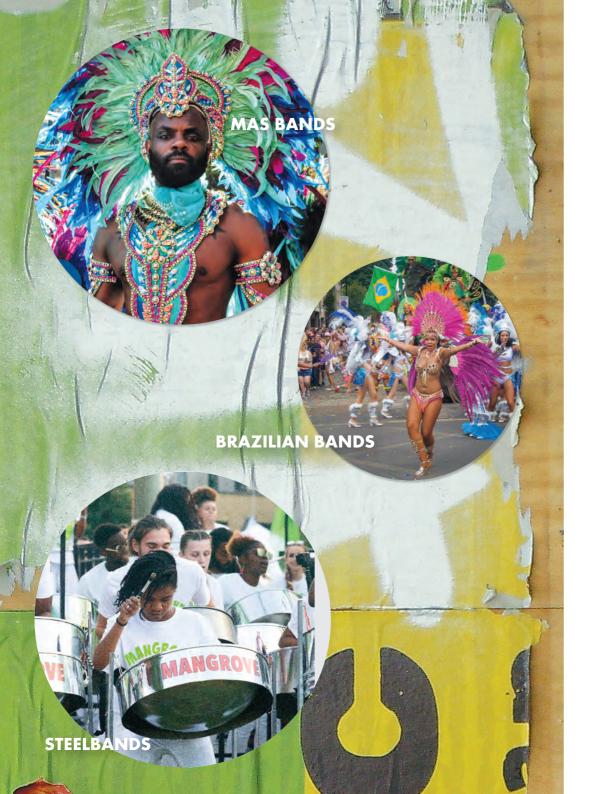




SUPPORTED BY







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CARNIVAL AREA RESIDENTS

Please be aware of road closures, parking restrictions and safety zones.

(See pp6-10)

JOIN US!

Notting Hill Carnival App

(See p13)

Social

(See back cover)

WELCOME MESSAGE

from the Organisers

or over 50 years Notting Hill Carnival has been uniting and empowering communities both locally and beyond. From its humble beginnings, Notting Hill Carnival has become the largest communityled carnival in the world. Carnival is in the hands of the people, and in your hands right now is the official guide to enjoying the experience.

Behind the scenes, Carnivalists work all year round to ensure that, during the month of August, the streets of Notting Hill once again come alive. As we enter into the season, we acknowledge that we are standing on the shoulders of giants — trailblazers — who created the Notting Hill Carnival and gifted us their legacy. Though the event has evolved, in a post-Windrush Britain, Caribbean art forms continue to be celebrated through generations of Carnival supporters and participants.

This is your guide to maximising your experience of Carnival. Whether you are from the local area and wish to be a community steward, or someone from the other side of the world wanting to wear a costume, we have included all of the information that you will need.

On behalf of myself, the board, our advisory council and the team here at Notting Hill Carnival Ltd., I would like to wish you all a spectacular Notting Hill Carnival 2019.

Matthew Phillip Executive Director, Notting Hill Carnival Ltd.





PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Notting Hill Carnival Ltd. would like to thank all those who have contributed to delivering Notting Hill Carnival 2019.

Carnival Arts Bodies

Association of Calypsonians and Soca Artistes (ACASA) British Association of Sound Systems (BASS) British Association of Steel Bands (BAS) Carnival Arts Masquerade Foundation (CAMF) Caribbean Music Association (CMA) Children and Parents Carnival Association (CAPCA)

Strategic Partners

Greater London Authority Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Westminster City Council Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime The Metropolitan Police

Operational Partners Commercial Partners

Brent Council Adidas **British Transport Police Bodi Drinks Bugle Communications Duppy Share** London Ambulance Innocent **London Buses** Little Moons London Underground Port Royal Red Bull McKenzie Arnold Group NHS England Red Stripe St John Ambulance Second Screen Transport for London Shea Moisture











RESIDENTS MESSAGE

from Kensington and Chelsea Council and Westminster City Council

e're proud to support the Notting Hill Carnival – the biggest community-led street celebration on the planet and one of Britain's iconic annual events.

It's an event that West London is known for the world over and shows off the very best of our vibrant local culture. It's also great fun.

London's diverse heritage is one of its greatest strengths and each year this annual celebration brings people of all backgrounds together in a colourful celebration of local culture.

We do recognise that Carnival can have a huge impact on those who live and work in the area. As always Kensington and Chelsea Council and Westminster City Council will work with the organisers and our partners to support our residents — providing services and facilities to keep disruption to a minimum. We'd like to thank you for your patience and understanding.

This booklet put together by the organisers of Carnival, provides practical advice and tips for Carnival. It includes useful helpline numbers and a guide as to who is responsible for doing what. The maps detail the route and event schedule, road closures and parking restrictions, public transport diversions and important safety information.

Supporting and celebrating our community is a year round commitment and a cornerstone of our work as councils. Events like Carnival bring people together and make London the fantastic place we all know and love.

We hope you have a wonderful time.

CIIr Elizabeth Campbell

Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council

CIIr Nickie Aiken

Leader of Westminster City Council

COUNCIL ROLES

The councils' main roles at Carnival to support residents and the event are:

- Street Traders Make sure street traders at Carnival meet the necessary safety and legal standards.
- Litter and Cleaning Pick up litter, get your street clean and get the area back to normal as soon as practically possible after Carnival.
- Toilets Provide toilets for the event where possible.
- Music and Noise Agree permission for music to be played during the event and monitor noise levels.
- Traffic and Parking Management Support the management of traffic around the area.



ROAD CLOSURES, PARKING RESTRICTIONS

To create a safe environment during Carnival, a number of road closures and parking restrictions are enforced. Residents of both Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster should be aware of these.

Most roads within the Carnival area will be closed from Sunday 6am to Tuesday 6am

Only Carnival floats, pre-authorised event vehicles and emergency vehicles will be allowed into the area.

- Residents who may wish to remove their vehicles from the Carnival area should do so by 6am on Sunday 25 August, though the police request they do so the night before if at all possible.
- There is no access on Sunday night for vehicles.
- The police will be checking all vehicles entering the area and surrounding streets and vehicles without accreditation will not gain access.
- Subject to police decision, road closures occur until 6am on Tuesday. Please leave it as late as possible before driving vehicles back into the area.

• Please remember to check for any other vehicle restriction times on the roads around you before starting your journey, as these may impact your route out of the area.

More

- Traffic exclusions and parade route (see pp 8–9)
- Please check your council's website (see opposite page)

Kensington & Chelsea

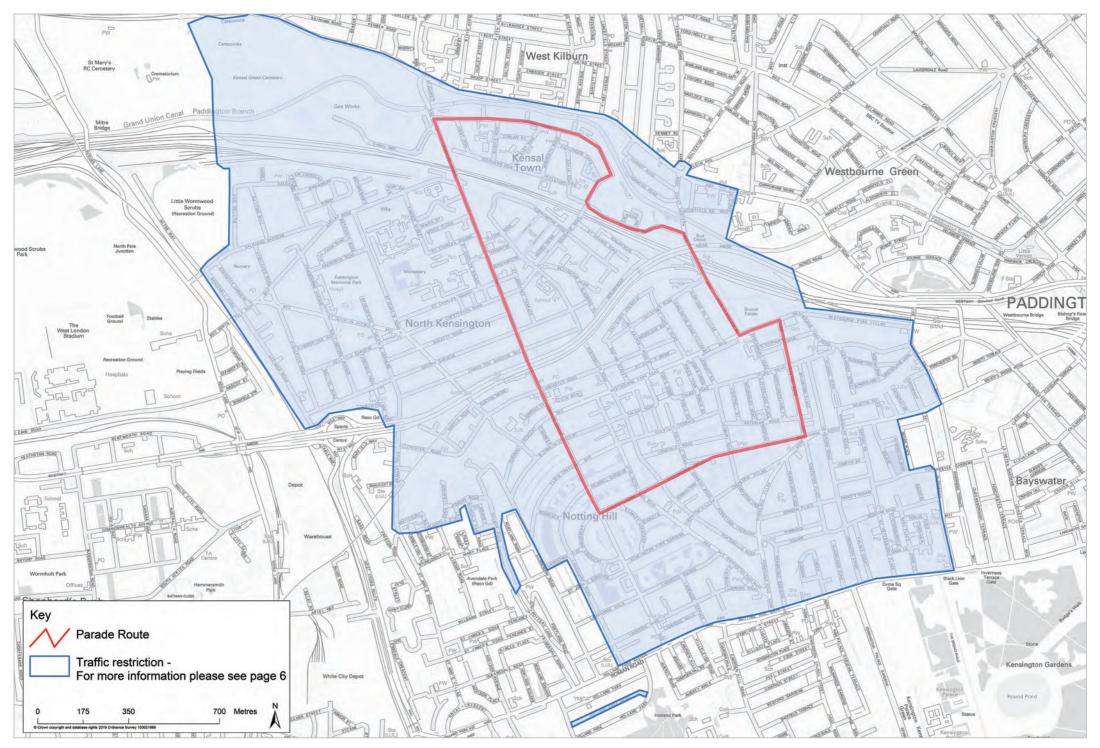
- RBKC also enforces waiting restrictions in Campden Ward and a small part of Pembridge Ward.
 Temporary warning signs will be displayed so please look out for these.
- Full details of traffic exclusions: w rbkc.gov.uk/carnival

Westminster

- Some streets will begin parking restrictions from Thursday 22 August.
 Parking suspension signs will be made visible in key areas of activity and safety zones, about two weeks before Carnival.
- Extended hours will be provided for residents parking in the north of the Carnival area.

w westminster.gov.uk/notting-hill-carnival





SAFETY ZONES AND RESIDENTS

Safety zones are closed to Carnival visitors. This is to help with crowd and emergency vehicle management. Residents must carry ID to access their homes.

