Bravington Road in the borough of Westminster. He worked as a train guard for British Rail at Euston until his untimely death in 1986.

Levi was one of many men, women and their children that came to the UK to settle and make a life for themselves and their families. They faced many challenges including racism and discrimination as well as adjusting to a new climate and cuisine, and being thousands of miles away from home and all that they knew. But none-the-less there was also, love, laughter, music and food that created that 'home from home' feel and the basis of what being from the Caribbean is all about. Many new friendships were formed, and they made the best life they could despite those challenges.

Today, Levi's daughter, Trisha Husbands, is the Engagement Coordinator for the Church Street Regeneration Programme, Westminster City Council. Trisha is also a member of the Windrush Taskforce and volunteered her time and services to bring this exhibition to light.



▲ Levi Decourcey Husbands taking a break at work



This uniform belonged to my father who came to England from Barbados in the 1960's and worked as a guard for what was then known as British Rail. My dad was a very proud man and I thought he looked very smart in his work uniform. He sadly passed away prematurely, and we were allowed to keep his uniform. I have worn the waistcoat when I went through a stage when my friends and I were wearing waistcoats and blazers. Every Christmas, British Rail would hold parties for staff and their families. He would always wear his work uniform even though he did not need to, that always makes me smile when I think about that.

Kindly loaned by the Husbands Family.

## Paul Charles



Grenadian and former Hammersmith and Fulham resident

I was born in Grenada, in 1939. Both my mother and father were labourers and childhood was tough.

In 1959, I came to England along with the three younger siblings. My first home London was in Shepherd's Bush. A friend of mine lived in Shepherd's Bush, so I went to live with them. At the time, there were a lot of Grenadians in Shepherd's Bush. First, I worked in a laundry but that closed. Then I got two jobs, one as trainee mechanic the second on the London Underground in 1960. Back then we were known as railmen. We did everything. Then I went on to be a guard, opening and shutting the train doors. Then driver, inspector, and finally Duty Manager. My favourite job was as train driver on the Central Line. I liked that, I was my own boss and no one bothered me.

I've always liked running, even as a school boy. One of other drivers was a member of the Southall Running Club and invited me to join. At times, I would train every day, which meant I had to get up at 4 am to train before work and then again after work. I competed at the London Business House competition and won the Middlesex championship and Southern Counties championship. My favourite event was the 400 meter. But at the London Transport Championship at Osterley Park, I tackled the 100, 200, 400 meter, and long jump. I also represented the LER club. I was Sportsman of the year in 1972 but I stopped running when I married.

My favourite job was as train driver on the Central Line. I liked that, I was my own boss and no one bothered me.

I still like living in London, though I've built a home in Grenada. Thinking about moving back one day but medical expenses are something to think about.

## Sir Isaac Vivian ‘Viv’ Alexander Richards KNH OBE

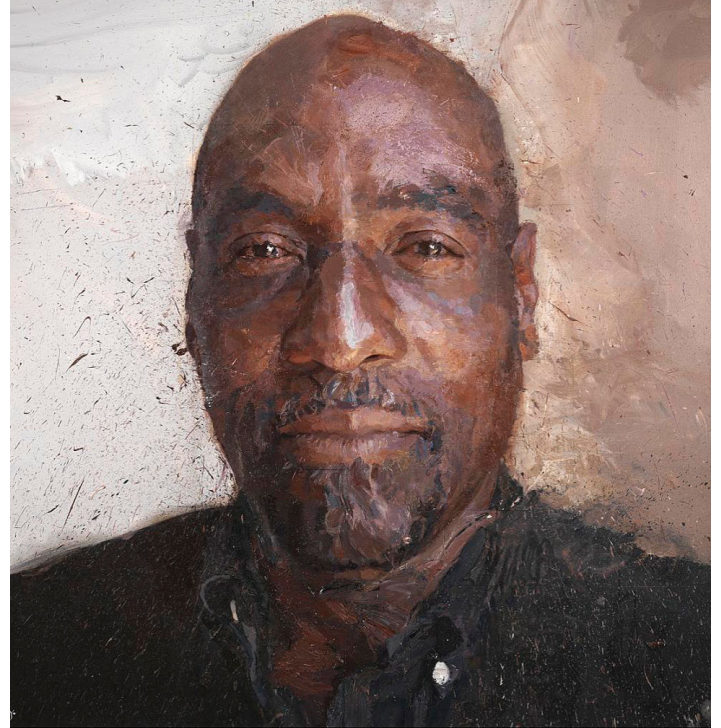
 Antiguan

Cricket was an essential part of the Windrush generation’s cultural and social identity, when half a million people moved from the Caribbean to Britain after the Second World War. Cricket was a common thread that ran from their old homes in the British West Indies to their new homes in places like Westminster.

The West Indies team of the 70s and 80s was invincible – they didn’t lose a Test series for 15 years – and the team, along with its stars like Michael Holding and Vivian Richards, were a source of pride and inspiration for those who were invited from the Caribbean to come and make their home in Britain.

One notable story in the history of this iconic team came in 1976 during their tour of England. The captain of the England team, Tony Greig, commented that West Indies did not do well under pressure and that England would “make them grovel”. This was seen as a serious insult to the West Indies with the players taking further offence from this comment due to the fact that Greig was of South African origin with Holding suggesting that the comment “smacked of racism and Apartheid. He got our backs up and made us more determined”. In response to this slight, the West Indies team proceeded to subject England to their ferocious pace bowling attack, led by the man nicknamed ‘Whispering Death’, Michael Holding.

West Indies were incredibly well supported throughout the tour, and they won the series, the fifth time they had done so on English soil. It proved to be the first of a seven-series winning streak against England, stretching until 1989-90, and was cause for big celebrations for the British Caribbean community now living in the United Kingdom.



▲ Sir Isaac Vivian ‘Viv’ Alexander Richards KNH OBE (Antiguan)  
One of the greatest batsmen of all time.  
Text and image provided by Community and Heritage & Collections at Lord’s.



# Life in Britain



## Pardner Loan Scheme (also known as 'Pardna')

**T**aken from the patois term for partner, a pardner loan scheme is an informal savings programme and a form of collective action built solely on trust amongst people of a shared locale. A controller collects money each week and pays out the draw to a member or 'hand' via rota. Say there are 8 people in a pardner scheme, and they agree to a weekly contribution of £20. The weekly draw would then be £160 and would be paid to each of the 8 members in succession over the course of 8 weeks. In the face of institutionalised racism, pardner was practiced widely by the Windrush Generation because financial organisations refused them loans. Pardner is still practised today throughout Caribbean neighbourhoods and has now been adopted by several traditional financial institutions.

### Harold



Montserratian and Kensington & Chelsea resident

**I** came to London in 1961 on the Arianna Liner. It was a beautiful journey but I was already used to sailing. I came because my older brother was here. I didn't want to come. I was happy in Montserrat, but I missed my brother and felt that we shouldn't be separated. My first home was in Notting Hill and I'm still here.

In the beginning, I wish I didn't leave. I wasn't happy and missed home. The reaction I received in Britain was not pleasant. Not compared to what I left. We all knew each other and there was respect for elders. The Teddy Boys was a bunch of foolishness.

My first pardner scheme wasn't until the '90's. I started to run it after a woman stole some money from the group. The other members of the group asked me and

another member to take over. Pardner is all about trust. Without trust it's not going to work, so running off with other people's money is rare but it can happen. Everyone in the pardner scheme I run is Caribbean and we are all from around here. When I took over the weekly draw it was £400. Now there are 35 of us and draw is £890. This money is helpful to people. If someone is in trouble, we can move around the order of the draw. Two of us control the books. The members bring the money, and my partner puts it into a pardner account. We are very organised.

The biggest difference from when I first came to London, is that we came to work. We wanted to work. We came to do a job and that's what we did. Today there's too much entitlement. Today, people arrive in Britain and feel entitled to things they haven't worked for.

