



70

WINDRUSH

PIONEERS & CHAMPIONS



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PREFACE

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Windrush 70, like previous commemorations, has highlighted the contribution that Caribbean men and women have made and continue to make to Britain’s well-being and prosperity since the 1940s. Yet, the contribution their ancestors have made goes back to the 1500s when European people settled in the Caribbean, almost wiping out the indigenous population and forcing enslaved Africans to work on plantations

In October 2017, Windrush Foundation launched ***Windrush 70*** after receiving an award from Heritage Lottery Fund. Windrush Foundation has been the leading organisation in ‘commemorating and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the arrival of *MV Empire Windrush* that brought to the UK hundreds of Caribbean passengers who disembarked on 22 June 1948 at Tilbury Docks, Essex.’ Of the 1027 passengers listed on the ship’s records, 802 gave their last country of residence as somewhere in the Caribbean: 339 from Jamaica; 139 from Bermuda; 119 from England; 73 from Trinidad; 66 from Mexico (Polish migrants); 44 from British Guiana; 7 others Caribbean; 40 other non-Caribbean.

The ship has become an iconic symbol of post-war Caribbean settlement in Britain. It was what the late Sam B. King MBE intended in 1995 when he invited Arthur Torrington to work with him on plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 1998. The following year Windrush Foundation received charitable status and has not relented in its efforts to show how Caribbean people have worked to bring about equality of opportunities and justice for all in the UK.

Windrush 70, like previous commemorations, has highlighted the contribution that Caribbean men and women have made and continue to make to Britain’s well-being and prosperity since the 1940s. Yet, the contribution their ancestors have made goes back to the 1500s when British people settled in

the Caribbean, almost wiping out the indigenous population and forcing enslaved Africans to work on plantations.

In a 1939 speech, Winston Churchill said: *‘The West Indies, two hundred years ago, bulked very largely in the minds of all people who were making Britain and making the British Empire. Our possessions of the West Indies, like that of India – the colonial plantation and development, as they were called – give us the strength to, the support, but especially the capital, the wealth, at a time when no other European nation possessed such a reserve, which enabled us to come through the great struggle of the Napoleonic Wars, the keen competition of the commerce of the 18th and 19th centuries and enabled us not only to acquire this worldwide appendage of possessions we have, but also to lay the foundation of that commercial and financial leadership which, when the world was young, when everything outside Europe was undeveloped, enabled us to make our great position in the world.’*

(The Negro in the Caribbean, 1942, Dr Eric Williams).

Sam King was the first person to have preserved the stories of the men and women who were on the board *MV Empire Windrush*. He kept their names and addresses and sent them Christmas postcards. To Sam we owe gratitude as we see how names and phrases like ‘Windrush Generation’, ‘Windrush Pioneers’ and ‘Windrush Champions’ are being used. He was first to have coined them after 1948.

70 Windrush Pioneers and Champions publication features 70 men and women considered to have made significant contributions to our communities and to Britain over the past 70 years.

They are not the only ones to have done so, but Windrush Foundation has selected them in 2018 and will also publish the profiles of other Caribbean people in the coming years. It should be noted that about 4,000 WWII Caribbean servicemen (like Laurent Phillpotts) and women settled in Britain after the War ended in 1945, some returned in 1947 to the UK on the *HMS Ormonde* and *HMS Almanzora* and many of them assisted *Empire Windrush* passengers on 22 June 1948. Windrush Foundation considers them also as ‘Pioneers’.

Windrush Foundation defines ‘Windrush Generation’ as the Caribbean people who have settled in the UK from 1945 to 1973 and have contributed to the rebuilding of Britain after WWII. They are the ones who have laid the foundation for future generations: in housing, religion, economic, social, political and race relations; we stand on their shoulders. We celebrate in particular the men and women who arrived on 22 June 1948 having travelled on *MV Empire Windrush* and disembarking at Tilbury Docks, Essex.

‘Windrush Champions’ has been defined as Caribbean people who arrived in the UK after 22 June 1948 and whose work for local communities and British society laid the foundation for the next generation. The summary profiles below are not the only ones who have done so, but in this 70th anniversary publication they are included because Windrush Foundation has good knowledge of their work. The late Sam King MBE, co-founder of the organisation, and an *Empire Windrush* passenger, had for many years observed the contributions they have made and with this book we acknowledge them now, but will include other names in our next publication.

‘Windrush Champions’ stand on the shoulders of the ‘Pioneers’ who made their homes in the UK after WWII ended and who made living in the Britain easier for those who returned in 1947 and on 22 June 1948. We know that the Pioneers found companions and RAF colleagues in the major cities and towns and corresponded with relatives and friends in the Caribbean. They were the key sources of encouragement for them to

emigrate. So, those who arrived between May 1945 and December 1947 received their support.

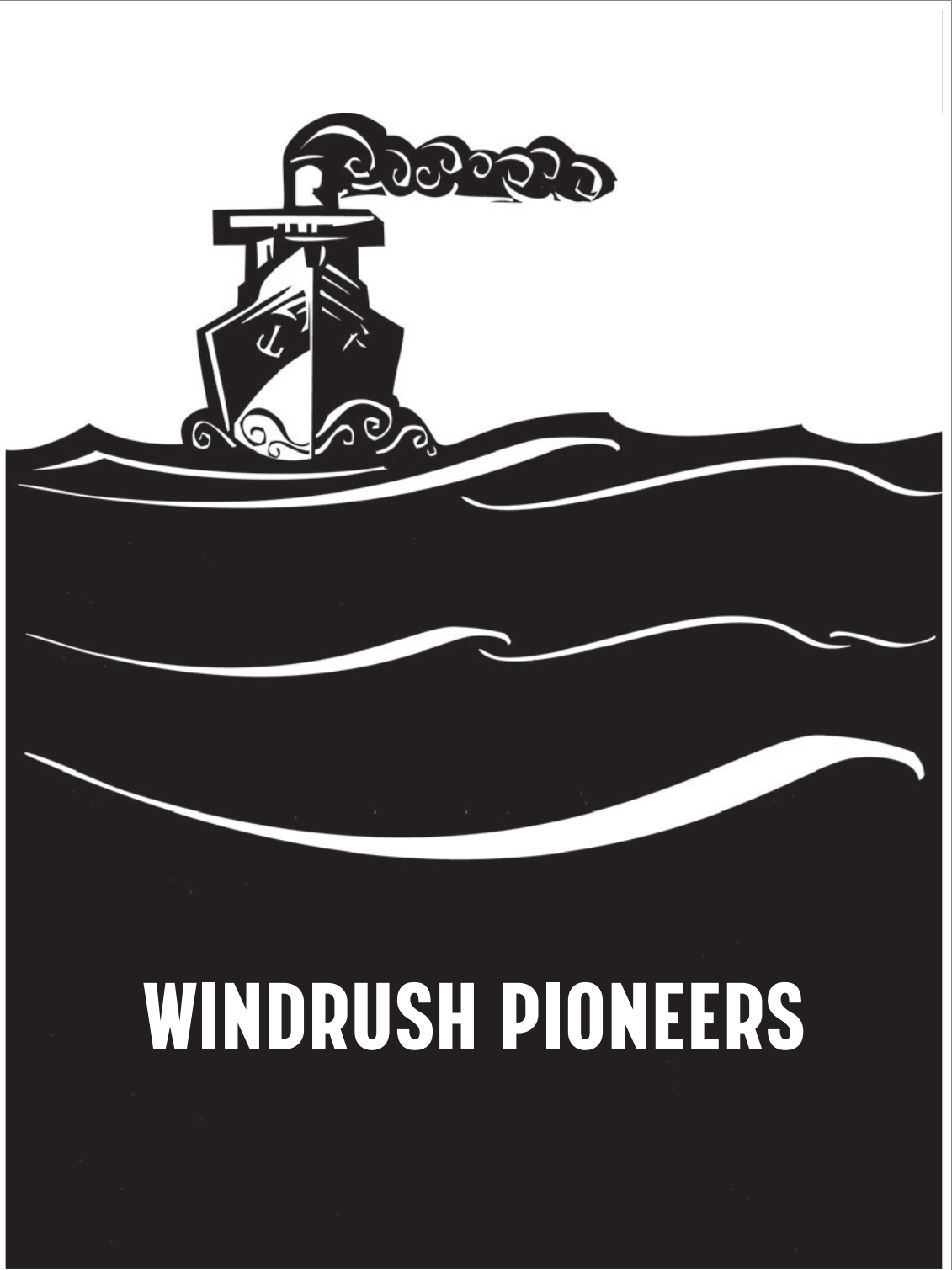
Many of the Caribbean passengers who arrived on 22 June 1948 at Tilbury Docks, Essex, were assisted in like manner. The WWII RAF Caribbean personnel returned to their respective bases, and the 236 passengers who had made no arrangement for accommodation were housed at Clapham South Deep Shelter, London.

After the arrival of *MV Empire Windrush*, other ships brought hundreds of thousands of Caribbean settlers to the UK. Most passengers in the 1960s and 1970s travelled on British Overseas Airways.

The so-called ‘Windrush scandal’ has highlighted the experiences of thousands of Caribbean people whom Home Office officials have denied UK citizenship rights, resulting in serious injustices to individuals and families. They are ‘children of the Windrush generation’ and mainly those who arrived in Britain with their parents before 1973 and who are considered not have produced hard evidence to verify their claim of having a right to remain in the country. The British Government has said it is committed to making the ‘wrongs’ ‘right’ and to ensure that all those affected receive citizenship and compensation. It’s a ‘Home Office scandal’ not a ‘Windrush scandal’.

The Directors of Windrush Foundation hope that ***‘70 Windrush Pioneers and Champions’*** will assist your knowledge and understanding of their contribution to Britain over the years.

WINDRUSH FOUNDATION
December 2018



WINDRUSH PIONEERS

ALDWYN ROBERTS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1923-2000★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Better known as Lord Kitchener, Aldwyn Roberts goes down in history as one of the greatest calypsonians who first made his mark in the UK on board the Empire Windrush

Aldwyn Roberts aka Lord Kitchener was born in Trinidad and educated at the Arima Boys Government School until he was fourteen. His father helped him to develop his singing voice and also taught him to play the guitar. His first job as a musician was playing guitar for Water Scheme labourers while they laid pipes in the San Fernando Valley. But after winning the Arima borough council's calypso competition five times between 1938 and 1942 there was no stopping him.

In 1943 he moved to Port of Spain where he met calypsonian Growling Tiger, who advised him to take the name 'Lord Kitchener', which was later shortened to 'Kitch'.

It was while on a tour to Jamaica with Egbert Moore (Lord Beginner) and Lord Woodbine (Harold Phillips) that he heard about the *MV Empire Windrush's* impending voyage to Britain. The three decided to book their passage along with hundreds of other Caribbean passengers.

It was Kitch who would come to symbolise the naive optimism of the adventurers on board when he performed the specially-written calypso, 'London is the Place for Me', on the deck of the ship for Pathé News.

Kitch's first residency was at a pub in Brixton, south London. He played a significant role in the popularity of calypso in the UK during the 1950s, becoming a regular performer on BBC Radio as well as enjoying a successful residency at The Sunset Club in London. Later he opened a nightclub in Manchester.

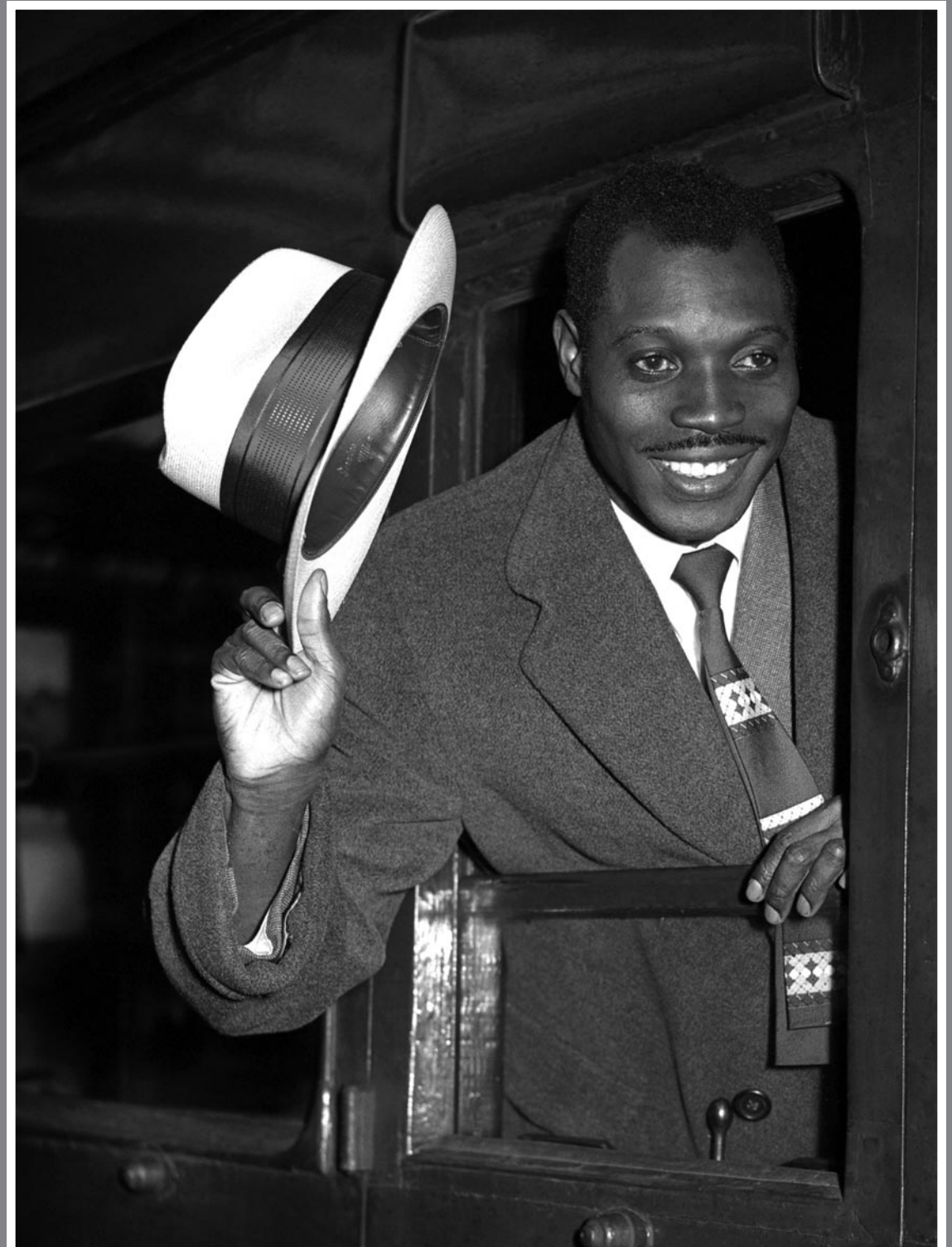
Kitch returned to Trinidad in 1962. He won the 'road march' competitions 10 times between 1963 and 1976, more often than any other calypsonian, though his biggest rival was Mighty Sparrow.

For 30 years, he ran his own calypso tent, Calypso Revue, where he nurtured talented calypsonians like Calypso Rose and David Rudder. Kitchener's compositions always proved popular as the chosen selections for steel bands to perform at the annual National Panorama competition during Trinidad Carnival.

Kitchener adopted the new soca genre on a number of albums from the mid-1970s. His most commercially successful song, and one of the earliest major soca hits, was 'Sugar Bum Bum' in 1978.

He is honoured with a statue in Port of Spain. A bust is also on display in Arima.

Photo © PA Images



ALFORD GARDNER

Aged 92, Alford Gardner is one of the MV Empire Windrush’s few surviving passengers as well as being among the many former RAF servicemen on board. After experiencing a hostile reception, Alford displayed the pluck and determination typical of his generation, working as an engineer, raising a family, and founding the first Caribbean cricket club in the country

When Alford Gardner arrived at Tilbury Docks aged 22, it was not the first time he had stepped on to these shores. Four years earlier, at the height of World War II, he and his brother Gladstone had set sail for Britain to serve as ground crew in the Royal Air Force, leaving Jamaica in June of that year and arriving in Liverpool via freezing Greenland the following month.

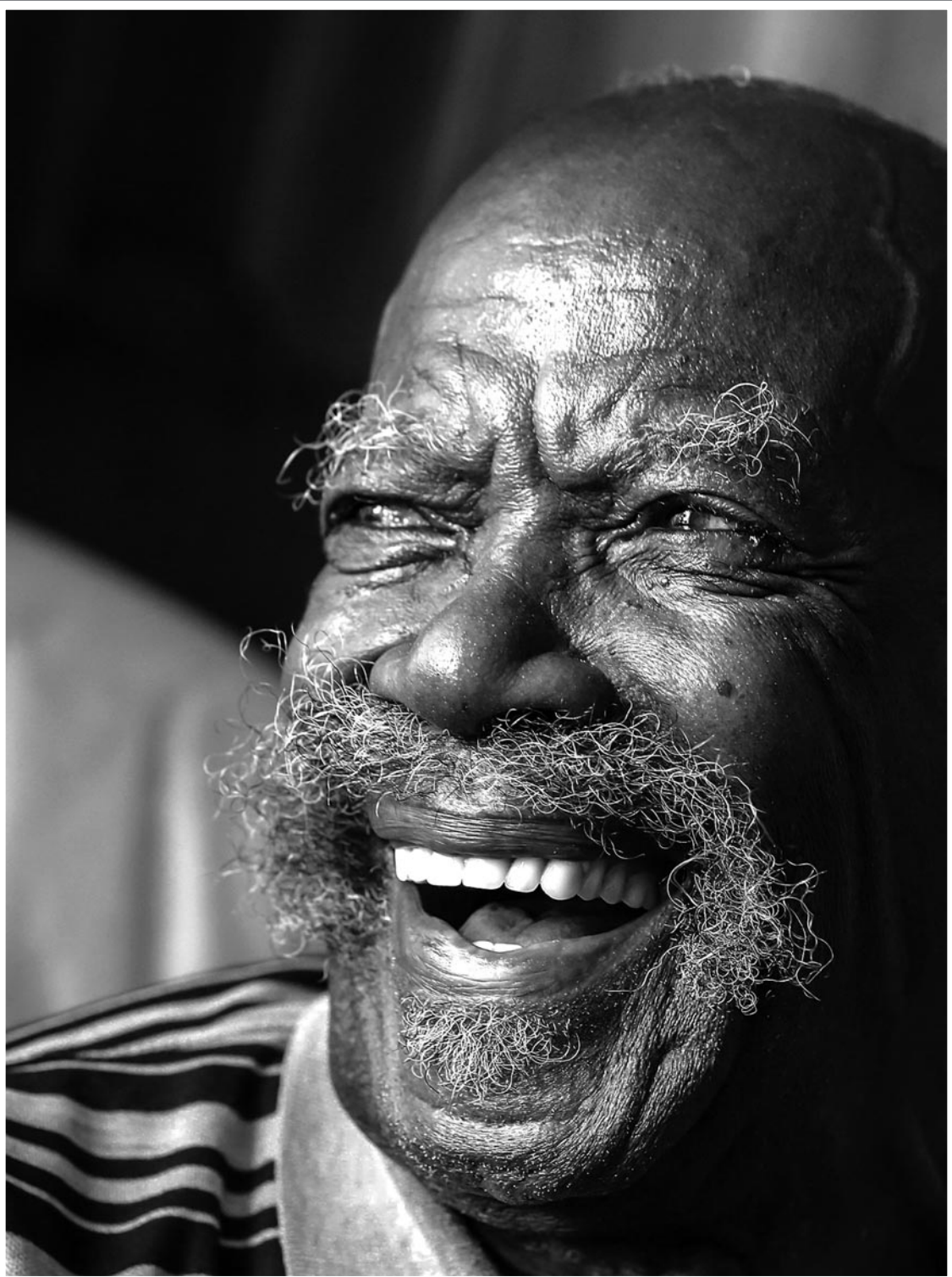
The new recruits were among the 4,000 Caribbean volunteers who would be stationed at RAF Hunmanby Moor in Filey, Yorkshire - later a Butlin’s Holiday Camp - and were met by an official welcome party complete with military band. After basic instruction, Alford trained as an RAF engineer at Weeton near Blackpool and later took a six-month engineering course in Leeds. But once the war was over, the RAF insisted that he and Gladstone return to Jamaica.

Times were hard back home so when Alford heard in March 1948 that the *MV Empire Windrush* was on its way to the UK via Jamaica, he jumped at the opportunity of returning to England, managing to raise the fare of £28.10 shillings and persuading his brother to come along, too. Alford remembers the journey with fondness. He said: “We had a happy time. The [calypsonians] Lord Kitchener and Lord Beginner were on board and everything that happened, they sang about it. We had a happy, a very happy time.”

Upon arrival, Alford and Gladstone headed straight for Leeds. But this time around, he found that he was not as welcome as before and it took him a while to find accommodation and work. Eventually he was able to put his wartime skills as an engineer to use at local plants, and once settled, he bought a house and later married, raising a family of eight. In the meantime, he founded the Leeds Caribbean Cricket Club, not only for the sport but also as a gathering place for new arrivals. The club was the first of its kind in the UK and, like Alford, it’s still going strong.



Photo © PA Images



ALLAN CHARLES WILMOT

After seeing military service on the high seas in World War II, Allan Wilmot's life took another adventurous turn when he became a member of chart-topping vocal quartet The Southlanders during the 1950s. In later years, he would once again reach the top, this time as president of the West Indian Ex-Services Association

Born in Jamaica in 1925, Allan Wilmot volunteered for the Royal Navy during World War II at the age of 16 for a job whose duties included sweeping shipping channels for mines and searching for the survivors of torpedoed ships. Two years later, in 1943, he transferred to the RAF Sea and Rescue Service.

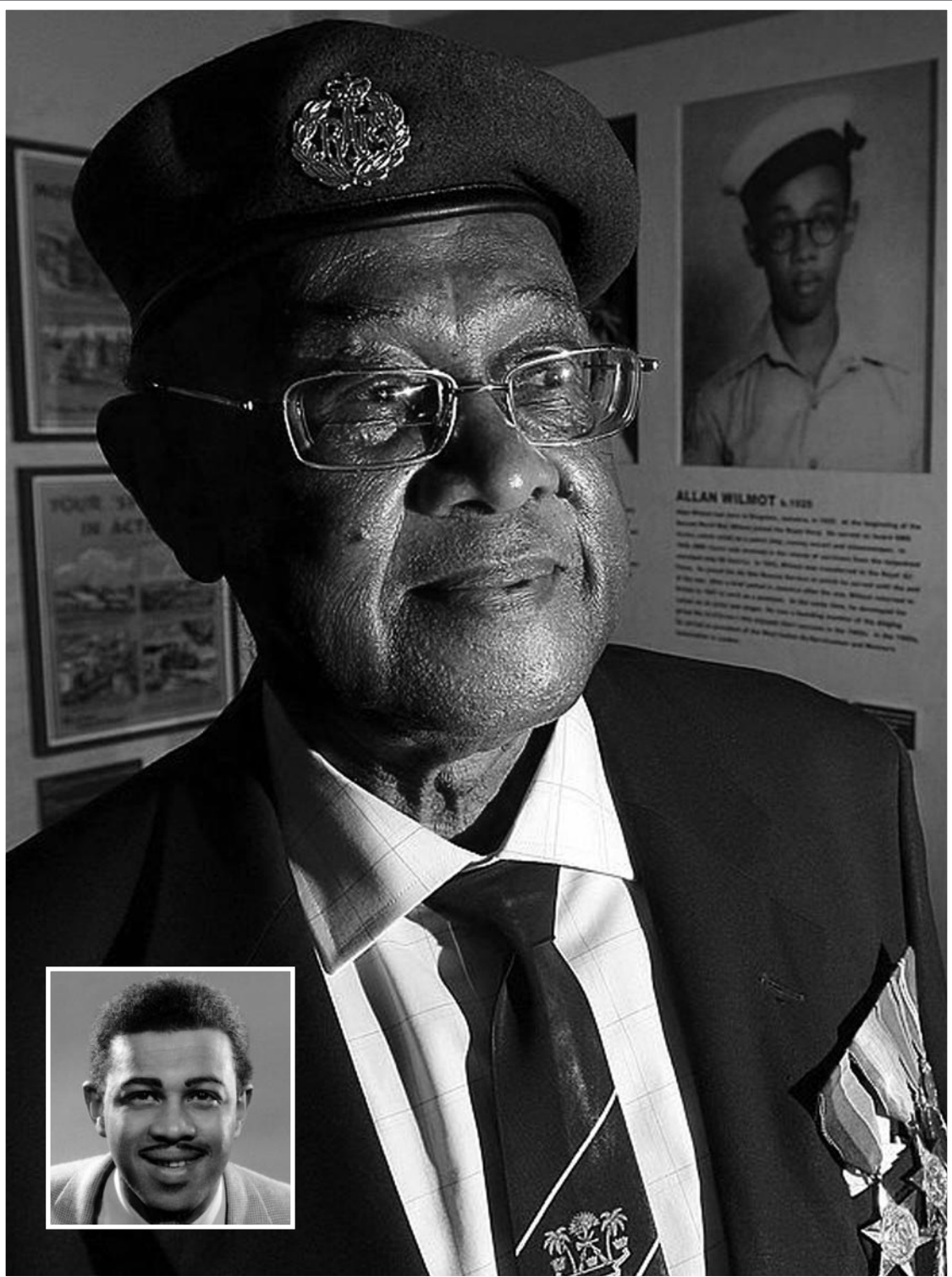
After the war, he was demobbed and had to go back to Jamaica but soon realised the prospects there were poor. He decided to return to the UK, sailing on board the *HMS Almanzora* and arriving in Southampton in December 1947 during one of the coldest winters on record. Finding accommodation was difficult and he often had no option but to sleep on London underground trains after the service had closed down for the night.

Like other migrants, he made ends meet with a variety of jobs, from factory work to washing dishes at the McDonald's of its day, Lyons Corner House.

At the time, London was witnessing a thriving black music scene and he and his brother decided to try their luck with The Southlanders, a singing quartet they'd founded specialising in rhythm and blues and doo-wop. They were the first black group to achieve widespread success in the UK during the 1950s, reaching No.17 in the pop charts with 'Alone'.

But they are best remembered for their quirky single 'I am a mole and I live in a hole'. Allan and co carved out a successful career on the UK's variety circuit, sharing the stage with some of Britain's most popular performers, including Max Bygraves and Shirley Bassey. Even when their star was fading, The Southlanders went on to be a popular cabaret act on cruise ships and in hotels.

The group disbanded in the early '70s and Allan took a job with the Post Office, retiring in 1990. During the three decades that followed, he played an important part in the establishment of the West Indian Ex-Services Association (now the West Indian Association of Service Personnel) and for a number of years served as its president.



CECIL HOLNESS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1922-2002 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Like other migrants, pioneering youth worker Cecil Holness would have fallen foul of the colour bar on many occasions during his long years in Britain but he was one of the few who could say he had his case raised in parliament

Cecil Holness was born in Jamaica and volunteered to fight for Britain in World War II at the age of 22. Although he was motivated by loyalty to the Mother Country, a sense of adventure and the opportunity to gain professional skills certainly played their part.

Arriving in Liverpool in June 1944, he undertook basic instruction at Filey in Yorkshire, later training as an aircraft fitter and office administrator. After the war, he volunteered for further service in the RAF returning to Jamaica for a well-earned rest in 1948 before sailing back to England a few months later on the *MV Empire Windrush*.

Not one to waste time on the romantic front, in 1949 he married Clara Brown in Tooting, south London. Their path to the altar had not been without its moments of drama. Clara, described by the *South London Press* as “the only coloured nurse” at St Benedict’s Hospital, Tooting, invited him to a staff dance as one of her permitted guests. But when Cecil turned up the matron refused to allow him to attend.

Following protests, the local MP raised the case in parliament prompting the minister of health Nye Bevan to declare: "I will not permit any form of colour discrimination in the National Health Service." At the time, the NHS was only four months old.

The matron was forced into a humiliating climb down and the *Press* reported that "she has withdrawn a colour bar which she put up at the last staff dance".

Cecil left the RAF in 1952 and worked for a short while as a motor mechanic. Later he studied at Avery Hill College and became a popular youth worker in Brixton, south London, until he retired in 1987.

He played an active part in the development of the West Indian Ex-Services Association, an organisation established to keep alive the memory of the contribution and sacrifice of the Caribbean men and women who served in World War II. The association is still based in Clapham Manor Street, Lambeth, south London, and has been renamed, the West Indian Association of Service Personnel. Cecil died in December 2002 aged 80, eight years after his beloved Clara.

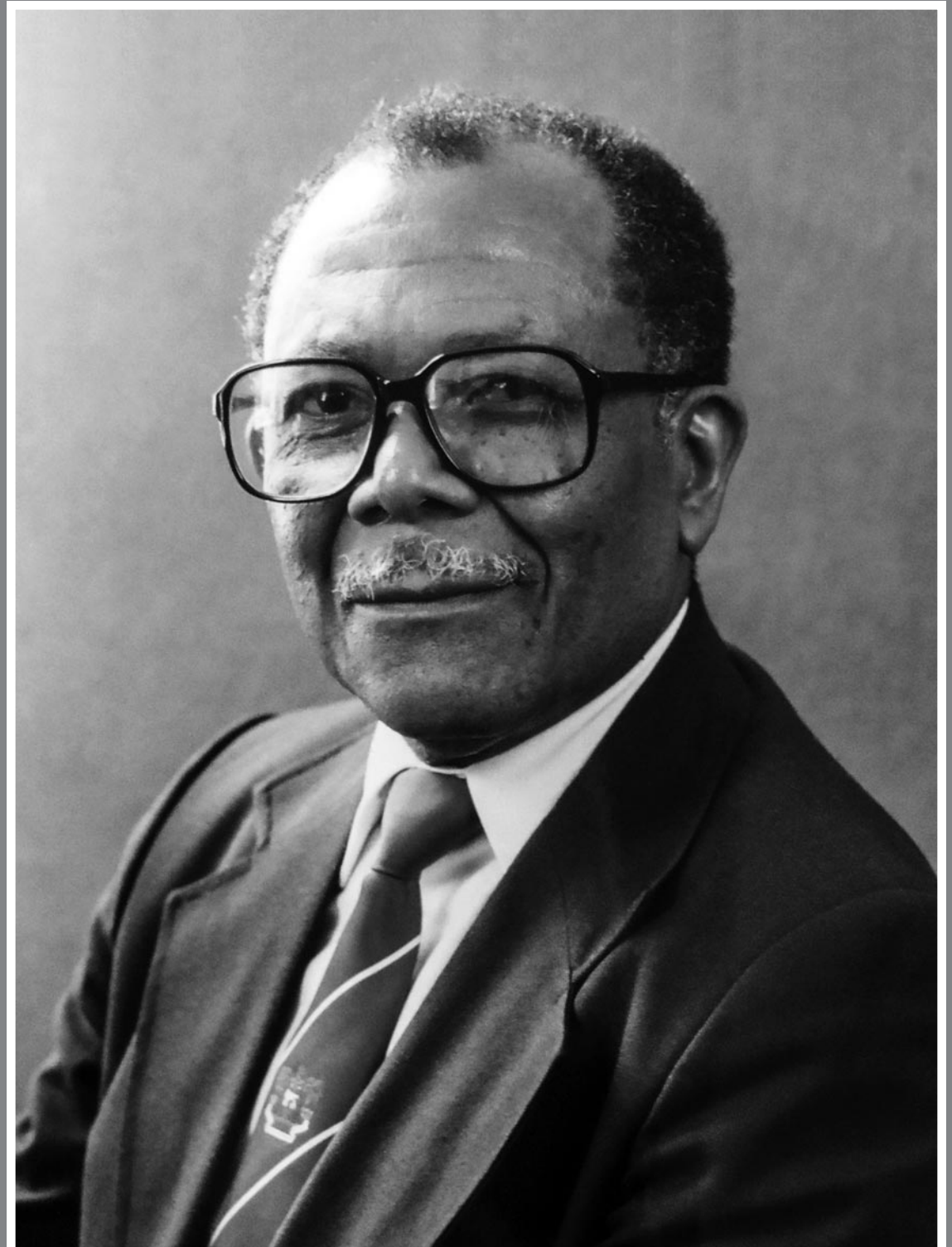


Photo © Autograph ABP

CONNIE MARK

[illegible]

A former war worker in Jamaica, Connie Mark is remembered as an inspirational campaigner and for her efforts to champion Caribbean culture through her poetry and story-telling

The daughter of a railway clerk, Constance ('*Connie*') Winifred Mark (*née McDonald*) was 19 when she decided to contribute to the war effort by joining the women's wing of the British Army, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Caribbean was a theatre of war with German U-boats regularly torpedoing British ships. As a medical secretary in the British Military Hospital, her duties included typing the reports of horrific combat injuries. After six months' service she was promoted to lance corporal and six months later to corporal, only to find on both occasions she'd been denied a pay increase, a situation she protested about in no uncertain terms.