Resident ID Required

Residents on foot must have ID showing their name and address if they are in safety zones or if they have to go through a safety zone to access their home. (Acceptable ID: bank statement, council tax statement, utility bill or driving licence).

Please note: access will only be granted to those residents living directly within each particular safety zone. You will not be granted access to use safety zones as a thoroughfare.

More

Event map (see pp18–19)



ROAD AND PROPERTY CLEAN-UP

Rubbish will be cleared each night from the main Carnival area. Residents can also apply for front garden and basement cleaning services.

- Timings of nightly clean-ups are subject to police advice on suitable times to start. Main roads and areas around transport hubs also take priority for the clean-up.
- The barriers and signs will be removed by the police after the event.

Kensington & Chelsea

• A free cleaning service is offered for residents, whose front garden or basement have been affected during Carnival. (This is not offered where Carnival related activity or street trading has taken place; Council officers record addresses of any such activity to determine eligibility for this service.)

• If you have had Carnival activity on your premises and want to register for a basement clean, charges are:

Basic sweep, litter clearance: £30 Including pressure wash: £75

Registration deadline:5pm Thursday 5 September

The quickest way to register is via our online form. If you don't have internet access, please call 020 7361 3001 (weekdays only).

w rbkc.gov.uk/carnival

Westminster

- If you meet the requirements on our website, register online for our free Notting Hill Carnival cleaning service for your garden (see below).
- For a deep clean of your basement that does not contain Carnival related rubbish, sign up online (see below).

Pressure wash: £70

Registration deadline:5pm Thursday 5 September

w westminster.gov.uk/notting-hill-carnival

OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

Notting Hill Carnival starts at 10am, Sunday 25 August and 10.30am, Bank Holiday Monday 26 August.

Sat	UK National Panorama Steelband Competition	6pm-11pm		
	Steelpan extravaganza the night before Carnival (ticketed, see p41). – Emslie Horniman's Pleasance Park, Kensal Road, W10 3DH)			
Sun	J'Ouvert The traditional celebration before the formal sta – Starts at Sainsbury's, Canal Way, Ladbroke Gro			
	Opening Ceremony — Judging Zone, Great Western Road	10am-10.30am		
	Children's Day Parade and Carnival Main event of the day. — Parade Route	10.30am—5pm		
	Adults 'Dutty Mas' Extended J'Ouvert theme (see above). — Parade Route	10.30am—8.30pm		
Mon	Adults Day Parade and Carnival — Parade Route	10.30am-8.30pm		
Sun & Mon	Static Sound Systems	12pm–7pm		
	Silence for Grenfell (72 seconds) Commemoration following a 2 minute announcement.			
	Judging Point – Great Western Road / Westbourne Park Road	Closes 8.30pm		
	Street Trading	10am-8pm (RBKC) 10am-7pm (Westminster)		

GET THE

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL®

APP







VOTING

- Panorama Event
- Parading Bands
- Live Stages
- Sound Systems

LISTINGS

- Performing Artists
- Events & After Parties

SOCIAL MEDIA STREAM

Share Content

AUDIO & VIDEO STREAM

- Live Content
- Historical Content

INTERACTIVE MAP

- Parading Bands (Live Locations)
- Static Sound Systems
- Food & Drinks
- Transport Links
- Toilets & First Aid

DOWNLOAD IT NOW!







STREET TRADING

Every year, traders offer food, drink and accessories. They are regulated to ensure that what they offer is safe, and meets food safety and other requirements.

- Both Councils work with traders to make sure they are regulated and meet the necessary standards, and that they close on time (see times below).
- Council officers will ensure that licensed stallholders stop trading at the time specified on their licence, and do not continue trading beyond that time.

Kensington & Chelsea	Westminster
Carnival trading 10am—8pm Street Trading Office T 020 7341 5147 e carnivalstreettrading@rbkc.gov.uk	Carnival trading 10am-7pm Licensing Service T 020 7641 6500 e carnival@westminster.gov.uk



TRADING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

If you are planning to trade on private property, please check the guidance below.

If you are planning to trade on your private property:

- You must comply with the various requirements of food hygiene, food standards and health and safety legislation.
- The customer must be standing on your private property at the time of trading and not on the public highway.
- You must apply for a Temporary Events Notice (TEN) for licenced alcohol sales. This should be applied online (see websites below).
- Check if you require a licence for planned Carnival activity (emails below).

UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

It is unlawful to carry out any unauthorised licensable activity, or knowingly allow such an activity to be carried out.

These include:

- Selling alcohol
- Performing live music or dance
- Playing recorded music

If you allow such activities to take place on your premises without the appropriate licence you are committing an offence.

Kensington & Chelsea	Westminster
e carnival@rbkc.gov.uk	e carnival@westminster.gov.ukw westminster.gov.uk/notting-hill-
w rbkc.gov.uk/carnival	carnival

SOUND SYSTEMS

Sound Systems are vital to Carnival, bringing an eclectic mix of music styles. We want the event to be enjoyed at its best, but have provisions in place for any concerns.

Council officers will be on hand to monitor noise levels throughout the weekend, and to make sure sound systems close down by 7pm. Noise level complaints can be made at the details below.

Kensington & Chelsea

The most efficient way to log a noise complaint is via our online form. If you don't have internet access, please call 020 7361 3002 (24hr line) w rbkc.gov.uk/global/report-it/noise-or-nuisance.

Westminster

T 020 7641 2000



EVENT MAP

The Carnival area includes a mix of performance, trading and judging, together with public facilities.

CARNIVAL

Parade Route

Where costumes and mobile sound systems meet spectators.

Sound Systems

Eclectic sound styles of Carnival from legendary to upcoming.

Street Trading

Many stalls offering delicious food, drink and Carnival accessories.

Judging Zone

Where parade bands get marked by distinguished judges.

Live Stages

Popular focal points ... a great line-up of multi-generational performances, from local children to stalwart Calypsonians and surprise superstar show stoppers. Expect the unexpected!

Horniman's Stage

Emslie Horniman's Pleasance Park, Kensal Road, W10 3DH

Powis Square Stage Powis Square, W11 2AY

Meanwhile Gardens Stage

156–158 Kensal Road, W10 5BN

FACILITIES

First Aid Centres

Several First Aid centres are provided by St John Ambulance, the nation's leading first aid charity.

Lost & Found

The place to hand in something found, or report something lost.

Toilets

Numerous toilet points across the Carnival area.

Safety Zones

Safety zones are closed to Carnival visitors. They help with crowd and emergency vehicle management.

More

- Map (see overleaf)
- 2019 Line-Up (see pp20-21)
- Notting Hill Carnival App: live locations of facilities, sound systems, band tracking, AV streams and more (see p13)



2019 LINE-UP



LIVE STAGES SUNDAY & MONDAY

All stages open on both days. Check the Notting Hill Carnival App for announcements on the day (see p13).

1 HORNIMAN'S STAGE

• Red Bull Music (Sunday)

POWIS SQUARE STAGE

- Local Artists
- · Acts by Children
- Calypsonians
- Innocent Drinks
- Innocent Drinks
 (in the square, onn, t)

(in the square, opp. the stage)
'Bring the kids and join us for
some free drinks, a dash of
glitter, a place to sit and maybe
the odd embarrassing dance
move'.

3 MEANWHILE GARDENS STAGE

• Entertainment and interactive shows for families with young children.