## Dr Claire Holder OBE ACIS

 Trinidadian descent and Kensington and Chelsea resident

I was born at the St. Mary Abbott Hospital in Kensington, in 1956. My mother having come to England pregnant with me. She took the decision to send me back home to Trinidad when I was 9 months old to my grandparents on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. She later described this period of her early life in England as the most traumatic – bad weather, bad housing, no employment and a totally unsuitable environment in which to bring up a child. I was returned with a friend of hers on the SS Antilles which took two weeks to dock in Port of Spain, Trinidad where I was welcomed by my grandparents, three siblings who had been left in the Caribbean and a number of cousins. I grew up as child number 14 in a household of 14 grandchildren. There was an abundance of love, skills and talents that were shared. The environment within the household can be best described as a stable in which we were groomed to be “perfect” all rounders. We were poor but with aspirations to pursue any one of a number of chosen careers: doctor, lawyer, Methodist Minister, teacher. We were all taught how to read and write music and play the piano. From our extended family we had produced two great musicians whose triumphs are recorded in the Hall of Fame in Trinidad, the Jazz Pianist Hazel Scott and the Steelpan Pioneer, Boots Davidson.

Our stable was broken up when all of our parents who had remained in England started bringing us up to England when they were more settled and because of the educational opportunities they thought England would offer. I was the last of the 14 to be brought up to England when I was 11 years old. I was sent briefly to the St. James Norlands School to take the Common Entrance Exam at which I excelled, much to the surprise of some because of the assumption that we did not have good education in the Caribbean. But we did. Our education system there was exemplary, but there were simply not enough facilities to meet the growing population.

**Some teachers were openly hostile, with the headmistress telling my mother that she would never recommend me for university.**

I then on to the Burlington Grammar School for Girls, Wood Lane, Hammersmith and Fulham. It was certainly not an easy journey, and some teachers were openly hostile, with the headmistress telling my mother that she would never recommend me for university.

Without the school’s recommendation, I managed to secure a place at the College of Law where as an 18 year-old, I studied for the Bar and became a barrister by the age of 21 years. I followed in the footsteps of one of the 14 grandchildren who had gone on to achieve greatness in the legal profession. Once I qualified, I was assisted by a member of the Notting Hill Methodist Church, Lord Anderson of Swansea to acquire pupillage. My direct pupil mistress was Ann Mallalieu and I often accompanied people like Michael Howard (later leader of the Conservatives), Lord Justice Auld and other distinguished lawyers to Court and learned so much that would expand my knowledge of the Law and stand me in great stead.

I did a number of post graduate degrees to enable me to better manage the Notting Hill Carnival and which culminated in a doctorate degree

With my legal skills I began to assist locally, providing legal advice at the Black Peoples Information Centre, Portobello Road while practising as a Criminal Defence barrister from chambers in Lincoln's Inn. It was because I was known locally as one person who could be relied upon to assist in a crisis, that I was mandated by a rowdy and packed meeting of the local community to run the Notting Hill Carnival in 1989, which was in danger of being "banned". My time at the Notting Hill Carnival probably represents my greatest achievement. Through skill and sheer hardwork, together with my colleagues, I was able to face the day to day challenges and design a system of management which saw the credibility and stability of the event increase exponentially and its economics revived.

In order to better manage the Carnival, I trained in a new profession, that of being a Chartered Secretary and became an associate of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and a member of the Worshipful Company for Chartered Secretaries, where it was appreciated that we had developed a very unique management system for events of the magnitude of the Notting Hill Carnival. I did a number of post graduate degrees to enable me to better manage the Notting Hill Carnival and which culminated in a doctorate degree in which the focus is on the management of the Notting Hill Carnival as a template for the management of events that have grown organically out of community and the management of the multiple and powerful stakeholders of the event. Even though I am no longer involved in Notting Hill Carnival because of being politically excluded, I am still called upon internationally to lecture about the methods used to make it such a success.

I have reverted to my original profession and now practice as a barrister and am a Senior Crown Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service of England and Wales, applying my experience of life and my sense of fairness to ensure that justice can always be achieved.

## Sonny Roberts

 Jamaican and Kensington and Chelsea resident

Sonny Roberts is one of a handful of esteemed pioneers that helped Jamaican music to become established in Britain. The recording studio he opened in 1962 in the basement of 108 Cambridge Road in Kilburn was the very first black-owned recording facility in Britain, his Planetone label similarly the first to be launched by a Jamaican immigrant. Roberts was also indirectly responsible for the subsequent growth of Island Records in Britain and the birth of its Trojan subsidiary; Sonny being a crucial catalyst.

The related Orbitone Record shop and attendant label, saw Roberts widen his musical net, helping Afro-Beat, Soca and Lover's Rock acts to attain international acclaim, yielding some significant chart hits in the process.

Sonny "Clinton" Roberts was born in 1931 in the rural district of Spice Grove, Manchester, on the family farm. As with many of his peers, the young 15-year-old Sonny travelled to Downtown Kingston in search of work, this was where he learnt the trade of cabinetmaking. Then, everything changed in the mid-1950s, when an aunt secured Sonny's passage across the Atlantic. He sailed on the SS Manistee, a banana boat which took 12 days to reach England. Like many Jamaican immigrants of his generation, Sonny settled in Ladbroke Grove. He found employment as a carpenter and set designer in Westminster and North West London and began building speaker boxes after hours for Britain's first sound systems, founded by Duke Vin and Count Suckle. Soon Roberts formed his own sound system, called Lavender, its success yielding better earnings than the day job, but the difficulty in obtaining music from home led him to open his own recording studio.

**First Black Owned  
Recording Studio,  
Music Pioneer**



Roberts' initial approach was rebuffed, but the timely arrival of a mutual friend from the Indian-Jamaican community swayed the Gopthals, and Sonny opened his one-track studio in the basement. Trombonist Rico Rodriguez was a mainstay of the early Planetone releases, with Owen Gray and Jackie Edwards swapping piano duties; the Marvels and Tito Simone all featured on vocal sides.

In the close-knit Jamaican immigrant community, it was perhaps inevitable that Chris Blackwell and Sonny Roberts would cross paths, once Blackwell moved to London. Roberts says they first met when he did some carpentry work at Blackwell's original office space in the West End – Connaught Square, London W2; due to their mutual love of music, a friendship was struck that remains in place to the present day. Roberts recalls that Blackwell was experiencing problems with his landlord, since too many black Jamaican musicians were turning up at the space. Sonny thus helped and arranged for Blackwell to move Island's London HQ to an upstairs room at 108 Cambridge Road. Blackwell began making use of Roberts' studio, rehearsing Millie Small in the space with the guitarist Ernest Ranglin. By 1968 Blackwell persuaded Leichman Gopthal to quit his day-job and set up Trojan Records. Blackwell would soon form a short-lived partnership with Leichman (Lee) Gopthal, who would shortly take over the Trojan label they jointly operated.

In the early 1970s, when Sonny broadened the range of his musical output almost by default, to include hits on the label by a calypso singer from Dominica called Roy Alton (who cut the popular Carnival In Ladbroke Grove LP in 1975).

Sonny is survived by his wife Monica, his daughters and grandchildren. Presently, Orbitone Records is owned and operated by his daughter Cleon Loi Roberts, who was born in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.



▲ Sonny Roberts at his Planetone recording studio in 1960, 108 Cambridge Road, Kilburn, London NW6. The first black recording studio in Britain.



▲ Sonny Roberts outside his record shop, Orbitone Records, in Harlesden, London NW10

## Mr Simon and Mrs Jeanne Steven

▲ St Lucians and Westminster Residents

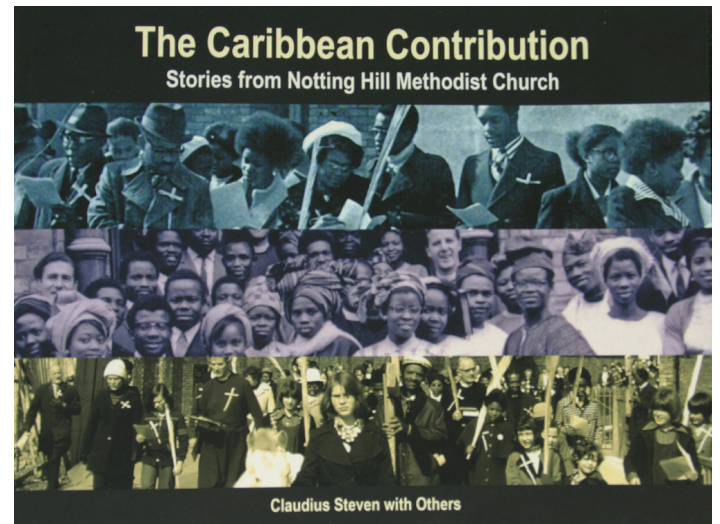
After paying the £70 fare my father left Anse La Raye - St. Lucia to travel to England in 1959. He initially lived in Forest Gate, then Mile End before settling in Paddington where there was a growing St. Lucian community. My father paved the way for his future wife, 2 siblings and mother who joined him in the UK. Simon and Jeanne successfully raised six children, opened their home to family and friends in times of celebration and in times of need and have left a strong legacy to be proud of.