Connie married Jamaican fast bowler Stanley Goodridge in 1952. He won a contract to play cricket for Durham in the north of England and she joined him in November 1954 with their baby daughter; a son was born in 1957. The couple later separated and she married Michael Mark in London in 1977.

In Britain Connie became well known for her formidable contributions to a range of charitable, community and educational projects, including the Mary Seacole Memorial Association, which she helped to found. In order to highlight the part, the Caribbean played in the war effort, particularly the role of women like herself, she became an active member of West Indian Ex-Services Association (now the West Indian Association of Service Personnel).

Such efforts led the *Voice* newspaper to list Connie Mark among eight black women who have contributed most to the development of Britain in celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2018, while London's *Evening Standard* named her as one of 14 "inspirational black British women throughout history".

Connie's pride in her Caribbean heritage was reflected in her poetry and story-telling, which she saw as a way of inspiring young people. To this end she became a patron of Descendants, an organisation aimed at supporting youngsters of African and Caribbean descent.

In the 1993 New Year Honours, she was awarded the British Empire Medal for meritorious service during the war and honoured by The Queen with an MBE in the 2000 New Year Honours list for her service to the community. Connie died in 2007 at the age of 83.



Main Photo © Autograph ABP



CY GRANT

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1919-2010 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

A former German prisoner of war, Flight Lieutenant Cy Grant would become the first black person to appear regularly on TV in the 1950s as a singer and matinee idol before becoming a cultural activist, as well as a poet, musicologist and author

When Guyanese-born Cy Grant volunteered for the Royal Air Force in 1941, it was, he said, a chance to escape the confines of a sleepy colonial backwater.

He continued to act and in 1977 he performed his one-man show of Aime Césaire's epic prose poem *Return to My Native Land*.

One of 500 young men from the Caribbean recruited as aircrew, he wanted to be a pilot, but ended up as a navigator in the RAF's elite Bomber Command. It was dangerous work and on his third mission during the Battle of the Ruhr in 1943 he was shot down and captured by the Germans.

A published poet, he was also the author of several books, including his 2007 autobiography, *Blackness and the Dreaming Soul*, which outlined his Taoist-influenced personal philosophy.

After the war, he studied law, qualifying for the Bar in 1950 but was unable to find work. To make ends meet, he decided to try his hand at acting. Tall, good looking and charming, he was quickly snapped up and was soon appearing in film and TV dramas. In 1957, he was asked to take part in the BBC's daily current affairs programme, *Tonight*. His job was to sing the news in calypso.

Dismayed at the lack of official information on Caribbean aircrew during World War II, Cy set up an online archive “to trace and commemorate for all time, all those whose services have not been acknowledged”. In 2016, the Cy Grant Trust, Windrush Foundation and London Metropolitan Archives jointly set up a project to promote his extraordinary legacy.

The show was a huge success and, as the first black face to appear regularly on the small screen, Cy became a household name. He went on to become an in-demand singer and recorded several albums.

By the early '70s, disenchanted with the narrow opportunities black performers were afforded, Cy turned his back on showbiz. He established the Drum Arts Centre in London to promote cutting edge black theatre and in the 1980s became director of Concord, a series of festivals championing multiculturalism.



EDWIN HO

When World War II broke out Edwin Ho longed for adventure but literally missed the boat taking RAF recruits to England. He eventually got there via the MV Empire Windrush and entertained other passengers with his nifty boxing skills

Edwin Ho was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, to a prosperous Chinese family in 1922. Finding work as a young man was easy, as dad ran a bakery and took on Edwin as a book-keeper but it was not exactly the sort of life he had in mind for himself.

When World War II broke out, Edwin saw it as an opportunity to see the world and asked his father's permission to join the RAF. First, he had to take an exam, which he passed with flying colours. Unfortunately, he missed the ship taking the recruits to England and so he was forced to do his service in British Guiana.

Once the war was over, Edwin still yearned for adventure. Then one day an opportunity to go to the UK presented itself. He said: "There was a leaflet and a poster campaign which quoted the British prime minister as saying, 'we need you to come and re-build the Mother Country'. The fare to travel on the *MV Empire Windrush* was £28.10 shillings, once we made our way to Trinidad, where the boat was stopping over."

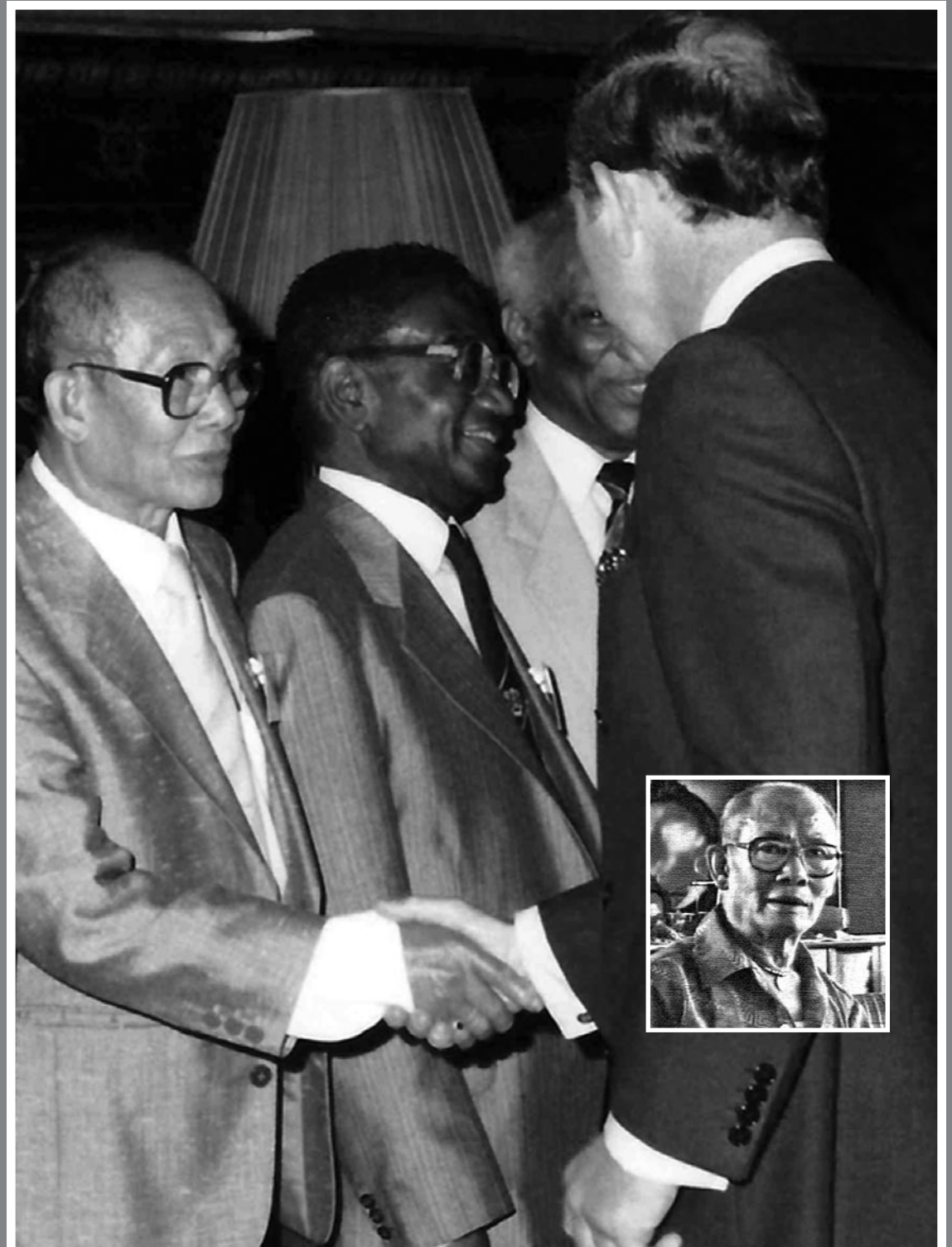
He remembers the *Windrush* as a "massive" ship and thoroughly enjoyed the journey, particularly the dancing and floor shows. He himself provided some of the on-board entertainment. Although only 1.65 metres (5ft 5ins) tall, he was a keen amateur boxer, and showed off his skills in a series of friendly matches.

Like most of his fellow passengers, Edwin didn't know anyone in England so stayed in accommodation that had been arranged for the new arrivals by the colonial office at Clapham South Deep Shelter in South London. His first job was at a foundry in Shropshire and he went on to live in Telford.

He later married Austrian Hertha Eyermann in the winter of 1950. Edwin says they got on well partly because "England was a strange country to her and a strange country to me". The father of three has no regrets about moving to the UK and is proud to be part of the generation that helped rebuild the country after the ravages of war.



Main Photo © Clinton Monfries



EMANUEL ALEXIS ELDEN

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1926-2017 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

A veteran of the historic voyage of the MV Empire Windrush to Tilbury Docks 70 years ago, former RAF volunteer Alex Elden would once again make history when he became one of the first black people to pass what is considered one of the most difficult tests in the world and become a London cabbie

As a young man Alex Elden could have easily followed in the footsteps of his father, a well known civil engineer in Jamaica responsible for a number of important construction projects of the day. But instead, it was watching the dare devil antics of Errol Flynn playing the role of a war pilot on the silver screen that persuaded him to volunteer for the Royal Air Force.

After a short induction in Kingston, Alex, who'd been baptised Emanuel Alexis Elden, travelled to Britain by steam ship, arriving in Glasgow in 1944. He trained at RAF Hunmanby Moor, Filey, Yorkshire, and Yatesbury Airfield in Wiltshire before becoming a runway controller at RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire.

When the war ended, Alex joined a specialist team looking for deserters, and supervised the return of servicemen to the Caribbean. He made his own way back to Jamaica but, unable to find suitable work, decided to return to England on the *MV Empire Windrush*.

Having trained in scientific glass blowing and glass technology, he worked for J Arthur Rank in Crystal Palace, south London, until 1952, making TV tubes and laboratory equipment. Then, in 1956, he became the second black person to have got through the legendary taxi driver test known as 'The Knowledge' to work as a London cabbie.

Alex worked hard for his community and in 1970 he began teaching driving skills to young underprivileged adults on behalf of the Melting Pot Foundation. A decade later he set up the Green Badge Taxi School to help a new generation pick up the skills to get through The Knowledge. Hundreds successfully qualified.

A keen cricketer, he played for Carshalton, the West Indian Student Union and the Caribbean Cricket Club. He was an active member of the West Indian Association of Service Personnel (formerly West Indian Ex-Services Association) and served as its vice-chair in 1995. The Association was established more than 40 years ago by Caribbean RAF veterans. He spent his last two decades living in Croydon, no doubt regaling his 16 grandchildren with tales of a life well lived.

Photo © Autograph ABP



EUTON CHRISTIAN

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1926-2010 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

An expert in the art of military camouflage, Euton Christian found he was able to adapt to his surroundings throughout his life, going from store keeper to becoming Manchester's first black magistrate

When his friends in Jamaica were rushing to join Britain's war effort, Euton Christian didn't want to get left behind so he volunteered for the Royal Air Force.

After a short induction in Kingston, he sailed for England in June 1944, arriving at Liverpool to receive further military training at Filey in Yorkshire.

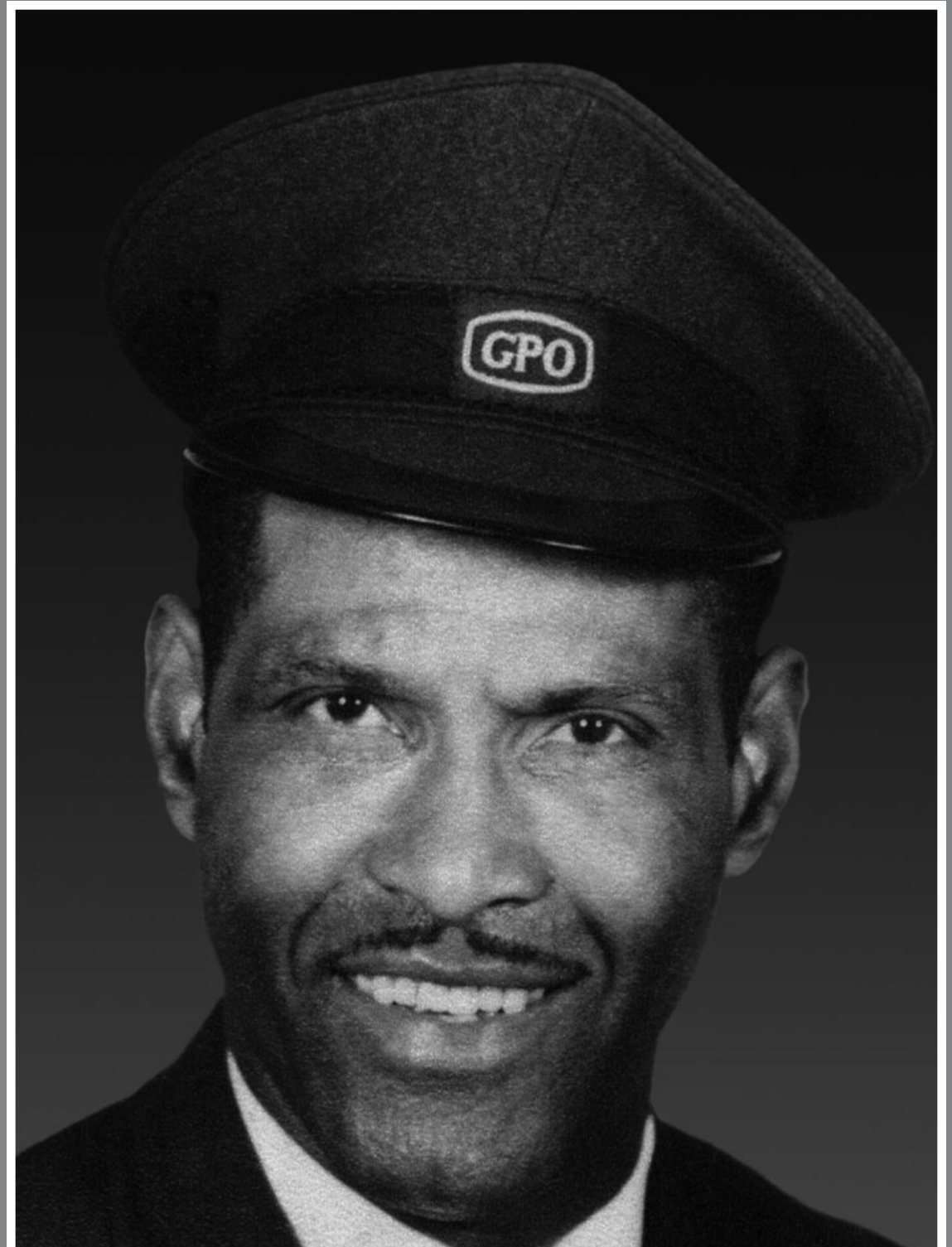
He was later posted to a camp in Rugby where he was intrigued to find German prisoners of war doing the gardening and cleaning. For most of the war he was based at RAF Sealand near the Welsh border where he worked as an aircraft finisher, a job that involved the art of military camouflage through spray painting.

But it was not all hard work. A keen sportsman, Euton loved cricket and played for the base's team with dreams that, one day, he would become a professional cricketer.

After the war, he decided to stay on with the RAF but went on leave to Jamaica in November 1947, returning to England on the *MV Empire Windrush* the following year. As a serving member of the armed forces his passage was free, and accommodation was waiting for him on landing. However, he noticed that people's attitude towards him had changed somewhat, which he would sum up as 'great that you helped us out in the war, but shouldn't you be off home now'?

He was demobbed in 1952 and worked in a variety of jobs to get by, including store keeper and railway man before ending up at in the circulation department of the Post Office in 1954. He spent the next 30 years there, rising to the rank of manager.

By this time, he had settled down in Manchester with his wife Louise and became a popular local figure. In 1953 he helped set up the West Indian Sports and Social Club in Moss Side. He played cricket there and also ran advice surgeries on immigration issues. In 1966 he became a founding member of the Manchester Council for Community Relations, which continues to fight for racial equality in one of Britain's most diverse cities. To cap a list of impressive achievements, in 1971 he became the first black Justice of the Peace in Manchester.



GLADSTONE GARDNER

Gladstone Gardner, the son of a World War I veteran, joined his brother on board the Empire Windrush to join another war

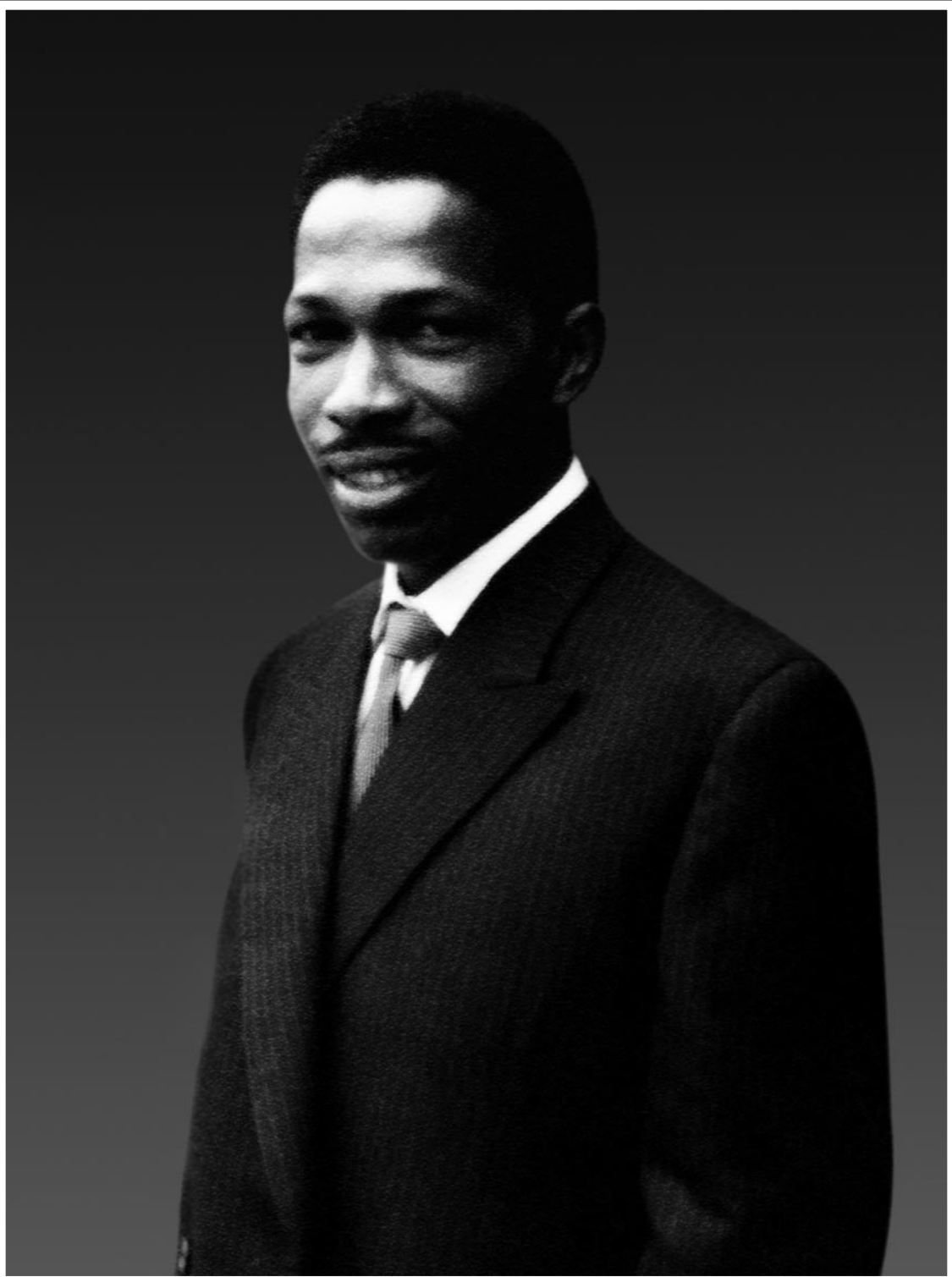
Gladstone Gardner was one of nine children born in Jamaica in 1925. His father, Egbert, worked as a policeman and had served in the British West Indies Regiment in World War I, reaching the rank of corporal.

Gladstone and his brother, Alford, decided to follow in their father’s footsteps by volunteering for the RAF following the outbreak of World War II.

They travelled to England together to be trained as ground crew. After being demobbed, they returned to Jamaica but were soon back in England after the opportunity came up to travel there on the *MV Empire Windrush*.

The brothers headed for Leeds where they found life less welcoming out of uniform, repeatedly being turned away from accommodation and job vacancies.

Later Gladstone moved to Manchester before returning to Leeds in the late 1950s where he obtained a job at an engineering plant. Gladstone married Ruth Walters in 1960 and they had two sons, Nigel and Errol. The couple eventually returned to Jamaica.



HAROLD PHILLIPS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1929-2000 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Not many people can say that they were an early influence on The Beatles but that is what musician Harold Phillips was, having taken Liverpool by storm with his very own calypso band

When Harold Phillips aka 'Lord Woodbine' joined the Royal Air Force he faked his age as 17, hoping that no one would guess that he was three years younger and had never been near a shaving brush. His boldness paid off and he was soon waving goodbye to Trinidad as his ship set sail for the UK.

He trained at RAF Burtonwood in Lancashire, where aircraft were stored and maintained. After the war Harold was demobbed and returned to Trinidad but, ever the adventurer, managed to book his passage back to Blighty on the *MV Empire Windrush*.

An up and coming calypsonian and pan player, Harold was at the time on tour in Jamaica with calypso stars Lord Kitchener and Lord Beginner, who accompanied him on board. After discovering that calypso was all the rage in Britain, he decided to form his own band - Lord Woodbine and his Trinidadians.

In 1958 he fronted the All-Steel Caribbean Band, which had a regular residency at Liverpool's Jacaranda club, owned by Allan Williams, The Beatles' first manager.

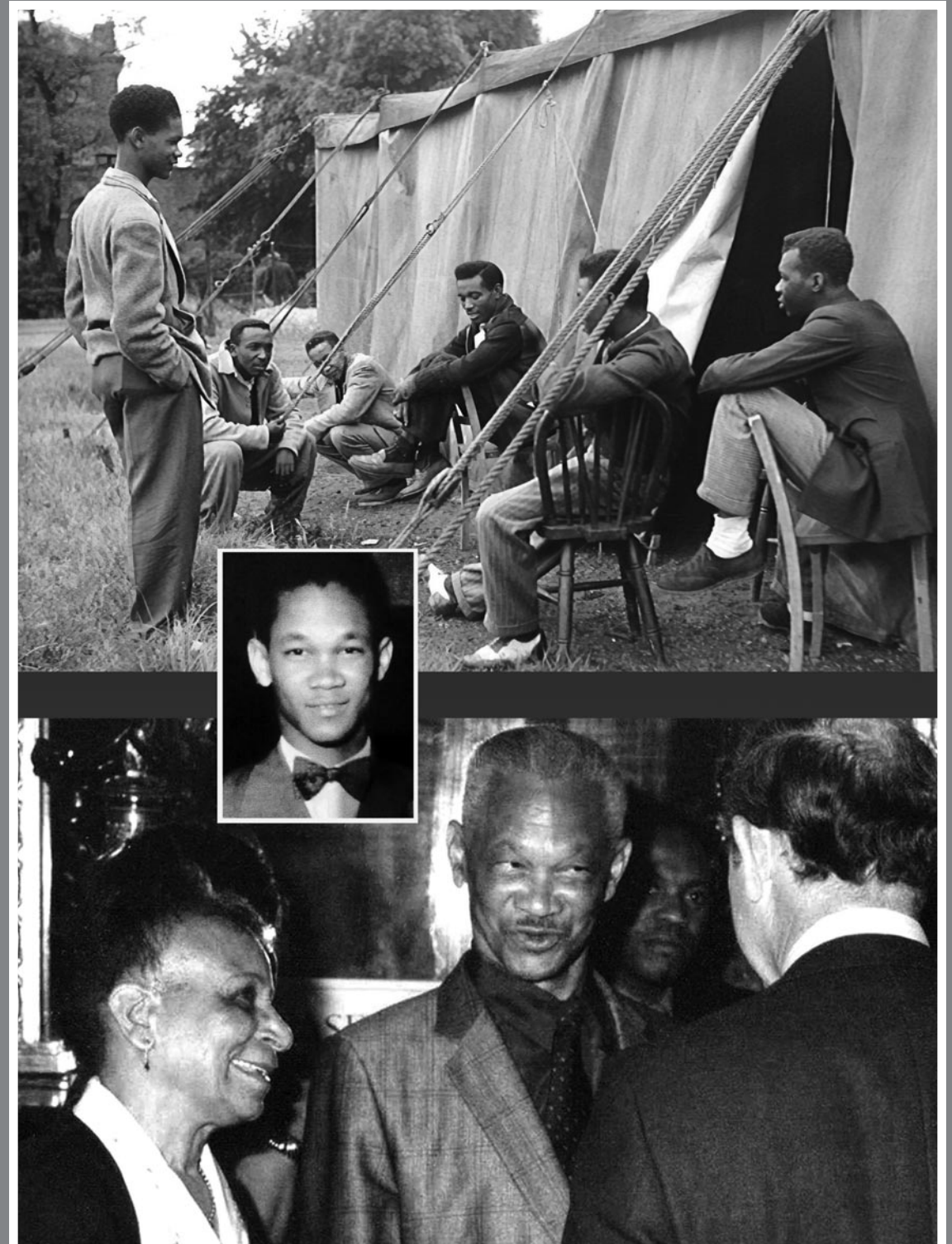
But it was Harold who became The Beatles' early promoter and mentor after they began attending his gigs. For John Lennon and Paul McCartney, he was the first singer-songwriter that the young musicians had met, and such was their interest, that they were for a while referred to as "Woodbine's Boys". The young lads occasionally played at the Jacaranda on Mondays, the night on which Harold did not perform.

With the Trinidadian ‘pannist’ Gerald Gobin, Harold helped oversee the Mersysiders’ breakthrough trip to Hamburg. Then a four-piece guitar group, The Beatles believed that strings alone were enough to provide the rhythm section. As a percussionist Harold disagreed and urged them to recruit a drummer, which led to the arrival of Pete Best in August 1960. Allan Williams and Harold booked The Beatles to perform in Germany, with Harold driving the van taking the band to Hamburg.

Despite this and McCartney's own reference to "his old friend Woodbine", Harold barely figures in The Beatles' story. Were it not for journalist Tony Henry, who accompanied him on a trip to Trinidad in 1998 to make a radio documentary about him, most of us would never have heard of Harold's extraordinary life. When Harold perished in a house fire in Liverpool in 2000 none of the surviving Beatles attended his funeral.



Top photo: Harold (standing) chats with Windrush colleagues in Clapham Common, London, June 1948 © Getty. Bottom Photo © Clinton Monfries



HAROLD SINSON

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1922-2011★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Former RAF volunteer Harold Sinson returned to the UK on the Empire Windrush and managed to carve out a happy and productive life for himself

Harold Orlando Sinson, better known as Harry, was just out of school when WWII broke out in 1939 and had found work at a foundry in British Guiana, present-day Guyana.

In 1943 a friend who worked at the *Daily Chronicle* newspaper told him that the Royal Air Force had placed an ad for men and women from the colonies to volunteer to help Britain fight Hitler.

"I had this feeling of being able to do something, and if the air force thought we could help, so be it, we would go," he recalled.

In 1944, Harold travelled to the UK by steamship for training at Filey, Yorkshire, before being posted to Pembroke Docks in Wales. Military service gave him the opportunity to meet soldiers from allied countries and even German prisoners of war.

Following demobbing in 1947, he travelled home to British Guiana before finding work in Trinidad - where he boarded the *MV Empire Windrush* back to Blighty. Not having any accommodation arranged, he spent a few days at the Clapham South Deep Shelter in London before finding somewhere to live in nearby Balham.

He re-joined the RAF later that year. In 1950, he was re-united with Pauline Woolston, a young woman he'd first met in Yorkshire during the war. After managing to overcome opposition from her family, they married in 1953. The couple went on to have three daughters, one of whom served in the army.

Harold served in the RAF until he was 55 and then worked as a housing officer for the army for 10 years. After retiring he worked as a volunteer for the Citizens Advice Bureau and was an elder in his local Salvation Army church.



HAROLD WILMOT

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1918-1961 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

*Immortalised by a classic black and white photograph of three
MV Empire Windrush arrivals, Harold Wilmot would go on to find fame
as a member of The Southlanders, one of Britain's most popular
vocal quartets during the 1950s*

Dressed in a smart zoot suit and appearing relaxed, Harold Wilmot does not look as though he had spent the last few weeks travelling across the Atlantic on the *MV Empire Windrush*. He is one of the many passengers captured by awaiting camera men after arriving at Tilbury Docks. The picture has been shown countless times to symbolise the first of the Windrush generation.

With Allan, Harold became a founder member of The Southlanders, a male singing quartet that shared the stage with some of the country's biggest stars, including Shirley Bassey and Tommy Cooper. They enjoyed chart success in the 1950s and early '60s, most memorably with the novelty hit song '*I am a mole and I live in a hole*'. In terms of chart success, '*Alone*' reached No.17 in December 1957.

Aged 30 and described on the passenger list as a case maker, Harold already had experience of Britain, having volunteered for the Royal Air Force four years earlier in 1944. Like thousands of other young men he'd seen an advert in Jamaica's *Daily Gleaner* and applied to join the RAF. Having passed the test and medical examination, he underwent initial training in Kingston, before setting sail for England.

Harold wanted a keepsake for his time in show business and he took the unusual step of taking a tablecloth with him to every venue at which he appeared asking other artistes to autograph it.

Prior to joining the RAF, he'd been in the business of making neckties and so, after being demobbed, he took a course in manufacturing brief cases and suitcases. But back home in Jamaica in 1947, his new venture collapsed and when the opportunity came to sail on the *MV Empire Windrush* he jumped at it.

Settling in Lambeth, south London, with his English wife, he had two sons. One of them, Gary, inherited his father's talents and continues to be a well-known entertainer in the UK. Harold died of a brain tumour in 1961.



Main Photo © Derek Allen/Alamy



JOHN HAZEL

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1927-2000★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

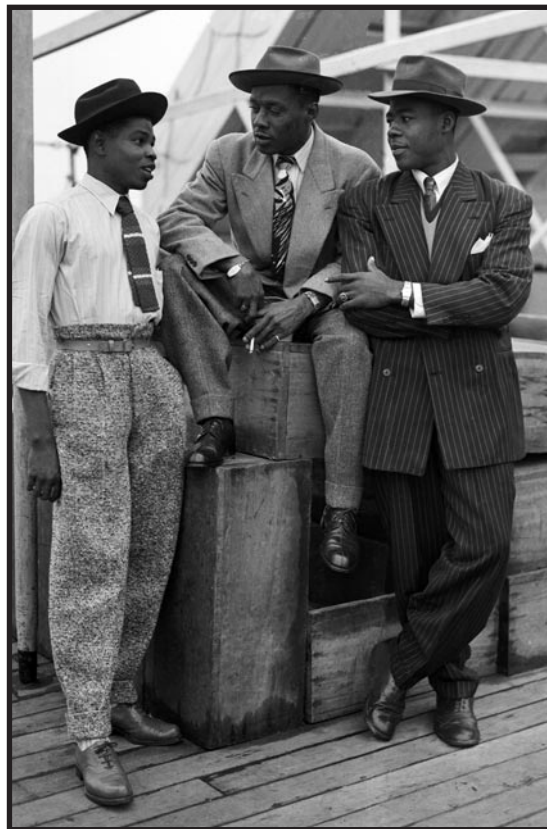
John Hazel's talent at boxing brought him to the UK where he carved out a successful career as a professional boxer

Jamaican-born John Dinsdale Hazel was one of a group of boxers who travelled to England on the *MV Empire Windrush* after being sponsored by boxing promoter, Mortimer Martin.