SOUND SYSTEMS

SUNDAY & MONDAY

- Aba Shanti-I
- 2 Arts-A-Light
- 3 Channel One Sound System
- 4 Different Strokes
- 6 Disco Hustlers
- O Disya Jeneration
- 4Play Sound System
- 3 The Fun Bunch
- Gaz's Rockin Blues
- O.I. Roadshow
- 1 Gladdy Wax Road Show
- **12** GT Flex Roadshow
- 13 High Grade
- 10 KCC and the Rocking Crew
- (15) Killer Watt
- 6 King Tubby's
- 1 Latin Rave Street Jam
- 18 Lord Gelly's
- 1 Love TKO
- 20 Mark Ross
- Mastermind Roadshow
- 22 Metro Glory
- 23 Nasty Love
- People's Sound
- 25 Pineapple Tribe
- 26 Rampage
- Rapattack
- Rough But SweetSaxon Studio
- Seduction City
- 3 Sir Llovd
- Sir Valdez
- 33 Solution
- 3 Triple S
- 65 Virgo International
- 60 Volcano Sound

PARADE BANDS

SUNDAY: CHILDREN'S DAY

MAS BANDS (CHILDREN)

- Arawak
- The Bride Outreach
- Calabash
- Children and Parents Carnival Association
- The Clement James Carnival Band
- Cocoyea
- Dragons
- Ebony
- Elimu Paddington Arts
- Flagz Mas Band
- Flamboyan Carnival Arts
- Funatik Mas
- Gemz
- Genesis
- Glorious Backstage Arts
- Heritage Social Arts and Dance Group
- Hotwax Carnival Group
- Ignite De Feterz
- Inspiration Arts & Trinbago Carnival Club
- Invaders Mas
- Jamaican Twist Carnival Group
- Jamboulay
- Lagniappe
- Mahogany Carnival Band
- MaKing Carnival
- Mangrove
- Mas Africa
- Masquerade 2000
- People of Paradise
- People's World Carnival Band
 Down Chan Band
- Rum Shop Raw Licquer

- Soca Massive
- South Connections
- Sunshine International Arts
- Tropical Fusion Mas
- Tropical Isles
- Urban Touch
- Utopia
- Vybz Mas UK

DUTTY MAS (ADULTS)

- Abir The Colours of Life
- Candy Mas
- Chocolate Nation
- Island Mas UK
- Island Vibez/Colours
- Karnival Mania
- Pure Lime
- TT Mudders
- United Colours of Mas & Associates
- Lagniappe
- Omnia

FUN MAS (ADULTS)

- D Riddim Tribe
- DUKA Mas Dominik UK Carnival Band
- Dynamic Mas
- La Trinity Carnival Club
- Majestic Grenada Short
- Smokey Joe Roadshow
- Tears
- Tempo Mas
- Xtreme St Lucia UK

BRAZILIAN BANDS

- Kinetica Bloco
- Tribo

STEELBANDS

- CSI
- Ebony
- London All Stars
- Mangrove
- NostalgiaPanectar
- RASPO

PARADE BANDS

MONDAY: ADULTS DAY

MAS BANDS (ADULTS)

- Abir The Colours of Life
- Arawak
- Bachanalia Mas Band
- The Bride Outreach
- Calabash
- Candy Mas
- Catona's Gods and Goddesses
- Chocolate Nation
- Cocovea
- D Riddim Tribe
- Dragons
- DUKA Mas Dominik UK Carnival Band
- Dynamic Mas
- Elimu Paddington Arts
- Flagz Mas Band
- Flamboyan Carnival Arts
- Flamingo
- Funatik Mas
- Gemz
- Genesis
- Glorious Backstage Arts
- Heritage Social Arts and Dance Group
- Hotwax Carnival Group
- Hotwax CaHype Mas
- Ignite De Feterz
- Inspiration Arts & Trinbago
 Carnival Club
- Invaders Mas
- Island Mas UK
- Island Vibez/Colours
- Jamaican Twist Carnival Group
- Jamboulav
- Karnival Mania
- La Trinity Carnival Club
- Lagniappe
- Mahogany Carnival Band
- Majestic Grenada Short

- MaKing Carnival
- Mangrove
- Mas Africa
- Masquerade 2000
- Omnia
- People of Paradise
- People's World Carnival Band
- Rum Shop Raw Licquer
- Smokey Joe Roadshow
- Soca Massive
- Soca Saga Boys
- South Connections
- Stardust Steelband
- Sunshine International Arts
- Tears
- Tempo Mas
- Tropical Fusion Mas
- Tropical Isles
- United Colours of Mas
- & Associates
 Urban Touch
- Utonia
- Vincy Alliance Mas
- Vvbz Mas UK
- Xtreme St Lucia UK

BRAZILIAN BANDS

- Baque De Axé
- Batala
- London School of Samba
- Paraiso School of SambaTribo

- Ebony
- Mangrove
- NostalgiaPan Nation
- PanashPanectar
- RASPOUFO

21

TRAVEL INFORMATION (SUN 25/MON 26)

from Transport for London

TUBE

RESTRICTED ACCESS

For safety reasons some stations may close temporarily to prevent overcrowding. It may be worthwhile walking part of your journey or seeking an alternative route.

• Ladbroke Grove

Station closed.

Latimer Road

- Closes at 11.30pm.

Notting Hill Gate

11am-7pm:

- Exit only.
- District/Circle lines will not stop.
- No interchange between
- Central line and District and
- Circle lines all day.

Westbourne Park

- Exit only 11am-6pm.
- Closes at 11.30pm.

Holland Park

- Closes at 6pm.

Royal Oak

- Exit only 11am-6pm.
- Closes at 6pm.

OPEN AS USUAL

Bayswater

Advisable 11am—7pm, as Circle and District line trains will not stop at Notting Hill Gate.

Paddington

Advisable instead of Notting Hill Gate or Royal Oak (restricted entry).

- High Street Kensington
- Kensal Green
- Queen's Park
- Queensway*
- Shepherd's Bush (Central line)*

*(Busier than usual mid-afternoon until early evening)

More Plan your journey at: tfl.gov.uk



LONDON OVERGROUND

NEAREST STATIONS

- Queen's Park
- Kensal Rise Station closed
- Kensal Green
- **Shepherd's Bush** (Sunday: no service until 11am).

Sun 25 A normal timetable will run on the majority of the London Overground network. No London Overground service between Willesden Junction and Clapham Junction until 11am Sunday 26 August.

Mon 26 A Saturday timetable will run on Bank Holiday Monday.

More Check before you travel at: tfl.gov.uk

CYCLING

If cycling to Carnival, leave your bicycle somewhere secure and out of sight. Don't cycle within the zone. It can be dangerous and cause considerable annoyance to other Carnival goers.

Santander Cycle docks

Carnival zone docks suspended.

LONDON BUSES

London Buses operate extra day and night buses to serve Carnival.

DIVERSIONS

Sat 24 (10pm) to Tues 27 (early)

Due to road closures, day/night buses will be diverted away from the Carnival area.

To the north of the Carnival area Buses start from 'Prince of Wales' on Harrow Road.

To the south of the Carnival area Buses start from: Notting Hill Gate.

Bus stops within or next to the Carnival area will carry displays about diversions or disruptions.

Bus routes affected

2, 7, 16, 18, 23, 27, 28, 31, 36, 46, 52, 70, 94, 98, 148, 205*, 220, 228, 295, 316, 328, 332, 414, 452, N7, N16, N18, N28, N31, N98, N205, N207

*205/N205 are re-routed as part of recent bus changes and no longer serve Marylebone. Use route 453 for Marylebone Station.

More

- Bus route changes: tfl.gov.uk
- Traffic alerts: @TfLTrafficNews

VISITOR TIPS

We are working to make Carnival as enjoyable as we possibly can. We ask that you also take measures to ensure that you have a great time.

TRAVELLING

- Plan your routes in advance. Check travel status (see p22–23).
- Leave the Carnival area in good company if not alone.

WEAR

Clothing

• Dress appropriately for the weather. If it rains, the temperature drops so bring the right clothing that is warm.

Shoes

- Wear sensible shoes to avoid injury.
- Don't wear flip-flops, they lead to many foot injuries.

Jewellery

• Don't wear expensive items of jewellery or bling.

Belongings

- Don't rely on your mobile, as you may not have a signal at Carnival.
- Don't bring any items that might be considered to be dangerous.
- Bring an umbrella, in case it rains.

AT CARNIVAL

- Use the toilets provided.
- Use recycling facilities provided.
- Stay clear of vehicles on the road.
- Please respect the community stewards, first aid personnel and emergency services — at Carnival for your safety. Also consider public property, local businesses and homes.
- Stay in groups of no less than two and keep an eye on your friends.
- Designate a memorable meeting point in case you or your friends get lost.

HEALTH

- Make sure to bring any personal medication with you.
- Be sensible in the sun. Try to reduce prolonged exposure; apply sun cream.
- Keep hydrated; carry bottled water.
- Drink alcohol sensibly.
- If you feel unwell or get injured, please first seek help at our First Aid centres rather than calling 999.



@MAYAJFRENCH

ADIDAS.CO.UK/TERREX



SAFETY ADVICE

Notting Hill Carnival is a great event and we want to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time. As ever, we want Londoners to stay safe.

Staff from the emergency services will be in the area during Carnival. A number of first aid centres will also be in operation, together with medical response teams and ambulances.

If you are planning a barbeque, keep in mind they are prohibited in public places. Please check the property owners' rules as necessary.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

from the London Fire Brigade

Barbeques

- Place a barbeque on a flat surface on level ground so it does not tip over.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light your barbecue.
- Keep a barbecue outside, away from buildings, fences, sheds, furniture.

If Fire Breaks Out

- Warn other people and get out and stay out.
- Call the fire brigade by dialling 999.
- Know the escape plan for your property, how and when to escape.