Growing up in West London in the 60s, I lived in Paddington only a stone's throw away from Notting Hill over the then called Ha' Penny Steps. But rivers and bridges did not separate the various Caribbean communities that lived in the local vicinity. Some of my youth was spent moving to and from 'the frontline' or 'the line' (All Saints Road) and 'the Grove' (Ladbroke Grove), where the Caribbean community congregated. But little did I know of the history of African, more so Caribbean, resistance that preceded the first-born generation of Caribbean children, which I am part of.

Later in life, as a cultural historian, I have studied and presented the lives and experiences of everyday people adapting to and influencing change to meet the challenges in, a sometimes hostile, society. No less astounding are the stories of resilience told by the congregation, both Black and White, of the Notting Hill Methodist Church, during the period following the so-called Notting Hill Race Riots of 1958. A church that, in a time of crisis, reappraised its role in the community and took affirmative action to stand with and support the Caribbean community, which came face to face with racism both overt and covert.

In approaching this project, I met with the Working Group of Stephen Duckworth, Claire Holder, Elaine Spence, Portia Thaxter and Wendy Yarde and it was evident that there is a wealth of information that has been preserved

▲ Mr Simon and Mrs Jeanne Steven on their wedding day in March 1965, at the church of Our Lady of the Holy Souls (68 Hazel Wood Crescent W10 5DJ).



▲ The Caribbean Contribution: Stories from Notting Methodist Church

in the church archives. It soon became clear that my role was to synthesise and summarise the documentation in relation to what was happening in Notting Hill at the time. As such, it was a matter of deciding what to put in and what to leave out. What may not have seemed historical at the time, makes up part of a significant contribution which has shaped race relations here in the UK.

To the past and present members of the Notting Hill Methodist Church, I honour and salute your testimony and hope in telling your narratives in The Caribbean Contribution: Stories from Notting Hill Methodist Church, they are able to inspire the future generation to appreciate the longer history that they are recipients of.

## Laura Henry-Allain MBE

▲ St Lucians decent, Kensington and Chelsea resident

Laura was born in Paddington in 1968. She trained as a teacher and is now a storyteller, educationalist, producer and consultant. Like many St Lucians of the Windrush generation, Laura's family settled in the London W9 area.

Laura was two when her family moved to North Kensington. When she was six the family moved again to what was to be her childhood home, in Kensal New Town, W10. She still has fond memories of playing in Horniman's Park and the adventure playground there. She also found an oasis in Kensal New Town library, where as a dyslexic she discovered a love of reading.

She remembers the close community of W10. Many of her childhood friends were also of Windrush parentage and others came from all corners of the world; such was the beauty of being raised in a diverse community. This was especially evident at the annual Notting Hill Carnival. Laura recalls that every Sunday her grandmother, affectionately known as Mama, visited Laura and her siblings. Mama would travel from Paddington to North Kensington with treats and gifts, often from Portobello Road market.

She would often share this story with Laura in later years: Laura would be the only one of her six siblings waiting at the window, jumping up and down in excitement and shouting, "Mama's coming, Mama's coming!" This and other stories from her beloved Mama planted the seed that became the idea for the first Black British animation, JoJo and Gran Gran, which is based on Laura and Mama. Laura's middle name is Josephine, hence JoJo.

Laura's love of libraries continues and she regularly visits Kensal and North Kensington Libraries on author visits. She also supports the weekly Grenfell Memorial Quilt sessions, which are based at North Kensington Library,

Mama planted the seed that became the idea for the first Black British animation, JoJo and Gran Gran, which is based on Laura and Mama.

Her new bestselling children's book, *My Skin, Your Skin*, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu, explores race and racism, and empowers children to be the best versions of themselves.

and which were founded by Tuesday Greenidge. The project is another wonderful example of the community spirit of W10.

As a storyteller Laura often speaks out on inequality and injustice. Her new bestselling children's book, *My Skin, Your Skin*, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu, explores race and racism, and empowers children to be the best versions of themselves.

Laura continues to tell stories, through her books, television and speaking. They are based on her lived experience and that of the Windrush generation, and are filled with passion, love and soul, and all aim to challenge negative stereotypes and fight racism with positivity.

## Audley Lloyd Robinson

 Jamaican

I remember when the news broke about the Windrush scandal. My grandfather Audley called me and asked me to help him find his passports in a panic. He automatically assumed he was going to be deported but as time went by, he realised he was pretty much “safe”.

Over the years he would often talk about his life journey and experiences, here in the UK. He recalls travelling on a boat for three weeks, feeling sick and the cabin he was sleeping in being so small as he was 6ft 5. He said he disliked the food so much over here and so didn't eat for the first week. As he got the opportunity to mingle with other Caribbean people in south-west London. They were able to share food items, improvise recipes and enjoy delicacies from back home.

He would always go on about the racial challenges he faced in the workplace and so after some years decided to work for himself as a qualified driving instructor until he retired.

I recall him being quite emotional and angry too after hearing the stories of some actually being sent back home. But always express his gratitude to his mum for sending him here because things could have been different back home in Jamaica.

I think it's important for us to recognise that there are still many others Windrushers who are still in limbo, have yet to receive compensation or a renewed/ updated immigration status within the UK. Many have passed on too, leaving their families to also continue the fight in proving their right to be in the UK.

I think it's important for us to recognise that there are still many others Windrushers who are still in limbo

Windrush Day isn't just about marking the day of arrival for many commonwealth citizens, it's also to commemorate their contributions to our British society at a time when Britain was broken down severely by WW2. It's about raising awareness across all generations, supporting people who have been impacted by the scandal and supporting local causes. The Windrush generation have laid the foundations for the Black British society that we know of today. For that we celebrate today and express great gratitude! - **Charlaine Nkum, Equality Diversity and Inclusion Advisor for RBKC**



## Basil Duhaney

 Jamaican and Westminster resident

**B**asil Duhaney first came from Jamaica to Westminster in the 1950's and joined the already established Caribbean community that spread across Harrow Road and Ladbroke Grove. Back then it was a vibrant community.

Around 1961, there was a lot of racial tension, and a fascist movement was growing which led to targeted attacks. A group known as Teddy Boys used to carry out racially motivated attacks. In one incident, the Duhaney family home was firebombed with Molotov cocktails. Thankfully, no one was harmed but their home was destroyed. It was a shocking act of racism but through that incident came the support of the local community who showed true community spirit by supporting the family with acts of kindness – race was no barrier when it came providing shelter and necessities.



▲ Basil Duhaney at his wedding

Residents also rallied together and to campaign for better housing conditions, as back then it was not properly regulated. It is through those sorts of actions that led to proper regulations. My great grandfather Basil Duhaney was an integral part of this campaign.

Today, his great granddaughter, Radeyah Abbas Saud, resided in Westminster and works as a Funding Officer and Neighbourhood Keeper for the Church Street Regeneration Programme at Westminster City Council.

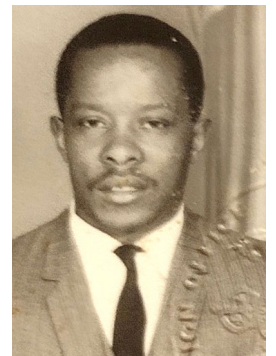
## Solomon Campbell

 Jamaican

**I**moved to England in the 1950's arriving in Brixton, South London and lived in London ever since

It was difficult to find places to live and jobs were not frequent when I first arrived. English people would not rent places to live. When I asked for place to rent, they would say go around you see the sign on the board saying, "No blacks, no Irish."