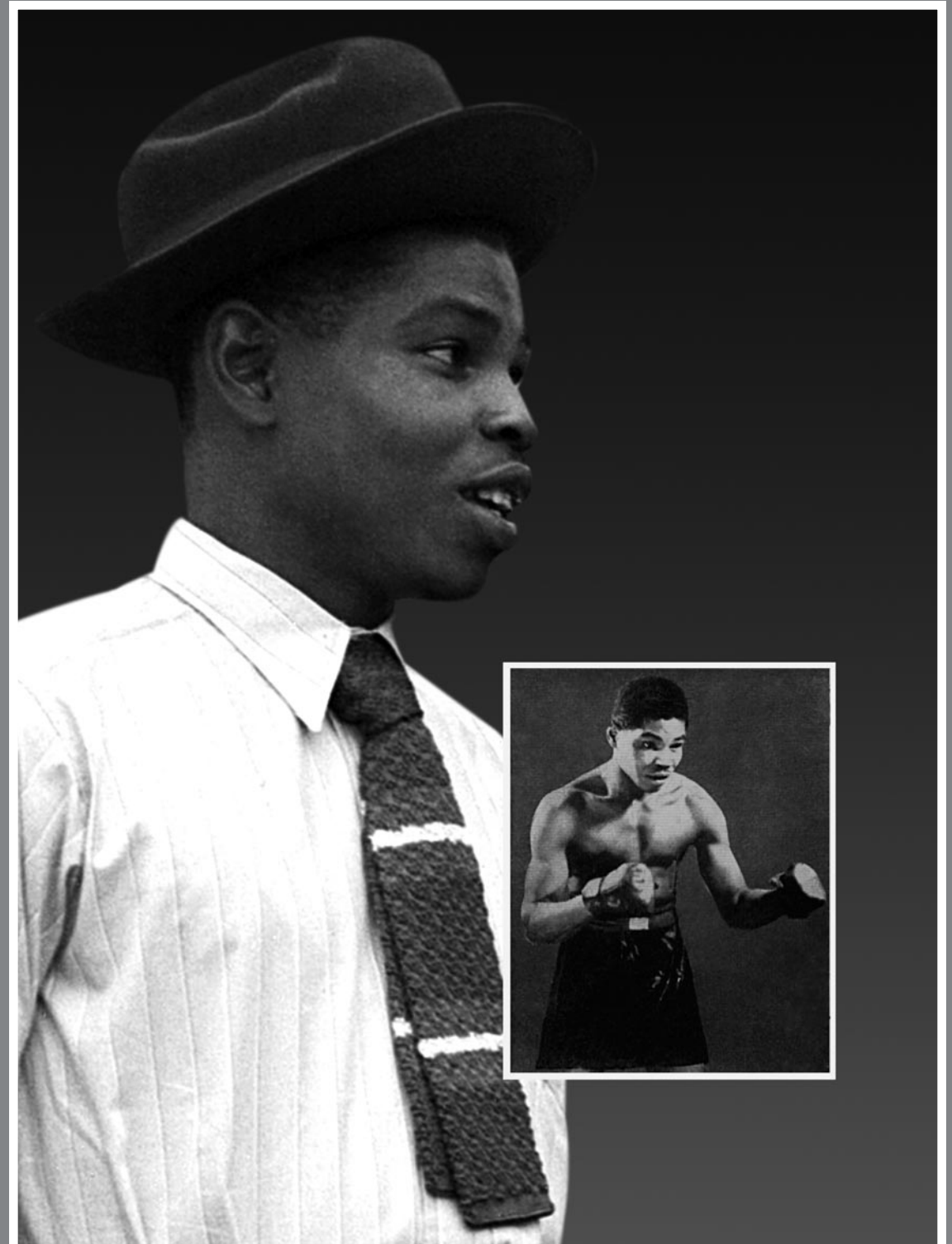
John and four other boxers had their photographs taken with Mortimer after arriving at Tilbury Docks and headed straight to Liverpool where Mortimer's gym was based.

Another photograph features John standing on the deck of the ship to the left of Harold Wilmot and John Richards. It is among the most popular of the Windrush images featured in newspapers and other media since 1948.

John had experienced four bouts as a lightweight in Jamaica but coming to the UK was his chance of making a lucrative career from his talent. He made his British debut at the Drill Hall in Birkenhead in July 1948, a bout he won on points. His final fight took place at Epsom Baths, Surrey, in November 1953. In total, he fought 64 matches, winning more than half of them. On the one occasion he travelled abroad for a bout, to Bologna in Italy in 1950, he lost to his Italian opponent. He married Alice Fowlis on August 9, 1952 and they had three children. When he retired from boxing he made his home in Liverpool where he died in May 2000 at the age of 73.



Photos © Getty



JOHN RICHARDS

When John Richards arrived in England he immediately made his mark after being photographed on board the MV Empire Windrush in an image that has come to symbolise the spirit and resolve of a whole generation

John Richards is the third person in the famous photograph showing three sharp looking young men arriving in England on the *MV Empire Windrush*. Dressed in a pin striped suit, he is standing with John Hazel (left) and Harold Wilmot. The passenger list kept in the UK National Archives describes him as 22 and a carpenter.

Like many young Jamaicans of his day, he had in fact been working as a contract labourer on US farms. It was reasonably paid work but back breaking, so when the opportunity came to travel to England and help build the Mother Country he was only too happy to take it.

Another classic photograph in the *Windrush* series shows John, still in his suit, at Clapham South Deep Shelter in south London, which had originally served as an air raid shelter during the Blitz. Following intervention from the Colonial Office, it was now being used to accommodate 236 migrants who had been bussed in from Tilbury Docks that day.

John vividly remembers the deafening noise of the Northern Line trains as their beds were only one level below the tracks. The racket made it impossible to have a lie in after the long voyage. Breakfast was served in a marquee on Clapham Common and afterwards all the men would go looking for jobs at the Labour Exchange in Brixton.

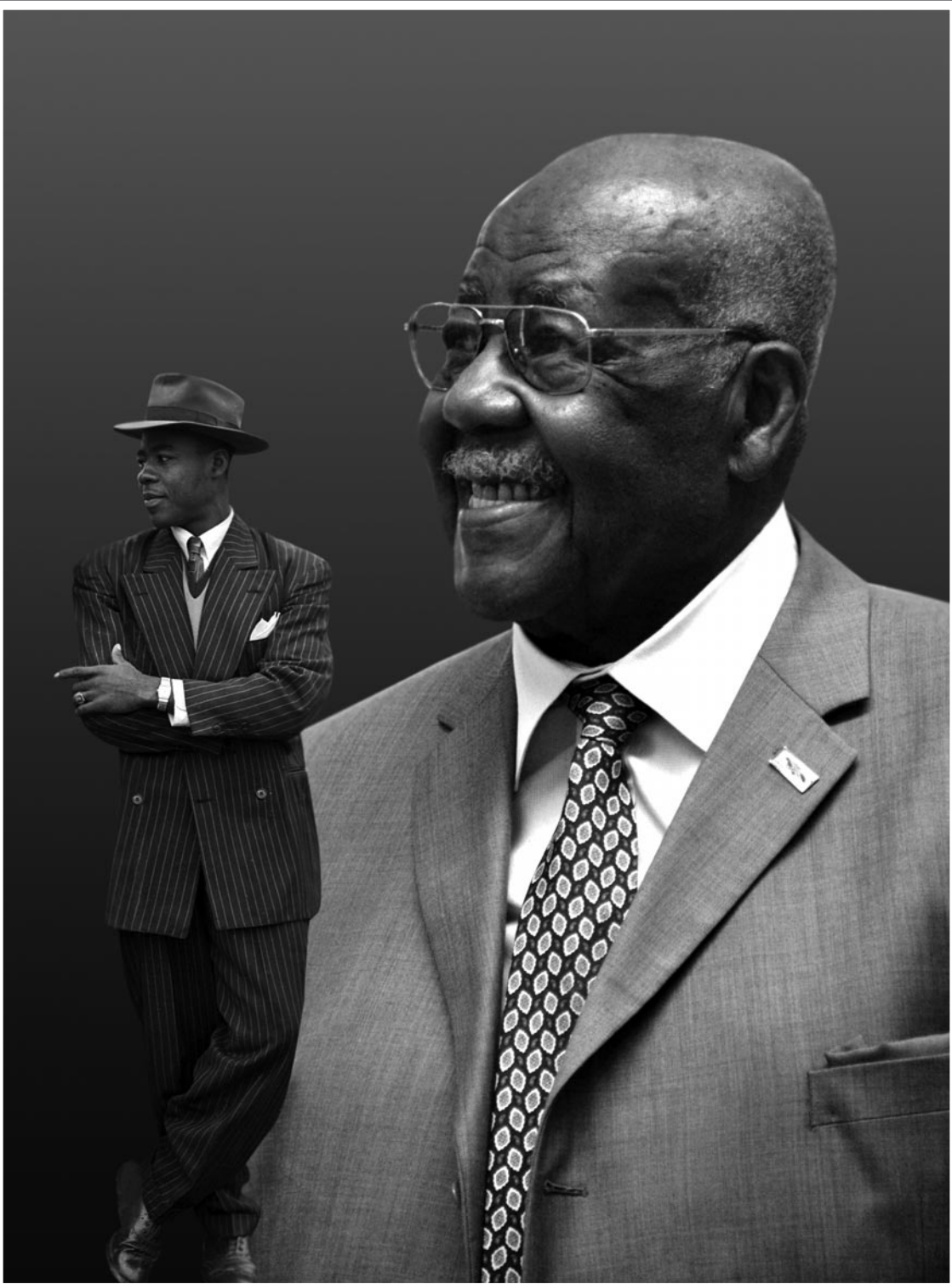
John soon got a job with British Rail where he worked until his retirement, mostly at the British Rail depot in Orpington, Kent. He worked hard and managed to buy a house in north-west London. But to relax, he played his favourite sport, cricket, almost every weekend.

Aged 92, he appeared in official photographs yet again. Still suited and booted, he attended the thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey in June 2018 to commemorate the arrival of the *Windrush* 70 years previously with the few surviving passengers of the voyage.

He was given a VIP seat near the altar alongside 93-year-old Allan Wilmot, a few feet from prime minister Theresa May and other politicians.

Describing the service as "great" he added: "It brings back memories yes, but I'm too old for the emotion."

Main Photo © Mervyn Weir



LAURIE PHILLPOTTS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1922-2016 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Laurie Phillpotts was a RAF veteran who made a major contribution to the lives of newly arrived migrants and worked hard to ensure that those who'd served the country during the war were properly remembered

When Laurie Phillpotts set sail for England from Jamaica after enlisting for the Royal Air Force in 1943, he was left in no doubt about the importance of his mission. It was at the height of the U-boat menace in the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic where German torpedoes sank many British ships killing hundreds of people.

Stationed initially at a Coastal Command airfield in Norfolk where he trained as a teleprinter operator, he subsequently spent two years at No 16 (Polish) Flying Training School near Nottingham.

In the spring of 1945 he married his local sweet heart, Marion Hart, who served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. They went on to have two children.

After being demobbed in 1947, Laurie remained in England and continued his education at Leeds College of Technology before joining a commercial printing firm in Nottingham as a Linotype operator.

When the *MV Empire Windrush* arrived, he realised he was in a position to help out. He set to work assisting the new arrivals, helping them to obtain housing, further education and employment.

He also set up the Nottingham Consultative Committee for the Welfare of Coloured People, which lobbied for black people to be employed on the city's transport system.

Moving to London, he joined Mirror newspapers as a compositor. His printing expertise and community activism led him to publish the weekly paper, *Colonial News*, in 1956, to provide information about life in the Caribbean and Britain.

Another notable achievement was the West Indian Ex-Services Association (now the West Indian Association of Service Personnel), which he helped set up with other RAF veterans. He remained its public relations chief until 1995.

To the same end, he was a committee member of the Memorial Gate Trust, which was unveiled by The Queen in 2002 at Hyde Park Corner in London to commemorate the armed forces of the British Empire who'd served in both world wars. He was still not done, and incredibly, as a pioneer of the Mary Seacole Memorial Association, he campaigned for a statue to be erected in honour of the Jamaican-born Crimea nurse in the grounds of St Thomas' Hospital. This was unveiled not long after his death in 2016 aged 93.



Photo © Autograph ABP

MONA BAPTISTE

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1928-1993★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

The singer Mona Baptiste is barely a footnote in Britain's musical history but in Germany and other parts of Western Europe she remains a star

Mona Baptiste was one of the few women on board the *MV Empire Windrush* yet somehow escaped the attention of most of the awaiting press. This may be because she had travelled first class, paying twice the fare of the majority of her fellow passengers.

Mona was in fact an up and coming entertainer in Trinidad who'd been singing on the radio and at dances from the age of 14. Her good looks and vocal range marked her out and she decided to try her luck in London, joining the *Windrush* in Port of Spain, Trinidad, where she grew up. By coincidence, she turned 20 the day before the boat dropped anchor at Tilbury.

Two of her fellow passengers were the celebrated calypsonians, Lord Beginner and Lord Kitchener, and like them Mona found herself quickly absorbed into London's nightclub and ballroom scene, which had fallen in love with calypso.

Within a few weeks of arriving in Britain, she appeared with Beginner on the BBC's Light Programme with Stanley Black and his Dance Orchestra and was soon touring as guest vocalist with some of the most popular musicians of the day, among them Ted Heath, Edmundo Ros, Cab Kaye and Stephane Grappelli.

In 1950 she was featured on the same bill as comic Tony Hancock on the Sunday night BBC radio show *Variety Bandbox*, and a year later recorded her first single, Nat King Cole's *Calypso Blues*, for Melodisc.

Impressed, French crooner Yves Montand invited her to appear at top Parisian cabaret spot, La Nouvelle Eve. After this she began performing in Belgium and Germany.

In Germany she became such a huge success that she decided to settle there, making dozens of records - singing in German - and appearing in a number of films, including as the lead in *Porgy and Bess* for East German television.

From her base in Hamburg she performed all around Europe, returning frequently to London for a number of prime TV spots. In 1957 she returned to the Caribbean to re-record *Calypso Blues*.

She moved to Ireland in the 1970s to join her new husband and died there in 1993.. Although little known in the UK, her records are collector's items in Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Belgium.



NADIA CATTOUSE

While travelling through segregated America in the 1940s, the singer and actor Nadia Cattouse refused to go to ‘the back of the bus’, an experience that would help her navigate an adventurous life that would see her emerge as one of the UK’s leading black entertainers

Born in 1924 to a well-to-do family in British Honduras, Nadia Evadne Cattouse was among the first group of Caribbean volunteers to sign up for the women’s wing of the British Army following the outbreak of World War II.

Travelling to Jamaica for initial training with six other Auxiliary Territorial Service recruits in 1943, her journey to Britain meant passing through the US. In Miami they took the train to Washington but quickly realised they were in a segregated coach reserved for white passengers. When they were told to get out, they refused to do so unless they were given a coach on their own.

Dressed in their smart ATS uniforms, Nadia and co looked every bit the business. Eventually the senior train guard backed down and the women got their own coach, in the white section of the train. By refusing to accept the Jim Crow laws, the women’s action had preceded Rosa Parks’ back-of-the-bus defiance by more than a decade.

Nadia trained as a signals operator in Scotland and also served as a part-time physical training instructor. After the war, she qualified as a teacher in Glasgow before returning to British Honduras, present-day Belize. There she became a head teacher of a mission school as well as a lecturer at a teachers’ training college.

In 1951, Nadia returned to Britain to study social sciences at the London School of Economics. She also trained as a social worker, working in Nottingham helping newly arrived Caribbean migrants.

Blessed with a fine singing voice and considerable acting talent, she began her television career in 1954, appearing in the TV film *The Runaway Slave*. She soon became a regular face on the small screen and her credits include *Freedom Road: Songs of Negro Protest*, *Dixon of Dock Green* and *Crown Court*, the latter two both popular TV staples.

In the 1960s, she enjoyed success as a folk singer, releasing two albums and a number of singles, including *Beautiful Barbados*, *Long Time Boy* and *Red and Green Christmas*. Her last TV appearance was as Mrs Turner in the BBC mini-series *Johnny Jarvis* in 1983.

In 2009, she was honoured with a Meritorious Service Award from the Belize government.

Photo © Alamy



NORMA BEST

After joining Britain’s war effort, young Norma Best made the most of her opportunities to train as a teacher, eventually becoming one of the first black headteachers in London

It was 1944 and with WWII at its height, Britain issued an appeal to its colonies to lend a helping hand. Among those who answered the call was 22-year-old Norma Best, née Leacock, from British Honduras, present-day Belize.

Fired by a sense of adventure as well as a desire to do the right thing, Norma volunteered for the women’s wing of the British Army, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, later to become the Woman’s Royal Army Corps.

With five other ATS recruits, she sailed for Jamaica for initial training. The group then travelled to New Orleans in the US and, after receiving their uniforms, made their way to New York before boarding the *Queen Mary* to Britain.

After military training at Guildford in Surrey, Norma looked forward to working as a driver just as her father had done during WWI. But she could not cope with the cold weather and so opted for administrative work instead. She served in Preston in Lancashire and was then posted to Derby and later London. It was here in May 1945 that she joined thousands of others on the Embankment enjoying the firework display to celebrate VE (Victory in Europe) Day .

The following year Norma took the opportunity of studying teaching at Durham University. Just after qualifying in 1947 - and despite the fact that a job had been offered to her at a school in Cambridge - the ATS informed her that she had to return to British Honduras.

Every cloud has a silver lining and once back home she met her future husband, who’d served in the Royal Navy. They subsequently married in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) but settled in England in the late 1950s. They have two children: Chandra, born in 1955, and Yvette, born in 1961.

Norma worked as a teacher and in 1976 she was appointed head of Bridge Infant School in Brent, north London, the first black person in the borough to hold such a position.



OSWALD DENNISTON

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1913-2000★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Nicknamed ‘Columbus’, Oswald Denniston was the first African Caribbean trader in Brixton Market who became a pillar of the community in more ways than one

Oswald Manoah Denniston left school at 14 to work on a sugar plantation but later trained as a sign-writer and decorator. By 1948 he had established his own business, but his spirit of adventure saw him travelling from Jamaica to England on board the *MV Empire Windrush*.

“It was jolly on the ship,” he said, recalling the voyage. “We had two or three bands - calypso- and one stowaway woman. She was a washer-women who did laundry in the port and came on board. But she couldn't stay hidden for long and we all helped to pay her fare. I would like to know what happened to that woman. I haven't seen or heard from her since.”

Oswald was among the 236 men who spent their first night at Clapham South Deep Shelter in south London. It was here that he displayed his leadership qualities by moving a vote of thanks to officials who'd organised the accommodation. As a result, he was offered work the following day as a sign writer in Balham.

It did not take him very long to find romance, either. During his first weeks in London, he met his future wife Margaret at a church tea party and the couple settled in south London, going on to have two children.

Very much the entrepreneur, Oswald opened a jukebox coffee bar, in Brixton's Coldharbour Lane - the Sugar Cane - and in the 1960s he began selling fabrics, dresses and remnants at a shop in Granville Arcade, Brixton Market, becoming the first African-Caribbean trader there. Gregarious and always ready to lend a helping hand, Oswald quickly became a key figure in the community. The shop became a meeting point for activists like Herman Ouseley, Darcus Howe and Linton Kwesi Johnson, who regarded themselves as his friends as well as his customers. Blessed with the 'gift of the gab', a talent he used to entertain his customers, he would often be called on to speak at community events.

Outside of work he was a keen cyclist, becoming the first black person to join the Herne Hill Cycling Club in the early 1950s. In a remarkable life, he was also a founding member of the Association of Jamaicans and the Lambeth Community Relations Council.

Photo © Neil Kenlock



RUDOLPH COLLINS

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1931-2008 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Captured in a historic black and white press photograph that has come to symbolise the quiet determination of MV Empire Windrush arrivals, Nick Collins' dreams for a better life in England came true

Rudolph Alphonso Collins, better known as Nick, will always be remembered as the young man in striped pyjamas photographed neatly folding up his clothes in Clapham South Deep Shelter.

The former air raid shelter in south London had been turned into accommodation for more than 200 passengers on the *MV Empire Windrush* who had arrived at Tilbury Docks earlier that day and, with no prospect of finding a room there and then, the fresh-faced teenager was lucky enough to be one of the boarders.

He was 16 when his brother's best friend had told him about the opportunities that lay await in England and Nick immediately decided to emigrate. His parents agreed he could go with his brother and helped them raise the fare for the journey.

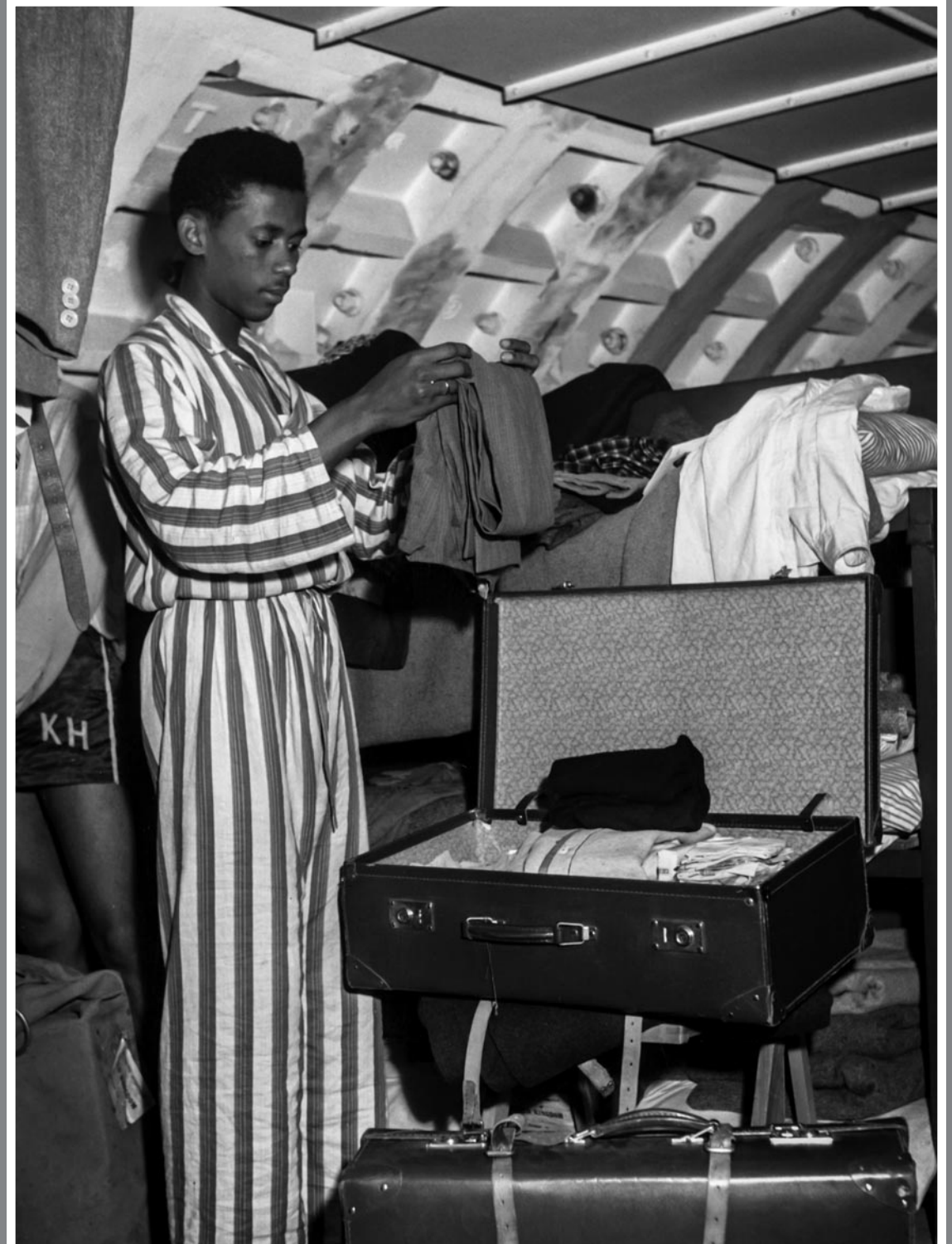
Described as a machinist on the passenger list housed at the National Archives in the UK, he celebrated turning 17 on board and, although he didn't have a clue what lay in store for him, he was full of hope and optimism.

This did not appear to be misplaced. He spent five days at the shelter before finding a room to rent in Earl's Court, west London. He then found work at a factory that made confectionery, where the pay was £3 a week. He tried to get a job as an apprentice draughtsman with several engineering companies but was rejected by all of them. After taking a course at a technical college he obtained work as a welder.

Although life was often hard, London's thriving black music scene meant there were many places West Indian migrants could go to enjoy themselves. One of these was The Paramount dance hall in Tottenham Court Road, which was run by a fellow Jamaican.

It was one of Nick's regular haunts and it was there he met a young English woman, Joan Fiddler, whom he married in Paddington in March 1953. They went on to have three daughters, Christine, Kathryn and Marilyn.

One of the things that always kept him going during those early years in England was his love of cricket. He played in a team all over London and the Home Counties. Illness eventually forced him to give up the game but he remained an avid supporter.



SAM KING

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1926-2016 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

RAF veteran Sam King returned to England in 1948 to make a new life for himself but ended up making a difference to the lives of many others as a community activist and local politician

Born in Portland, Jamaica, Sam Beaver King first worked as a boy on his father's banana farm. When he was 18, he noticed an appeal in the *Daily Gleaner* for volunteers for the Royal Air Force and decided to enlist. He left for Britain in 1944, arriving in Greenock, Scotland, by steam ship a few weeks later. After training at Filey in Yorkshire, he was sent to RAF Hawkinge in Folkestone, where he served as an aircraft fitter.

Back in Jamaica after the war and at a loss with what to do with himself, he saw another advert in the *Daily Gleaner*, this time offering tickets to England on the *MV Empire Windrush*.

Sam re-joined the RAF soon after arriving in London and when his term of service ended, he bought his first home in Southwark in the south of the capital settling down with his family. Like many other migrants, he found a job in the Post Office, where he worked for 34 years, starting out as a postman and rising through the ranks to become a manager.

Throughout, he was acutely aware of the discrimination black people faced, recalling in his 1998 autobiography, *Climbing Up the Rough Side of the Mountain*: “The host nation saw the influx [of migrants] as an imposition and became hostile.”

His desire to make a difference led him to become involved in the *West Indian Gazette*, a campaign newspaper launched by Claudia Jones, who'd recently been deported from the US during the anti-communist witch-hunts.

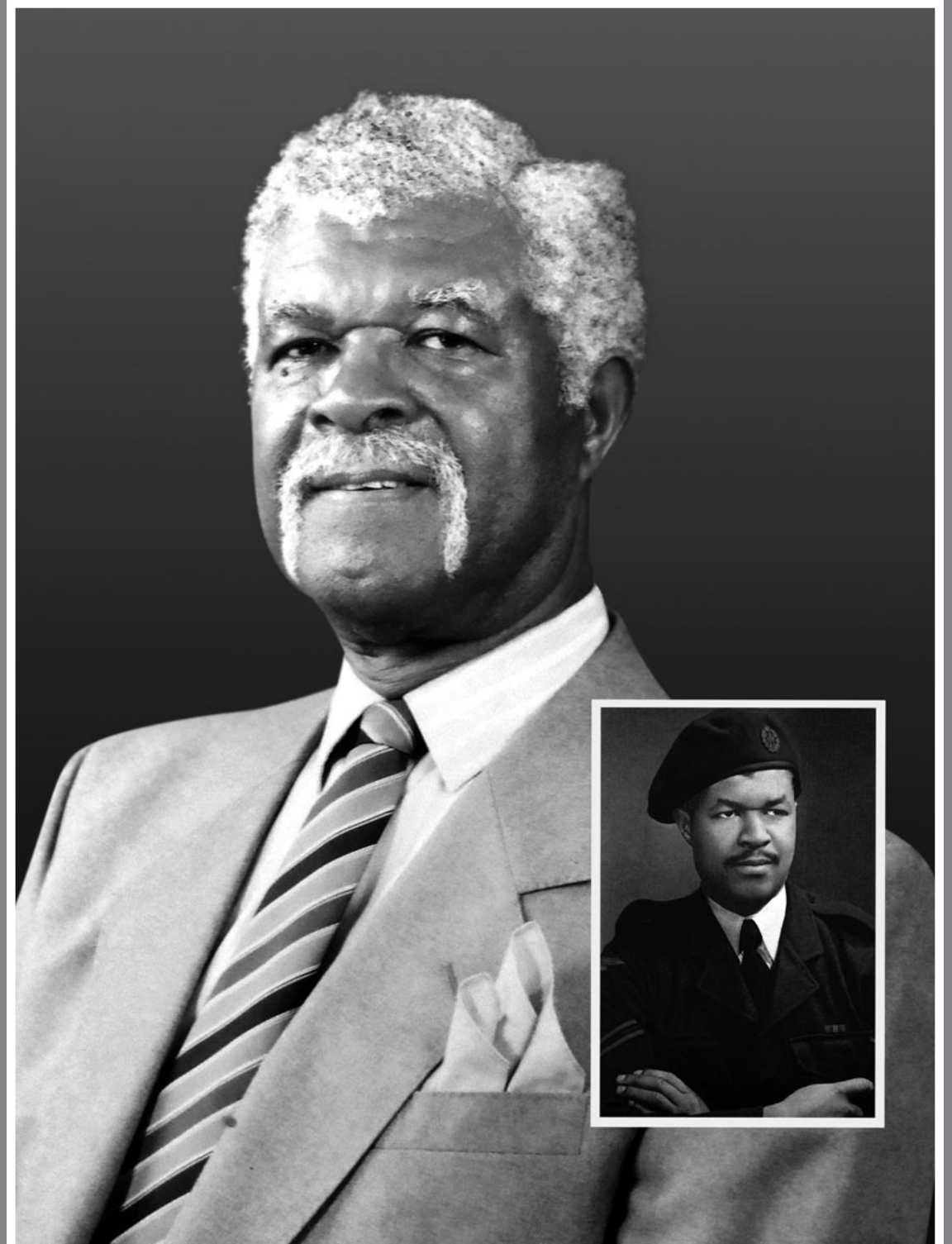
Sam worked voluntarily as its circulation manager and was also treasurer of the carnival Claudia organised at St Pancras Town Hall in 1959, considered the inspiration behind the Notting Hill Carnival.

He was also an active trade unionist and long-time member of the Labour Party. Six months after being elected on to Southwark council in 1982, he was made mayor, the first black person to hold that office in the borough. His appointment led to death threats from the fascist National Front, which he brushed off with his customary wit.

In 1998 Sam received an MBE and, just a few months before his death aged 90 in 2016, he was awarded the freedom of his borough.



Main Photo © Autograph ABP



THOMAS DOUCE

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1926-2008 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

For someone who left Jamaica because of lack of work, Tom Douce did very well for himself in England, going into business with his wife and becoming one of Derby's most successful entrepreneurs

When 22-year-old Thomas Montique Douce spotted an advert in the *Daily Gleaner* for tickets on a steam ship to England it did not take him long to make up his mind what to do. Work was hard to come by in Jamaica and he felt he had nothing to lose by taking a chance along with hundreds of other young men in his position.

After disembarking the *MV Empire Windrush* on that historic day in June 1948, Tom's first night was spent at Clapham South Deep Shelter, south London. It was not for long though as within a week he was offered a job at a foundry in Derby.