More The London Fire Brigade carries out home fire safety visits and will fit free smoke alarms where needed. w london-fire.gov.uk



MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

from The London Ambulance Service and St John Ambulance

First Steps

- If the patient is mobile please direct/assist the patient to the nearest First Aid Centre (see map, pp18—19)
- If the patient cannot move call for help. Police, medical or stewarding staff nearby can help more quickly than phoning for assistance.

Help Us to Help You

If you cannot see police, stewards or medical staff immediately, dial **999** and tell us:

- if the patient is conscious/breathing
- a description of what is wrong
- any signs of major external bleeding or difficulty breathing
- age, gender and number of patients
- the exact location of the emergency look for house numbers, street names, landmarks, shops or nearest junction

Please stay with the patient until medical assistance is received, and prepare to signal to medical staff arriving at your location.

POLICE DETAILS

from The Metropolitan Police

Non-emergency Call 101 Emergency Call 999

More Policing Notting Hill Carnival: w met.police.uk

Twitter: @MetPoliceEvents

HELPLINES AND CONTACTS

COUNCILS

Kensington & Chelsea

For an updated list of contact numbers for over the Carnival weekend itself please visit: rbkc.gov.uk/carnival

Noise Problems

Online report form: w rbkc.gov.uk/global/report-it/noiseor-nuisance T 020 7361 3002 (24hrs)

Cleaning Enquiries

Online report form: w rbkc.gov.uk/global/reportit/waste-and-street-environment T 020 7361 3001 (weekdays only)

Housing Management

0800 137 111 (weekdays 9am-5pm)

Pre-Carnival Enquiries

020 7341 5109 (weekdays 9am-5pm)

Correspondence

Carnival Team
The Royal Borough of
Kensington and Chelsea
The Annex
37 Pembroke Road
London W8 6PW

More

w rbkc.gov.uk/carnival

Westminster

Noise Problems

020 7641 2000 (24hr Action Line)

Cleaning Enquiries

w westminster.gov.uk/ notting-hill-cleanup

Westminster Housing Services

0800 358 3783 (weekdays 9am to 5pm)

Pre-Carnival Enquiries

020 7641 2390 (weekdays 9am–5pm until 24 Aug) w carnival@westminster.gov.uk

Correspondence

Carnival Team Westminster City Council 64 Victoria Street London SW1E 6QP

More

w westminster.gov.uk/ notting-hill-carnival s @CityWestminster

POLICE

Metropolitan Police

Non-emergency: Call **101** Emergency: Call **999**

Policing Notting Hill Carnival: w met.police.uk tw @MetPoliceEvents

PUBLIC MEETING

Post-Carnival Residents Meeting

Date and location will be announced online at:

w rbkc.gov.uk/carnival westminster.gov.uk/notting-hill-carnival

ORGANISERS

If you have any comments or concerns about this year's Notting Hill Carnival, please write to:

Notting Hill Carnival Ltd.

The Tabernacle 35 Powis Square London W11 2AY

T: 020 7221 9700 (weekdays 10am-6pm)





Notting Hill Nursery Carnival

The annual Notting Hill Nursery Carnival, started in 1988. It enables infants and children to engage in the arts of Carnival in a safe and secure environment and be recognised and rewarded for their creative efforts.

he 31st Notting Hill Nursery Carnival will be staged at The Kensington Memorial Park, W10 6NP on 12 August 2019. For the past 31 years, CAPCA (Children and Parents Carnival Association) and Lee Woolford MBE, have been the driving forces behind developing the Notting Hill Nursery Carnival.

Drawing on the traditions of the Summer Fetes and the grandeur of the masquerade of the Notting Hill Carnival, CAPCA created a unique opportunity for the very young to have their own celebration of Carnival arts — music, masquerade and movement. Now an established part of the pre-Carnival programme, it has its own distinctive features; including a Junior Panorama Competition when young musicians of the steel pan instrument can demonstrate their musical proficiency and vie for bragging rights.

The event has always been a remarkable success. The venue, The Kensington Memorial Park, is transformed into a full-blown Carnival Village festooned with bunting, banners, flags, balloons, piñatas and streamers. Against this colourful backdrop, we stage a diverse programme – bouncy castles, drummers, dancers, puppets, clowns and face painting.

The two main highlights of the day are the Junior steelband Competition (Junior Panorama) and the Carnival Parade, with each child given a free t-shirt and a prize and the winners are given their prizes by the Mayor of the Borough, who is invited every year to the event.

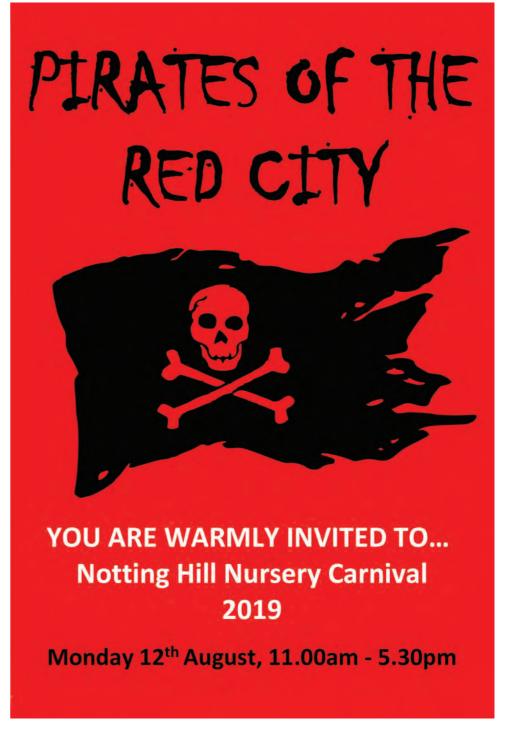
Through outreaching to nurseries and play groups before our event takes place, they know of the theme and work on their costumes throughout the summer and come prepared to perform and show off their costumes in the Carnival Parade.

Check online for the Notting Hill Nursery Carnival 2019 schedule.

Credit: Children's and Parents Carnival Association

More westway.org/events





Carnival Pioneer: Leslie Palmer

Notting Hill Carnival would not be as inclusive as it is today if not for Leslie Palmer.



'You're a good promoter because you have taken this little carnival and made it into this great big thing. That's a gift you have. I want you to do the same with reggae.'

eal Talk. There would be no multiple trucks on the road, costume bands, stalls, sound systems or different Caribbean islands represented at carnival. As director of carnival between 1973 and 1975, Leslie almost single-handedly renovated the second biggest carnival in the world and has received an MBE for his services. His health was not 100% but he agreed to have a conversation at the Tabernacle in West London.

How did you become involved with Notting Hill Carnival?

I was a school teacher at the time and wanted to take a break from teaching. Carnival seemed to be dying. There was an advert in Time Out for all those interested in carnival to attend a meeting. There were only five people. I gave my ideas. I said, 'Carnival couldn't be one band'. There were no stalls, no costumes. I thought 'This cyah work'.

I went to blues dances and found out about the Jamaican sound systems. I said 'Let's bring in the Jamaicans and they were very keen. I also went to Harrow Road and found the Dominicans and St. Lucians. I knew they drank in a certain pub. [laughter]

How did you know that?

[laughter] I know. I got those two bands. The miracle of that is it was seven weeks to go before carnival and it happened.

That is quite an achievement. How did you manage that?

I don't know darling... I just knew that I could do it. My strategy was to go to the black businesses and ask them for electricity and have a band play outside their door. I said, 'You could make some money selling beers or food.'

From Acklam Road to Golborne Road was a slum area at the time. I decided to call the carnival that vear 'Mas in the Ghetto'. In those days, the BBC used to have an hour on a Sunday throughout the country which they called Reggae time or Caribbean time. People used to look forward to reggae time. I went on the show to talk about carnival. Then I had the idea 'Why not broadcast live from carnival?' 50,000 people came to carnival that vear. I believe because of the radio station live broadcast. I had six sound systems, six steel bands and only three costume bands; Laurence Noel, the Dominican Ladies and Peter Minshall. I thought you can't have carnival without food and drink. I asked the market people, 'Could you lend me some stalls?' I charged £5 to rent the stalls and £10 for the icecream vans. I used that money to pay the stewards. It took shape and in three years it grew from 5000 people into 250,000 people.

You ran the carnival for three years and grew it exponentially. Why did you leave?

A mixture of different things. Sometimes, people can be so critical of you. I used to go to a pub and someone said to me 'A Leslie, you looking good boy, all that carnival money', implying that I teef the

money. That hurt me, that burn me. I thought 'I don't need this'. I said I'm ready to move on.

Chris Blackwell, Bob Marley's record team had a studio here. He called me and his exact words were 'You're a good promoter because you have taken this little carnival and made it into this great big thing. That's a gift you have. I want you to do the same with reggae. I want you to help me make reggae a world-wide music'. We want to Italy, France. We took Third world Music and Zappo with us. Bob Marley wasn't famous at the time. Our theme song was 'This is reggae music.' We went to Nigeria as the market there was known. I went on all the radio stations, all the TV stations there.

So you helped to shape carnival and helped to bring international attention to reggae.

Anything else you had a hand in? [laughter] Nooo that's it.

You go by many names: Teacher, you're also known as 'The Wounded Soldier'.