When we came to Britain lots of people complained about the difficulty finding jobs until Norman Washington Manley, who was the Prime Minister in Jamaica, came to Britain to let them know they had to give Jamaicans



▶  
 Solomon Campbell  
 Text and photo  
 kindly provided by  
 Angela Campbell

jobs because there are thousands of Jamaicans working in the sugar industry in Jamaica for Tate and Lyle.

You work and pay your social fund and national insurance. After retiring you get your pension, which is a very good thing. There is a lot of good things that you inherit in England. There are good and bad things, like any other country.

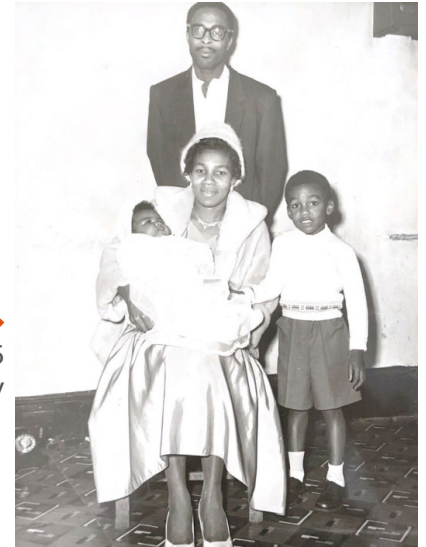
## Dr Leroy Logan MBE

 Jamaican descent

**B**orn in Islington 1957 to Jamaican parents, Leroy Logan travelled back to Jamaica where he spent the impressionable years of his childhood. He returned to London in 1966 and completed his education so that he could pursue a career as a medical research scientist at the Royal Free Hospital, an accomplishment his parents were especially proud of. However, Leroy's world was turned upside down when his father sustained a violent assault at the hands of two white police officers, which required hospitalisation. Leroy recalled that the injuries were so severe, he did not recognise his father when he visited him in hospital.

During the Windrush era, policing was rife with racism and some saw protest and resistance as the solution. However, Leroy decided to leave his career in science behind and join the Metropolitan Police as the way to change the system from within, despite the serious injuries sustained by his father. The decision drew criticism and suspicion from some of his family, black and Asian neighbours, as well as fellow police officers, who were mainly white males.

Many would have buckled under the pressure but Leroy not only persevered, but he is also credited with changing policing policies and introducing innovation through his role in the Macpherson Inquiry and the Damilola Taylor investigation. Leroy was the founding member and former chair of the Black Police Association and the Charity Arm, Voyage Youth. Closing Ranks, Leroy's autobiography, captures more of his accomplishments, which was adapted to the screen by Steve McQueen in the Small Axe episode, "Red, White and Blue". Leroy is portrayed by John Boyega.



▶  
 Leroy, age 5  
 and family



▶  
 Police Tunic worn by Leroy Logan as Superintendent (2004 – 07). The insignia on the shoulder earned Leroy the nickname of 'Crowns,' as he was affectionally known by the community he served in Hackney.

## Lee John

 St Lucian descent

**L**ee John was born in Hackney to St Lucian parents and therefore not technically Windrush but gets honorary status because... well, just because.

Lee chose to push above the racism he felt growing up in the UK. Instead, he focused on fulfilling his dreams. Touring around London, Lee was stopped numerous times by the police. His mother's counselling as a Police Liaison served him well, as it did for his lifelong friend Leroy Logan, when he joined the Metropolitan Police.

Lee's musical journey hit the right note when he formed the band, Imagination garnering many international hits, including Body Talk, Flashback and Just an Illusion. Had Lee not been able to push through the racism he experienced, he may not have worked with producer Trevor Horne, or producers Swain and Jolley, with whom Lee co wrote and produced these hit records.

Lee John with his mother, Jessie.



The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster were integral part of Lee's success. He recorded his first album with Imagination at Red Bus Recording Studio on Church Street in Westminster. While still in school, Lee worked on the fashionable Carnaby St, and credits his first stage costumes for Imagination as coming from Kensington market, where they crafted their unique image.

Lee has gone on to produce many documentaries, including, Police and Thieves, SOS Children Zambia, Flashback: The History of Black Music and From Within the Heart.

## Peter Straker

 Jamaican and Westminster resident

**P**eter Straker was born in Jamaica, arrived in the UK as a child in 1955, accompanied by his maternal grandmother, Iris Isabelle Straker, and two younger brothers. They travelled by ship on the SS Reina del Pacifico arriving in Plymouth, where they were met by their mother, Mavis Straker and then journeyed to Paddington Station, London. On Windrush Day 2021, Peter unveiled a plaque dedicated to the Windrush Generation in the clock arch tower of Paddington Station.

The Straker family first lived in Kilburn before moving to Kensington and Chelsea. During his school days, Peter worked as a bellboy at the first Hilton in London on Park Lane. Today, Peter resides in Westminster which he identifies as his home for the last 30 years. "Straker" has been hailed as one of the great

Peter Straker in the early '60s



voices of the British stage who first shot to fame in 1968 starring as Hud in the original London production of 'Hair'. His acclaimed acting and singing career has spanned over 50 years, including stage and screen, working with notable performers such as Freddie Mercury, Stephanie Beacham, Nichola McAullife, Ruby Turner and Pete Townsend from the 'Who'.

He has released a number of albums including a three disc box set titled "This One's On Me" and his latest single, "Late Night Taxi Dancer 2020." To date "Straker" continues to perform here in the UK as well as Internationally.

## Tirzah Victory



Jamaican and Westminster resident

**T**irzah Victory came to the UK, age 19, on 23 August 1958. She travelled by plane from Jamaica to Nottingham costing £85. She intended to pursue a nursing career but took a different route working in the Health Care Service, including Royal Free Hospital for over 20 years.

Tirzah remembers Nottingham to be a foggy place. She later moved to Harrow Road and recalls the old houses, no bathroom or indoor toilet. She also recalls it how bright it was

compared to Nottingham.

Like many others, Tirzah faced hostile reception and racism, "People didn't accept us; doors were slammed in our face when knocking on the doors advertising rooms to let".

Each Saturday Tirzah would walk to the Half Penny Steps Baths on Harrow Road, where she queued to bathe. She also recalls the smell of paraffin heaters used to heat homes.

## Hugh Cumberbatch



Barbadian and Westminster resident

**H**ugh Cumberbatch is one of 5 siblings and came to the UK August 1960.

Hugh recalls his journey:

I came to England on a ship from Barbados to Grenada. From Grenada I flew to Shannon Airport in Ireland and took a train from there to Victoria in London.

My brothers and sisters were already in the UK. I stayed with my sister who came to the UK in the late 50s and lived in Bravington Road.

I worked for British Rail as a Porter. I faced racism working there and had to work from bottom up because I wanted to work as a Signal Man on the rails.


To date, Hugh has lived in Westminster for over 60 years.

Island of Barbados on velvet



▲ Mr Cumberbatch in his early teens, Church Land Brigade in the late 1940s in Barbados. He sits in the front row.

## Annie and Bobby Carroll


 Nevisian and Curacaoan, and Westminster residents

In 1960, a very smart Bobby Gordon arrived from the West Indies full of high hopes and dreams of studying photography. He was very excited when he first arrived at 42 Iverson Road, but his excitement dissipated rapidly as he was to find out that his best friend had not sorted out his lodgings properly, despite all the letters Bobby had received from him stating otherwise. This hopeful new immigrant was turned away at the door and ended up spending his first night in the UK sleeping rough!

A cold, damp and dingy first night in England, with all his worldly possessions still in a suitcase, was not the grand entrance Bobby had hoped for, but his spirit was always positive - even crouched up in a corner of a simple room his strong foresight told him time would eventually become his greatest friend.

Waking up the next morning, Bobby realised that for life in England to really work out successfully for him, he would have to be sure to depend on no one other than himself.

Looking for a permanent place to stay in London was hard work! - it almost felt like some sort of welcome initiation to him - but after a while he found a shared house with its own kitchen and bathroom. This was the real start that Bobby Gordon had hoped for. He craved adult responsibility, and, as a 20-year-old man, already wanted to fulfil his own expectations and ambitions. From that moment on he told himself to always try and be sensible, although he knew that this would not always be possible as his West Indian spirit was often independent, spontaneous and playful. His soul also instinctively informed him that, however good you try to be in life, perfection is not a human state or condition, so he must never try to seek it.

 Bobby & Annie Carroll pictured on their wedding day.