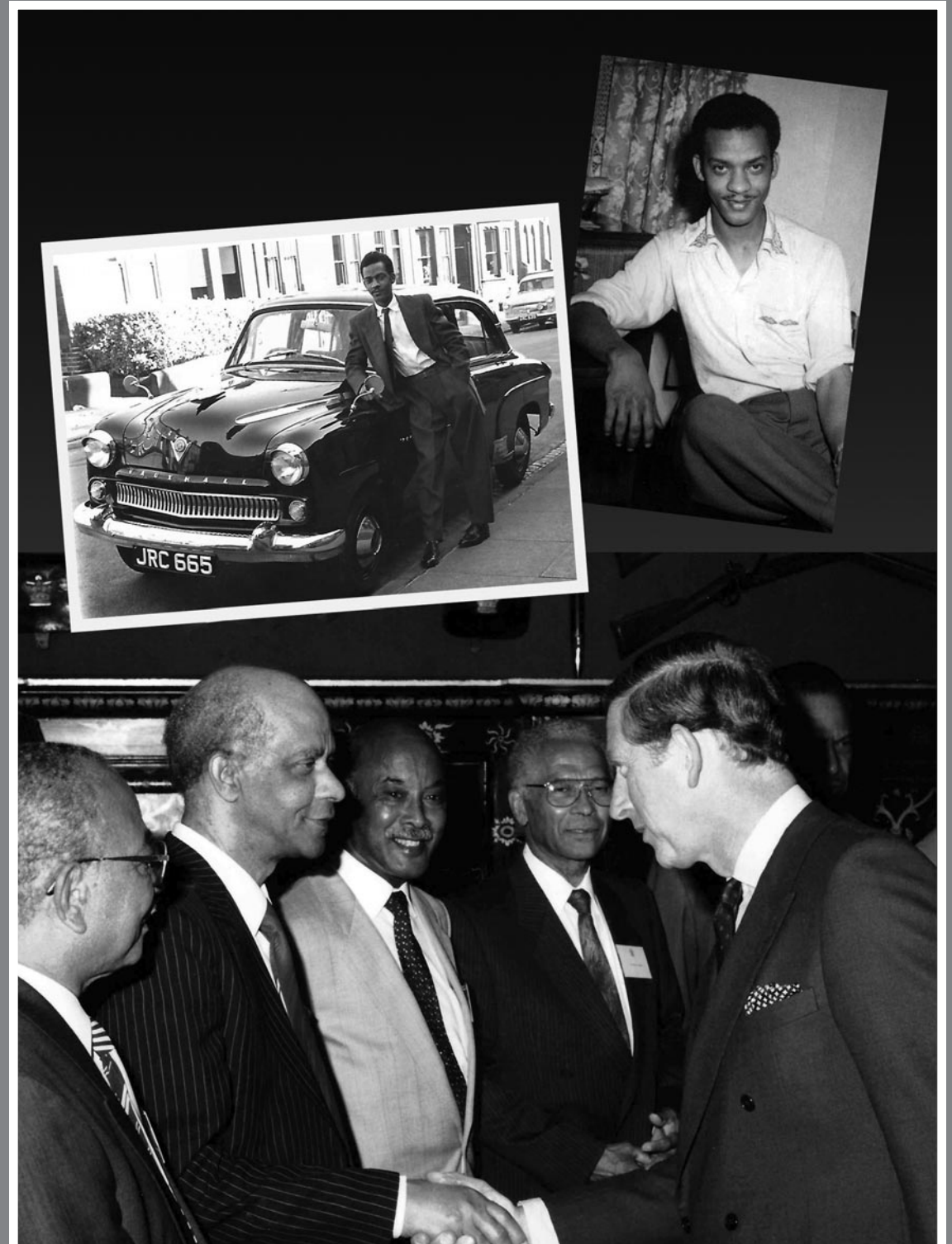
House hunting was frustrating, to say the least. He recalled that on one occasion a landlady screamed as soon as she opened the door to him and told him to go away immediately.

In the autumn of 1954 he married Iris Martin, a Derby woman. Iris was under 21 and needed parental consent before she could tie the knot. Her father refused but her mother relented and reluctantly signed the forms. Despite the initial opposition to their union and the hostile atmosphere around them, Tom and Iris were a fine match and decided to start their own grocery shop, an unusual step for such a couple in those days.

As luck would have it, they both had a good head for business and their venture thrived. They lived upstairs from the shop, allowing them to take care of their many children at the same time. Fortunately, Iris's mother and father came to value their new son-in-law and were always on hand to help the couple run things. Their business was so successful that Tom and Iris also ran a popular night club in the 1970s.

They had five sons who went on to make important contributions in the fields of business, science and the legal profession, one of them as a district judge sitting at Derby County Court

Main Photo © Clinton Monfries



VINCENT REID

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1935-2001★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Just into his teens when he arrived in England in 1948, Vince Reid became a pioneering academic who was committed to fighting injustice through education

Aged only 13, Vincent Albert Reid, better known as Vince, was among the youngest passengers on the *MV Empire Windrush*, making the journey from Jamaica with his adoptive parents.

One of his early memories of life in England was how teachers at his school laughed at his Jamaican accent. Not surprisingly, he left as soon as possible and worked in the Post Office for a year before joining the Royal Air Force at the age of 16 as a mechanic. After seeing service in Malaya, he became a corporal at 19 before buying himself out.

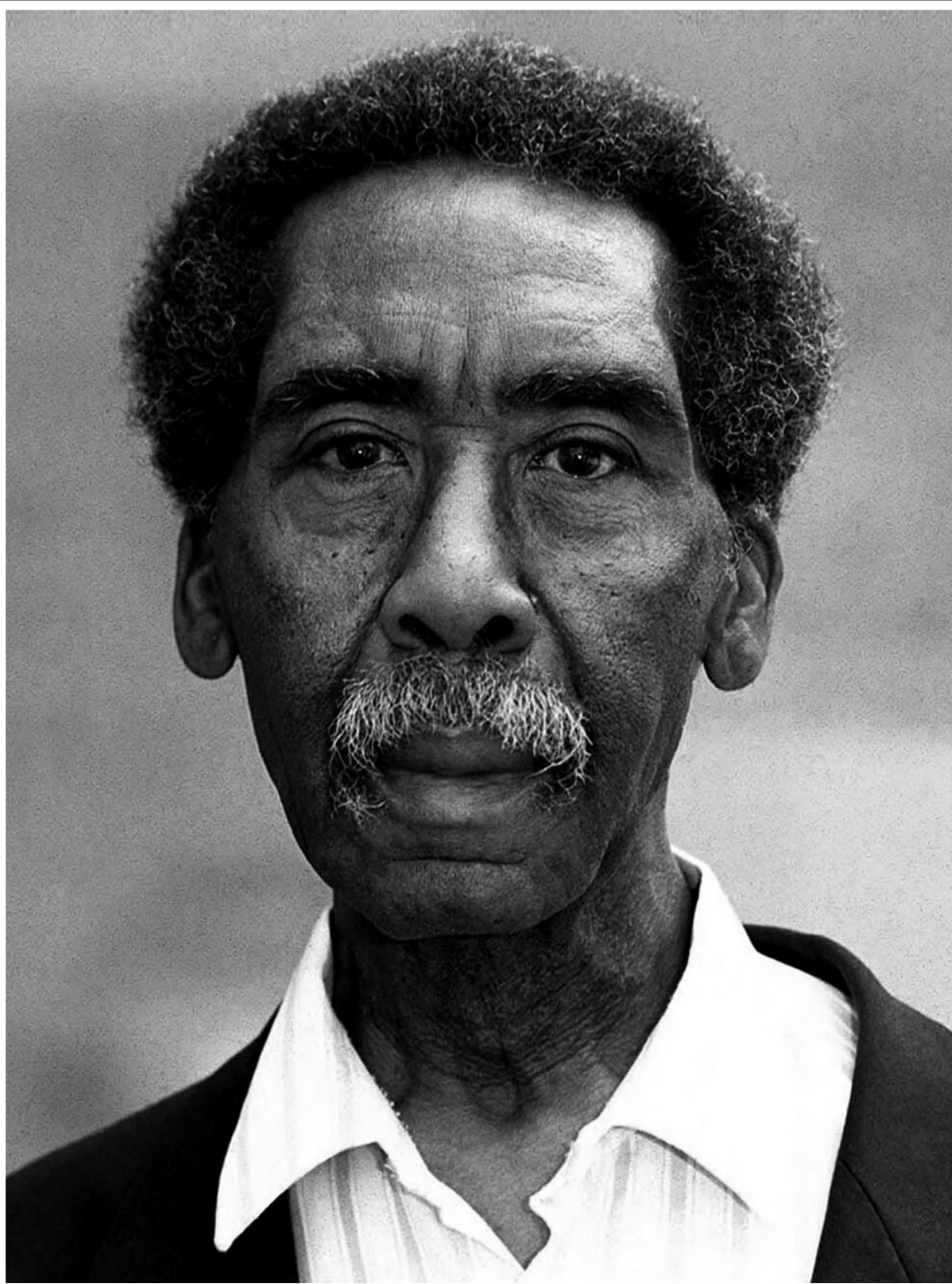
He then worked at Heathrow airport, but left when his bosses refused to allow him time-off to continue his education. He found work as a market researcher in 1967 and met Elizabeth Evans, an English woman. Despite family opposition, they married in 1969 and went on to have two children.

Although Vince had no formal qualifications, he was accepted by Sussex University as a mature student to read history. Graduating in 1973, he went on to do a master's in African and Caribbean Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies. In 1974, he joined Brixton College of Further Education in south London, where he taught Caribbean and African history and was regarded as a mentor to both black staff and students. He also taught students with special needs.

As someone committed to fighting racial and social injustice, his pioneering work with the now defunct Inner London Education Authority helped it to develop a more multi-ethnic curriculum. He became a senior lecturer there before retiring in 1995.

Retirement gave him more time to indulge his interests in opera, jazz, cricket and football. In 1998, Vince played a prominent part in the events that marked the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the *Windrush*, and was frequently on the TV and radio. On one occasion he told the BBC that despite the problems he'd confronted during his five decades in the country, he preferred to live in England: "My family is here, my wife, my grandchildren are here - I have no significant roots in Jamaica, [though] I have been back to Kingston several times. My circumstances were significantly different to everyone else's, but personally I like England."

Photo © UPPA / Starstock



WILMOTH GEORGE BROWN

After being refused drinks at his local watering hole, former MV Empire Windrush voyager George Brown helped set up an organisation to combat the colour bar

Described as a bricklayer when he travelled to England on the *MV Empire Windrush* from Jamaica, Wilmouth ‘George’ Brown’s first night in the Mother Country was spent at Clapham South Deep Shelter in south London.

The former air raid shelter, which had been converted into accommodation for the new arrivals by the Colonial Office, was only one level below the Northern Line underground train tracks, which made sleeping difficult once the Tube opened in the early morning.

George’s wife, Dellie, followed in November of that year and the couple found temporary lodgings in Lewisham, south-east London, before buying their own house in 1951 in the borough.

In his 1999 memoir, *Windrush to Lewisham*, George recalled the casual discrimination West Indian migrants often faced: “I discovered that there were a few pubs in southeast London that deliberately refused to serve coloured people. Some [of us] were rudely abused by customers ... In some cases, it was so bad that on many occasions the coloured man had to ask someone inside the pub to purchase drinks for him. That person would hand the drinks to him outside the door.”

Experiences such as these prompted him to become a community activist, and he became such a familiar figure that people always referred to him as ‘Uncle George’.

In 1953, he helped to set up the Anglo-Caribbean Association to provide practical support and social activities for West Indians and their friends.

Along with other members, he would visit pubs operating a colour bar and demand to be served, arguing with landlords about their rights and threatening to publicly expose them in the press if they refused. A similar campaign was mounted in dance halls.

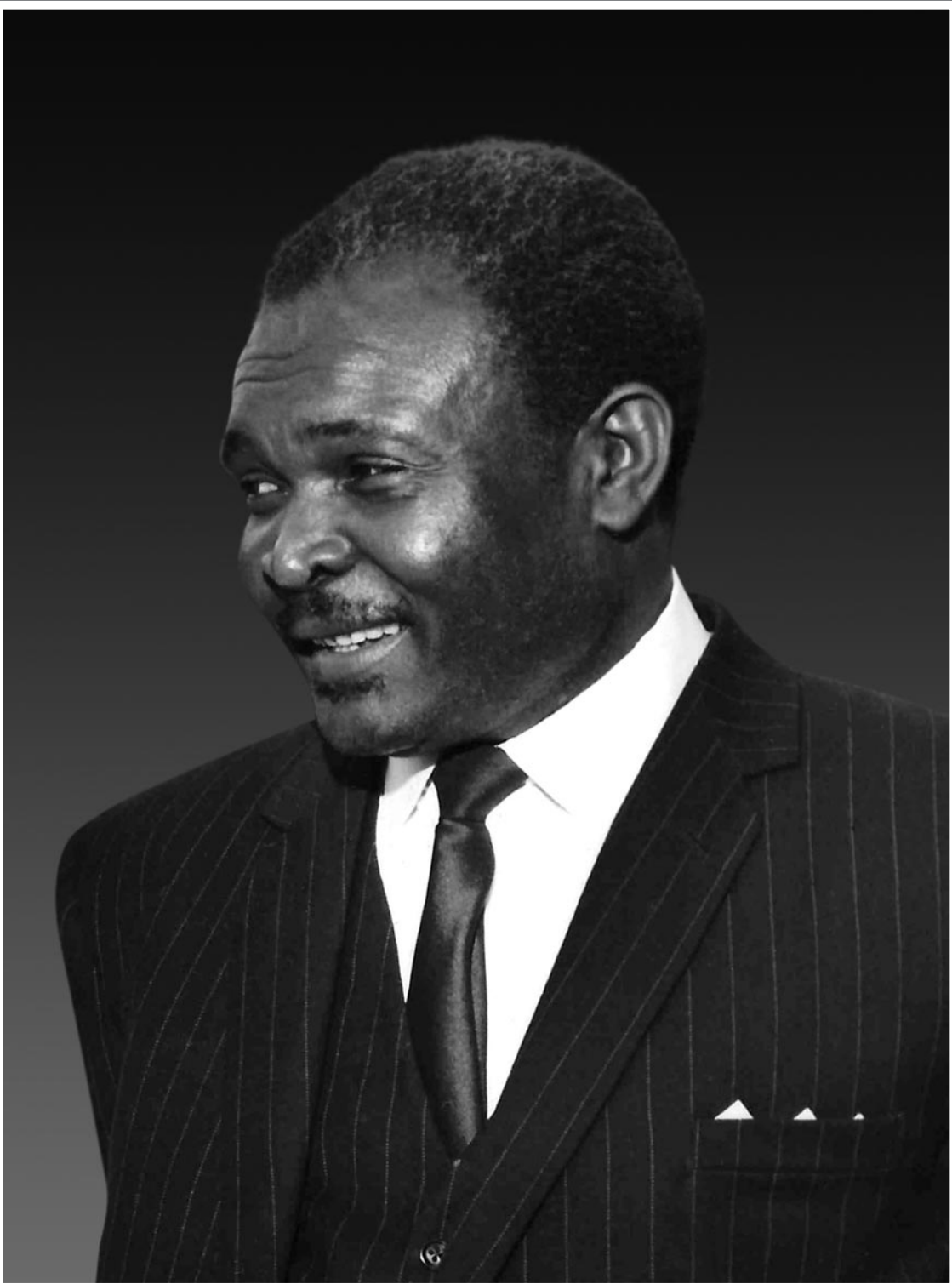
The Anglo-Caribbean Association held its first meetings at the Amersham Arms in New Cross and regularly organised dances and social events at Laurie Grove Swimming Baths and Deptford Town Hall before it secured its own premises in 1959 in Breakspear Road.

The following year the association moved to Greenwich High Road and later changed its name to the Commonwealth Association and Club.

In its early days it faced organised racist opposition, with its leading members receiving abusive phone calls and letters.

Uncle George and his wife returned to Jamaica in the early 1970s, where George later died.

Photo © Rose Fowler





WINDRUSH CHAMPIONS

ALEX PASCALL

Pioneering broadcaster and entertainer Alex Pascall OBE hosted a radio show that was considered the voice of the black community in the 1970s

Back in 1974, Grenadian-born entertainer Alex Pascall began hosting what was then Britain's one and only black radio show. Part news, part phone-in and part music, the legendary *Black Londoners* started out once a month but proved so popular that it ended up being broadcast daily for 10 years.

The show emerged during a seismic period in race relations and alongside interviews with stars like Mighty Sparrow and Muhammed Ali, there were authentic reports from the front-line of Britain's inner cities accompanied by the sort of open debate unheard of elsewhere in the media.

"It was a very tense time," recalled Alex. "Mrs Thatcher went from talking about Britain being swamped by immigrants to ignoring the news that 13 black children had died at New Cross [in a house fire] - the programme raised £21,000 for the victims' families.

"At the same time, young people were finding it hard to get work, hard to get a good education and couldn't walk down the street without the risk of being stopped by the police. But when the riots came the authorities were completely taken by surprise."

Despite its popularity, the BBC decided to pull the plug on the programme in 1986, a decision that led to a huge falling out between Alex and the corporation that continues to rumble to this day. "I have no regrets about what I said at the time - years later the director general himself, Greg

Dyke, accused the BBC of being 'hideously white'," said Alex, who became an OBE in 1996.

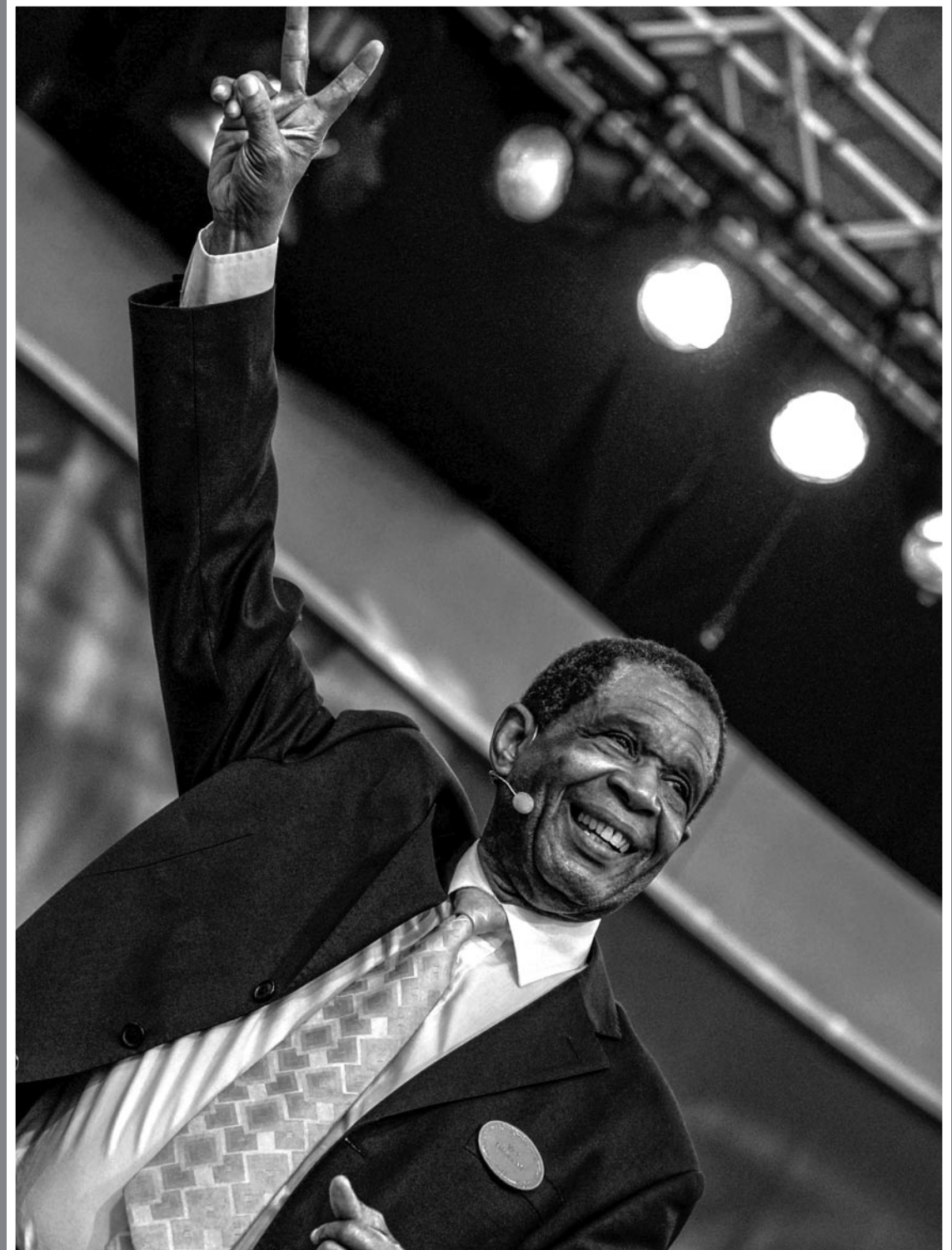
Composer, singer, drummer and playwright rolled into one, he arrived in Britain in 1959 aged 22, founding The Alex Pascall Singers a year later.

Specialising in Caribbean folk arts, he has spent a lifetime in performance and promotion, in 1984-89 heading the carnival and arts committee of the Notting Hill Carnival.

In 1982 Alex worked with publisher Val McCalla to establish *The Voice* newspaper and continues to be a leading member of the National Union of Journalists' Black Members' Council. He is also a trustee of the Tabernacle Arts and Community Centre in west London

In 2016, Alex was back on the airwaves exuding his customary warmth and charm with *Alex Pascall's Londoners*, an online talk show that included now historical archive material from *Black Londoners*.

Photo © Alamy



ANDREA LEVY

Award-winning novelist Andrea Levy continues to provide an evocative picture of black Britons and their links with the Caribbean following the arrival of the Empire Windrush

Writing came relatively late for novelist Andrea Levy. After working for the BBC costume department and then setting up a graphic design company with her husband, she began attending creative writing classes at London’s City Lit institute in her thirties.

Her father had been a passenger on the *MV Empire Windrush* and she wanted to write stories about the experiences of black Britons, and of the historical bonds between Britain and the Caribbean.

In her first three books, she discussed the problems faced by black British-born children like herself. *Every Light in the House Burning* (1994) is the semi-autobiographical story of a Jamaican family living in north London in the 1960s. *Never Far From Nowhere* (1996) is about two sisters who have very different experiences of growing up in London during the 1970s. In *Fruit of the Lemon* (1999), a young black woman visits Jamaica after a nervous breakdown and discovers her unknown personal history.

Her best-selling *Small Island* (2004) explored the experiences of her father’s generation - those who returned to Britain after serving in the RAF during WWII. It discusses the adjustments that Jamaicans and white British people had to make during the era of post-war Caribbean migration, and how they found ways of learning to live together.

Small Island won three prestigious book awards: the Whitbread Book of the Year; the Orange Prize for Fiction, and the Commonwealth Writer’ Prize. It was also made into a BBC two-part television drama, broadcast in December 1999. It is due to be staged in 2019.

Levy’s fifth novel *The Long Song* (2010) is set in Jamaica during the last years of slavery and the period immediately after emancipation. The story is narrated by July, a former enslaved worker who looks back on her long eventful life. The novel won Andrea the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize.

In 2014, Levy published *Six Stories and an Essay*, exploring Andrea’s cultural heritage and what inspires her to write. Her latest book, *Uriah’s War* is a short story to mark the centenary of WWI and tells the story of two Jamaican men caught up in the conflict.

Photo © Alamy



ANSEL WONG

Ansel Wong has gone from student firebrand to being a prime mover and shaker in education and the arts in an effort to reshape Britain’s cultural landscape

Trinidad-born Ansel Wong settled in the UK in 1965 to study for a degree in English and American Studies at the University of Hull. During his time there he became involved in radical student politics.

After graduating he moved to London, where he became active in the West Indian Students Centre (WISC) in Earl’s Court, a main focus of black student activity at the time. Beyond this he worked with the Black Liberation Front, editing its paper *Grassroots* under a pseudonym to protect him from possible police scrutiny.

Having studied acting and dance in Trinidad, he set up the Black Arts Workshop to help black youngsters articulate their experiences through drama. A further impetus was the Caribbean Artists Movement, which was attempting to develop a revolutionary black aesthetic in Britain. It would meet at WISC, enabling Ansel to spend time with some of its major figures, including John La Rose, Andrew Salkey and CLR James.

Ansel went on to teach at several London secondary schools, where he encouraged pupils to embrace their culture and learn more about their history. He helped to create the CLR James and Ahfiwe supplementary schools as part of a grassroots challenge to racism within the education system. The latter was the first such school to be funded by the now defunct Inner London Education Authority.

In the 1980s, Ansel was principal race relations advisor in the Ken Livingstone-led Greater London Council (GLC), working closely with policy chiefs, Herman Ouseley and Paul Boateng, to establish equality in public service delivery.

When the GLC was abolished by Mrs Thatcher in 1986, he worked for the London Strategic Policy Unit and contributed to the setting up of Black History Month.

He later held leading education posts in London’s Lambeth and Ealing councils, and in 1992 became vice principal of Morley College.

Ansel has spent a lifetime promoting intercultural understanding, to this end working with such bodies as the Notting Hill Carnival Trust and English National Opera. In 2011, his continuing efforts to nurture carnival arts saw him taking a band to Shanghai to play ‘mas’ before millions of Chinese TV viewers.

In September 2018, to mark *Time Out* magazine’s 50th anniversary, Ansel was among the 50 people featured as helping to shape London’s cultural landscape.



ANTHONY HAMILTON

Father of F1 racing star Lewis, entrepreneur and mentor Anthony Hamilton believes focus is the key to any sporting success

In a world where money appears to be everything, Anthony Hamilton has bucked a trend, seeing his son Lewis Hamilton go from a Stevenage council estate to become one of the greatest racing drivers of all time.

The former manager of the F1 champion, managed to turn his son's early obsession with cars into a skill by taking him to the local go-kart track from the age of eight.

As far as he was concerned, it was not so much about developing a natural talent but rather helping Lewis to develop better focus. He said: "That was obvious when he first had to take a driving test. When you're seven or eight years of age, you need to show that you're good enough to get a racing license for karts, and you've got to learn all the flags; so I said to Lewis, 'if you want to go racing you've got to learn these things' - he knew them within half an hour..."

Anthony is one of four siblings born to Grenadian parents, who arrived in this country in the mid-1950s and eventually set up home in Hanwell, west London. Dad Davidson worked on the London Underground while Agnes, his mum, was a nurse.

After his mother's death in 1976, his dad returned to Grenada and 18-year-old Anthony decided to move to Stevenage in Hertfordshire. He subsequently got married and Lewis was born in 1985.

Although the relationship broke down within in a couple of years and Lewis spent his early years with his mum, Anthony was very much on the scene.

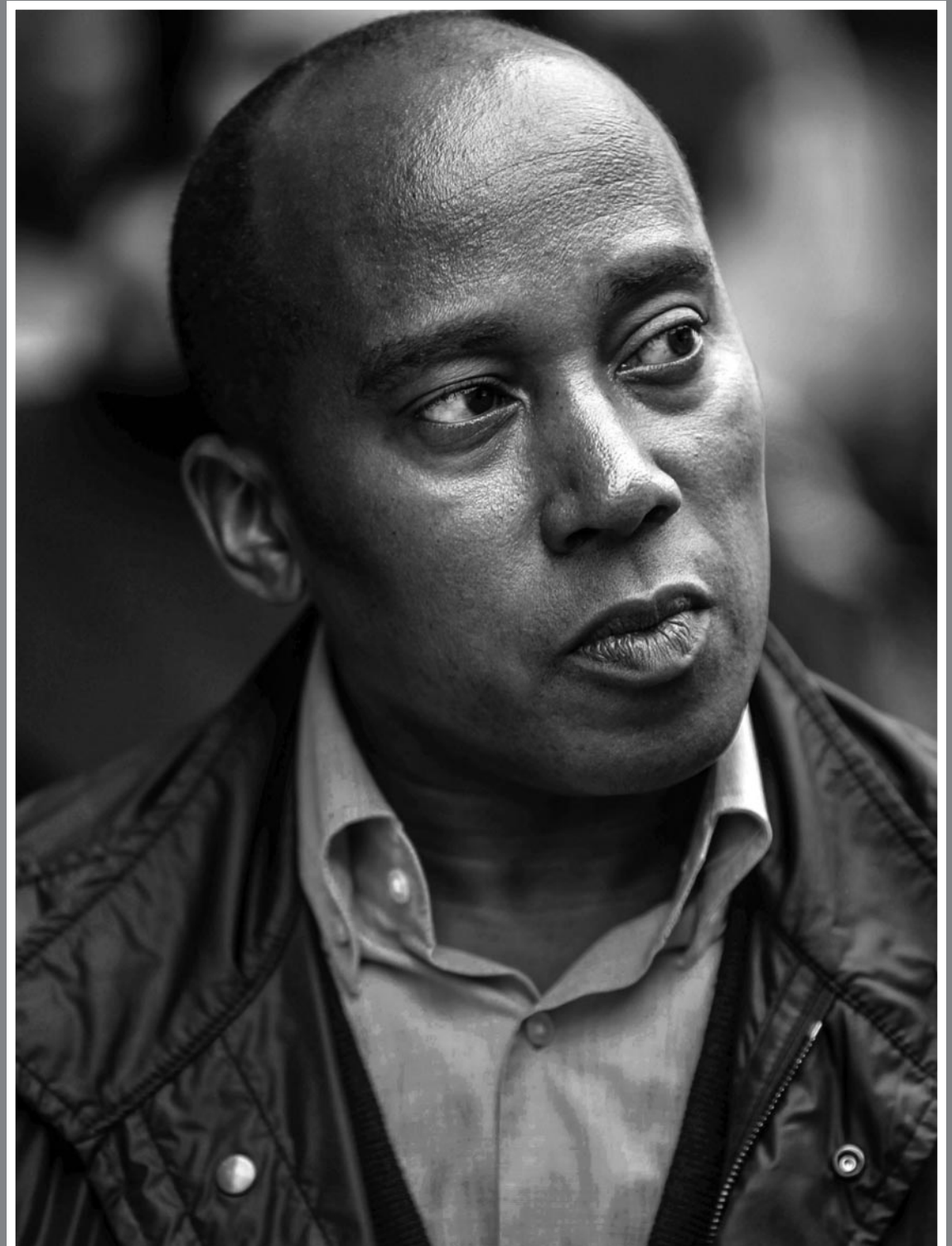
In order to give himself more time to devote to his son, he gave up his IT job and worked for himself. At the same time, he was also working with Lewis' half-brother, who is also a professional racing driver.

Despite Lewis' phenomenal success, Anthony believes children from modest backgrounds would find it hard to rise to the top of F1 these days. "I think Lewis is the last of it," he said in 2016.

The Arsenal fan believes football is more of a level playing field and two years ago he brought out a football-training device designed to allow children to practice kick-ups, indoors, without smashing up the place.



Main Photo opposite
© AGE Fotostock/Photo 4



ARIF ALI

Arif Ali's first publishing venture began in his grocery store in the 1960s and ended up spawning one of the biggest companies of its kind in Europe

When Arif Ali arrived at Victoria Station in September 1957, he only had a penny in his pocket, having travelled to Britain from Guyana via the Canary Islands, Spain, Italy and France. It was a typically adventurous passage for someone who would go on to head the largest black publishing company in Europe.

In 2018 Hansib Publications celebrated its 48th birthday, having brought out hundreds of books in addition to pivotal black publications of the 1970s and '80s.

The descendant of 19th century Indian indentured labourers, Arif came to Britain to study economics but ended up in various menial jobs, including a spell as a porter in a hospital mortuary and a bus driver.

He eventually got better-paid work and by 1966 had saved enough money to buy a grocer's store in Crouch End, north London. As one of the few shops selling West Indian foods, customers would come from all over London to stock up and it soon became a place to meet up in.

A talking point would be stories in the Caribbean newspapers on sale and this prompted Arif to launch his first publishing venture, *The West Indian*, which contained reproduced newspaper articles.