Ooohhhh you know a bit about me. [laughter] How did you get that name? I wanted to sing. I wanted a Calypso name. I chose the name 'Wounded Soldier' because in Trinidad we would play war mas. Inside war mas, we had men who were wounded in war with bandages. In that band a friend of mine was shot so I took that name.

You accomplished a lot in your life; teacher, carnival renovator, reggae promoter. What are you most proud of?

I think carnival. It opened a lot of doors for a lot of people. When you walk through the carnival you see so many people making a living. The carnival was good to me. It also opened doors for me and I got to meet people such as Bob Marley.

And you have an MBE?

Yes for that and my contribution to music.

So that was your past, what are you doing now?

Well I have been doing the (Carnival) Pioneers for the past several years. I thought maybe people of your age, you never know how this carnival really started. I thought doing this as a stage show. It became really popular. This year, on the 11th of August, we are going where the panorama is being held.

Where do you get all this energy from? You're still working...

I don't know but I think I need to slow down. I'm not in the best of health.

Carnival has changed a lot since you were involved. Are you happy with the way it is now?

Yes I think so.

Credit: @ILoveCarnival

The London Calypso Tent: Singing Truth to Power

For Calypso lovers, there's only one place to be on an August Friday evening: the London Calypso Tent.

he 'tent' is, of course, no such thing. For the past 11 years, the arena for double-entendre, picong and verbal bacchanal has been the stage of The Tabernacle in Powis Square. The term harks back to the days when calypso was the Caribbean's rebel music, looked on with suspicion by the colonial authorities. In a 'hall' of bamboo poles roofed in palm leaves and lit by flambeaux, the singers would engage in lyrical combat, poking fun at authority and each other. Lyrics that hit the spot, flashes of verbal dexterity and cleverly extemporised verses were rewarded with shouts of "Kaiso! Kaiso!"

Calypso arrived in Britain surprisingly early. Several 'chantwells' (calypsonians) serving in the British West Indies Regiment came to England in 1917 to train before going overseas. By the 30s the

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music began to reach a wider audience thanks to Ken 'Snakehips' Johnson's West Indian Dance Orchestra and Decca's calypso recordings.

Calypso in Britain got a boost when troopship *Empire Windrush* arrived at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948. On board were calypsonians Lord Woodbine (Harold Philips), Lord Beginner (Egbert Moore) and the celebrated Lord Kitchener (Aldwyn Roberts), who stepped off with a calypso on his lips — the optimistic and catchy 'London is the Place for Me'.

In the Fifties, the world was gripped by a calypso craze, and the Mighty Sparrow (Slinger Francisco) emerged as the genre's biggest star. Sparrow regularly visited the UK, and others settled here, such as Roaring Lion (Rafael de Leon), Mighty Terror (Cornelius Henry) and Lord Invader (Rupert Grant).

The innate competitiveness of calypso took root here too. In 1957, Terror, singing 'I Walk a Million Miles', was crowned Britain's first Calypso King at Chelsea Town Hall. Calypsonians also featured in an annual series of indoor 'Caribbean Carnivals' organised by Trinidadian journalist and social activist Claudia Jones from January 1959.

Tastes in music changed, however, and calypso found itself on the margins, ignored by broadcasters. Locally based singers appeared at West Indian dances and shows, and official calypso contests were held annually around carnival time from 1976 onwards. That initial competition was won by the Mighty Tiger (Ashton Moore), but, true to form, he never received the promised £100 prize money! For years, Tiger and Lord Cloak (Errol Brown) dominated the calypso honours, interrupted

The tent is often a rich mix of parody, satire and more – set to live music.
The Divettes (right)
Sheldon Skeete (left)



Eventually, the singers decided they had been cheated by unscrupulous promoters for long enough and founded the Association of British Calypsonians, with Tiger as its president. On 7 August 1992 the stage at the Yaa Asantewaa Centre hosted ABC's first-ever London Calypso Tent.

Under Tiger's benign dictatorship, and against the odds, the tent survived and thrived. Standards of composition and performance improved immeasurably, until audiences outgrew the much-loved, but ramshackle, Chippenham Mews premises. In 2008 the tent moved to The Tabernacle. With Tiger's passing in 2017, the ABC became the Association of Calypsonians UK and is now the more inclusive Association of Calypsonians and Soca Artistes (ACASA). Its purpose — to champion what Tiger called "the first music of the Caribbean" and its UK-based practitioners — remains the same.

Today, the London Calypso Tent remains the only one in Europe. Funding is a constant headache, but from the moment the Divettes take to the stage and the ABC Band strikes up, the atmosphere in the hall crackles with anticipation. Calypso delivers entertainment with incisive social commentary that sings truth to power. Pricking pomposity, mocking the powerful, challenging injustice and making the audience laugh are all in the mix.

This year the tent will take place on the first three Fridays of August, one of which is dedicated to the faster-tempo development of calypso known as soca. The showdown comes at the Calypso Monarch Finals on Thursday 22 August, when De



'This year the tent will take place on the first three Fridays of August, one of which is dedicated to the faster-tempo development of Calypso known as Soca.'

Admiral (Jeffrey Hinds) will be defending his 2018 title. He'll be facing stiff competition from the likes of Alexander D Great (Alexander Loewenthal), Brown Sugar (Beverley Brown), G-String (Gerry Archer), Helena B (Helena Bedeau), Santiago (James Walker), Sheldon Skeete, Sunshine and Nadiva (Samantha and Nadine Bryant) and the veteran Lord Cloak, still going strong.

That change and continuity help explain why the London Calypso Tent is as vital a part of London's cultural calendar as it has ever been. Come and hear for yourself what makes it so special.

Credit: Stephen Spark

More britishcalypsonians.com

Steelpan and Carnival

One of the essential sounds at Carnival is The Caribbean's own invention.

he Steelpan instrument made its first appearance on British TV in 1950, thanks to Trinidadian creative Boscoe Holder and his Caribbean Dancers. The first steel drums performed on his own television show, Bal Creole, broadcast on BBC Television on 30th June 1950.

With the exposure of the instrument so widely broadcast the previous year, The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (TASPO) were invited to play in the summer of 1951 on the Southbank in London as part of the 'Festival of Britain'. This was the first time the British public came into direct

contact with the instrument. It was hard to comprehend how a 55 gallon oil drum could make musical sound let alone be used to play melodies of songs and the public literally looked under the steel pans to check the sound was actually coming from the instrument.

Many of the TASPO players decided to remain in the UK to pursue their love of music and spread knowledge about the steel pan, which at the time was struggling to be accepted as an instrument in the world of music due to its creation less than a decade before and the lack of proof that the instrument could accurately control its pitch, tone and cover the chromatic scale





2018 first prize winners, Mangrove (left) and second prize winners Ebony

Russell Henderson arrived in the UK in 1951, an established recorded pianist from Trinidad. He was exposed to the early birth of the Steelpan and when he arrived in London he teamed up with drummer and accomplished steel pannist, Sterling Betancourt, one of the original TASPO players to remain in the UK after the Festival Of Britain. They enlisted the help of Mervyn Constantine, Max Cherrie and his brother Ralph Cherrie, at different stages of the band performing as a trio, they formed 'The Russell Henderson Calypso Band'. They were quickly identified as brilliant entertainers, having regular bookings for clubs and small venues, which eventually led to them being the first steelband to play for royalty at a garden party in Buckingham Palace. The band amazed audiences wherever they played the steelpan. They were regulars at Claudia Jones's indoor carnival themed events held in the late 1950's and early 60's.

In April 1964, Russell's band was invited by Rhaune Laslett to play steel drums at her annual children's event on Tavistock Road, W11. Russell's steelband was met with rapturous applause and an '...as all the Steel pans were fastened around the necks of each player, it allowed them to be mobile whilst they played.'

encore was requested. It was at this point Russell decided to really give his audience a taste of Trinidad, and as all the Steel pans were fastened around the necks of each player, it allowed them to be mobile whilst they played. So they started to walk, in time with the beat. Everyone involved with the event were in a conga line behind the steelband who led them down the streets between Tavistock Crescent and Portobello Road. The general public who heard the music, saw the small parade, joined in and there were even people coming out of their houses to join in the parade/impromptu street party.

This was undoubtedly the spark that gave
Rhaune Laslett the idea to apply to the local council
for permission to have an outdoor event, as she saw



2018 third prize winners, Metronomes

the impact the steel pan had in uniting the local community and hoped she could replicate this by encouraging the small communities of a very multi cultural West London at the time to take part by infecting 'them with a desire to participate', stating 'this can only have good results'. She managed to achieve this goal and 'The Notting Hill Fayre and Pageant' was held over the course of a week from the 18th September 1966,

Gary Younge (Guardian) has written, Laslett "spoke to the local police about organising a carnival....with more of an English fete in mind, she invited the various ethnic groups of what was then the poor area of Notting Hill — Ukrainians, Spanish, Portuguese, Irish, Caribbean's and Africans - to contribute to a week-long event that would culminate with an August bank holiday parade....she borrowed costumes from Madame Tussaud's; a local hairdresser did the hair and makeup for nothing; the gas board and fire brigade had floats; and stallholders in Portobello market donated horses and carts. Around 1,000 people turned up, according to police figures."