From that point on, this new resident would call the United Kingdom his home, but he would have no more fanciful, foolish, romantic notions about what he learnt about Great Britain at school. He was, however, always extremely grateful and proud to reside here.

Before long, Bobby would become lifelong friends with a lovely lady from his beloved homeland Nevis, and her wonderful friends. At around the same time he moved into a tenement in Paddington - the address was 163 Portnall Road. The new friends also became his neighbours which all felt so good to him that he decided to save up and send the fare back home for his beloved girlfriend Annie who was still in the West Indies at this point. He absolutely worshipped his cute, loyal, highly lovable, little Annie; they wrote to each other constantly and she was all he thought about.

Bobby's betrothed's parents were understandably extremely apprehensive about such a big move for their precious daughter but, after seeing how strongly she felt about her boyfriend who had already emigrated, they eventually gave their permission for the young girl to join him and even helped pay her passage.

The Begonia from Curacao, with little Annie on board, docked at Southampton in 1964. She was extremely tired, happy and yet slightly homesick, beautifully turned out in a crisp, starched white dress, desperate to get the train to London. The 19-year-old was yearning to be with her Bobby.

The happy couple were married on May 2nd, 1964, in Fernhead Road church, Paddington.

The newlyweds were very happy together but unfortunately, try as they might, they struggled to conceive for the first few years of marriage, so together they would enjoy the delights of the 1960s West Indian music scene with their lifelong loyal friends. Annie & Bobby loved to dance to Ska music.

In 1970, still living in London, the couple's wish came true and they had a little baby girl called Traci.

Bobby adored his mother but hadn't had the easiest of childhoods with his stepfather, so he was happy as Larry, completely cock-a-hoop to have his own baby girl to love. Annie was adored by her family back in Curacao, so she was absolutely thrilled to bits to be expecting their first child.

Bobby & Annie moved to Southampton at the end of 1972 where they would buy their first house. The move was due to the closure of Ford's Langley factory. They both worked in factories, Bobby at Ford and Annie at Dimplex, until retirement when they became foster carers.

The couple have two children, Traci and Jason, and they will always do their very best for them.

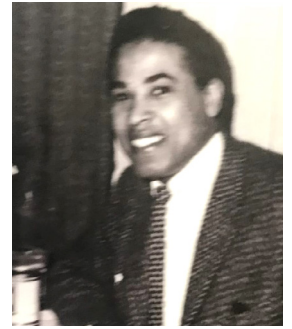
**Bobby & Annie moved to Southampton at the end of 1972 where they would buy their first house. The move was due to the closure of Ford's Langley factory.**

**They both worked in factories, Bobby at Ford and Annie at Dimplex, until retirement when they became foster carers.**

Today Annie & Bobby have a very happy life, they cherish their family and see them as their true life's treasure. The couple feel very fortunate and blessed to have two children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Together they thank God every single day for the blessings he has bestowed.

## Wilton George Rutty

 Jamaican and Kensington and Chelsea resident



A group of parishioners met with the vicar after his first service and declared that they would not return to the church 'if this n\*\*\*\*\*' continued to attend.

The vicar said he had an important message to deliver, "I want to make sure you come to church every Sunday."

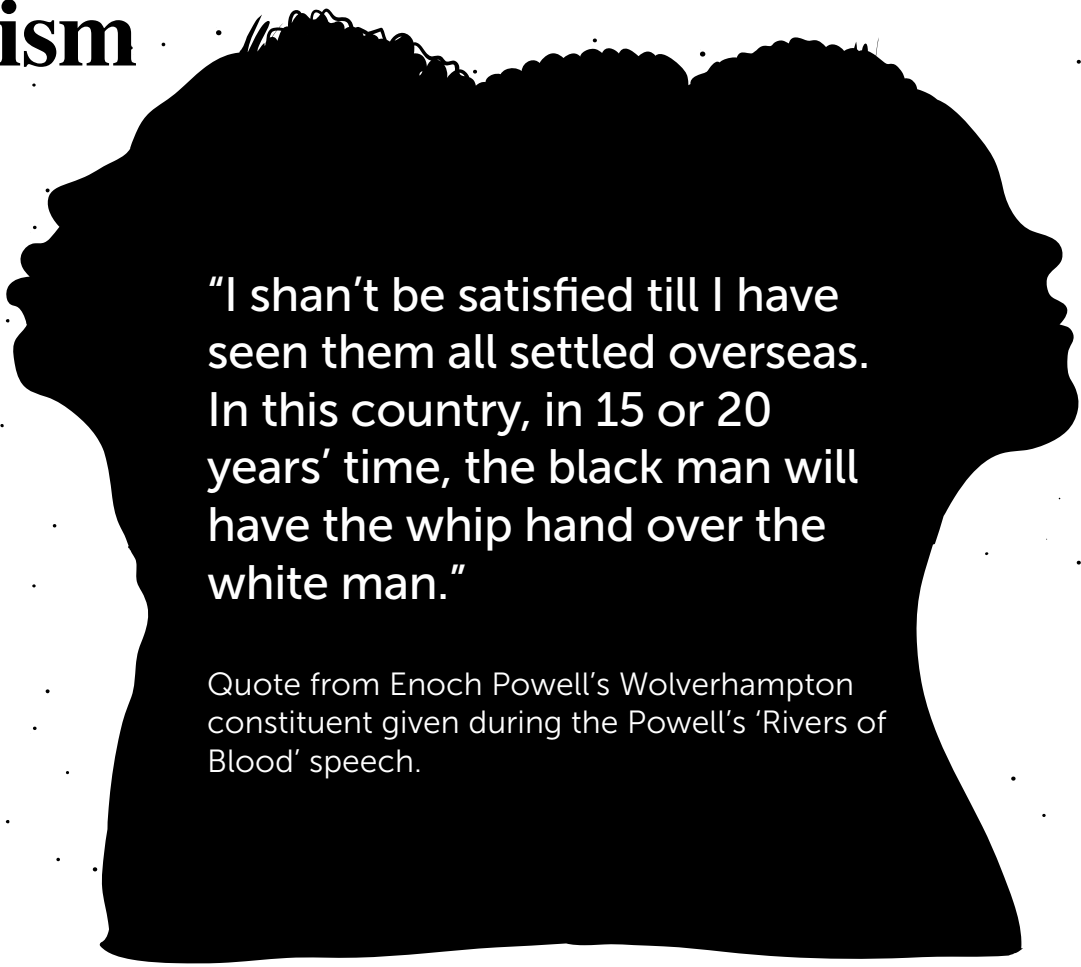
Wilton George Rutty was born on the northern coast of Jamaica, in Jeffery Town, St Mary. To further his studies in aeronautical engineering, Wilton relocated to Britain in 1961 along with his brothers and male cousins, where they made Notting Hill their first home in the UK.

Coming home from work late one night, Wilton was set upon by a group of Teddy Boys. Fortunately, he was just a few doors from his home and called out for his brothers and cousins. Traumatized by this experience and the hostile reception he received in Britain, Wilton decided to attend the local Parish's Sunday service. Unbeknownst to Wilton, a group of parishioners met with the vicar after his first service and declared that they would not return to the church 'if this n\*\*\*\*\*' continued to attend.

So, the Vicar decided to visit Wilton, ringing his doorbell unannounced. The vicar said he had an important message to deliver, "I want to make sure you come to church every Sunday." Wishing to avoid a smiting by the hand of the Almighty, Wilton was in church every Sunday, suited and booted!

Wilton's niece, Loy Seattle Phillips, is a Project Officer for Bi-borough Legal Services, a Windrush Taskforce member and Westminster resident.

# Racism



"I shan't be satisfied till I have seen them all settled overseas. In this country, in 15 or 20 years' time, the black man will have the whip hand over the white man."

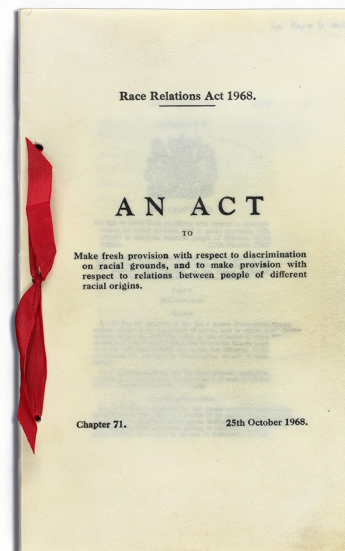
Quote from Enoch Powell's Wolverhampton constituent given during the Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech.