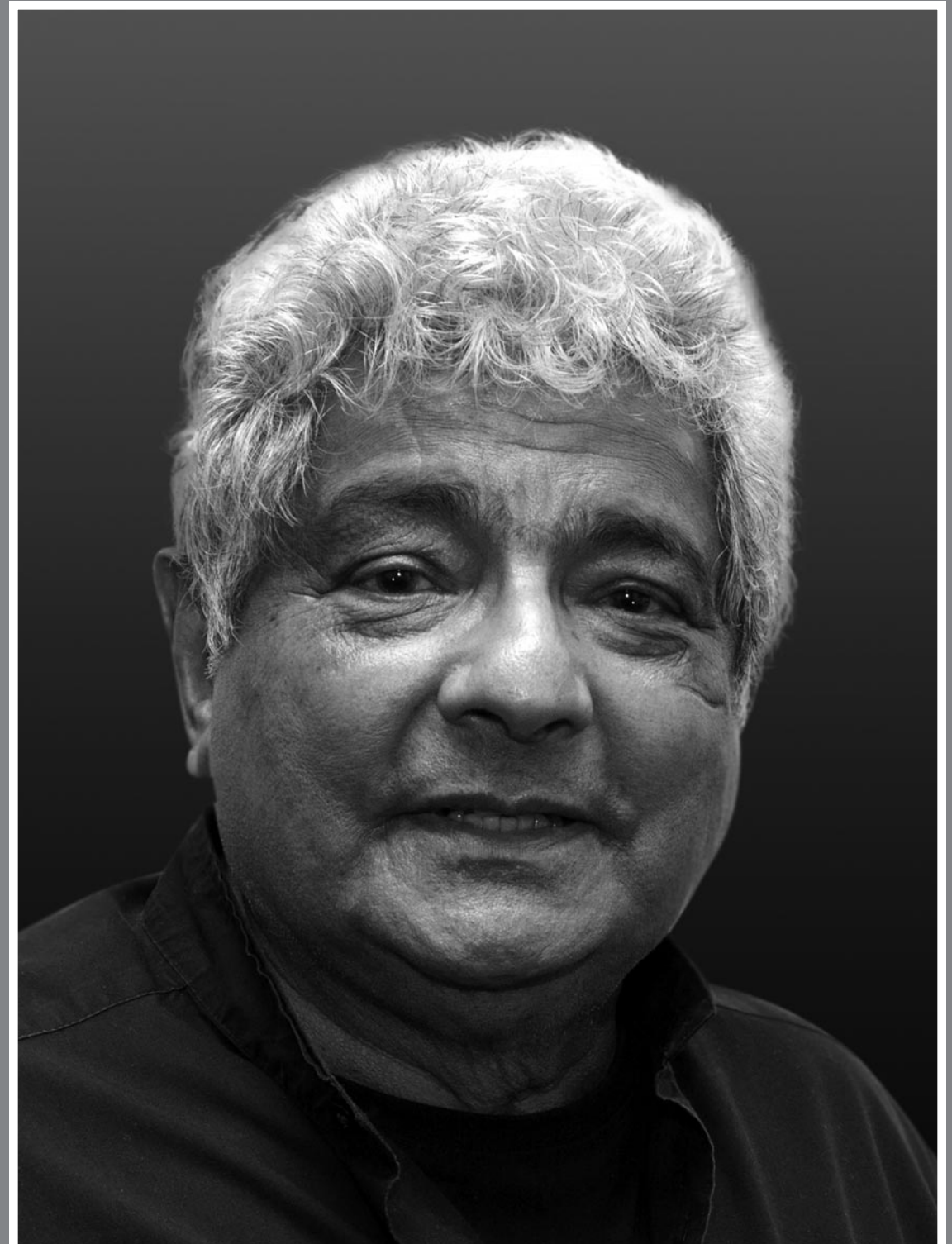
In 1970 he sold his thriving shop and set up Hansib - named after his parents Haniff and Sibby. Its first title, a monthly magazine called *Westindian Digest*, was launched shortly afterwards with a print run of 2,000 copies.

In 1973 he bought the struggling *West Indian World* newspaper. In the same year, he launched Hansib's first book, *West Indians in Britain*, regarded as the who's who's of the black community.

In 1981 the company launched *Caribbean Times* and later its sister papers, *Asian Times* and *African Times*. They all became noted for their forthright views.

Root, a glossy magazine aimed at the 'buppie' market, was to also join the Hansib stable.

In 1997 the company devoted itself entirely to book publishing, bringing out several editions of *Third World Impact* and *Ethnic Business Directory* as well as scores of titles covering biography, history, polemic and culture. Without Hansib and Arif's larger than life influence it is safe to say that many would not have seen the light of day in Britain's market-driven publishing industry.



ARTHUR TORRINGTON

Arthur Torrington has been at the forefront of championing the West Indian legacy in Britain and helped set up an organisation that has given the Empire Windrush its place in history

In 1995, Arthur Torrington received a phone call from RAF veteran Sam King to interest him in organising the 50th anniversary of the arrival of *MV Empire Windrush*.

Sam had led the 40th anniversary in Brixton, south London, in 1988 and wanted the next one to be much bigger.

The two set up a charity, calling it the Windrush Foundation, and then spent the following 18 months interesting others in their idea and getting as much publicity for it as possible.

Using their own funds, Arthur and Sam went around the country, gathering together as many people as possible with stories of the Empire Windrush and what would come to be known as the 'Windrush Generation'. Arthur handled the publicity while Sam was the one who gave interviews to the British media.

Their goal was to turn the Empire Windrush into an iconic symbol representing early Caribbean migrants and their contribution to the rebuilding of Britain after WWII. It worked and the 50th anniversary turned out to be a huge success, spawning books and TV and radio documentaries. Sam, who had sailed on the Empire Windrush, was among those who met Prince Charles at St James's Palace for an official ceremony to mark the day.

The 70th anniversary celebrations in 2018 were even more extensive and included a lavish service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey attended by the Queen and prime minister Theresa May.

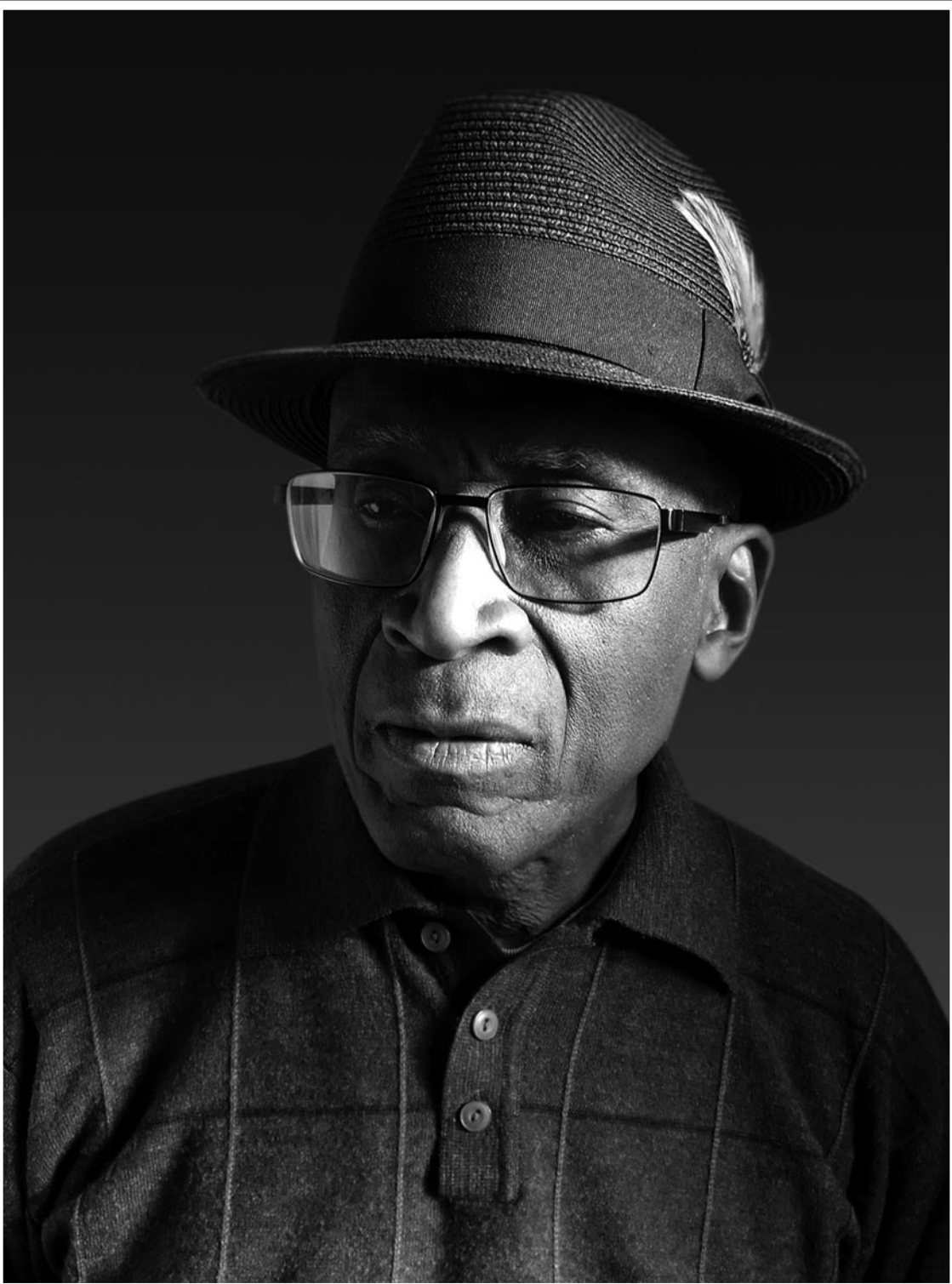
As a result, a national Windrush Day, supported by government funding, is to now take place on 22 June every year, encouraging communities across the country to celebrate the arrival of the *MV Empire Windrush* and the birth of Britain's multicultural society.

During the 1970s Arthur, originally from British Guiana, was the first of three black radio broadcasters on local London station LBC. The other two were Sid Burke and Hylton Fyle.

In 1984, he founded the Black Gospel Association (BGA) and helped popularise the genre. The BGA supported gospel artistes and soon the likes of Mica Paris, a singer in the Spirit of Watts, were making the successful transition to the world of soul music.

After receiving an OBE from the Queen in 2002, Arthur was made a CBE in 2011 for his services to the community, in particular his work for the Windrush Foundation and the Equiano Society.

Photo © Arthur Torrington



BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH

Benjamin Zephaniah went from borstal boy to becoming one of Britain’s most well known poets and recipient of more than a dozen honorary degrees

In his 2018 autobiography, *The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah*, Benjamin says there was never a time when he wasn’t writing poetry – but school had nothing to do with it.

Struggling academically and a bit of a tear-away, he left full time education when he was 13 and went off the rails, ending up in a borstal, the young offenders’ institution of the day.

But in Handsworth, Birmingham, where he was born in 1958 to a Barbadian father and Jamaican mother, he’d also gained a reputation as a performance poet and by 15 he had a strong following. Poetry remained a constant and helped turn his life around. In 1979, he headed for London and the following year he published his first collection of poems, *Pen Rhythm*.

His second collection, *The Dread Affair: Collected Poems* (1985) reflected the frustration of a generation, particularly a criminal justice system that was skewed against them.

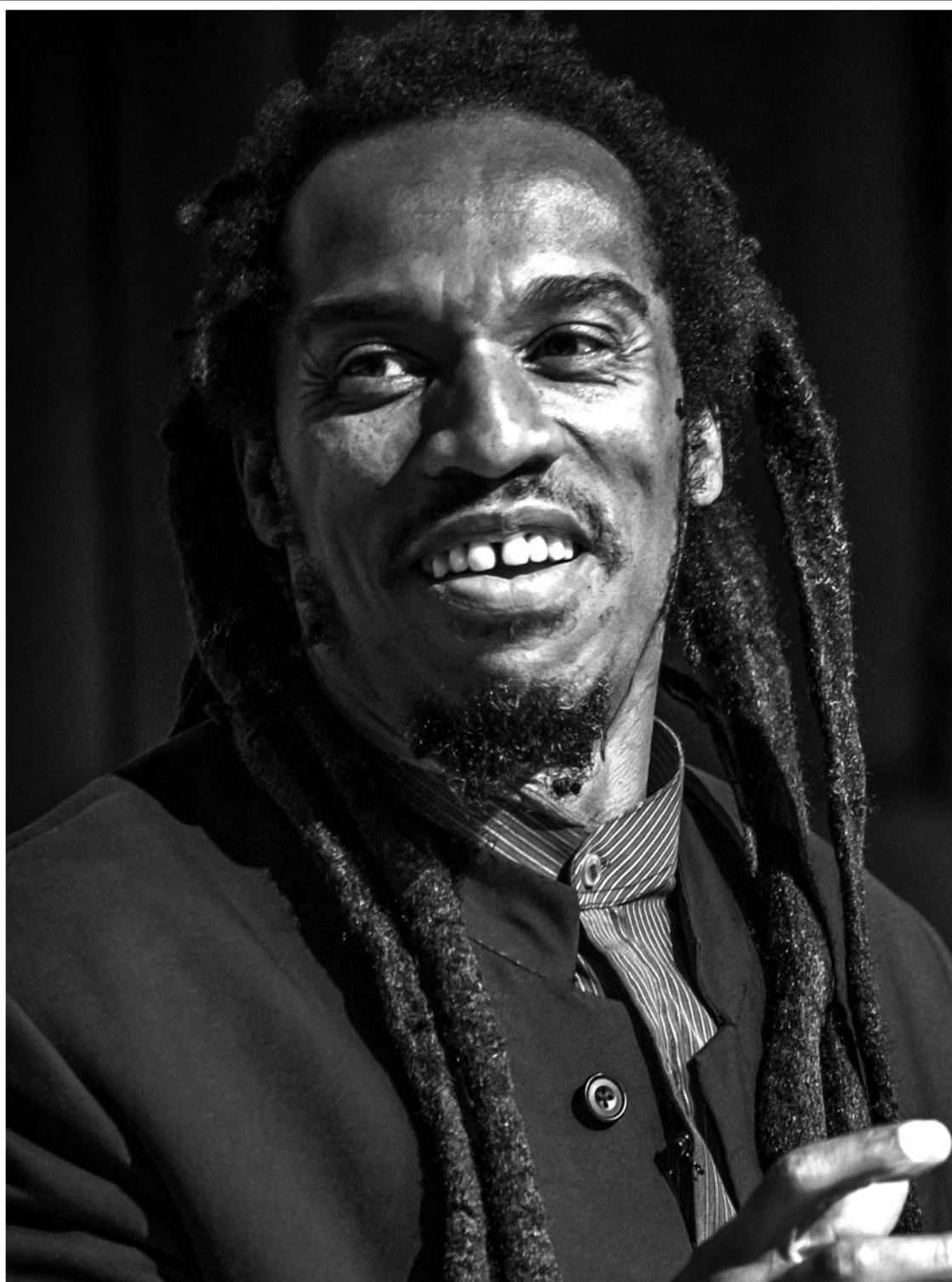
He extended the political nature of his poems to the international scene with, *Rasta Time in Palestine* (1990) an account of a visit to the Palestinian occupied territories.

Appointed professor of poetry at Brunel University and the recipient of 16 honorary degrees, Benjamin is also a musician, whose recordings include; *Us and Dem* (1990) and *Belly of de Beast* (1996). His first television play, *Dread Poets Society*, was screened by the BBC in 1991, while *Hurricane Dub* was one of the winners of the BBC Young Playwrights Festival in 1998.

His radio drama, *Listen to your Parents*, won the Commission for Racial Equality Race in the Media, Radio Drama Award and has been adapted for the theatre. His tenure as poet in residence at Michael Mansfield QC’s Tookes Chambers inspired his next poetry collection, *Too Black Too Strong* (2001).

He also writes for children and young adults. *Talking Turkeys* (1994) and *Funky Chickens* (1996) was aimed at younger readers. Other titles are *Face* (1999), described by the author as a story of “facial discrimination”; *Refugee Boy* (2001), the story of Alem fleeing the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea; *Gangsta Rap* (2004); and *Teacher’s Dead* (2007).

His radical edge has not lessened over time and in 2003 he famously rejected the offer of an OBE, saying he was “anti-empire”.



BERNIE GRANT

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1944-2000★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

***A prominent trade unionist and local councillor,
Bernie Grant went on to make history as one of four
black politicians elected to parliament in 1987***

Christened Bernard Alexander Montgomery Grant, Bernie was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, in 1944 and settled in Britain with his parents 19 years later. He studied at Tottenham Technical College and Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, graduating with a degree in engineering.

In the 1970s he worked at the Post Office's international telephone exchange, where he became a union rep and gained a reputation for combatting racist practices in the workplace. He went on to become an official for the National Union of Public Employees before being elected to Haringey council in north London, where he thrust himself at the forefront of anti-racist campaigns around education and policing as well as the council's own employment practices.

Within a year he was made deputy leader of the council and in 1985 he was elected leader. Already a controversial figure because of his forthright views, it was during the Broadwater Farm uprising of that year he became dubbed "Barmie Bernie" by the right-wing press after he defended young black youth against police harassment.

He became involved in the Labour Party's Black Sections Movement, which called for greater black political representation and this helped pave the way for his selection as parliamentary candidate for Tottenham - which includes part of the borough of Haringey - forcing aside the incumbent MP Norman Atkinson.

In 1987 Bernie Grant was duly elected MP and became part of the historic intake of four black MPs. Bernie never did things by halves and entered parliament wearing West African ceremonial robes.

Bernie was the chair of the All-Party Group on Race and Community, as well as being a member of select committee on international development. He founded a number of organisations to further causes close to his heart including the Africa Reparations Movement and the Parliamentary Black Caucus.

He was openly critical of Labour's decision not to field a black candidate for the Vauxhall by-election of 1989, a constituency that had a large black population.

Despite continued negative press attention, he remained a hugely respected figure. When he died of a heart attack aged 56, an estimated 3,000 people turned out to salute his funeral cortege as it passed through Tottenham, pausing at Broadwater Farm.



CARMEN MUNROE

A regular fixture on both stage and small screen, Carmen Munroe is best known for her role in one of Britain's most successful sitcoms, Desmond's

Born in Berbice, British Guiana, in 1932, Carmen Munroe, née Steele, settled in Britain in 1951. Within a few years she began studying drama with a group based at the West Indian Students Centre in Collingham Gardens, southwest London, making her professional debut at the Wyndham Theatre in Tennessee Williams' play, *A Period of Adjustment*.

After appearing in a number of West End productions, Carmen found herself in demand on both stage and small screen and her CV includes an impressive list of credits, including, Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, Jean Genet's *The Blacks*, and James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner*.

Carmen's television work has been equally ground-breaking and saw her featured in popular drama series like *Doctor Who* and *General Hospital*. She was also a presenter of the children's show, *Play School*. In 1976 she was cast in *The Fosters*, the first British sitcom to have an entirely black cast, which included Norman Beaton and Lenny Henry. Then came *Mixed Blessings* (1978-1980) in which she played the other half of an interracial couple navigating their marriage around their disapproving parents.

Carmen is perhaps best known for her role as long suffering wife Shirley in *Desmond's*, which premiered on Channel Four in 1989 and ran for five years, winning critical acclaim for its humorous exploration of the conflict between British-born black people and the values of the older generation who grew up in the Caribbean.

Awarded an OBE in 2007, Carmen is credited with playing an instrumental role in the development of black British theatre. In 1985, she co-founded Talawa with Mona Hammond and Yvonne Brewster as a platform for black writing and black acting talent.

In the meantime, she directed *Alas Poor Fred*, a play by James Saunders, at the Umoja Theatre, and Derek Walcott's *Remembrance*, at London's Arts Theatre.

She also acted in work by some of the period's leading black writers and directors - Barry Reckord's *In The Beautiful Caribbean* (BBC Play for Today 1972); Horace Ove's *A Hole in Babylon* (BBC, 1979); Caryl Phillips' *The Hope and The Glory* (BBC, 1984), *Bacchanal* (Channel 4, 1984) and *The Final Passage* (Channel 4 1996).

In 2013 Carmen appeared in the CBBC drama *The Dumping Ground*.



CLAUDIA JONES

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1915-1964★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

***A brilliant organiser and charismatic speaker,
Claudia Jones was at the forefront of Britain's civil
rights struggle during the 1950s***

It was Claudia Jones' appearance on a UK postage stamp in 2008 that signalled her transition from virtual oblivion to her elevation into the political mainstream as part of the Royal Mail's 'women of distinction' issue.

For years there had been a quiet but determined campaign to ensure that she received her proper place in history for the pivotal role she played in the anti-racist campaigns of the 1950s. But it was in the US where she first rose to prominence. Born in Trinidad, she joined her parents in New York as a young girl. She became a member of the US Communist Party at 18 and swiftly rose through the ranks to become a leading member, regarded as one of its most accomplished speakers and writers.

In 1948 she was arrested during the anti-communist witch hunts of the McCarthy era and served six months in prison. In 1955 she was incarcerated for the fourth time and after spending a year and a day in jail she was deported.

Barred from Trinidad as a political risk, she was allowed to enter the UK, where she promptly resumed her activism. In 1958 she founded the *West Indian Gazette* and *Afro Asian News* as a platform for the civil rights struggle gathering pace among newly arrived migrants. During the Notting Hill and Nottingham race riots of that year it sold a record 30,000 copies.

Caribbean leaders like Cheddi Jagan of Guyana and Norman Manley of Jamaica were among those who attended the paper's cramped Brixton offices to be interviewed, while George Lamming and Jan Carew were among those writers who contributed articles.

In January 1959 Claudia organised an indoor carnival at St Pancras Town Hall in celebration of Caribbean culture as part of the community's response to the anti-black violence on the streets. Five more followed and the initiative is considered as the inspiration behind the Notting Hill Carnival.

Her health ruined by her frequent stays in prison, Claudia died of a heart attack in December 1964 and was buried in Highgate Cemetery next to her political hero, Karl Marx.

Since 2001 the National Union of Journalists' Black Members Council have held an annual lecture to commemorate her and past speakers have included Diane Abbott MP.



Main Photo © PA Images



DARCUS HOWE

[illegible]

Darcus Howe was a prominent anti-racist activist in the UK before becoming a commentator and frontman for current affair shows on TV

Leighton Rhett Radford 'Darcus' Howe was a writer, broadcaster and campaigner who during the 1970s and '80s was at the forefront of the anti-racist struggle in the UK.

Born in Trinidad, Howe settled in London in 1961 with the intention of studying law. Instead he became more involved in journalism and was encouraged by his uncle, the scholar CLR James, to combine his writing with political activism.

Darcus became a leading figure in the Black Panther movement during the 1970s and took part in a protest against the frequent police raids on the Mangrove restaurant in Notting Hill. Mangrove was a meeting place for the black community - what Howe dubbed the "HQ of radical chic".

The peaceful protest led to Darcus' arrest along with eight others who were charged with affray, riot and assault. For 55 days he and Althea Jones Leconte, the co-organiser of the protest, led the successful defence of the 'Mangrove Nine' - who included Mangrove's owner Frank Critchlow.

In 1973 Darcus established the Race Today Collective, publishing a magazine - *Race Today* - that highlighted anti-racist and social justice campaigns in Britain and worldwide. Other members included fellow Black Panthers Linton Kwesi Johnson and Farrukh Dhondy, deputy editor Lella Hassan, and Mangrove Nine member Barbara Beese.

Race Today was at the forefront of protests against the police handling of the investigation into the New Cross Fire in 1981 in which 13 black teenagers perished. It organised the historic Black People's Day of Action when more than 15,000 people marched from the site of the inferno to central London.

The authorities responded by initiating, Operation Swamp, an escalation of stop and search - 'sus' - on the streets of Brixton that led to a 1,000 people being stopped. The escalation in tension culminated in the Brixton riots, which Howe described as an "insurrection of the masses of the people".

A larger than life figure, Darcus went on to become a television presenter, first of all for *The Bandung Files* (1985-91), which was commissioned by Farrukh Dhondy for Channel 4. Other programmes followed, including, *Devil's Advocate* (1992-96), where Darcus placed public figures under scrutiny by inviting the television audience to question them. He also worked as a columnist for the *Daily Telegraph* and the *New Statesman*.



Photo © PA Images

DAVID DABYDEEN

***Scholar David Dabydeen's long list of achievements
include award-winning novelist, poet and broadcaster***

Born in Berbice, British Guiana, in 1955, Professor David Dabydeen can trace his heritage to indentured labourers from India. A bright child, he won a scholarship to the prestigious Queen's College in Georgetown but at the age of 13 travelled to the UK to live with his father, a lawyer.

He went on to read English at Cambridge University, gained a doctorate at University College London in 1982 and was awarded a research fellowship at Wolfson College, Oxford.

He is currently professorial fellow in the office of the vice-chancellor at the University of Warwick, having already served as director of the Centre of Caribbean Studies and professor of postcolonial literature, which he held between 1984 and 2017.

David is also an author and a poet. His collection of poems, *Slave Song*, won the 1984 Commonwealth Poetry Prize and the Quiller-Couch Prize. Turner, a new collection, was published in 2002.

The first of his four novels, *The Intended* (1991), drew on his childhood experiences and his life as a newly arrived migrant in London, winning him the Guyanese Prize for Literature. *Disappearance and The Counting House* followed in quick succession. The new millennium saw him publish *Our Lady of Demerara* (2004), which also won the Guyanese Prize for Literature, *Molly and the Muslim Stick* (2008) and *Johnson's Dictionary* (2013).

His non-fiction works include *Hogarth's Blacks: Images of Blacks in Eighteenth Century Art* (1987), a critical exploration of William Hogarth's representations of black people in the 18th century. In his novel *A Harlot's Progress* (1999) he gave a literary treatment of this work, where he creates a biography for the young enslaved black boy featured in Hogarth's pictorial narrative.

In 2007, he co-edited the Oxford *Companion to Black British History* with Cecily Jones and John Gilmore.

David is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the recipient of the Raja Rao Prize for his contribution to the literature of the Indian diaspora.

In 1993 he became a member of Unesco's executive, in 1997 serving as an ambassador for three years. In 2010 he was appointed Guyana's envoy to China, a post he held for five years.

David has also worked in TV and radio, and among his broadcasts is *The Forgotten Colony* for BBC domestic radio, which explored Guyana's history.



DAVID LAMMY

David Lammy worked as a barrister before joining parliament and becoming an outspoken critic of continuing social injustice

Born in 1972, David Lammy MP and his four siblings were raised in Tottenham by a single mother after his father left the family home. Both his parents are from Guyana. At the age of 10, David’s life took a turn when he was awarded a choral scholarship for King’s School, Peterborough.

He went on to read law at SOAS, University of London, and was among the first black Britons to study at Harvard University, US, where he obtained a master’s degree in law. He was called to the Bar in 1994 at Lincoln’s Inn.

After MP Bernie Grant’s sudden death in 2000, David was selected as the Labour candidate for Tottenham and elected to parliament in June of that year.

He went on to hold several ministerial posts for Labour until its defeat in 2010. These included Junior Minister for Culture, Parliamentary Under-secretary of State in the department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Junior Minister of Education for the same department.

In his failed bid to become Labour’s candidate for London Mayor in 2015, he came fourth behind the eventual winner, Sadiq Khan.

Throughout his parliamentary career he has often spoken out on crime, its causes and its impact on communities, in particular in his own constituency. While claiming that a glamorisation of violence, a fixation on clothing brands and

a gang culture warped notions of loyalty, he also highlighted racial bias in the criminal justice system.

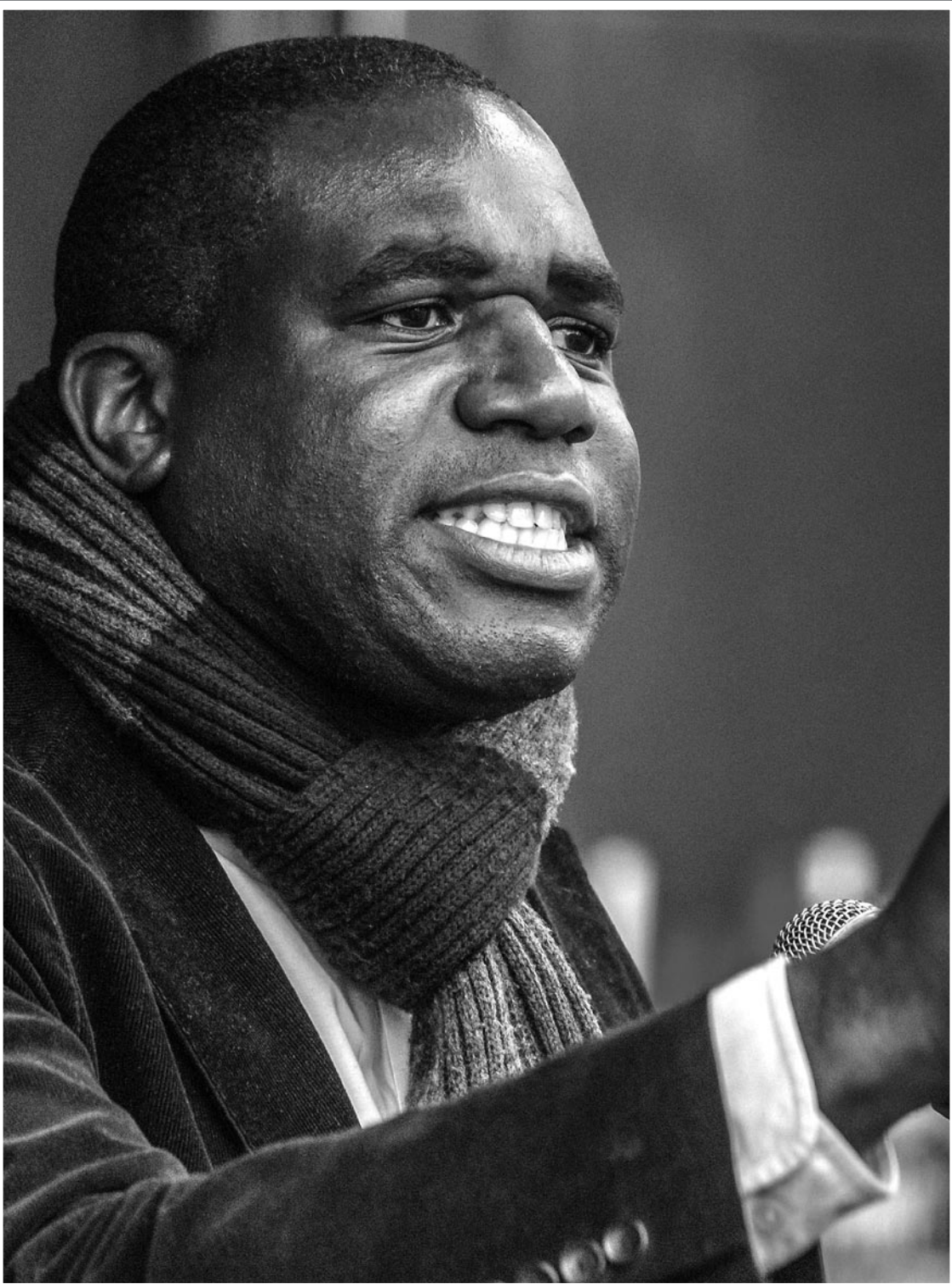
Commissioned by the Conservative government in 2017, his Lammy Review revealed that the proportion of young black and Asian people in prisons has increased from 25 per cent to 41 per cent, prompting his call for significant reform.

He has also been critical of Oxford University’s low admission of black students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, calling it “social apartheid”.

In 2017 he made the headlines again following the Grenfell fire tragedy, which claimed the lives of 72 people, including his friend, the artist Khadija Saye. Describing the inferno as “corporate manslaughter” he called for arrests to be made.

In 2018 David lambasted the government’s response to the so-called Windrush scandal in which hundreds of migrants who arrived in the UK from the Caribbean as children were rendered stateless by the a ‘hostile environment’ immigration policy. In an emotional speech to parliament he called it a “national shame”.

Photo © Alamy



DAVID PITT

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1913-1994 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Raised to the peerage in the 1970s, David Pitt combined his life as a doctor with political activism rooted in both the Caribbean and the UK

The life peer David Pitt was born in Grenada and came to the UK in 1933 to study medicine at Edinburgh University.

After qualifying, he established a medical practice in Trinidad and became involved in politics, going on to become a founder member of the West Indian National Party, which fought for independence from Britain.

In 1947 he travelled to England with party members to lobby the British government for a federation of the West Indies. After returning to London he established a surgery in North Gower Street in Camden in 1950, which doubled up as meeting place for African and Caribbean activists campaigning for self-government. Later, at the height of the anti-apartheid movement, it became a gathering place for South African exiles and their supporters.

In the 1959 general election, Lord Pitt was the first person of African descent to run for a parliamentary seat, standing as the Labour Party candidate for the north London constituency of Hampstead.