'... steelbands are an integral part of Notting Hill Carnival's tradition, bringing the unique sound and energy of the Caribbean to the streets of London.'

Involved with its conception and present throughout Notting Hill Carnivals history, steelbands are an integral part of Notting Hill Carnival's tradition, bringing the unique sound and energy of the Caribbean to the streets of London. It takes year round, and even lifelong dedication to master the steel pan.

The annual steel pan 'Panorama' event and Notting Hill Carnival are where the best of the best pan players and steel pan bands from all over the United Kingdom really showcase their skills. • Credit: Pan Podium

More nhcarnival.org



Live Stages Pioneer: Wilf Walker

Passionate, forward thinker, survivor, resolute, candid. These words all describe Wilf Walker OBE. However, they do not remotely capture all that he is.



the tip of a very huge iceberg. He invites us into his home to have a conversation.

I love your home. Is this space reflective of you?

Yes, pretty much. For me the location is perfect. Across the road is the sports centre and I swim every day, between 1000m and 1500m. I started swimming in my early 40s as I started having back problems. My osteopath said, 'Look Wilf, I can keep taking your money, but I suggest you learn how to swim'. So, I did.

Are you a bit of a traveller? That is a big map.

[Wilf has a full wall sized map of the world] Well, I don't go too far these days. I stay within the Mediterranean basin now. I 've just returned from Malta, I've been to Spain and will be going to Cape Verde at the end of the year. I'd go to the Caribbean, Ghana. I've been as far as New Caledonia. I'm 73 but will be 74 next month.

You've done so much in your life...

Well I haven't done that much. Let me tell you something, basically if I had ever been afforded an opportunity, ever, I would have done more.

Is there anything you really would have liked to have done?

Well for example, Notting Hill Carnival. I used to work with Michael Eavis in the early days of Glastonbury before it began to be successful.

At the point where I got involved, that's when it turned around and started to make a profit, that was 1981. The year I worked with Michael, I was chair of carnival. Glastonbury is the biggest festival in the world. But I got more involved in Notting Hill. And that is one of my regrets.

Do you have other regrets?

I did a festival for Nelson Mandela in 1984. That was at a time when Nelson Mandela was still considered a terrorist. I managed to get 7000 people at Crystal Palace Concert Bowl. But 7000 in that venue is not a successful event, you need 10,000. Or more.

That number remains quite formidable. How did you do that, despite all the odds in those days?

I got my strength from my formative years, my early past. I came to this country when I was 16 and the first nine, ten years of my life here was very difficult. The only thing I had in terms of introduction was a letter from my parish priest when I came to England, from my church and I was a very active member of my community. Talking to you... because you are talking to me like for real, in terms of what it is about, I only feel sadness. I get all kinds of reputation out there, people say all things about me. One thing I regret is putting my name on the posters, because they think you have money. But I had been invisible for so long, I wanted profile. But then I didn't have anyone to guide me in any way. I felt that I had suffered so much injustice that I had to fight my corner.



Why did you decide on a stage?

After carnival those days '77, '78, people didn't want to leave. Tuesday, Wednesday after carnival, people still hung around. After the riots, the police tried to change all that. They had the shields and had a proper strategy. That's when I thought about having a stage in '79. I put all the reggae bands in the area; Aswad, Brimstone... and I got some of the white bands. Cause when I first started doing concerts, I would have two rock bands and one reggae band. That was during the 'Rock against racism era'. It was the time I did more reggae.

I saw an interview when you said you leant more towards the rock hippy music?

Yeah hippy, Bob Dylan, Richie Havens, all you need is love man. [laughter] I believed it. When I came to this country, I didn't have any black friends. That is how it happened.

Back to the stage, I booked all the acts. I carried the tarpaulin for the stage and put it up myself. I swept the entire length of Acklam Road. Cause I was excited about what we were going to do. We entertained the people for 48 hours. We had 20,000 watts of sound. When we told people, it was over and it was time to go home, most people left. So, when the police came with their big charge, there was no one there. That I think is when we saved Notting Hill Carnival. The assistant commissioner returned in the dark, shook my hand and said, 'Well done'. But no one knows that. It grew from one to three stages. The stages were very important for our community. What Aswad did when we recorded them, they created product that could have helped develop the carnival. If we think about product and how we can extend this, there are so many acts we

'I got my strength from my formative years, my early past. I came to this country when I was 16.'

can be putting on carnival, live and direct from Notting Hill. The potential was limitless. This is stuff I wanted to do back in the day.

You received an OBE.

I was awarded an OBE for the development and promotion of live black music. I put Aswad in the Royal Albert Hall, we were totally successful. Freddy Mc Gregor, I took care of him for two months. We toured.

What would want people to know about you?

If you treat me correctly. I am a gentle soul.

What does treating you correctly look like?

You afford me the opportunity that human beings are supposed to afford each other. If the opportunity emerges.

Would you ever get back into carnival now?

I would do, the man who is running it now, Matthew, he is a good brother. He is passionate about it; his heart is in the right place and he knows what he is talking about. I would work with Matthew.

Wilf Walker achieved success independently and against all odds. He has a talent for surviving and is transparent about his past. His journey, moving from difficult early years to influencing carnival and music in London and internationally is simply inspirational and is the stuff of novels. A remarkable, inestimable man in the history of Notting Hill Carnival.

Credit: @ILoveCarnivall

Sound Systems and Carnival

Rooted in Jamaican culture and Reggae, Sound Systems were officially introduced to Notting Hill Carnival in 1973. Today over 30 static systems cater for numerous tastes.

he concept of a Sound System originated in Jamaica during the 1950s. The idea arguably came from Jamaicans going back and forth to the USA during the 40s & 50s and being bowled over hearing American R&B bands playing through PA systems and were inspired by the New York block parties where DJs set up PA systems and sold liqueur at these gatherings to make some money. These ideas were then taken back to Jamaica, but as bands were expensive to hire, poor Jamaicans played recordings through these early Sound Systems which were very rough compared to the 'PA Sound Systems' they saw in America. They consisted of a turntable, a home built valve amplifier and pre-amp (from a kit) and the biggest speakers they could lay their hands on, mounted in home-made 'wardrobe' sized speaker cabinets, some even nailed and glued together with 'chicken wire' as speaker grilles!

By the late 50's early 60's these sounds had become more sophisticated and high powered. The early Sound System operators were already legendary figures and played at very well attended dances, some on the open air 'lawns', the real home of Sound Systemology! Men such as 'Tom' The Great Sabastian, Coxsone Dodd, Duke Reid, Prince Buster & Duke Vin who later started the first Sound System in the UK, developed the idea by not just playing records but opening studio's and producing local artists and releasing tunes on their own label – the early Ska (a Jamaican interpretation of popular American R&B music) then later Rocksteady & Reggae music.

UK History

With the migration of Jamaicans to the UK in the late 50's & 60's the tradition of Sound Systems was also exported. Early UK Sound System operators like the aforementioned Duke Vin, Count Shelly, Count Suckle, Lloyd Coxsone, & East London's 'chicken', each had a huge following and from these early sounds developed many new ones encompassing new ideas and directions. The concept of a 'soul sound' or 'roadshow' was developed in the 70's, by the likes of Mastermind (originally a 'reggae sound' called the Mighty Conquerer who changed policy to play Soul/Funk/Disco & later Electro & Hip-Hop music) TWJ, Roxy, Soul Incorporated, Good Times, Freshbeat & Rapattack. Interestingly, 'Rampage Sound' who popularised 'Swingbeat' in the early 90's, added a profitable dimension to this concept and made it a business venture by playing on club systems and 'hiring in' a Sound System when needed. All these and many more 'Sounds' brought their own style and ideas to the discipline including using professional purpose built PA gear (Electrovoice, Turbosound, ASS, JBL speakers and amplifiers such as Crest & Crown & not forgetting Technics 1200/1210 turntables) as opposed to home made equipment, which was championed particularly by 'Mastermind' & 'Rapattack' Sounds.

Ironically this returns to the origin of Sound Systems being initially a 'homemade' version of a PA system.

During the 70's & 80's every area of London and every city with a West Indian population had their own crop of 'sounds'. Historically it was important



Sound Systems are an unmistakeable feature of the streets at Carnival

'During the 70's & 80's every area of London and every city with a West Indian population had their own crop of 'sounds'.

to 'build a sound', one man (it was mainly men in those days) would mainly buy music, another has an interest in electronics and one liked to MC – 'talk on the mike'. While a young member or apprentice was learning about the equipment and how to 'play a sound' (which means; although you are using recorded music, the effect is of it being 'live') he would have the status of a 'box boy' his particular job was to lift the heavy speaker boxes at the end of the night!' Sound men' took pride in this achievement, to the point of Sound Systems challenging each other to a competition or 'clash' where each 'sound' sought to win over the crowd at a dance by any means such as playing an exclusive record or one off pressing of a tune by a well known artist (a dub plate - UK Garage DJ's, does this sound familiar?), or the verve of the 'mike men' (Saxon had

some of the best which in conjunction with their vast knowledge of reggae music helped them win the 'World Sound Clash') or sometimes, turning up the bass and 'drowning out' the other sound! The Sound System world has it's wealth of stories of rivalry and within this it's 'villains & heroes' to rival any from the corporate world.