"For these dangerous and divisive elements, the legislation proposed in the Race Relations Bill is the very pabulum they need to flourish. Here is the means of showing that the immigrant communities can organise to consolidate their members, to agitate and campaign against their fellow citizens, and to overawe and dominate the rest with the legal weapons which the ignorant and the ill-informed have provided. As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see "the River Tiber foaming with much blood."

In April 1968 Enoch Powell addressed his concerns about the pending Race Relations Bill to a Conservative Association meeting in Birmingham and delivered what is now known as the 'Rivers of Blood' speech'. Prime minister Edward Heath dismissed Powell from the Conservative Party the next day.

"On 25th October 1968, the Race Relations Bill was given Royal Assent and so came into law as the Race Relations Act 1968. This Act expanded the provisions of the 1965 Race Relations Act,

which had banned racial discrimination in public places and made promoting racial hatred a crime. The 1968 Act focused on eradicating discrimination in housing and employment. It aimed to ensure that the second-generation immigrants "who have been born here" and were "going through our schools" would get "the jobs for which they are qualified and the houses they can afford" – UK Parliament.



The following accounts led to this momentous day in British history.



# Racism

In the 1950s, Notting Hill (along with Brixton) had one of the largest populations of Caribbean people in Britain.

During this period, Notting Hill was also a stronghold for British Fascist Leader Oswald Mosley's Union Movement. In 1958-59, under the banner of "Keep Britain White", this far-right movement made up of local white working-class populations instigated attacks on the Black Communities of Notting Hill, London and Nottingham. Bringing terror to local communities, these attacks culminated in the murder of Antigua-born Kelso Cochrane.



## Ivan Weekes

 Barbadian - Notting Hill Methodist Church parishioner  
and Kensington & Chelsea resident


**M**y wife and I would go to work, come home, the flat we had at the time... was the fifth floor, one of the big houses in the Colville area... So when you locked your door you came in and you were there. If you wanted cigarettes, if you wanted milk or sugar, bring it in with you because if you went back out with riots raging in the street you are in trouble. But we stood at our window... and saw what was happening. We saw the police brutality, we saw people getting arrested, we saw it all. Next morning you get up, nobody wanted to know. You felt awful. You really felt awful and didn't go back out.

There were bricks throwing, bottles throwing, police dishing it out and police also are getting it. It was bloodshed. I'll try and kill you before you kill me – that kind of thing. There were young black men coming home from work, innocently, carpenters or men


with tools in their bags and they got arrested for carrying offence weapons like a hammer or a chisel, that kind of thing. And the teddy boys was fanning it up and the whole business of Mosley and his gang moved to Notting Hill and sought to make political mileage out of it and the local people then got a fillip in their arm because, 'Send them back where they come from!' It was awful to live through. Those years were very difficult.

I think part of the seed corn of the race riots was the fact that ordinary working class people saw us as a threat to their houses, their jobs, our presence as criminal, our presence as threatening all sorts of things. And that had a kind of an orchestration here and everywhere in Notting Hill and in Nottingham... The newspapers at the time called Nottingham 'Rottingham' and Notting Hill 'Rotting Hill.'

## Gene Martin

 Jamaican, Notting Hill Methodist Church parishioner and Kensington & Chelsea resident

In Westbourne Grove, near to the Post Office, La Baptist Church...One Sunday, a couple of us went there. We enjoyed the service and when we walked out there was no minister. The other two ladies were at the other door and the minister shook their hands and said, 'Thanks for coming, but don't come back'. Well, when they was telling me this (I didn't hear it myself), I thought they didn't hear right and I contradicted it so much, because it sounded so bad. I said that perhaps you didn't hear it right, perhaps he was saying, 'Thanks for coming, do come back'. 'No, he said, 'Don't come back', she said. We have not been there again. Some other friends say, 'Come, go to the Methodist'. Well, some of them did move from the Methodist Church...because they didn't like to be mixed up...We were nicely welcomed by the minister especially...the Reverend Norwyn Denny. He had been in Jamaica and learned some of our ways there.

 Gene Martin  
 Auxiliary nurse at  
 Fulham Hospital, c.1960s'.



**Hustler - Notting Hill  
 Community Newsletter**  
 A fortnightly Black  
 community newspaper  
 first published in May 1968,  
 it was initially edited by  
 Courtney Tullock from the  
 Mangrove restaurant in  
 Notting Hill.  
 Kindly loaned by Royal  
 Borough of Kensington &  
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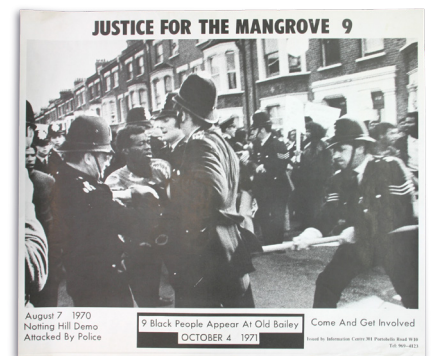
## MANGROVE NINE Community Action Poster

North Kensington has a history of community action, and this poster provides insight into the Notting Hill community response to the trial of 'The Mangrove Nine'.

The Mangrove Nine - on 9 August 1970, a group of Black British activists led 150 people on a march against police harassment of the black community in Notting Hill. This included a call for the 'end of the persecution of the Mangrove Restaurant'. Between January 1969 and July 1970, the police had raided the Mangrove Restaurant twelve times. No evidence of illegal activity was found during these raids.

At the 1970 march in defence of the Mangrove, violence broke out between the police and protestors. The following year seven men and two women were put on trial at the Old Bailey charged with incitement to riot. Their names were Darcus Howe, Frank Crichlow, Rhodan

 Mangrove Nine -  
 Community Action  
 Poster  
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Gordan, Althea Jones-Lacointe, Barbara Beese, Godfrey Miller, Rupert Glasgow Boyce, Anthony Carlisle Innis and Rothwell Kentish. These men and women became known nationally as the 'Mangrove Nine.'

The trial lasted 55-days and all nine defendants were finally acquitted of the most serious of the charges brought against them – incitement of a riot. The case made legal history when it delivered the first judicial acknowledgement of 'racial hatred on both sides', acknowledging this as a cause of the harassment by the police force.

# Racism

In celebrating the Windrush Generation, it is important to also examine and acknowledge the obstacles they overcame. The abhorrent acts of racism the Windrush Generation endured would not be tolerated in contemporary Britain. There are well known incidents like Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech and the events that led to the 1958 Notting Hill Uprising, and the numerous cases of police brutality. However, we decided to incorporate lesser-known acts into *Unsung Heroes*. This decision was made not to shame the organisations responsible but to illustrate how deeply entrenched and normalised institutionalised racism was, and how far we have progressed.

We understand that this content is difficult to view today, but no less than it was during the era of the Windrush Generation.

**Warning:** The following pages (44-46) contain depictions of blackface and racist language, which some may find inappropriate for children and difficult to view.



## Robertsons Golliwogs

The British jam and marmalade company, Robertson's, produced its first golliwog in 1910 and the last in 2001. Though there were letters of complaint about the racist imagery, Robertson's maintained that the protests paled in comparison to the 45 million jam jars they sold each year. However, it was the Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng, then Cllr Boateng of the Greater London Council, who led the first formal boycott in 1983 against Robertson's for their use of a golliwog on a road sign. This initiative was later followed by Islington councillors and other organisations.

Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng PC DL, contributed the following quote to this exhibition on the use of golliwogs:

'Our actions in initiating this [boycott against Robertson's] and other boycotts including those of South African apartheid goods whilst supported by ordinary Londoners were



▲ Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng PC DL (second from the right) pictured with fellow GLC Councillors delivering a petition to 10 Downing Street on the use of South African goods.

vehemently criticised in much of the mainstream media. Taking action against racial stereotyping and injustice requires intentionality and activism. We have come a long way since then but injustices against the Windrush and successive generations remain and continue to demand the attention of us all.'