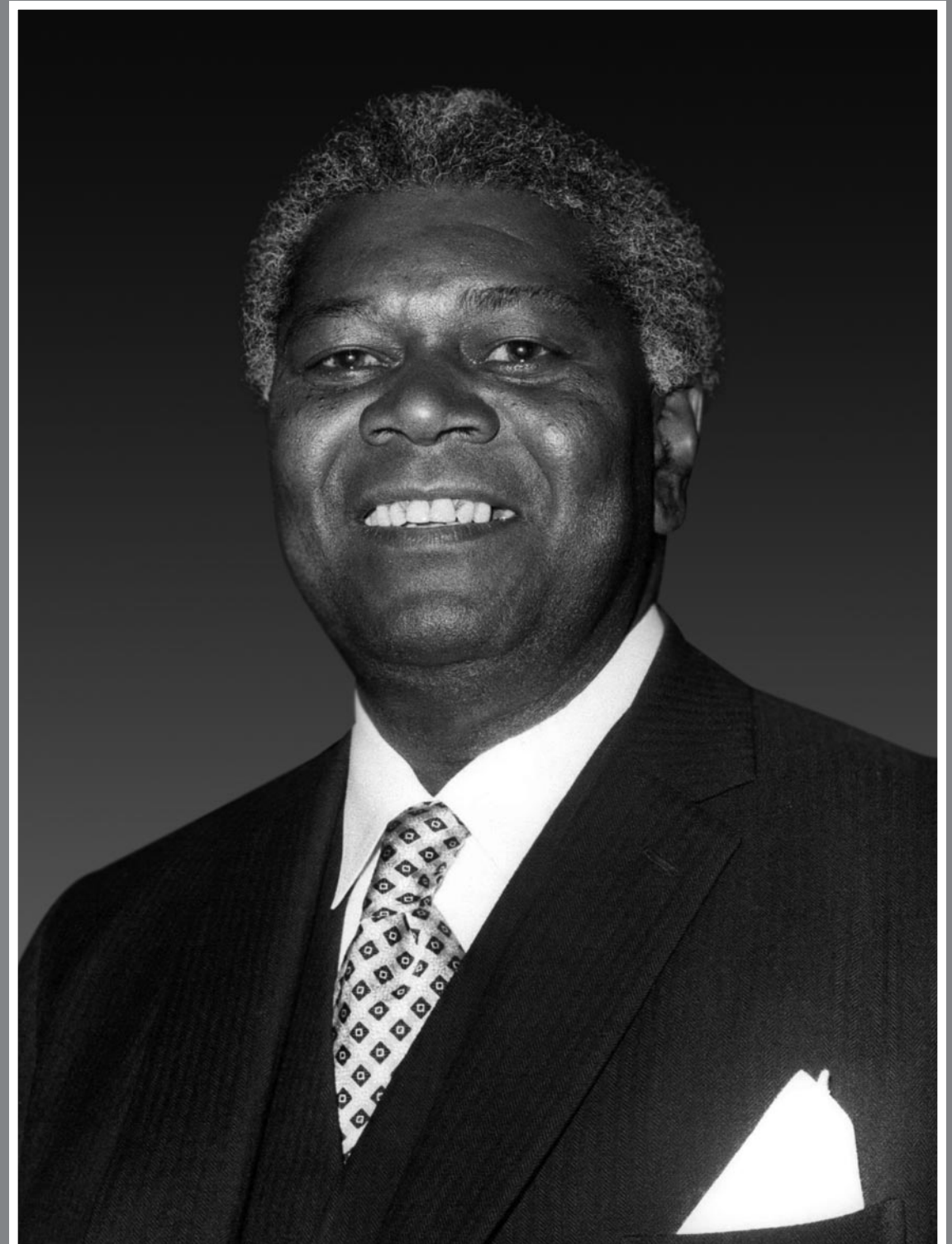
As the first black Briton to do so, he was racially abused by members of the White Defence League. He lost to the Conservative candidate in what was at the time was a safe Tory seat. He ran for parliament again in 1970, this time for the Labour stronghold of Clapham which he unexpectedly lost. Race was thought to have been the main reason for this defeat.

In 1964 he was among those who met Martin Luther King during his visit to London, where he urged people to bring pressure on the government to introduce anti-discriminatory legislation. Lord Pitt responded by becoming a founding member of the Campaign Against Racial Discrimination in 1965.

He became active in local government, representing Hackney on the London County Council and its successor, the Greater London Council. In 1975 the prime minister, Harold Wilson, appointed him to the House of Lords as Baron Pitt of Hampstead. As a peer he played a leading role in the campaign for the 1976 Race Relations Act, as well as speaking out against stricter immigration policies.

In 1985-86 he became president of the British Medical Association, which he regarded as one of his biggest achievements.

Photo © Alamy



DIANE ABBOTT

Diane Abbott made history as the first black woman MP in 1987 and has enjoyed an eventful parliamentary career that has seen her on Labour’s front bench

Born in London to Jamaican parents in 1953 - her father a welder and her mother a nurse - Diane Abbott read history at Newnham College, Cambridge. After graduating, she began training to become a civil servant at the Home Office. In 1978-80 she was appointed race relations officer at the National Council for Civil Liberties before working in the media, first as a researcher for Thames Television, then as press officer for the Greater London Council and head of publicity for Lambeth Council.

Diane had been politically engaged since her student days. In 1982 she was elected to Westminster council, serving for four years. During this time, she was active in the Labour Party Black Sections that was seeking greater representation for black and Asian members.

One of its major achievements was the historic election of four black MPs in 1987, which included Diane. She has represented Hackney North and Stoke Newington in London for 31 years.

Diane has served on a number of parliamentary committees and held several shadow ministerial posts. She currently chairs the All-Party Parliamentary British Caribbean Group and the All-Party Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Group, while outside of parliament she is founder of the London Schools and the Black Child initiative.

Diane unsuccessfully ran for the leadership of the Labour Party in 2010, which was won by Ed Miliband. As his shadow health minister, the *Daily Telegraph*, in 2011, described her as “one of Labour’s best front bench performers”. In 2013 she was sacked in a reshuffle and was unsuccessful in her bid to become mayor of London in 2015.

Regarded as being on the left of the party, she swung behind Jeremy Corbyn’s successful election as Labour leader, and in 2015 found herself back on the front bench as shadow minister for International Development. In 2016 she became shadow Health Secretary, then shadow Home Secretary.

Her forthright views on a variety of subjects, from Britain’s military interventions and cut backs of public services, plus her support for Corbyn, have led her to come under frequent media attack.

However, she continues to be a popular constituency MP and in the 2017 general election she increased her majority to 35,000 votes.

Photo © Alamy



DOREEN LAWRENCE

The brutal murder of her son, Stephen Lawrence, propelled Baroness Doreen Lawrence into public prominence when she led a tireless campaign to expose police racism

Doreen Delceita Lawrence, née Graham, was born in Jamaica in 1952 and arrived in the UK at the age of nine. She completed her education in southeast London before becoming a bank worker. She married Neville Lawrence in 1972 and the couple had three children, first, Stephen, followed by Stuart and Georgina.

Following Stephen’s brutal stabbing at a bus stop near their home in 1993, Doreen and Neville were propelled into the public eye. Their criticism of the Metropolitan Police’s botched handling of the murder investigation, which failed to follow up vital evidence, received the public backing of Nelson Mandela during his visit to London.

After a tireless campaign, a wide-ranging judicial inquiry into the police investigation was established by Home Secretary, Jack Straw in 1999. Chaired by Sir William MacPherson, it sensationally concluded that the Metropolitan Police had failed to convict anyone for the crime because they were “institutionally racist”.

She said at the time: “Black people are still dying on the streets and in the back of police vans. For me, institutional racism is ingrained and it’s hard to think of how it will be eradicated from the police force”.

In 2011, the police announced that two of the original suspects, Gary Dobson and David Norris, were to stand trial for the murder in the light of new evidence. The following year Dobson and Norris were found guilty of Lawrence’s murder and are serving life sentences.

Doreen’s book, *And I Still Rise: Seeking Justice for Stephen* was published in 2006, detailing her life following her son’s murder. She went on to establish the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust to promote a positive community legacy in her son’s name.

In 2003 she was awarded an OBE for services to community relations. In 2012 she took part in the London Olympics opening ceremony and in 2013 was appointed a life-peer, formally titled Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon in the Commonwealth Realm of Jamaica.

Among the many ways she has been publicly recognised are: Chris Ofili’s 1998 Turner Prize winning painting of her titled *No Woman No Cry*, and topping the BBC Woman’s Hour power list 2014 as Britain’s most influential woman. In 2016 she was also unveiled as the new Chancellor of De Montfort University, Leicester.



Photo © Alamy



EDNA CHAVANNES

*One of the NHS' pioneer nurses from the Caribbean,
Edna's life continues to be one of dedicated public service*

Edna Louise Allen was born in Jamaica in 1930. After leaving school she worked for three years as a teacher but had ambitions to become a nurse. Her chance came in 1951 when the *Daily Gleaner* newspaper carried a recruitment ad for trainee nurses for Britain's recently established National Health Service. She applied and was duly accepted, recalling: "I left my job at school on the Friday and on Monday I was on the ship to England." Sailing on *SS Cavina*, she arrived at Avonmouth, near Bristol, 16 days later in March 1951.

She spent four years at Ashford Hospital in Middlesex and was one of a group of black recruits who said they experienced little prejudice. Food was still rationed then but, as a nurse, she was well fed. In her second year as a trainee nurse the 'Great Smog' enveloped London in December 1952. It took the lives of 4,000, and four of Edna's patients died in a single night.

Life in the UK was full of little adventures and in 1953 she remembers sleeping out in central London so that she could see the Queen's coronation - "a once in a life time event", as she put it.

Edna trained in midwifery in Birmingham, qualifying in 1956, and later became a health visitor in rural Cambridgeshire, a job in which she combined the duties of district nurse and midwife.

She married George Chavannes in 1960 and they went on to have two children. After 45 enjoyable years in the NHS she retired in 1996.

Edna became involved in the work of the Commission for Racial Equality and was a founder member of the Pineapple Club, which continues to provide social support to older people. Edna remains very active in her local community and, though in her eighties, helps out at a dementia café run by her church.



Photo © Edna Chavannes



FLOELLA BENJAMIN

Life peer Baroness Floella Benjamin gave up her job in a bank to become an actor, reaching national treasure status when she began presenting the children’s TV show Play School

One of six children, Floella Benjamin was born in 1949 in Trinidad and came to England aged 10 to join her mother and father, a jazz musician.

They finally settled in Beckenham, Kent. She left school at 16 to work as a bank clerk for three years but took a break to try her luck with acting. She never went back to the bank. In 1972 she appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and starred in the *Black Mikado* alongside Norman Beaton and Derek Griffiths.

Floella’s television break came in the prime-time prison drama, *Within These Walls* with Googie Withers. The work rolled in and other credits include; *Angels* and *Send in the Girls*.

In 1976, Floella became a household name when she joined the team of the BBC’s *Play School*, demonstrating her skills as an energetic presenter, singer and dancer.

“I did *Playschool* for 12 wonderful years and loved every moment of it,” she recalled. “Working for and with kids is the best job in the world. It’s also like an insurance policy - they grow up being faithful to you.”

In 1977 she went to the Cannes Film Festival with, *Black Joy*, a film about migrant life in London starring Norman Beaton.

Floella has campaigned for diversity in the media and the arts for the last four decades. In 1987 she formed her own production company, Floella Benjamin Productions, where she produced and presented mainly children programmes including, *Hullabaloo* and *Jamboree*, as well as life-style programmes such as *A Taste of Caribbean*, *Africa on a Plate* and *Statues and Monuments*.

She has written more than 30 books. The most well-known, *Coming to England*, chronicles her childhood experiences of being part of two cultures as a child of the Windrush Generation.

In 2010 she was appointed a Liberal Democrat life peer, titled Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham.

Floella is vice-president for the children’s charity Barnardo and has run 10 consecutive London marathons to raise money on its behalf. In 2001, she received an OBE for services to broadcasting and in 2012 the JM Barrie Award for her contribution to children’s arts.

During the Empire Windrush’s 70th anniversary celebrations in 2018, she received an RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal for her Windrush Garden display.



GEOFF PALMER

Known as the professor of brewing and knighted for his services to science, Sir Geoff Palmer came from humble beginnings to revolutionise the malting industry

Born Godfrey Henry Oliver 'Geoff' Palmer, Geoff is a key figure in the malting world and is the first black scientist in Europe to have received what is considered to be the 'Nobel Prize' of brewing in 1998, American Society of Brewing Chemists Award of Distinction. Previously, in 1989, he'd scored another first when he became the first black person to have been appointed a professor at a Scottish university, Heriot Watt, where he is Professor Emeritus of the School of Life Sciences.

Geoff was born in Jamaica in 1940 and when his mother moved to the UK in 1948, he was raised by his aunts until he joined her at the age of 15. Once classed as educationally sub-normal, he obtained a place at a north London grammar school and left with two 'A' levels' in Botany and Zoology.

He found work as a lab technician before going to study Botany at Leicester University and obtaining a master's at Nottingham University. He later earned his doctorate in, Grain Science and Technology from Heriot Watt College and Edinburgh University and began his research at the Brewing Research Foundation in 1968, where he worked on the science and technology of barley.

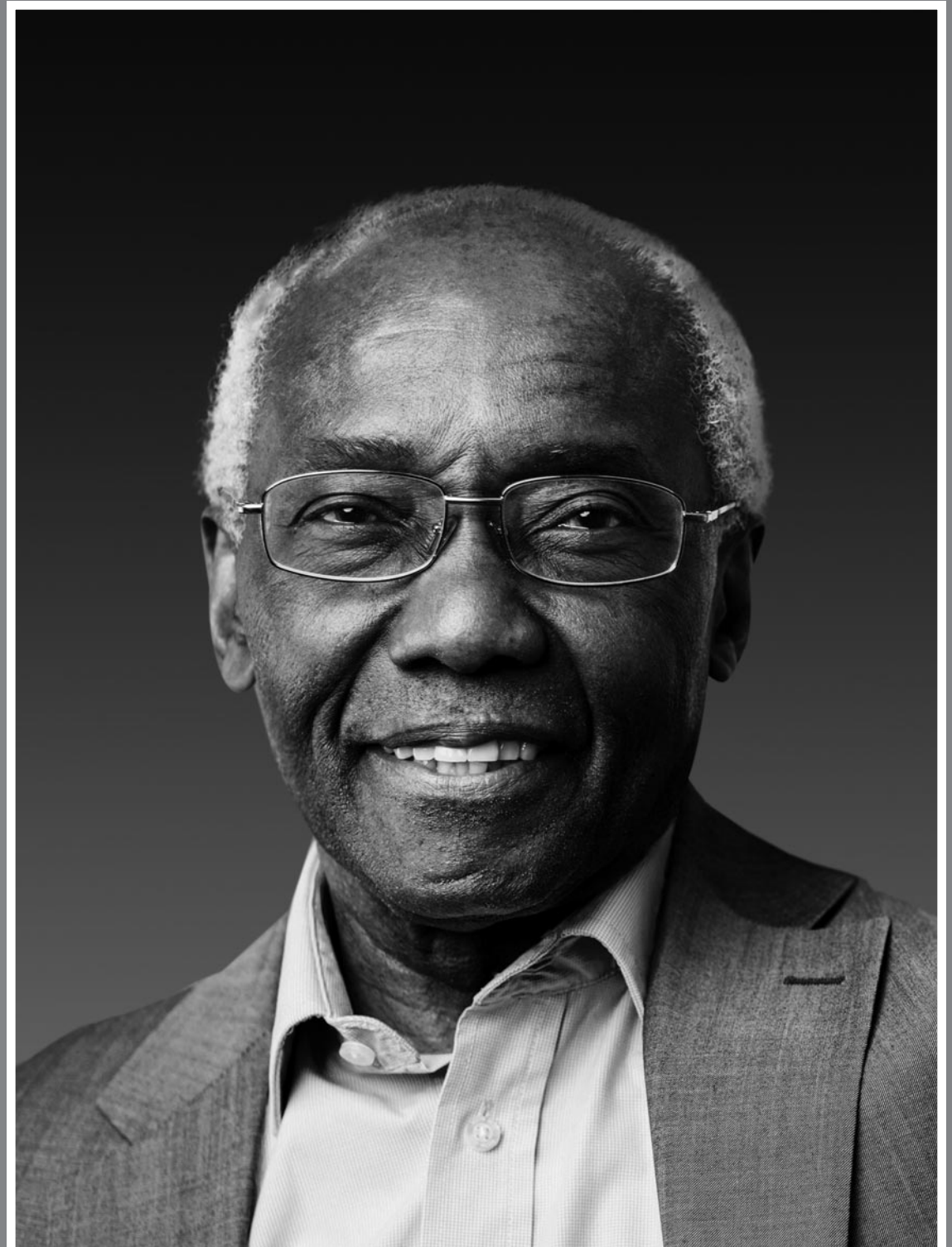
It was here that he discovered the 'barley abrasion process', which makes the malting process more efficient. This innovation was patented in 1969 and immediately used by the British brewing industry.

Geoff returned to lecture at Heriot Watt in 1977. In 1989, he published the major text book in the field titled, *Cereal Science and Technology*. In 1990 he travelled to Japan as Visiting Professor at Kyoto University. He has since lectured all over the world and has advised brewing companies in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Kenya. He also secured the first export of British barley to China.

Alongside his academic work, Geoff has campaigned for most of his life for better opportunities for black and Asian students. He is also deeply interested in the legacy of slavery, especially in Scotland, where he lives, and has researched and written widely on the subject.

Geoff received an OBE from The Queen in 2003 for his accomplishments in the field of grain science. He retired in 2005 and received a knighthood in 2014 for his services to charity, human rights and science.

Photo © Jo Hanley



HEIDI SAFIA MIRZA

As one of the few women professors in the UK, Professor Heidi Mirza has devoted her career to tackling discrimination within the education system, especially in relation to its effects on girls

Heidi Mirza is Professor of Race, Faith and Culture at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and has an international reputation for championing equality and human rights for ethnic minorities through educational reform.

Heidi was born in the UK to an Austrian mother and Trinidadian father in 1958. When she was four, the family moved to Trinidad. She returned to England when she was 16 and went on to study development studies at the University of East Anglia. She obtained a doctorate at Goldsmiths College and her thesis became her first book, *Young Female and Black* (1992) about second-generation Caribbean young women in British comprehensive schools. It remains an ‘A’ level text and is considered one of the most influential educational resources in Britain.

“I am really proud of my first book,” she said. “It laid the groundwork for my theoretical work on black British feminism and my research on marginalised and racialised women in education”.

Heidi has taught at South Bank and Middlesex Universities: at Middlesex she became the first chair of Racial Equalities Studies. She is also Professor Emerita in Equalities Studies at the Institute of Education, University College.

Her publications include *Tackling the Roots of Racism: Lessons for Success*, *Black and Postcolonial Feminisms in New Times*, and *Respecting Difference: Race, Faith and Culture for Teacher Educators*.

She helped establish the Runnymede Collection at the Black Cultural Archives and is the recipient of the Media Diversified Eight Women Award, which celebrates the achievements of women of colour. In 2015 she delivered the 50th anniversary Martin Luther King Lecture with Doreen Lawrence, an event she described as the highlight of her career. She said: “Young people want and need to be inspired, and we have to dig deep and draw on the wisdom and courage of those who went before us to power us onwards in our struggle for social and racial justice”.

Asked what she thought is the most important issue facing the world today, she added: “This is a big one - and from where I sit racial and religious hatred, endemic class discrimination and structural sexism remain deeply entrenched. The sheer scale of mass global dispossession these inequalities engender means it will become a flashpoint for 21st century”.

Photo © Windrush Foundation



HERMAN OUSELEY

Herman Ouseley’s public service career has seen him rise to the top of leading institutions in the country, earning him both a knighthood and a peerage

Herman Ouseley has dedicated more than 50 years of his working life to public service. He is currently engaged in extensive voluntary and charitable activities, alongside his parliamentary duties as a member of the House of Lords.

Born in British Guiana in 1945, he arrived in the UK at the age of 12. He began his career in the 1960s, working in local government and rising to become head of the Greater London Council’s ethnic minority unit and chief executive of Lambeth council in London.

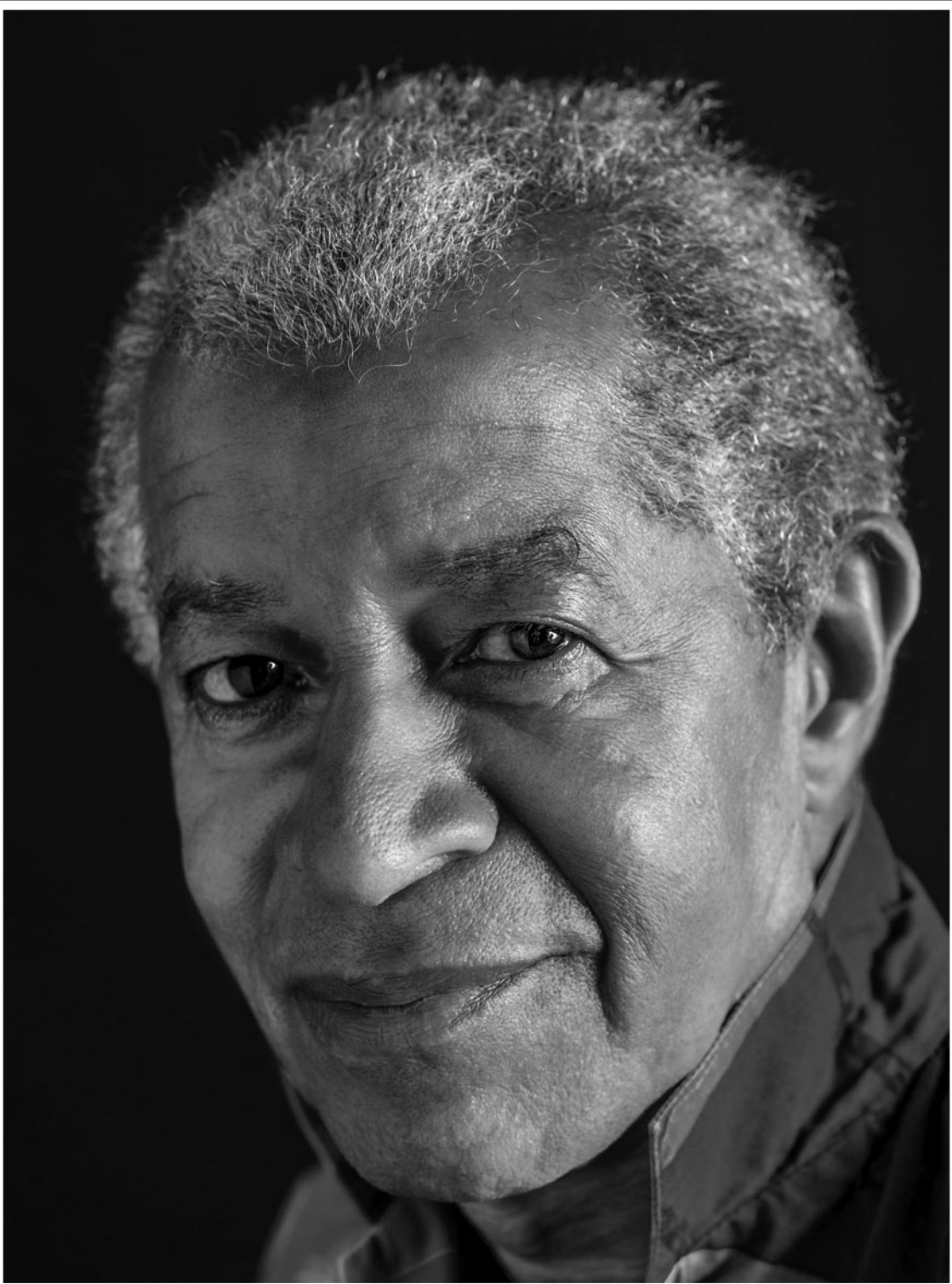
After serving as Director of Education, he went on to lead the former Inner London Education Authority, which oversaw more than a thousand schools and colleges in the capital. In 1993 he was appointed executive chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, a post he held for seven years. According to 100 Great Black Britons, he is widely credited with having restored the CRE’s flagging credibility.

His 2001 Ouseley Report examined the breakdown in race relations in Bradford, which led to rioting among Asian youngsters.

The recipient of 14 honorary degrees from universities across the UK, he was knighted in 1997 for services to local government and community relations. In 2001 he was appointed to the House of Lords as Baron Ouseley of Peckham Rye in Southwark and sits on the cross benches as an independent peer.

Herman finds time to be actively involved with several charitable and voluntary organisations, among them the Institute of Race Relations and the Manchester United Foundation. He is the chair of PRESET Education and Training trust and the Policy Research Institute on Ageing and Ethnicity (University of Central England). He is a former president of the Local Government Association (2002-2005) and the founder of Kick-It-Out (Let’s kick racism out of football campaign).

Herman is a former non- executive director of Focus Consultancy Ltd and former independent adviser to the HM Revenue and Customs on its equality and diversity development activities. He was also an advisory member of the Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary. As a one-time council member of the Football Association, he chaired one of its advisory groups (2008-2013). He also chaired the External Implementation Group of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (2008-2014).



JAMES BERRY

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1924-2017 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Acclaimed poet and author James Berry helped pave the way for a new generation of black writers

James Berry was one of the first black writers to achieve public recognition in Britain. He rose to prominence in 1981 when he won the National Poetry Competition with *Fantasy of an African Boy*, while his five collections of poetry and his stories and poems for children received critical acclaim.

He was born in Jamaica and began to write stories and poems while still at school. During WWII, he worked in the US as a farm labourer for six years before returning to Jamaica. He recalled: "We soon realised, as we had been warned, that there was a colour problem in the United States that we were not familiar with in the Caribbean. America was not a free place for black people".

Relieved to be back home in Jamaica, James soon began to feel the “the same old desperation of being stuck”. Salvation beckoned with arrival of *MV Empire Windrush* in Kingston in 1948. But he wasn’t able to get a ticket and had to wait for the second ship to make the journey in autumn of that year, the *SS Orbita*.

He was employed by the Post Office and attended night school to improve his education but life as a newly arrived Caribbean migrant in London became another kind of learning.

He became an early member of the influential Caribbean Artists Movement, founded in 1966 by Edward Kamau Brathwaite, Andrew Salkey and John La Rose, chairing it in 1971.

In 1976 he compiled the anthology, *Bluefoot Traveller* and in 1979 his first poetry collection, *Fractured Circles*, was published by La Rose's New Beacon Books. He edited the landmark anthology, *News for Babylon*, in 1984, which was described as 'groundbreaking'.

His use of both Jamaican patois and standard English legitimised patois as a form of poetic expression for a new generation of poets.

His 2011 book of poetry, *A Story I Am In: Selected Poems* drew on five earlier collections: *Fractured Circles* (1979), *Lucy's Letters and Loving* (1982), *Chain of Days* (1985), *Hot Earth Cold Earth* (1995), and *Windrush Songs* (2007).

In 1987 James won the Smarties prize for *A Thief in the Village and Other Stories*, one of several books he wrote for young readers.

He was awarded the OBE for services to poetry in 1990.

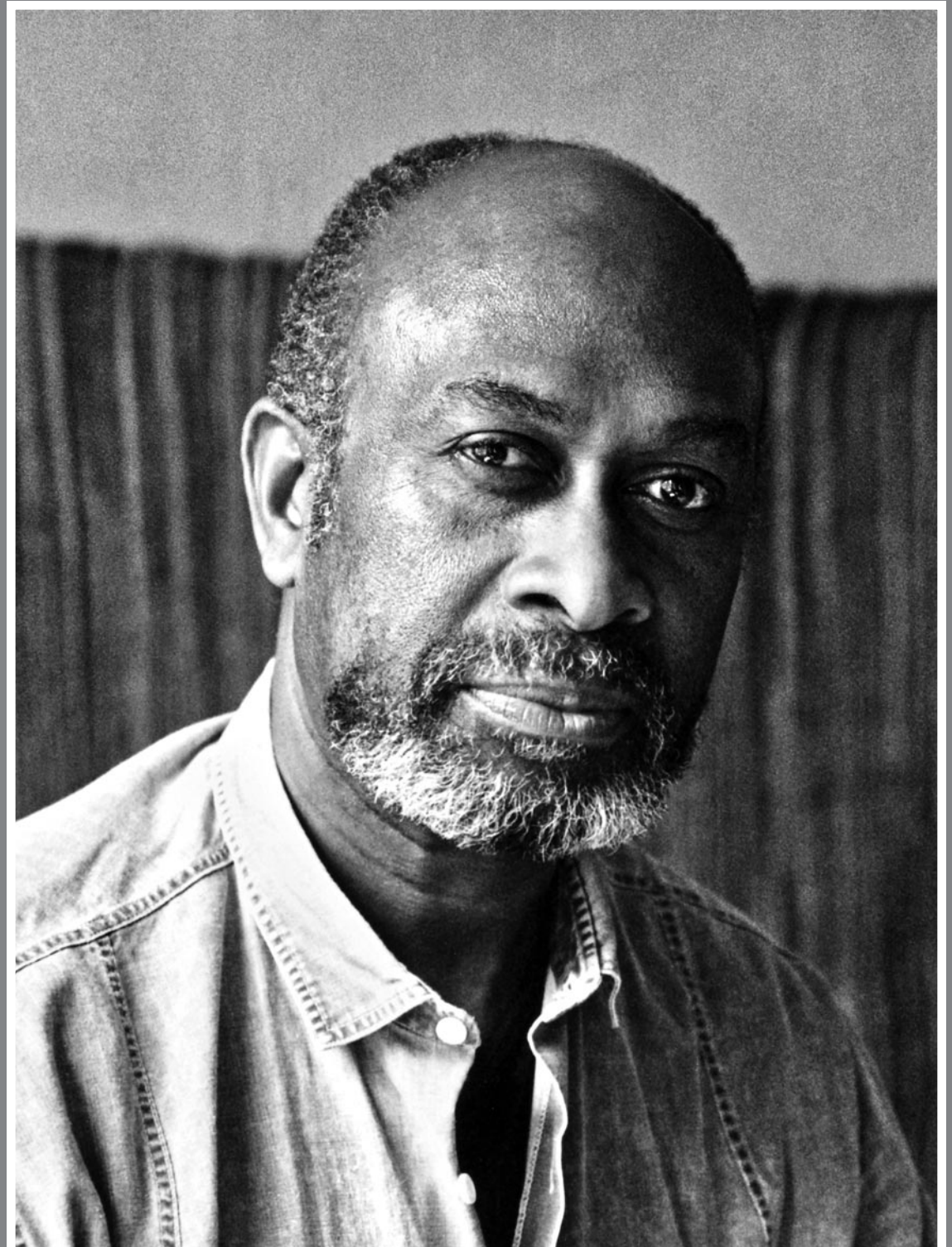


Photo © British Library

JESSICA & ERIC HUNTLEY

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★	1927-2013 (Jessica)	★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
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***Formidable husband and wife team Jessica & Eric Huntley
were at the forefront of black people's struggles
in Britain over the last 50 years***

In 1968 Eric and Jessica Huntley founded one of the first independently-owned black bookshops in the UK, Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, naming it in honour of two Caribbean freedom fighters, Paul Bogle and Toussaint L'Ouverture.

Jessica Huntley, née Carroll, was born in British Guiana. She met Eric Huntley in 1948 and they married in 1950, going on to have three children. Eric Huntley was born in 1929 and was a founding member of Cheddi Jagan's People's Progressive Party, which came to government in the country's first free elections in 1953.

In October 1953, the British colonial authorities ousted Jagan and arrested Eric and other PPP members, imprisoning them for a year. Eric settled in London in 1957 and Jessica followed a year later.

In 1968, the Guyanese scholar and activist Walter Rodney was banned from Jamaica, where he taught at the university. The Huntley's helped mobilise support for him by setting up Bogle-L'Overture to publish his speeches and lectures. The result was *Groundings with my Brothers* (1969) and the seminal *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (1972).

Three years later, they brought out *Dread Beat and Blood*, a collection of verse by the, then little-known Linton Kwesi Johnson. In the beginning, the bookshop was run from the front-room of their house until the council intervened following complaints.

In 1974 the couple opened up the bookstore in the London borough of Ealing, which swiftly became a community hub, with talks, readings and a space to meet. In 1980 when Rodney was assassinated in Guyana by a car bomb, the Huntley's renamed the bookstore, Walter Rodney Bookshop in his honour. The shop closed in 1989 due to rising rents.

Both Eric and Jessica were associated with the pivotal civil rights campaigns of the day, including the Black Parents Movement, which led to the establishment of supplementary schools all over the capital.

Jessica was a joint director of the International Book Fair of Radical and Third World Books. Held annually between 1982 and 1995, the fairs are considered to be the highpoint of black publishing in the UK.

Since 2006 an annual lecture has been held in their name at the London Metropolitan Archives, which holds their papers. In 2018 a Nubian Jak Community Trust plaque was unveiled at the couple's home in Ealing, London, on the anniversary of Jessica's death, aged 86.



Photo © Mervyn Weir



JOCELYN BARROW

Regarded as an elder stateswoman of the black community, Dame Jocelyn Barrow has dedicated her life to fighting for racial equality in UK

The eldest of 14 children, Dame Jocelyn Barrow was born in 1929 in Trinidad and became active in the People’s National Movement while still in her teens. After working as a teacher, she moved to the UK in 1959 to study at the Institute of Education, University of London.

During her studies she initiated a project called Each One Teach One, which helped children of Caribbean heritage to do their homework more effectively and advised parents on how to navigate the English education system.