Present Day

There are many and varied Sound Systems in existence, run by many different people both men and women from different backgrounds and cultures. All playing a selection as broad and diverse as US/UK Garage, Soulful, Deep, Funky House, Hardcore, Techno, Trance, Drum & Bass, Miami-Bass, Hip-Hop, Trap, Grime, Afrobeat, Swingbeat, Dub Reggae, Roots Rock Reggae, Ragga, Revival Reggae, Lovers Rock, Soca, Calypso, Jazz, Jazz-Funk, Fusion, R&B, Disco, Soul/Funk from & 70s/80s/90s, Rare Groove, Latin, Pop, Ska, Rocksteady.

Credit: Ricky Belgrave, Chairman, British Association of Steelbands

Curating Caribbean Sounds

CMA is the official body for playing mobile music on the road at Notting Hill Carnival.

MA covers all categories of playing music on the road including live bands and pre-recorded music.

Caribbean Music Association promotes all disciplines of Caribbean music. The organisation also offers its expertise, knowledge and experience in carnival events where music is required on carnival floats, utilising its experience, knowledge and on the road code of practice.

CMA has over 70 DJs, Mobile Sound Systems and Bands playing on the road at Notting Hill Carnival catering for the needs of its diverse attendance and participants. Members of CMA also participate in various other Carnivals and music events within the UK.

Credit: Caribbean Music Association

More caribbeanmusicassociation.co.uk



Mas Means Masquerade

'Mas' Bands are at the heart of the Carnival parade, where themed costumes meet with music, dance, spectators and the judges.

n 1959, Trinidadian Claudia Jones, a community activist, recognised that something should be done to unite the community in response to the worrying state of race relations. She held the first of several indoor Caribbean Carnivals that year, at St. Pancras Town Hall; a 'Carnival Cabaret' featured at the event, which would have been the UK's first sight of anything resembling Caribbean carnival costumes.

One of the personal accounts of the history of Notting Hill Carnival comes from a secretary who worked with Rhaune Laslett, a social worker and activist in the Ladbroke Grove area. She reported that in the early 60s, Trinidadian women from Tavistock Road, near Ladbroke Grove, went to Rhaune's office for help. They'd chat, telling her about carnival back home and wishing they could be there to experience it. She thought it sounded like a wonderful celebration, and suggested that they could do something similar in the area. This was the first outdoor, street festival, and it was decided that it should be held in August when children were on holiday from school and could participate fully. Both children and adults paraded through the streets of Ladbroke Grove in costume; with materials sourced from a costume shop on Kensington High Street.

In the coming years, distinct bands of masqueraders appeared on the road, such as those led by Trinidadian Lawrence Noel, Dominican Silma Faustine, and Trinidadian Peter Minshall, who later became a celebrated costume designer and true icon of the artistry of Mas, back home in Trinidad. By the mid-70s, a Carnival Development Committee had been formed to secure funding and develop the carnival. Soon there was more involvement from



Traditional references are a Carnival favourite

'By 1980, the Arts Council had fully recognised 'Mas' as an art form.'

people from other parts of the Caribbean; costumes were heavily influenced by those countries' national wear, African dress and historic portrayals, and each band would have a theme.

By 1980, the Arts Council had fully recognised 'Mas' as an art form. if you were a designer and wanted to bring a costume band on the road, funding was available. There were 10 to 12 Mas bands in Carnival by then, but there was still no fixed route - they could go up and down whichever roads they felt like honouring with their presence.



There was also a hugely anticipated costume gala held each year, for both adults and children. In the early years the event took place in a huge tent set up in Wormwood Scrubs playing fields. The King, Queen and Individual costumes were paraded through the tent, in at one end and out at the other, whilst everyone scrambled to get ready on the grass outside. The gala later graduated to other venues around London such as the Linford Christie Stadium, the Commonwealth Institute, Alexandra Palace, the Millennium Dome and Olympia.

In 1984, the London School of Samba was the first samba band to perform at the Notting Hill Carnival. Samba music and traditions represent the African/Brazilian carnival culture, which began in Bahia in the 1800's when African slaves celebrated their freedom due to the abolition of slavery. Today, the Rio Carnival features around a hundred samba schools; there are hundreds in Brazil, which teach members the art of dance, music and drumming, and this tradition is continued here in London.

Ouvert is another important element of J Caribbean carnival, from the French jour ouvert the opening of the day, and the official start of the carnival festivities. Revellers spill onto the streets from around 4am, in costumes made from old clothes. This is called ole ('old') Mas, and presents witty and satirical themes of social commentary. Another feature of J'Ouvert is mud Mas, when people get covered in mud, oil, paint or pigmented powder. A modified version of this tradition has existed in the UK on Carnival Sunday since 1996, when a J'Ouvert-style band appeared on the streets of London - not in the early hours, but throughout the day. This has been termed dutty ('dirty') mas, and combines some of both the ole Mas and mud Mas traditions. That first band used liquid chocolate instead of the more indelible substances that feature in the Caribbean; there are now several chocolate, water-based paint and mud bands to choose from on the Sunday – if you're brave enough to take the plunge. The Dutty Mas bands also have launch events and websites where you can register



There are themes and roles for everyone at Carnival

'Other designers are developing their own contemporary take on the tradtional ethos...'

Another important part of the imported carnival culture was the Mas camp, a workshop (often someone's front room) used by a band to design and produce their costumes, but which doubled as a place to socialise whilst helping to make costumes. There was always food, drink and music here.

There has been a progression, partially influenced by samba costumes from Brazil, towards increasingly skimpier costumes in a style often referred to as 'bikini and beads', where the emphasis is more on aesthetics than a narrative or depiction of a theme. But running alongside this there are those who are harking back to more

traditional Mas, even still representing some of those traditional figures. Other designers are developing their own contemporary take on the traditional ethos, redefining Mas in the modern age. The range and variety of the costume bands has considerably influenced the development of the Notting Hill Carnival as one of Europe's most significant cultural events.

All of the variations and more are to be found amongst the 70 plus bands on the road at Notting Hill Carnival Monday. Many bands have now outsourced their costume making, either overseas or elsewhere in the UK, but there are still a handful of more traditional Mas camps around. Whether you'd like to make costumes or just wear one on the road, you need to do some research and see what's out there.

Most bands hold a launch event at some point between April and July, where they show their costumes and often allow preliminary registration. You don't need to attend, but it's a great opportunity to go and see the costumes in person — and get a taste of the music and party atmosphere at the same time. It's possible to view and register for costumes afterwards, online. There's a price range for each band, with some more expensive than others depending on the costume you opt for and the extras you choose. Most are all-inclusive, so as well as your costume you'll be provided with food and drink, music and security throughout the day.

As the August Bank Holiday approaches, the realisation grows that you're about to participate in a significant aspect of Caribbean culture and anticipation mounts. And when you've thought through the accessories you'll want to properly portray your costume and the essentials you'll need to make it through the day, we challenge you to not feel the excitement!

Credit: Allyson Williams MBE and Katie Segal

More Abridged from nhcarnival.org

Spotlight on Antigua's Carnival

rior to Antigua's Carnival festivities, there was a celebration known as the Old Time Christmas Festival held annually. This festival had many elements that were crafted into the creation of Antigua's Carnival including music, dance, iron band and masqueraders.

In 1953, to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, a one-day Carnival celebration was staged. Due to the satisfaction of Antiguans and Barbudans of this one-day event, Mr John Ferdie Shoul, who chaired the festivities was called upon to make this an annual affair.

Three years later, in 1956, Mr Maurice Ambrose returned from the Virgin Islands from a Carnival there, and presented Mr John Ferdie Shoul with a master plan for Antigua and Barbuda Carnival.

In 1957, Antigua and Barbuda celebrated its first Carnival in August.

The summer was selected to celebrate Antigua's Carnival in order to synergize a number of traditional celebrations and events that would serve as a new tourist attraction to fill the summer void between the end of one tourist season and the start of a new tourist season. Additionally, as many would say, Carnival served a dual purpose in Antigua and Barbuda: a summer tourist attraction and commemoration of emancipation of slavery.

Antigua Carnival is traditionally held at the end of July to the first Tuesday in August.

This year, the festivities will begin on Thursday, July 25 and culminate on Tuesday, August 6 with most events taking place at the Antigua Recreation Ground also known as 'Carnival City' in the capital city of St. John's.

Credit: Antiqua & Barbuda Tourist Board

More antigua-barbuda.org/Agcarn01.htm





Brazilian Bands: The Latin Touch

Brazilian Bands were first introduced to Notting Hill Carnival in 1984 by The London School of Samba.

razilian bands have proved to be a very popular feature on the road. With their choreographed dance routines and energetic, synchronised live drumming, they delight spectators and bring variety to the parade route. 2018 saw eight Brazilian bands on the road, each with a unique theme.