▼ Robertson's Golliwog road signs and memorabilia



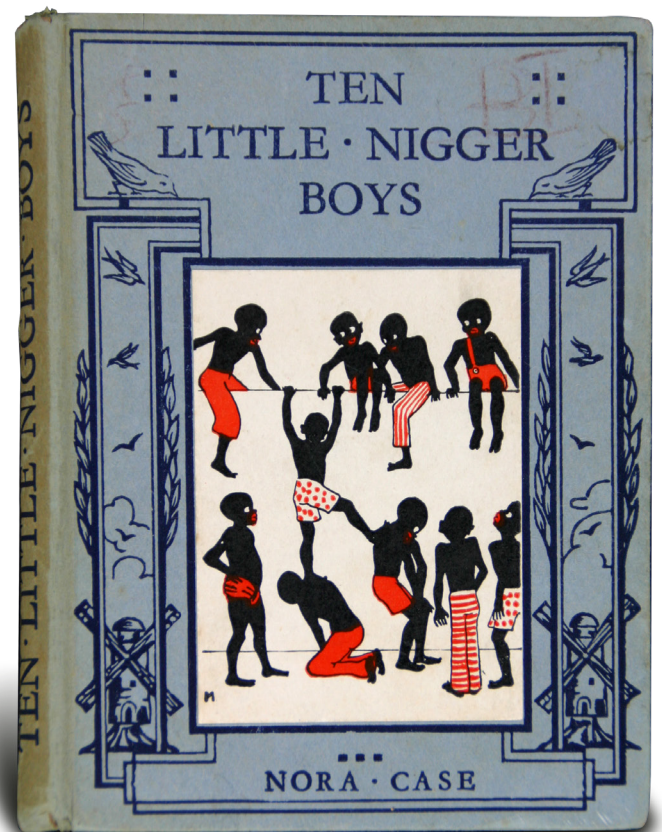
# TEN LITTLE N\*\*\*\*\* BOYS

by Nora Case

This children's book was in publication from 1907 to 1962. Case's characters are depicted in a style known as 'black face' and the "N word" is employed at least once every page to teach reading and basic arithmetic. The second half of the book is called Ten Little N\*\*\*\*\* Girls and offers a lesson in subtraction each of the girls meeting a violent demise with accompanying imagery.

Statement from Chatto and Windus on when and how Ten Little N\*\*\*\*\* Boys was taken out of publication.

"Unfortunately, we haven't been able to find any documentation in the archives, and there is no one working at the company now who was there at the time who might provide information on when and why the book ceased to be published. It's difficult to say how we deal with historic publications of this nature when we no longer publish this book and certainly would not publish it today. Today our publishing teams follow a rigorous process to ensure our books are published with due care, consideration and in line with our responsibilities as a publisher to protect our readers from serious harm. For those classic texts we do publish, our approach is to use introductions, notes and other editorial apparatus from academic experts to provide contextualisation and an important framework in which these books can be read."



# TEN LITTLE N\*\*\*\*\*S

by Agatha Christie

This murder mystery was named after N\*\*\*\*\* Island, where much like the little girls in Case's book, each of the house guests are summarily killed off. In Britain, the original title of this book remained in print from 1939 until the 1980's, when it was retitled, *And Then There Were None*.

Statement from Harper Collins:

"The novel in question was originally published in 1939 after a children's counting rhyme of the time. The title of the novel was changed to *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE* in the UK in the 1980s".



# The Murder of Kelso Cochrane

## Kelso Cochrane

 Antiguan and Kensington & Chelsea resident

The first officially termed "race crime" took place in 1959. Kelso Cochrane, now buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, had moved to Britain a few years earlier, and settled in Notting Hill. [To facilitate his legal studies] he worked as a carpenter, and one night, walking home from Paddington General Hospital after fracturing his thumb in a work accident, he was set upon by a group of white youths and stabbed with a stiletto knife. Three other men arrived on the scene and the youths ran off. The three men took Cochrane to hospital, where he died, age 32. Cochrane's funeral was attended by more than 1,200 people.

Excerpt from *Smoke! Othello!*, By Vanessa Walters

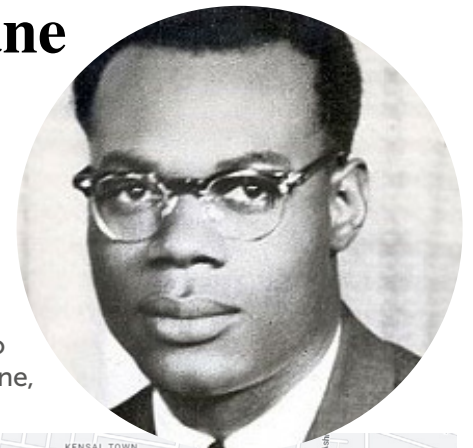
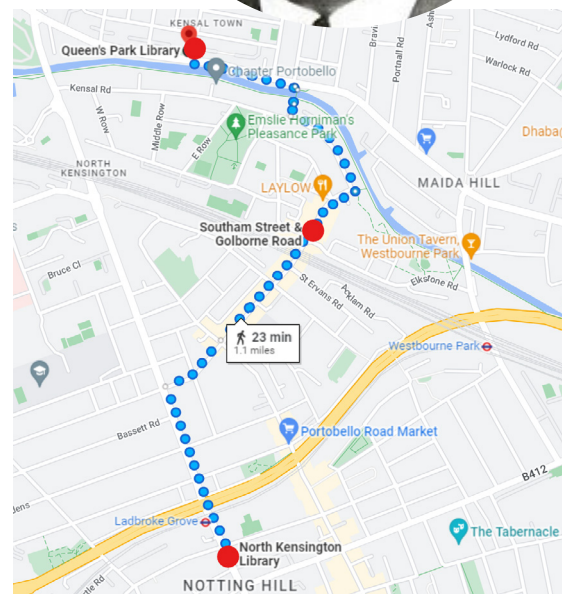


Photo of Kelso Cochrane, c.1959

Map illustrating the neighbourhood between Queen's Park Library and North Kensington Library. The red circle at the junction Southam Street and Golborne Road marks the spot where Kelso Cochrane was murdered.




# Carnival

- ▼ Male and Female Carnival Costumes.  
These costumes are part of the Tropical Isles 2022 Theme: I Can Hear Freedom Calling, based American abolitionist Harriet Tubman. The impact of COVID has had its many challenges and we use the opportunity that Carnival offers to let us not forget to celebrate our culture and heritage as it is important for us to keep inspiring young creatives to design and portray their ideas through costumes.  
This New Beginning will remind us of the pre-COVID times when all was carefree and now we can re-create amazing memories as we start back after the pandemic.



# Adapted from Carnival Diaspora: Notting Hill Carnival, Past Present and Future

By David Kalloo  Trinidadian, Author, and Kensington and Chelsea Officer

When the Empire Windrush sailed into Tilbury Docks in June 1948 and Lord Kitchener, the Trinidadian calypsonian sang extempore to the media:

*London is the place for me, London that lovely city  
You can go to France or America, India, Asia or Africa.  
But you must come back to London city.  
I said London is the place for me. London, that lovely city*

Little did he or the rest of Britain realise that the seeds of the carnival were sown. Three years later, steelband arrived in Britain by way of the Trinidad All Stars Percussion Orchestra (TAPSO) to perform at the Festival Hall as part of the festival of Britain after the war. These two elements of Caribbean culture lay dormant as the British public became embroiled in racial prejudices among Caribbean migrants.

The start of the Carnival followed the riots after the death of Kelso Cochrane. Claudia Jones, a Trinidadian activist exiled from America to Britain, organised events to celebrate Caribbean culture "in the face of the hate from the white racists", started the Notting Hill Carnival to unite a neighbourhood.

Claudia introduced carnival shows to London in a hope of bolstering a unity between Caribbean people and Britain. The first of these shows was held at St Pancras Hall in 1959 and subsequently at Seymour Hall. Among the artistes who participated in Claudia's show that was televised by the BBC were the Mighty Terror, Fitzroy Coleman, Boscoe Holder and his Troupe, Pearl Prescod and Trinidad All Stars Steel Band are just a few of the names employed by Claudia. According to Prescod the "programme was transmitted but, unfortunately the BBC appears to have no film or tape of the event in its archive.

The tradition started by Claudia was later picked up by Rhuanne Antoinette Laslett-O'Brien, who was born in East London, 1919, to a Tuscarora squaw mother and a Russian businessman father.