She was also involved in the Caribbean Communication Project which helped adults improve their literacy skills.

Dame Jocelyn was a founding member and later general secretary of the Campaign against Racial Discrimination, usually known as CARD.

A meeting with Martin Luther King during his visit to London in 1964 helped formulate CARD’s main campaign objective - the outlawing of the colour bar. The Race Relations Act of 1965 was a significant step forward but it had no real teeth as the two biggest areas of discrimination, employment and housing, were outside of its remit. CARD lobbied for more robust legislation and this led to the Race Relations Act of 1968 entering the statute book.

During its passage through parliament, Dame Jocelyn recalls being asked to join a discussion group about the Act on a BBC magazine programme, Enoch Powell, one of the panelists, refused to be interviewed in the same studio as her. The MP had just made his infamous ‘rivers of blood’ speech and his attitude “clearly showed him to be a racist, coward and he knew that he would lose any argument on why he was wrong regarding the Bill and his speech”, she said.

Dame Jocelyn went on to be appointed to a number of key roles, becoming the first black person to serve as a governor of the BBC. She was also founder and deputy chair of the Broadcasting Standards Council, a governor of the Commonwealth Institute and the British Film Institute and contributed to the establishment of the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.

For her outstanding service to education and community relations she was awarded an OBE by The Queen in 1972. In 1992, she received the DBE, Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire



JOHN AGARD

***Poet, playwright and performer, John Agard
has made a considerable splash in the UK
with his unique brand of verse***

During the 50th anniversary celebration of the arrival of *MV Empire Windrush* in 1998 John Agard played a central role as the BBC's poet-in-residence. His poems continued to entertain during the Windrush's 2018 edition, capping, for now, a career that goes back four decades.

John was born in British Guiana in 1948 and as a boy he developed a love for languages and writing. He worked as a teacher and librarian and was also a journalist for the *Guyana Sunday Chronicle*.

He settled in Britain in 1977 with his partner Grace Nichols, who is also a poet, and worked for the Commonwealth Institute in London, travelling to some 2,000 schools around the country to promote a better understanding of Caribbean literature.

Since then he has developed a brand of poetry noted for its energy, flamboyance and sharp social commentary. Critic and novelist David Dabydeen has described his work as "a wonderful affirmation of life, in a language that is vital and joyous".

In 1993 he was appointed writer-in-residence at the Southbank Centre in London. John's residency at the BBC formed an integral part of BBC Education's *Windrush Season*, which he helped launch with a poetic summary.

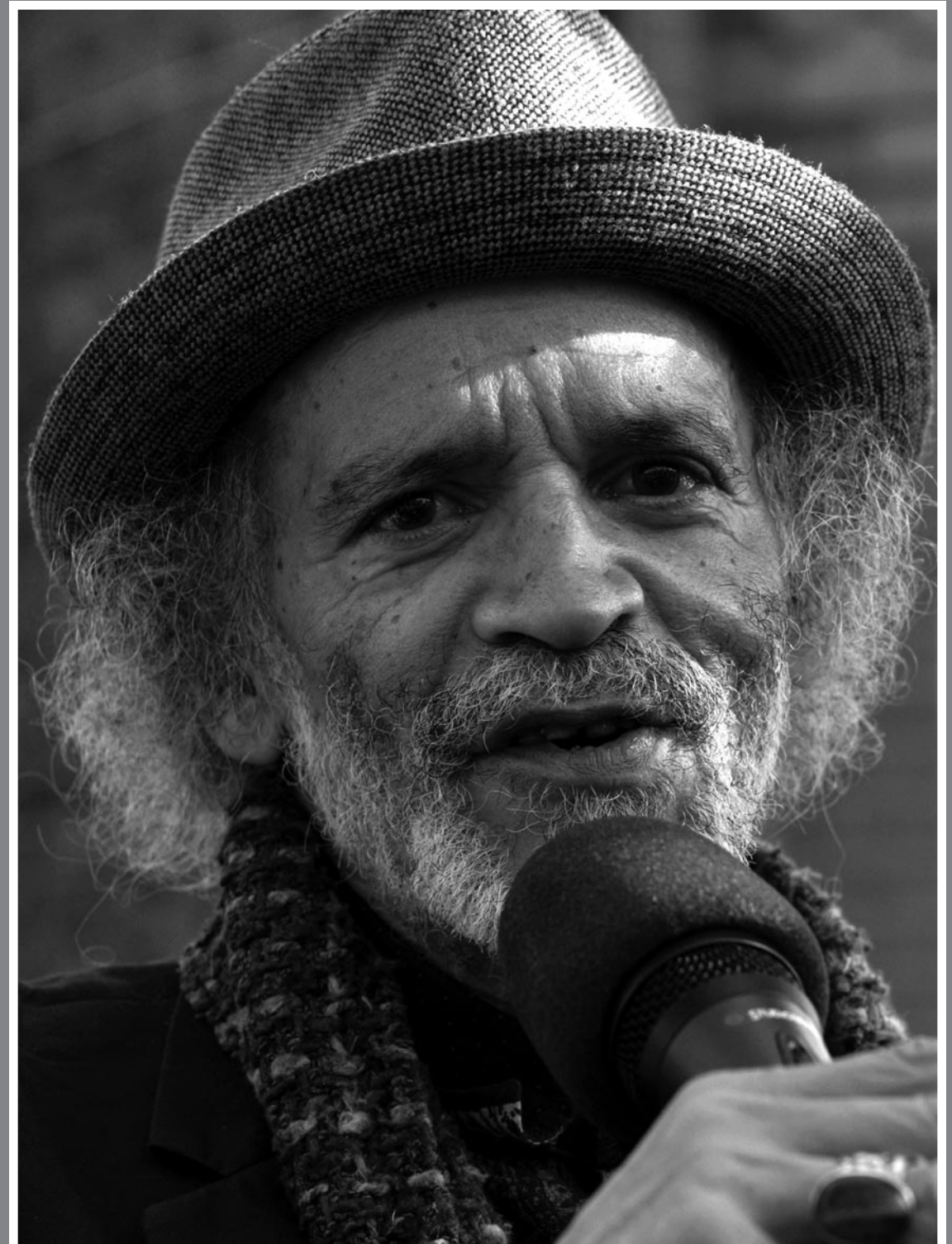
In response to those who questioned his appointment he said: "I welcomed the opportunity to be 'Bard at the Beeb'. Indeed, such a suggestion would not have caused ripples among pre-literate Celtic circles or among West African praise-singing griots or wherever poetry is part of the daily fabric of life".

John also performed a specially composed poem, *Remember the Ship*, at the Runnymede Conference on Citizenship and Identity, which was widely regarded as one of the highlights of the day.

His honours include the 1997 Paul Hamlyn Award For Poetry and the Cholmondeley Award in 2004. In 2012 he received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry following a recommendation made by a committee headed by the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. It was based on John's most recently published works, *Alternative Anthem: Selected Poems* (2009) and his collection of poems for children, *Goldilocks on CCTV* (2011).

John's poems *Half Caste* and *Checking Out Me History* have been featured in the AQA English GCSE since 2002

Photo © Mervyn Weir



JOHN LA ROSE

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1927-2006★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

***Poet, essayist, publisher and activist, John La Rose
was all of these and more in a life dedicated
to cultural and political change***

John La Rose was born in Trinidad and attended St Mary's College, Port of Spain. Having become involved in the youth and trade union movements, he settled in London in 1961 to become a leading voice in the black community.

His main platform was New Beacon Books, Britain's first black publishing house, which he founded in 1966 to challenge the domination of mainstream publishers on Caribbean literature. Its debut book was a volume of his own poetry, *Foundations*, and its first big seller was Bernard Coard's 1971 polemic, *How the West Indian Child is made Educationally Sub-normal in the British School System*.

In the early days, books were stacked in the front room of his house in, Finsbury Park, north London, for distribution to events and meetings. In 1973 the bookshop proper opened nearby, where it continues to be a treasure trove of progressive literature and thought.

Together with the Jamaican writer and broadcaster Andrew Salkey and the Barbadian poet and historian Kamau Brathwaite, John founded the Caribbean Artists Movement, which between 1966-72 blazed a trail in defining a black cultural aesthetic, championing the likes of poet Linton Kwesi Johnson and fabric designer Althea McNish.

John's name is associated with the historic civil rights campaigns of the day, including the Black Education Movement, which fought against racial discrimination in schools.

He founded the George Padmore Supplementary School in 1969 and was a leading light in the Caribbean Education in Community Workers Association.

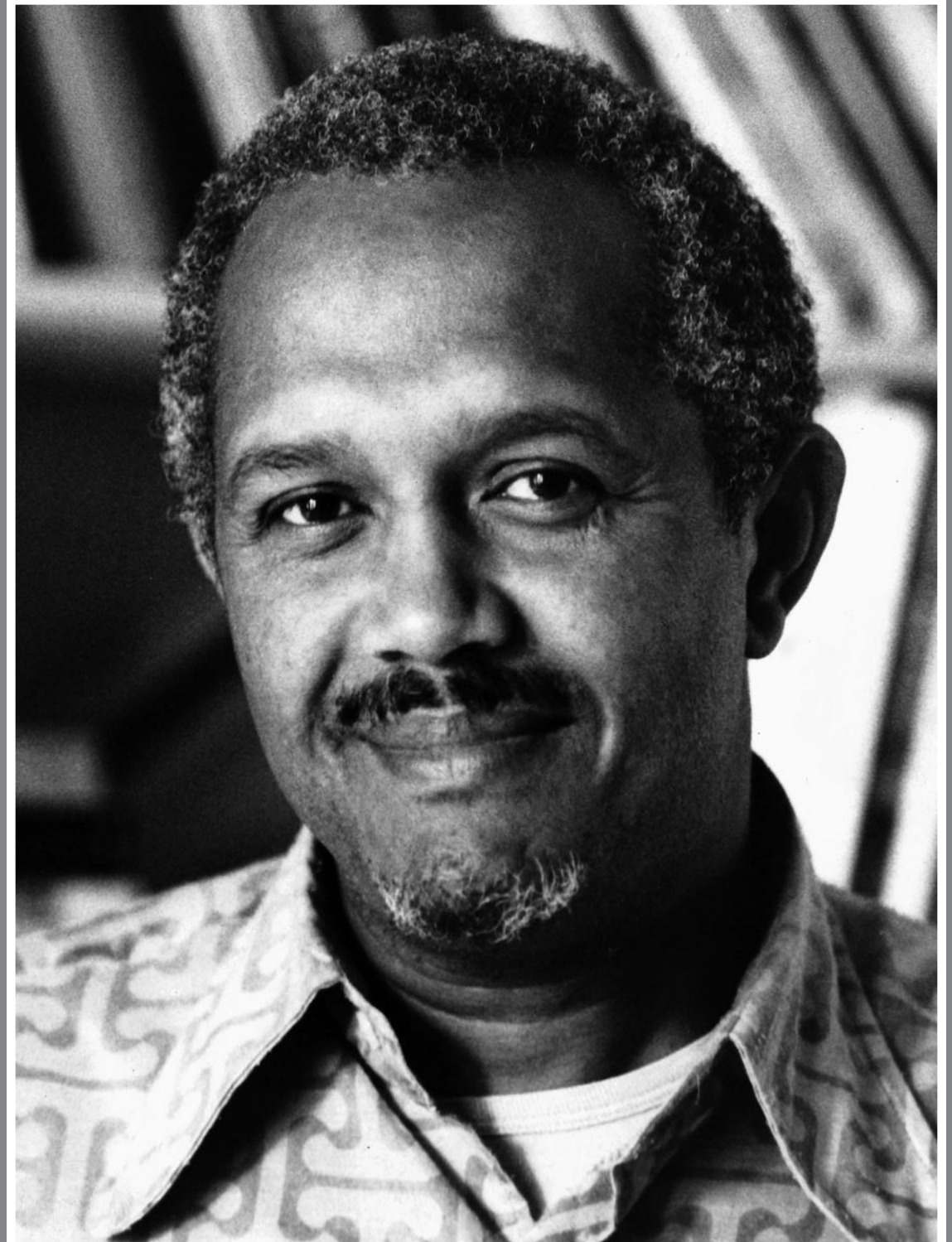
He was also chair of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee that was formed as a response to a house fire which resulted in the deaths of 13 young black people in 1981. This mobilised the Black People's Day of Action that saw 15,000 people march through central London in protest at the police's less than thorough investigation of the fire.

One of John's greatest achievements was the International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books (1982-95), organised jointly with Bogle L'Ouverture Books and Race Today Publications.

The George Padmore Institute, a library, archive and educational research centre, was established in 1991 and chaired by John.

One of John's favourite sayings was "dream to change the world" and in 2015 an exhibition was held in London to honour his life and remarkable legacy.

Photo © George Padmore Institute



LEN GARRISON

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★ 1943-2003 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Founder of the Black Cultural Archives, Len Garrison spent a lifetime expanding the knowledge of black British history and heritage, particularly in schools

Lenford Alfonso Kwesi Garrison was an educationalist who dedicated his life's work to documenting black history and heritage, and the artefacts, photographs, memorabilia and documents that he collected over many years now form part of the Black Cultural Archives.

Len was born in St Thomas, Jamaica, joining his parents in London in 1954. He had an interest in photography and studied the subject at King's College London, going on to become a specialist medical photographer at Guy's Hospital, and a freelance photographer for Claudia Jones' *West Indian Gazette*.

In 1971 he obtained a diploma in development studies from Ruskin College, Oxford, where he wrote a dissertation on the *Rastafarian movement in Jamaica*. In 1976, he graduated in African and Caribbean history at Sussex University, and in 1992, gained an MA in local history at Leicester University.

His academic work led him to support efforts to improve the education of African Caribbean pupils, and in the late '70s he set up African and Caribbean Educational Resource (ACER), which pioneered the use of multi cultural education packs for schools.

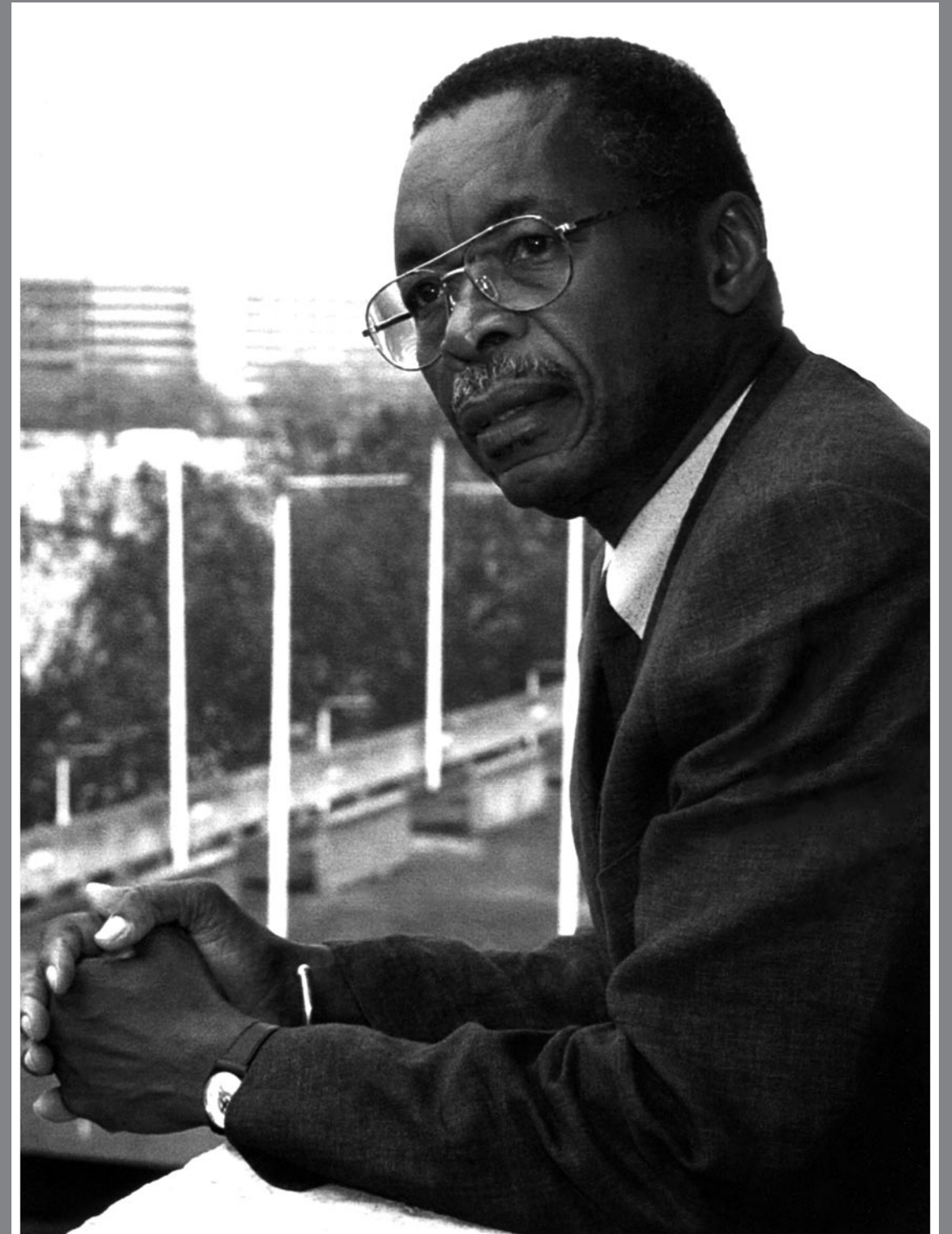
Following the financial backing of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), the scheme spread from one secondary school to the rest of the capital before going nationwide. It also spawned other initiatives like the Young Penmanship Awards for creative writing.

ILEA's dismantling by the Thatcher government in 1988 marked the end of ACER but, undeterred, Len moved to Nottingham as director of Afro-Caribbean Family and Friends, a move that expanded the reach of his work. He established one of the first effective mentoring projects, known as Build.

He also set up East Midlands African Caribbean Arts. A high point of this period was the 1993 exhibition, *The Black Presence In Nottingham*, at the city's museum.

In 1997, Len returned to London and became the chairman of Black Cultural Archives (BCA), which he'd helped to set up in 1981. He had become an avid collector of primary source material and these were stored at its premises in Coldharbour Lane in Brixton, south London. In 1997, the BCA joined with Middlesex University to create the Archive and Museum of Black History.

Len's original collection is now deposited at the Black Cultural Archives, an archive, research facility and exhibition space that opened in Windrush Square, Brixton, in 2014.



LENNY HENRY

Lenny Henry won a TV talent contest in his teens to become one of the country's best known actors and comedians, earning him a knighthood along the way

Sir Lenworth George Henry, better known as Lenny, was born in Dudley, the West Midlands, to Jamaican parents. In 1975 aged 17, he won TV talent show *New Faces* with his impersonation of Stevie Wonder. The following year he appeared in the black sitcom, *The Fosters*.

As a stand-up comic he continued doing impersonations, including Trevor McDoughnut (Trevor McDonald), David Bellamy, and Theophilus P Wildebeeste, (Teddy Prendergrass). Pirate radio DJ Delbert Wilkins became the main character in *The Lenny Henry Show*, which ran for two series from 1985 on the BBC. From 1987-1988 Delbert had a show of his own on the same channel.

Lenny's production company Crucial Films was key in finding new black talent in performing and writing. It produced the comedy series *The Real McCoy* for BBC2, which featured Leo Chester, Meera Syal, Eddie Nestor and Llewella Gideon.

In 1998 he starred with Marianne Jean Baptise in the BBC drama *The Man*, where he played a travel agent from Birmingham who wanted to play in a band.

Between 1993 and 1996 he played the lead in *Cheff!*, a sitcom about Gareth Blackstock a tyrannical head chef at a country restaurant. *So Much Things To Say*, marked his first appearance in the West End, at the Wyndham Theatre, to critical acclaim.

In 2009, he made his Shakespearean debut in the title role of *Othello*, and his performance earned him the Best Newcomer Award at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards. He returned to Shakespeare in 2011 as Antipholus of Syracuse in *A Comedy of Errors*.

Lenny has also written a number of radio dramas, and his sitcom *Rudy's Rare Records*, in which he played the title role, ran for two series on BBC Radio 4 in 2008-2009 before going on to be produced for the stage and television in 2014.

Since 1985, he has been a co-founder and a presenter of the Beeb's charity fundraiser, *Comic Relief*.

For his services to drama, broadcasting and charity, Lenny has been awarded a CBE (1999) and a knighthood (2015). He is a Fellow of the Royal Television Society and received a BAFTA Television: Special Award in 2016. Throughout his career he has been critical of television's lack of ethnic diversity in its programming, describing it as "a huge problem" in 2017.



LINTON KWESI JOHNSON

Over the years the work of dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson has provided a searing social commentary on the experience of black British life

Considered to be the father of ‘dub poetry’, Linton Kwesi Johnson is the only black poet to have his work published in the prestigious, Penguin Modern Classics series following a career that began with his involvement in the radical politics of the 1970s.

Over the years, his politically-charged poetry has provided a vital social commentary on the experience of second generation black British youngsters who grew up in the UK but were made to feel like outsiders. Some of his most famous poems were written during the Margaret Thatcher era of the 1980s when police brutality led to uprisings all over the country.

Linton was born in Jamaica in 1952 and came to the UK to join his mother when he was 11. He studied sociology at Goldsmiths College and graduated in 1973. During his student days, he joined the Black Panthers and the Brixton-based, Race Today Collective, whose members included Darcus Howe. He also became involved in the Caribbean Artists Movement, which was set up in 1967 by writer and activist John La Rose and others to promote black culture in the UK.

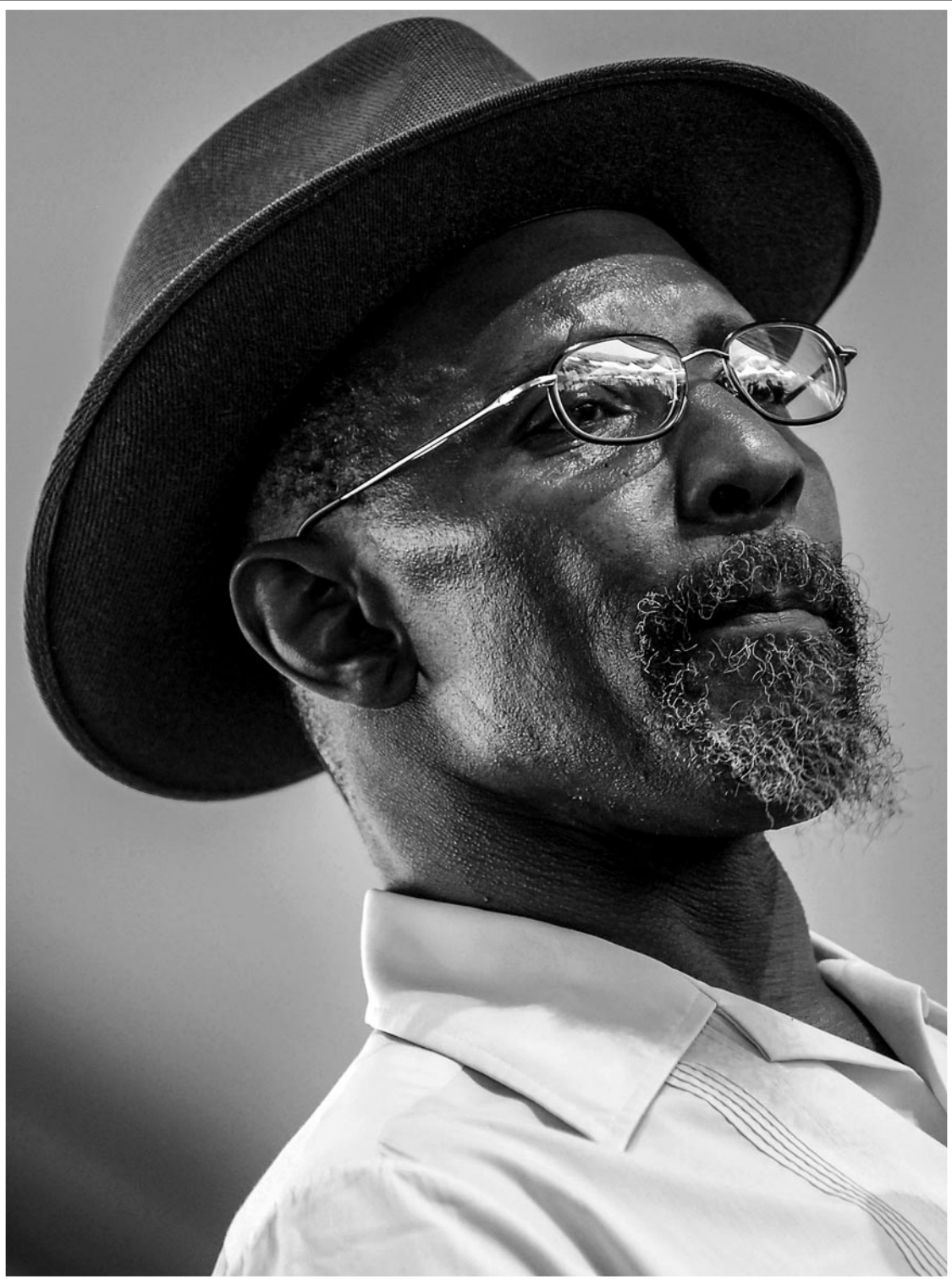
Race Today, went on to publish his first book of poems, *Voices of the Living and the Dead* in 1974. His second book, *Dread Beat and Blood* (1975), published by Bogle-L’Ouverture, included poems written in Jamaican patois, and was released as a record in 1978.

In 1980, Race Today published his third book, *Inglan Is A Bitch*. A collection of his poems, *Mi Revalueshanary Fren* was published by Penguin Modern Classics in 2002.

Mostly in collaboration with reggae producer and musician Dennis Bovell, he has recorded several albums including *Forces of Victory* (1979), *Bass Culture* (1980), *LKJ In Dub* (1980) and *Making History* (1984). He founded his own record label LKJ in the mid-1980s, selling more than two million records worldwide. Linton himself coined the phrase ‘dub poetry’ to describe the way DJs blended music and verse. However, for him the poetry always comes first.

He has received many awards, including the Cecil Day Lewis Fellowship, the Musgrave Medal from the Institute of Jamaica, and the Golden PEN award for his distinguished services to literature. In 2018, Linton headlined the South Bank Centre’s BOLD Festival, celebrating age and creativity.

Photo © Alamy



MIKE PHILLIPS

Author Mike Phillips has written a series of acclaimed thrillers and also made an important contribution to our understanding of the Windrush Generation

Mike Angus Phillips is a writer, journalist and broadcaster. He was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, in 1941 and settled with his parents in Britain when he was 14. He was educated at the University of London and the University of Essex and gained a postgraduate certificate of education at Goldsmiths College, London.

He worked for the BBC as a journalist and broadcaster between 1972 and 1983 on television programmes such as *The Late Show* and *Omnibus* before becoming a lecturer in media studies at the University of Westminster.

He is best known for his crime fiction, including four novels featuring black journalist Sam Dean: *Blood Rights* (1989), which was adapted for BBC television, *The Late Candidate* (1990), winner of the Crime Writers' Association Macallan Silver Dagger award for fiction, *Point of Darkness* (1994), and *An Image to Die For* (1995).

The Dancing Face (1997) is a thriller centred on a priceless Benin mask. *A Shadow of Myself* (2000) concerns a black documentary filmmaker working in Prague and a man who claims to be his brother.

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush in 1998, Mike and Trevor Phillips, his brother, wrote *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multi-Racial Britain*, to accompany a BBC television series telling the story of Caribbean migrants who settled in post-war Britain.

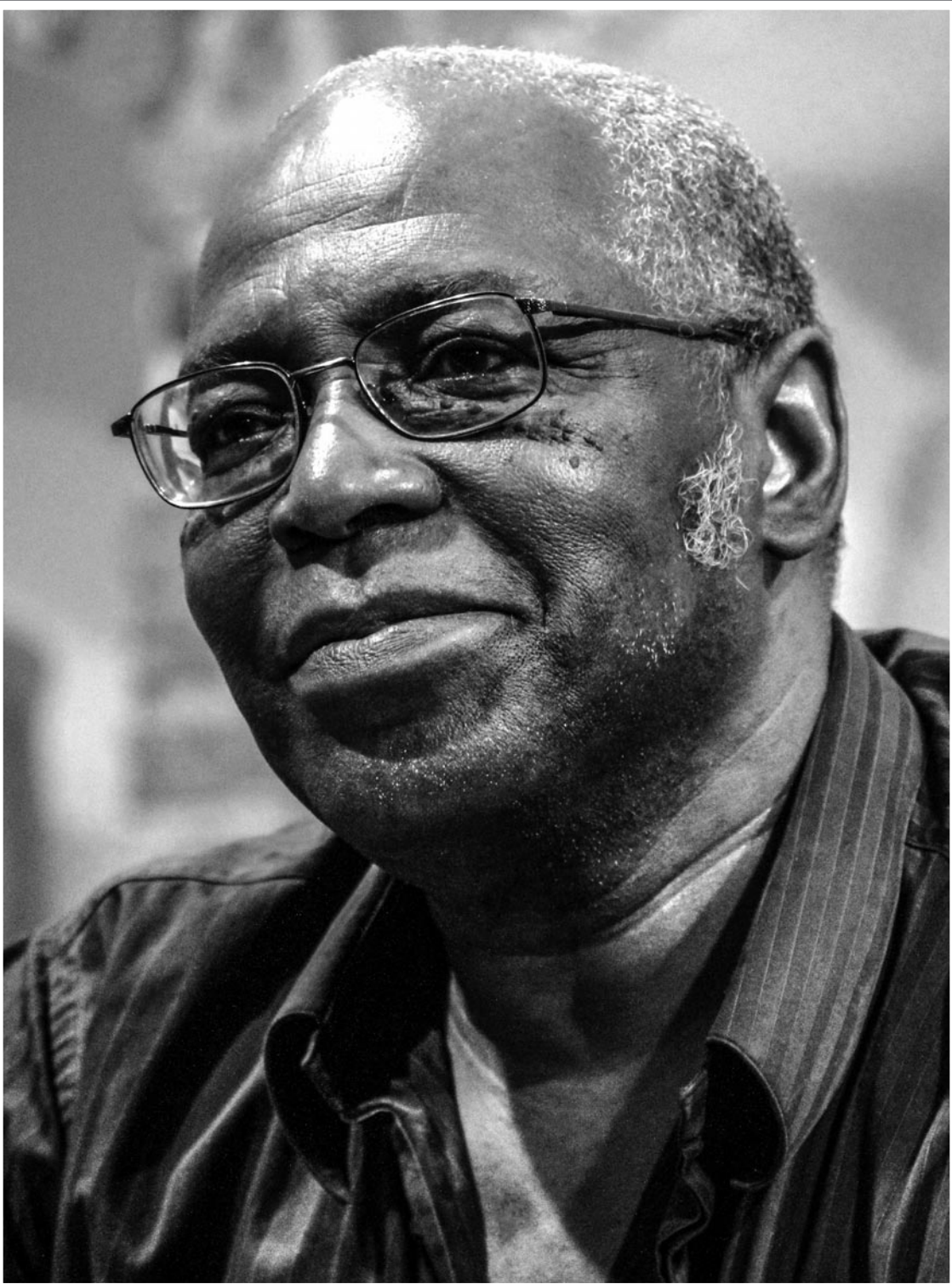
"There is no doubt that over the last 50 years the meaning read into the image of the Windrush has undergone a radical change", they wrote.

"Britain in 1948 was very different from the country in which we now live. To the majority of passengers on the Windrush it was a leap into the unknown... In contrast, when we disembark from a trip abroad at Heathrow or climb off the ferry at Folkestone, we are entering familiar territory and simply coming home".

His book, *London Crossings: A Biography of Black Britain* (2001), is a series of interlinked essays and stories, a portrait of the city seen from locations as diverse as New York and Nairobi, London, Washington and Warsaw.

He writes for the *Guardian* newspaper and was former cross-cultural curator at the Tate and a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund.

Mike received an OBE in the 2007 New Year's Honours list.



NEVILLE LAWRENCE

Neville Lawrence campaigned tirelessly to bring the killers of his son Stephen Lawrence to justice and is now working to tackle knife crime in London

Stephen Lawrence’s brutal murder in 1993 was a turning point in race relations in Britain. It was not the first time a British youngster had been killed because of their skin colour but it was the first time that the failings of the police investigation would be publicly exposed thanks to the tireless campaign of Stephen’s parents, Neville and Doreen.