From Pedra do Sal to Notting Hill: The History of Brazilian Music in London

Samba begins in Bahia, northeast Brazil, 1500 when it was used to define a vast range of musical styles brought over by West African slaves. Semba, an Angolan form of dance, and the Samba de Roda (or 'wheel of samba') mixed with African religious traditions such as Candomblé, while rhythms such as Baião, Bochinche, Caxambú, Côco, Jongo and Maracatú provided the musical tapestry from which samba's modern form originates. It really grew as a musical genre in Rio de Janeiro once slavery was abolished; many former slaves moved south to find work in the then capital of Brazil, settling in shanty towns, or favelas, on the hills surrounding the main city, giving rise to the term 'Samba do Morro' (or 'samba on the hill').

Like many locations all over the world that have sea ports, Rio de Janeiro, and its music and dance, became fused with influences brought by the sailors from all over the world. So samba did not only evolve from West African traditions, but also the popular music and dance of Portugal, Germany, and some now believe the Middle East. Existing musical styles such as the 'Maxixe', Brazil's first 'urban' music, a fusion of West African lundu and the European polka, and often referred to as the

Brazilian tango, joined the marchina, or "little march" as precursors to samba. The very first official "samba" to be recorded was Pelo Telefone ("through the telephone"), composed and sung by the musician, Donga, and was actually more of a maxixe. In the early 20th Century, however, samba would become the national music of Brazilian carnival in the form of the samba de enredo (or. "scripted samba"), accompanying the incredible floats, costumes and dances in telling the story of each samba school's carnival theme, which traditionally satirised and poked fun at politics and society. The arrival of those first samba schools in the late 1920s was almost exclusively Afro-Brazilian, and it wasn't until the mid-1940s that the Rio Carnival began to include wider Brazilian society.

Today, samba de enredo has spread around the world as the de-facto Brazilian carnival music practised by Samba Schools as far away from Brazil as Japan, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, and even Australia and New Zealand

London, 1984 and Beyond

The first ever samba school in the UK was founded by a group of professional musicians from South Africa, Brazil and other Latin Americas countries but was initiated by a Jewish South African communist called Alan Hayman. From exiles to immigrants, all united by a shared experience of political turmoil and dictatorship, they found a common bond in the infectious and thrilling sound of samba, and the freedom and liberation it represented. Alan Hayman, João Bosco de Oliveira, Pato Fuentes, Carlos Fuentes. German Santana and Brits Dave



Brazilian bands are a hot favourite at Carnival, shown here on a 'stage'

'Today, the Brazilian Bands represent that same richness and diversity of Brazil itself.'

Patman, Dave Bitelli and Gerry Hunt, were the founding members of the group. Members of the samba school itself group consisted of Brazilians, Chileans, Colombians there at start, women were prominent (Liliana, Olga) and including one transgender person (Kim Burton), but mainly political exiles, the best Latin musicians in the UK, linking up with Latinos, South Africans etc to form the first samba school.

Robin Jones, a prominent percussionist in London at the time said of the show Brasil Tropical at Sadlers Wells Theatre in 1976 "the first time that people in the UK really heard samba". However, some dispute this as it is believed that Brazilian Singer, Carmen Miranda performed with Rio Samba School, Mangueira circa 1949. Robin was a performer in the 1976 show and when it came back in 1979 to play in the theatre by Guanabara in Drury Lane, Brasil Tropical asked Robin to get as many

Brazilians as he could find who were good drummers to recruit them for the show. This was how he met Bosco, the very first Mestre de Bateria or Master of the Drums of London School of Samba, and Hilton (another founder member). The London School of Samba was born, and paraded at the Notting Hill Carnival with the samba, "A homage to Mocidade Independente de Padre Miguel".

In 2018, Notting Hill Carnival organisers renamed the "samba category" which was introduced by CAMF in 2004, to the more appropriately titled "Brazilian Bands" as one of the categories. Today, the Brazilian Bands represent that same richness and diversity of Brazil itself: from the two samba schools, London School of Samba and Paraiso School of Samba (formed in 2001), playing samba de enredo, to samba reggae group Batalá and maracatú group, Baque de Axé.

Brazilian music, dance and carnival continues to increase in popularity in the UK, so can only continue to get better and better.

Credit: Fiona Turuka, Mestre Mags (London School of Samba)

More Abridged from nhcarnival.org

Get Involved in Carnival!

Notting Hill Carnival is much more than a big party. It really is like one very large community project. Here are just six ways in which you can take part in this unique event.



Community Stewards

otting Hill Carnival Ltd. wish to involve and benefit the local community as much as possible and to provide all attendees with an improved Carnival experience.

We seek individuals to work as part of a solid committed team, to provide the highest level of caring crowd control. Implementing planned management of specific sites and organised systems for the intention of delivering a safe and spectacular 2019 Carnival. We welcome applicants with SIA or NVQL2 in Spectator Safety. Alternatively, you must have at least one year's stewarding experience. If you are from the local community, we can provide free training.

More How to register: nhcarnival.org/stewardingregistration-2019



Mas Band Stewards

Many mas bands seek volunteers to steward their floats.

You would be on the parade, working directly with the mas band. This role would include rope holding and generally assisting masqueraders.
You don't get paid, but bands will give you a free t-shirt, food, drinks and an up close Notting Hill Carnival experience.
Notting Hill Carnival Ltd. don't regulate nor facilitate this role, the bands are fully responsible for recruitment and management, so you would have to contact the mas bands directly.

More Carnival Bands 2019 nhcarnival.org/mas-bands



Play Steelpan for a Band

Do you know your tenor from your four-pan?
Or are you an absolute beginner when it comes to steelpan?

Whatever your ability there will be a class for you. There are free classes run locally at The Tabernacle in Notting Hill and the Yaa Centre in Maida Vale. There are also many bands up and down the country who work very hard throughout the year to be in with a chance to play at Notting Hill Carnival or to compete at the internationally renowned national steelpan competition, Panorama. You never know you could be a future Panorama Champion!

More Steelbands nhcarnival.org/steel-bands

British Association of Steelbands: facebook.com/britishassociation ofsteelbands/



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Make Carnival Costumes

There are many 'mas camps' dotted around Notting Hill and beyond.

A mas camp is the base for making the costumes that you see on the parade. They always need helpers. This is an opportunity for you to hone in your creative skills. Also to make new friends and enjoy the community atmosphere.

Why not contact a mas band in your area that you'd like to volunteer your time and make costumes for?

More Mas Camp (see overleaf)
Carnival Bands 2019
nhcarnival.org/mas-bands



Wear a Costume

Did you know anyone can join a mas band?

Go all out with a full costume for 'pretty mas', wear a band t-shirt or play dutty mas.... There are 70 bands to choose from. each with a different theme Every year all bands are judged for the accolade of being named the best on the road. There are family bands on Sunday, and adults on Monday. Get food and refreshments all day, make new friends ... be a part of the parade! See our website for mas band details, then contact your chosen band to find out cost and availability.

More Carnival Bands 2019 nhcarnival.org/mas-bands

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'Why not contact a mas band

in your area that you'd like to

volunteer your time and

make costumes for?

Design the Official T-shirt

arlier this year, we held a T-shirt design competition open to anyone over 16 yrs.

We asked for those with creative flair, and a love of Notting Hill Carnival, to create a design that they felt best represented their Carnival. With the winning design being printed on the back of the official Notting Hill Carnival tee, potentially millions of people get to see it. We plan to do this again next year, and to roll it out to under 16s too. Could it be a family project for you? Get your creative juices flowing for 2020.

More T-shirt competition nhcarnival.org/tshirt-competition



Carnival Remembers Grenfell

Grenfell Tower can be seen from the parade route.



fire, we have achieved so much together as a community. The monthly silent walks, on the 14th of each month, bring us together to remember and to send a message that we remain strong in our campaign for justice. We have campaigned for an expert panel to be added to the Inquiry and managed to get dangerous combustible cladding banned across the country.

Two years on from the

But there is still so much that needs to

change. Thousands of people across the country are still living in unsafe homes and their concerns are not being listened to. And two years on from the fire justice still feels like a long way away.

We are determined not to let Grenfell fade away and allow politicians to leave everything the same. Everyone has the right to live in a safe home and to be treated with dignity and respect.

We thank you for your support today and everyday as we continue our campaign for justice and change.

Credit: Grenfell United

More grenfellunited.org
@grenfell unite



uring Carnival we hold a 72 second silence on both days at 3pm; one second for each life lost in the fire.

It means so much to survivors and bereaved families that Notting Hill Carnival pauses to remember and pay respect. Each and every person in our community was affected by the events of 14 June 2017. We lost 72 of our loved ones and neighbours in the Grenfell tower fire.

Since the fire many survivors and bereaved families have come together to form Grenfell United. We work together for our community and campaign for safe homes, justice and change. We are determined that our loved ones and neighbours who died will not be remembered for the events of that night but for the change that comes next, so we work together for our community and campaign for safe homes, justice and change.