It is through Rhuanne's involvement with the playgroup that a children's carnival was formed, which eventually led to the formation of the Notting Hill street carnival. This outdoor event was distinctly different from the indoor events of Claudia Jones. In the streets, an area permeated with West Indians who had arrived in Britain, either through direct recruitment by the British government or those who migrated in search of jobs and a decent wage in the 'Mother country'.





The connection with the Caribbean influence of the carnival came when Rhuanne heard there was a steelband that played at the Colherne Pub in Earls Court on Sundays. She approached Russell Henderson MBE, an accomplished jazz pianist and pan-man to play at the fair which Russell accepted.

Russell's recollection is:

*We spread the word around that we were going to play at the fête and so other West Indians came by. There was myself, Sterling Betencourt MBE and Ralph Cherry went along. This was the first time there was ever any steelband on the streets of Notting Hill. It was not so much a carnival but a fete, with part of the street blocked off. After standing up playing in one place, pan-round-the-neck, I said to the boys, Sterling and Ralph. Dis pan getting heavy standing up one place playing let we make ah rounds. I told Laslett, and the people barring the street. Could you make an opening and we going to make ah block. I told them to let the children on the donkeys and the clowns follow us, we just making a lil block instead of staying in one place on the street. When we started to make the block, it turned out to be the longest block, we went all the way down Bayswater.*

Playing his pan strung around his neck, as was the means of carrying and playing the instrument in those days. The floats, being mobile soon left the musicians behind, Sterling and friends decided to carry on walking and playing. They continued down Portobello Road, along Great Western Road and into Chepstow Road. Sterling claims "This was the first ever carnival route."



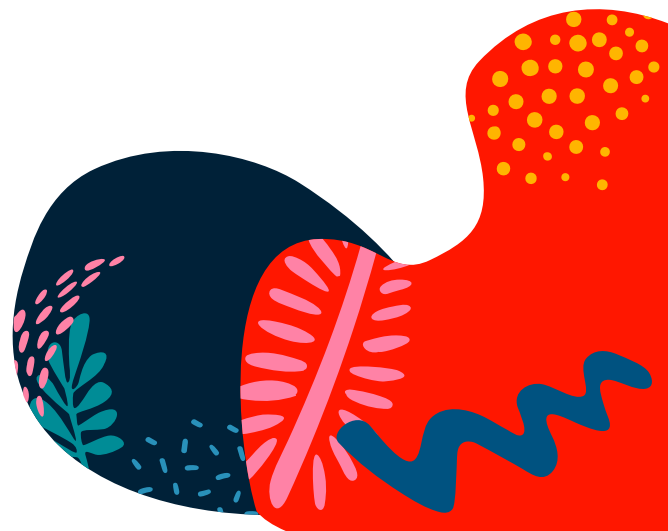
▲ Notting Hill Carnival: Street Scene  
 Kindly loaned by RBKC Archives & Local Studies



▶ Dancers outside All Saints Church, Notting Hill  
 Kindly loaned by RBKC Archives & Local Studies



▶ Carnival Sound System, c.1970's



# End Note

By **Dr Fatima Zohra** 🇩🇲

Maternal Dominican descent and Data Protection Officer for RBKC and WCC  
Former resident of Kensington, present resident of Westminster

Westminster and Kensington had a significant proportion of people from the small islands, like St Lucia, Dominica, Barbados, Antigua etc. One of the community languages in Church Street, Harrow Road and Notting Hill during the Windrush Era was French patois. Sadly, most of that generation are in their 80s and passing away, and their children have largely moved out of the boroughs due to rising housing costs. Historically, carnival in Kensington was organised and attended by these communities, with mass pre-carnival dances in Granville Hall off Kilburn, mid-night mass and carnival competitions at the now defunct Commonwealth Institute in the 1970s and 80s.

These were things that the Windrush Generation did to survive: They ran partner groups, established shabeens, ran rent parties. They pulled together as a community such as organising seaside outings, and dances. They did early morning cleaning jobs to supplement incomes. They were ancillary staff, worked as cooks, worked in the transport sector, worked in the rag trade and were visible in Lyons Tea shops! They set up community organisations and 'back home' associations; they remained connected to the Islands and were instrumental in maintaining the economic survival of their homelands by sending money home to support families. They laughed, played and died in a country that didn't welcome them, but had to accept them.

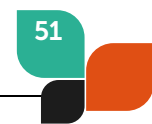
They came hoping to be nurses, suffered the indignities of being rejected and innocently encountered 'in your face' prejudice by



▲ My painting, *Contributions*, is a reimagining of the Union Jack representing the unquantifiable contribution that many Caribbean nations have made to Britain. It is a symbolic gesture not exclusive to just the nations' flags represented, but for the wider Caribbean diaspora.  
By **Shane D'Allessandro**

patients and doctors alike - so becoming a SRN (state registered nurse) was a big deal. So much of their history is unknown, like all historical events - the real stories get left behind. Their legacy is felt across the two boroughs and beyond today, the music, the food, the culture, the diversity that has become recognised across the world through the carnival. I would say they were amazing young people who had courage to come, live and survive in a hostile place - and they did it with dignity.

Simply put, I love them and what they stood for and how they maintained optimism and hope for a better life for their families, and how those values remain alive and kicking in the generations that came after them.



# Meet the Windrush Taskforce

The Windrush Generation Unsung Heroes exhibition captures first-hand accounts and artefacts of the Windrush Generation, most of whom live or work in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and the City of Westminster.

The murder of Kelso Cochrane occurred on the border of these two London boroughs and in the heart of the Caribbean neighbourhood, anchored by the exhibition sites of Queen’s Park Library in Westminster and the North Kensington Library in Kensington and Chelsea. Along this corridor, residents rallied to support Kelso, protested during the Notting Hill Uprising and celebrated with the Notting Hill Carnival. These are the people and their descendants who have returned to contribute to this exhibition.

The Windrush Taskforce is honoured to share the extraordinary stories of these unsung heroes.



**Louisa Augustine**  
 Bridge Engineer



**Krystle Downie**  
 Communications  
 Officer



**Sophia Hall**  
 Archivist and Windrush  
 Exhibition Curator



**Trisha Husbands**  
 Engagement Coordinator



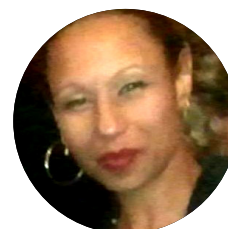
**Antricia John**  
 Business Support  
 Officer



**Manminder Mangat**  
 Senior Solicitor



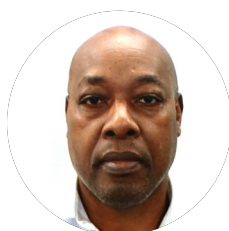
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**Sophia Rajab**  
 Project Manager



**Patrick Rigabie**  
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**Catherine Rock**  
 Income Officer

A special thank you to  
**Joel Kirkwood**,  
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# Acknowledgements

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**W**e would also like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their contributions:

- Carnival Arts & Masquerade Foundation
- Imperial War Museum
- Jamaican High Commission
- Kensington and Chelsea Archives
- London Transport Museum
- Mary Seacole Housing Care
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Fair Trade of Barbados
- National Army Museum
- National Museum of Royal Navy
- Notting Hill Methodist Church
- Parish of St. John, Kensal Green
- Pepper Pot Centre
- Royal Air Force
- Royal College of Nurses
- Rt Hon, Lord Boateng PC DL

- St Bart's Archives
- Westminster Archives
- Westminster City Council Black, Asian and Multiple Ethnic Staff Network
- David Kalloo
- Dr Fatima Zohra
- Lee John
- Leroy Logan
- Peter Straker
- Rt Hon, Lord Boateng PC DL
- Shane D'Allessandro
- The family of Annie & Bobbie Carroll
- The family of Emelda Seattle Phillips & Kenneth Loy Rutty
- The family of Gwendolyn Dennis
- The family of Levi Decourcey Husbands
- The family of Madeleine & Sonny John
- The family of Rory Westmaas
- The family of the Rt Hon Sam King
- The family of Wilston Samuel "Bill" Jackson
- The family of Solomon Campbell

**P**lease take a couple of minutes to fill out our feedback survey. We would love to hear your thoughts.



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
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