Neville arrived in the UK from Jamaica in 1960 and made a living as a handyman and decorator. In 1972, aged 30, he married Doreen and Stephen was born in 1974, the first of three children.

After police failed to follow up vital leads in the investigation into Stephen’s death, Neville and Doreen accused the Metropolitan Police of bungling the case.

In 1999, a judicial inquiry into the police investigation chaired by Sir William MacPherson accused the Met of “professional incompetence, institutional racism and a failure of leadership by senior officers”.

In 2012, as a result of new evidence, two of the original suspects were subsequently convicted of Stephen’s death and are both serving life sentences.

The couple divorced in 1999. Neville, who received an OBE in 2003, said of the split: “Our world began falling apart from the moment the hospital staff told us our son had died”.

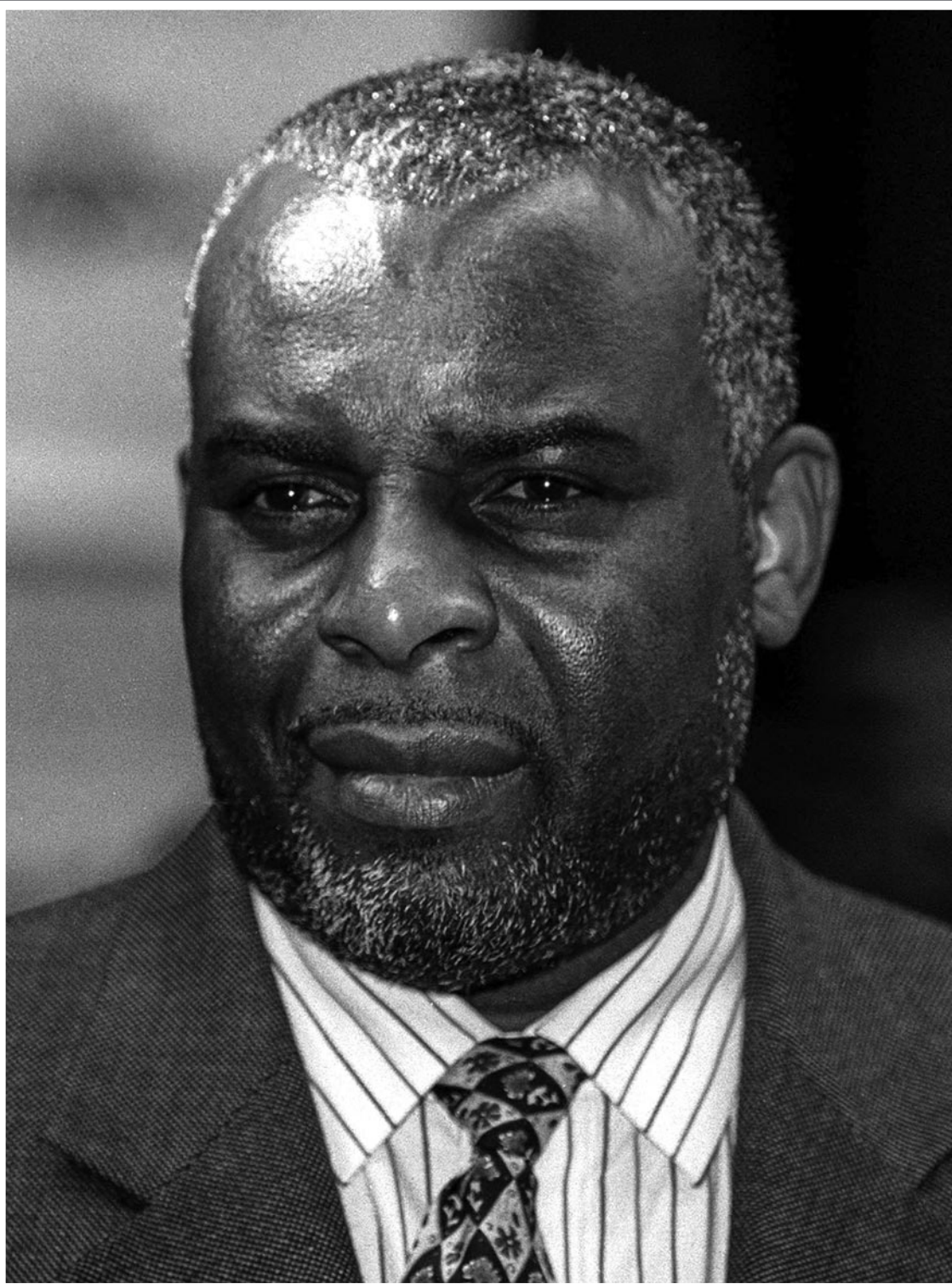
He returned to Jamaica, where Stephen is buried, but works with organisations in the UK combatting knife crime, announcing in 2017 that he would chair a group of community leaders from across London to advise the authorities on how to tackle the surge. Metropolitan Police chief Cressida Dick has personally backed the scheme.

In 2017 Neville took part in the BBC programme, *Stephen: The Murder That Changed a Nation*.

In an interview about the three-part docu-drama he said the death of his son had triggered social change. “When these boys killed my son Stephen, they created a legend”, he said. “There is debate about racism, there are organisations set up to help to make people understand about racism, the police have been put under the spotlight because of Stephen’s death”.

On April 22, 2018, the 25th anniversary of Stephen’s death, the prime minister Theresa May announced that the inaugural annual Stephen Lawrence Day would be held, the following year.

Photo © Alamy



PATRICIA SCOTLAND

Baroness Patricia Scotland QC's meteoric career has seen her already enter the history books, most notably as the first black female Queen's Counsel and the first woman to become Attorney General

Patricia Scotland was born in Dominica, the tenth of 12 children, to a Dominican mother and Antiguan father.

The family settled in Britain when she was aged two and, after studying law, she was called to the Bar in 1977. At the age of 35 she became the first black woman to become a QC, and the youngest person since William Pitt the Younger in 18th century England.

In 1997, she received a life peerage from Tony Blair's Labour government, created Baroness Scotland of Asthal in Oxfordshire and in 1999 was appointed parliamentary under-secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Her next job was parliamentary secretary for the Lord Chancellor's Department and membership of the Privy Council. She was responsible for the reform of civil law and international affairs, later becoming Minister for the Criminal Justice System and Law Reform at the Home Office.

In 2007, she was appointed Attorney General in the Gordon Brown government, the first woman to hold that position since its foundation in the 14th century.

Since 2016 Patricia has been the Commonwealth Secretary General. She was nominated by Dominica, where she still holds citizenship. She is the first woman to hold the appointment and is responsible for facilitating cooperation between Commonwealth members, assisting and advising on policy development.

She features in *100 Great Black Britons*, which notes her numerous awards and commendations, including an honorary degree from the University of Westminster for services to law, government, social justice and international affairs.

Among her other accomplishments: chair of the Caribbean Advisory Group; Dominican representative of the Council of British Commonwealth Ex-Services League; member of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship; member of the BBC World Service Consultative Group Lifeline (Trinidad & Tobago); Honorary Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, member of The Millennium Commission and Patron of the Women and Children's Welfare Fund.

She has specialised in family and public law and has chaired and represented parties in a number of major inquiries relating to child abuse, mental health and housing.

Photo © Alamy



PAUL GILROY

The scholar Paul Gilroy is credited with bringing about a better understanding of what it means to be black and British in a global world

A professor of American and English Literature at King’s College, London, Paul Gilroy is particularly known for his scholarly work in cultural studies. In the 1990s, his theories were influential in shaping the debate around race, identity and multiculturalism.

He was born in the UK in 1956. His mother is the novelist and teacher Beryl Gilroy. After studying at the University of Sussex, Paul undertook his doctoral studies at the Centre of Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham, where he worked with the social theorist Professor Stuart Hall. “If Stuart Hall was a major voice at the Centre, then Paul Gilroy... carried a master voice to new resonance”, the US academic Houston A Baker has written.

While at Birmingham, Paul co-authored *The Empire Strikes Back: Race and Racism in 1970s Britain* (1982), a groundbreaking study with a group of scholars that included Valerie Amos and Pratibha Parmar.

In 1987 he published *There Ain’t No Black in the Union Jack*, in which he examines anti-black racism in Britain. In *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness* (1994), Paul argues that the identity of the black diaspora has refused to be constrained by any one national culture, whether it is Euro-American, or African Caribbean.

He taught at Goldsmiths College for a number of years before taking up the position of chair of the department of African American Studies and Charlotte Marian Saden Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Yale University. He was the first professor to hold the Anthony Giddens Professorship in Social Theory at King’s College, London, a position he held between 2005 and 2012.

In the 1980s, he was associated with the weekly London listings magazine *City Limits*, and was contributing editor to *The Wire*, a jazz magazine, for which he later wrote a regular column. Other publications he wrote for were *New Statesman*, *Society* and *New Musical Express*.

He received a fellowship from Sussex University, honorary doctorates from Goldsmiths and the University of Liege, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He is also an international honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Photo © Alamy



RON RAMDIN

A man of many parts, Ron Ramdin has carved out a career for himself as an academic and writer

Ronald Andrew Ramdin was born in Trinidad and settled in the UK in 1962. His first job was at the University of London library at Senate House where he was surrounded by 800,000 books. After seven years and with no prospects of promotion, he resigned and found a job at the British Museum to work as a library assistant in 1969. He was thrilled to be in the famous Reading Room, where each day he took a seat, read and wrote, hoping to get his short stories and articles published.

In the 10 years that followed he became the first shop steward for the Civil Service Union at the museum. Three years later, he was elected as secretary of the Whitley Council, a body to improve industrial relations, when the British Library was opened. Outside of work he immersed himself in learning. He gained a diploma in industrial relations at Middlesex University.

In 1979, he was admitted to the London School of Economics where he studied for a BSc in economics. Ron also developed into a prolific writer. Apart from his work as a freelance journalist for the BBC Caribbean service he has contributed many book reviews and articles for newspapers and journals. His first book was published in 1982.

Over the last 40 years, Ron Ramdin has given many radio and television interviews and has lectured at universities and libraries across Britain and internationally. In 1997, he received the Higher Doctorate, the Doctor of Literature from the University of London. He is an Elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Society of Arts.

In the 20 years prior to and following the publication of his autobiography *Turning Pages* and his original Essay: *On Respect for Difference* - a timely meditation on human social relations - his main preoccupation has been his works of fiction.

His novels; *The Griot's Tale* and *Rama's Voyage*, have been highly praised. He is currently working on his third novel *Fields of Lilac*. In scope and depth, Ron Ramdin's body of literary work has undoubtedly created a new path in British and world literature.

Photo © Mervyn Weir



ROSALIND HOWELLS

Grassroots activist Rosalind Howells has made a significant contribution to landmark events in the struggle for equal rights in the UK

Rosalind Howells was born in Grenada in 1931 and settled in Britain at the age of 20. She studied at St Joseph's Convent in London, the South West London College and City College before making her mark at the Greenwich Council for Racial Equality, where she became director.

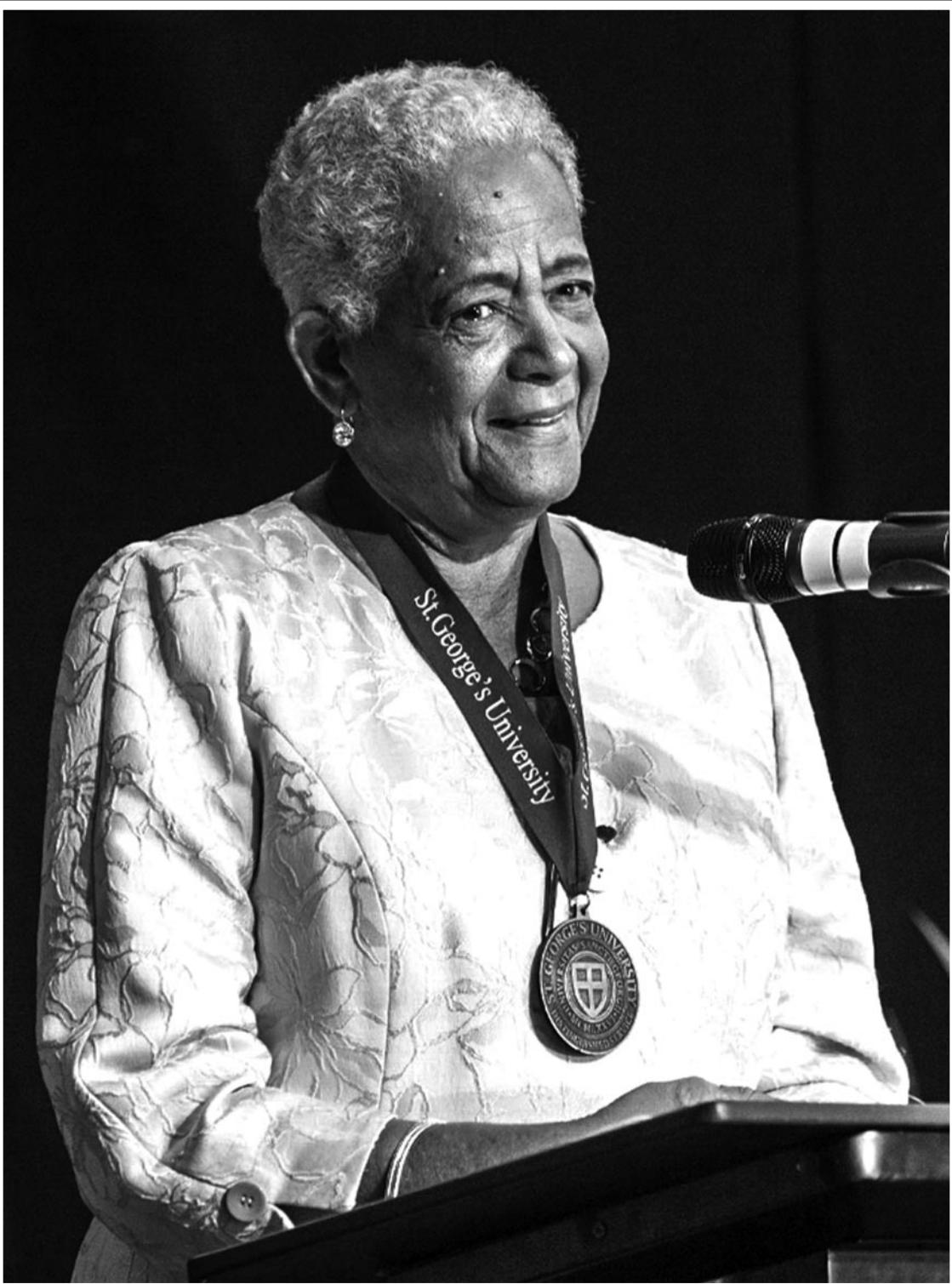
She has worked tirelessly in race relations and community services and was able to use her influence on behalf of the New Cross Fire victims and the Roland Adams and the Stephen Lawrence family campaigns. Roland and Stephen were both black youngsters who became victims of racist murders. She subsequently became a trustee of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.

It was her contribution to the development of racial equality policies and community projects in Britain that led to her being awarded an OBE in December 1993. In 1999, prime minister Tony Blair appointed her a life peer and she became Baroness Howells of St David's of Charlton in Greenwich. The St David's of the title refers to the Grenadian parish where she grew up.

She is a trustee of the Jason Roberts Foundation, which aims to provide a range of sporting opportunities for children and young people in the UK and Grenada.

In March 2009 she was inaugurated as chancellor of the University of Bedfordshire in Luton. Baroness Howells is a trustee of Grenada's St George's University's UK Trust and serves on the board of the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, the university's research wing.

Photo © Flickr



RUDOLPH WALKER

Actor Rudolph Walker has been a much-loved face on British TV since the 1970s, helping to pave the way for a new generation of black talent

Rudolph Walker is one of the best-known black actors on British television. He was the first such actor to star in a major TV series in the 1970s, and since then has enjoyed a long and successful career, becoming an enduring character in popular BBC soap *EastEnders*.

Born in San Juan, Trinidad, Rudolph left home in 1960 aged 20 to pursue acting in the UK after a stint at Derek Walcott’s influential Trinidad Theatre Workshop.

He appeared in the first episode of the comedy *On the Buses* in 1969 but his big break was in the ITV sitcom *Love Thy Neighbour* (1972-1976), where he and his on-screen wife, played by Nina Baden-Semper, found themselves constantly at loggerheads with the white couple next door. While the show was hugely popular it was later criticised for the trite way in which it handled racism.

Rudolph has appeared in other major television series, including *Empire Road* (1978-1979) with Norman Beaton and Joseph Marcell; as the barrister Larry Scott in *Black Silk* (BBC, 1985), written by Rudy Narayan; and as PC Gladstone in *The Thin Blue Line* with Rowan Atkinson (BBC 1995-’96).

He was cast in Caryl Phillips’ *The Record* as the tyrannical father of a young woman who dreams of becoming a pop singer (Channel 4, 1984).

In Michael Abbensetts’s, *Big George is Dead* (Channel 4, 1987), he played Tony, the once long-lost friend of Norman Beaton’s resentful Boogie who returns to England from Trinidad after an absence of 14 years.

In 1989 he appeared as Harry Cartwright in the Cold War drama *Rules of Engagement* (ITV, 1989) and in the drama series *A Perfect State* (ITV, 1997).

While his work has been mainly on TV, Rudolph has also starred in a number of feature films, including *10 Rillington Place* (1971), *Let Him Have It* (1991), *Bhaji on the Beach* (1993), and *Ali G in da House* (2002).

In 2001, he joined the cast of *EastEnders* to play the ongoing role of Patrick Truman.

He was awarded an OBE in 2006 for his services to drama and on his 70th birthday in 2009 he launched The Rudolph Walker Foundation, which aims to provide opportunities and incentives for disadvantaged youths starting out on a career in the performing arts.

Photo © Mervyn Weir



RUDY NARAYAN

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1938-1998 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Firebrand lawyer Rudy Narayan was never far from controversy as he led a crusade against racism in the criminal justice system

Born in British Guiana, Rudy was the ninth of 10 children. He settled in London in 1953 and took a number of casual jobs before joining the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. After seven years' service and promotion to the rank of sergeant, he left the army in 1965 and decided to train as a barrister.

He studied at Lincoln's Inn, where he was founder and first president of the Bar Students' Union. He was widely recognised as a phenomenal advocate and took the lead in several high-profile trials such as the Thornton Heath 10, Cricklewood 11 and Bradford 12, as well as cases related to the Brixton and Bristol riots of the 1980s. The radical barrister Michael Mansfield once wrote that Narayan "should have been the first black QC".

He was a founder of the Afro-Asian and Caribbean Lawyers Association with Sibghat Kadri in 1969, which was later renamed the Society of Black Lawyers. He was also the first chair of the influential Lambeth Law Centre.

Rudy protested against what he saw as the racism of the criminal justice system and faced his first disciplinary hearing in 1974. He was reprimanded in 1980 for being discourteous to a judge. In 1982 he was acquitted of professional misconduct after claiming in a press statement that the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions were in "collusion with the National Front and fanning the flames of racial hatred" (although he was suspended for six weeks for other infractions).

Nevertheless, his complaints led to the creation of the Bar Council's Race Relations committee in 1984, and an amendment to the Race Relations Act to prohibit race discrimination in the legal profession. He was disbarred after his fifth disciplinary tribunal.

Rudy was elected as a Labour Party councillor to Lambeth council in 1974, where he served one term. He went on to be selected as the Labour candidate for Birmingham Handsworth in the 1983 general election but his selection was overturned and Clare Short was selected in his place.

A prolific writer, his books included, *Black Community on Trial* (1976), *Black England* (1977), and *Barrister for the Defence* (1985). He also wrote an eight-part drama series, *Black Silk*, based on his life and which was broadcast in 1985 on BBC television.



Photo © Adam Butler/PA

STUART HALL

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★| 1932-2014 |★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Regarded as the father of cultural theory and one of the foremost intellectuals of the British left, Stuart Hall revolutionised thinking about race and class and the role of popular art forms in mainstream culture

Professor Stuart Hall was born in Kingston, Jamaica, 1932 to a middle class family. A brilliant student, he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and arrived in the UK in 1951 to study at Merton College, Oxford.

He was co-founder of the *New Left Review*, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Raphael Samuel and Raymond Williams, and later joined Richard Hoggart's Contemporary Centre for Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham.

In 1979 he was appointed professor of sociology at the Open University, where he reinforced his reputation as someone who thought outside of the box, continuing to expand the scope of cultural studies to include race, gender and the media.

At a time when the political discourse in Britain was comparatively honest and adventurous, he became a frequent pundit on TV discussion programmes, valued for his clarity of thought and fluent delivery.

Suez, Hungary, the murder of Kelso Cochrane, Vietnam and the Cold War were among the defining moments of his early years in Britain. But he was no armchair activist and during the 1960s went up and down the country addressing CND rallies.

He is the author of many critically acclaimed books including *The Politics of Thatcherism* (1983) - it was his seminal article,

'The Great Moving Right Show', for *Marxism Today* in 1979 in which he famously coined the term 'Thatcherism'.

He collaborated with many artists, chairing Autograph (The Association of Black Photographers) and Iniva (The International Institute of Visual Arts). He helped secure funding for Rivington Place in London, a purpose-built centre dedicated to public education in multicultural issues through contemporary art and photography.

His last work, *Familiar Stranger: A Life Between Two Islands*, published posthumously in 2017, is both a memoir and examination of how the forces of history shape who we are and the society we live in.

Not long before his death in 2013, filmmaker John Akomfrah paid homage to him in *The Stuart Hall Project*. With a sound-track provided by Stuart's musical hero Miles Davis, the documentary weaves archive and home movie material to tell the story of his life and ideas.

The Stuart Hall Foundation was launched in 2015 to continue Stuart's legacy by supporting scholars and artists "who take risks and are committed to thinking differently from the mainstream".

Photo © Issac Julien



SYBIL PHOENIX

***Legendary community worker Sybil Phoenix,
worked tirelessly to improve the lives of youngsters
in her south London heartland of Lewisham***

Sybil Phoenix, née Marshall, was born in British Guiana in 1927 and settled in London in 1956 with her husband-to-be, Joe. She had been a successful businesswoman selling sportswear and leather goods and was also deeply involved in the church.

After being a youth worker for the British Council of Churches, she began fostering children in 1962 and within 10 years she had taken in more than 100 young women, transforming hundreds of lives.

She had settled in Lewisham in south east London and in response to the lack of youth facilities in the area, particularly for black youngsters, she founded the Moonshot youth club in 1971. Located in St John's Hall, Lewisham Way, it quickly became a popular gathering place and members included the stand-up comic Angie Le Mar.

At a time of heightened fascist activity, the National Front publicly threatened to firebomb the club in 1977. Sybil recalled: "I doubted that such a thing could happen, but I was wrong. The following month saw our years of hard work destroyed and the club premises burnt by National Front members during the firemen's strike".

Undeterred, Sybil vowed to rebuild it, saying: "My name is Phoenix and I will build a new centre from the ashes of this club, so help me God". Four years later the new club was opened by Prince Charles.

In 1979, with her husband, she founded the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust, a supported housing project for single homeless young women aged 16-24, named in memory of her daughter who tragically died in a car accident in 1974.

Sybil was one of the leaders in the campaign around the New Cross Fire, which claimed the lives of 13 black youngsters in 1981, and helped organise the Black People's Day of Action. This was a march of 15,000 people from the site of the inferno to central London to draw attention to the Metropolitan Police's failure to properly investigate the causes of the blaze.

A Methodist minister, Sybil was awarded an MBE in 1973 and the OBE in 2008, and also received a DBE, Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire. She was awarded both the Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham and Freedom of the City of London in 1996 and '98 respectively.

Photo © Alamy



TREVOR PHILLIPS

A high flier since his student days, broadcaster and former politician Trevor Phillips is regarded as a prime mover and shaker

Mark ‘Trevor’ Phillips was born in 1953 to Guyanese parents who had settled in the UK three years earlier, returning with him to Guyana where he attended the prestigious Queen’s College. He continued his education in London, studying for a BSc in chemistry at Imperial College, where he was elected president of the National Union of Students in 1978.

He began a career in broadcasting, working on Channel 4’s magazine programme *Black on Black* in 1985. He also worked as a researcher and presenter at London Weekend Television, fronting *The London Programme* before being promoted as head of current affairs in 1992, a post he held for two years. He was awarded an OBE in 1999 for his services to broadcast journalism.

From 1993 to 1998 he was chair of the Runnymede Trust and in 2003 became chair of the Commission of Racial Equality, and later chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

With his brother Mike he wrote *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multicultural Britain* in 1998 to commemorate 50 years since the docking of the *MV Empire Windrush*. A four-part BBC TV series accompanied the publication.

In recent years Trevor has caused controversy with his views on multiculturalism, saying it could cause Britain to “sleep-walk towards segregation”. His remarks led to him clashing with the then mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, who accused him of “pandering to the right”.

In 2015, Channel 4 aired *Things We Won’t Say About Race (That Are True)*, a documentary that he presented and co-produced via his company, Pepper Productions, in which he claimed political correctness was suppressing honest debate about race.

The following year, he presented the documentary *What British Muslims Really Think*, which produced evidence suggesting that large numbers of British Muslims don’t want to integrate.

Trevor joined the Labour Party in 1996 and became a ‘New Labour’ stalwart, running as Labour’s candidate for London mayor in 1999, but he withdrew early from the race. In 2000 he joined the London Assembly, serving as chair for three years.

In 2015, he was appointed president of the John Lewis partnership council, one of several high-profile board memberships.



VALERIE AMOS

Baroness Valerie Amos of Brondesbury has had a meteoric rise in public life that has seen her make history with a number of 'firsts'

Valerie Amos became the first black woman cabinet minister when she was appointed Secretary of State for International Development in 2003 under Tony Blair.

Her entry on to the front benches followed her elevation to the House of Lords in 1997, when she was made a life peer as Baroness Amos of Brondesbury. She went on to become leader of the House of Lords in 2003, a post she held for four years.

In 2005 Blair nominated her to head the United Nations Development Programme, its global development network, focusing on key areas of development, including poverty reduction.

After serving as Britain's High Commissioner to Australia in 2009, she was appointed Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator for the United Nations, where she remained until 2015. While carrying out this role she visited war-torn Syria in 2012. She is now director of SOAS, London University, the first black woman to hold such a post.

Valerie was born in Georgetown, British Guiana, in 1954 but has lived in the UK since the age of nine. She read sociology at the University of Warwick and studied at the Centre of Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham, then led by social theorist Professor Stuart Hall.

Having held several key roles in the equality and diversity sector, including the women's unit at Camden Council in London, in 1989 she became chief executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

In 1995, she co-founded the consultancy Amos Fraser Bernard and became an adviser to the South African government on public service reform, human rights and employment equality.

Following her peerage, she was appointed Parliamentary Undersecretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with responsibility for Africa, the Caribbean and the Commonwealth.

Her promotion to International Development Secretary came after the incumbent Clare Short resigned in protest at the invasion of Iraq. Thereafter, Valerie toured countries in the continent of Africa that held rotating membership of the Security Council, encouraging them to support the intervention. She left the cabinet when Gordon Brown took over as prime minister.

Other positions held by Valerie have included deputy chair of think tank the Runnymede Trust, board member of the Sierra Leone Titanium Resource Group and director of Hampstead Theatre.



VAL McCALLA

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★1943-2002★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Best known as founder of the Voice newspaper, Val McCalla went from bookkeeper to millionaire in just a few years

Val McCalla was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1943. He began studying accountancy but travelled to Britain during the 1960s to serve in the Royal Air Force for five years, working in supplies.

During the 1970s he earned a living as a bookkeeper for a variety of concerns before working for a newspaper in London's East End, where he lived. This gave him the idea of setting up a newspaper aimed at the black community, which at the time mostly figured in the media as a source of negative news.

Although other black newspapers existed, these were often aimed at an older readership with one foot in the Caribbean or Africa. Val aimed to target a British-born readership.

The *Voice* was launched in 1982 on the back of a Barclays Bank loan. The timing could not have been better. A few months earlier, black youngsters in Britain's main cities had taken to the streets in protest against police harassment and lack of opportunity.

The establishment saw the new weekly as a way of helping it to engage with a community it had all but ignored and backed the *Voice* with lucrative advertising.

Based in Brixton, the *Voice* became a runaway success. From initial sales of only 4,000, within eight years it was selling more than 53,000 copies a week. Its campaigning journalism and hard-hitting news stories became an important source of news for mainstream press journalists, who always made sure they had a copy on their news desks every publication day, Thursday.

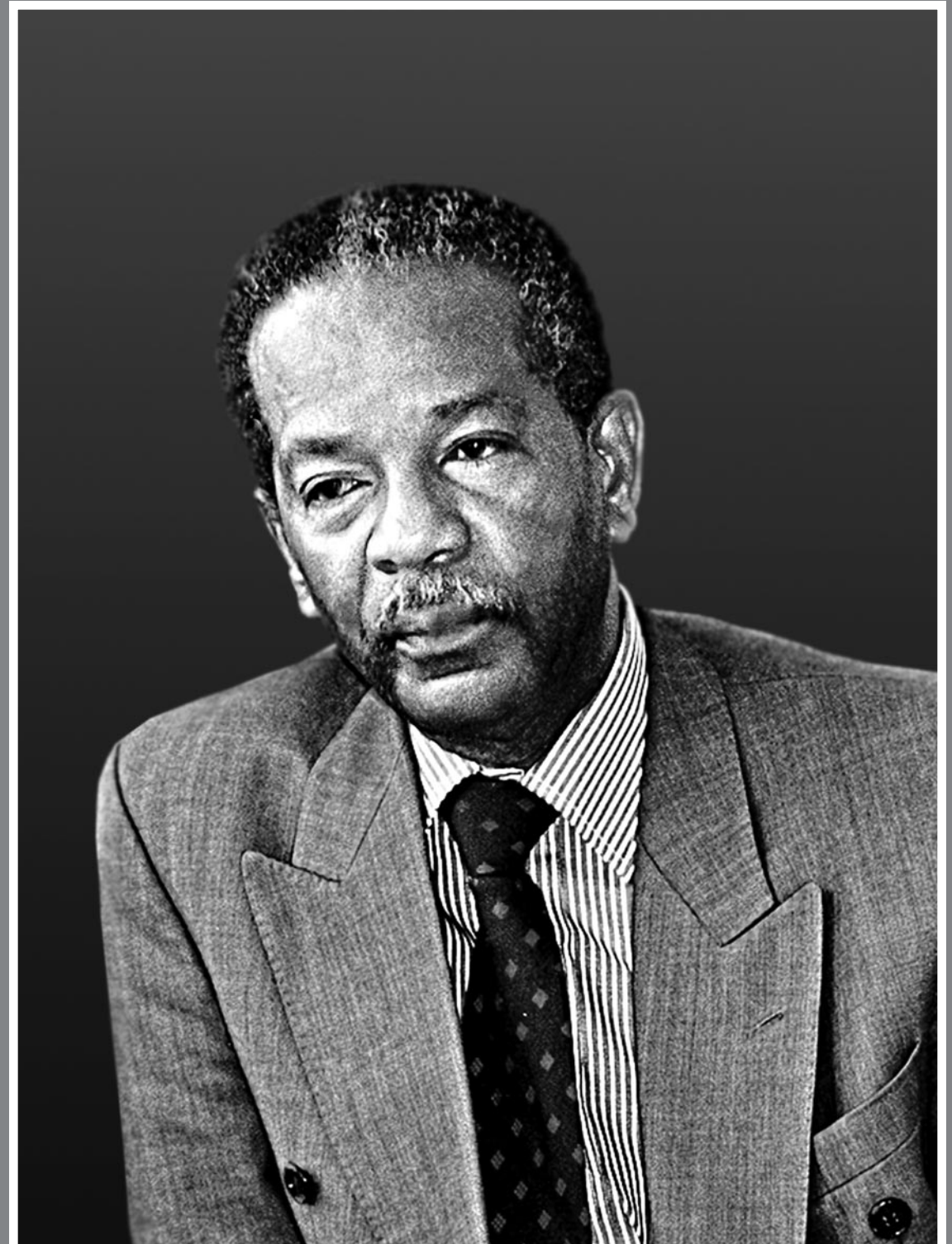
The *Voice* also provided a launch pad for many black youngsters wanting to get into journalism.

Val became a millionaire and left his Bethnal Green council flat to live in the country, travelling to the office in his Mercedes car, though he swapped it for a more modest Volvo after being stopped several times by the police.

Once described as a, "shy but driven man who shunned personal publicity", Val quietly pressed ahead launching a number of other publications, including monthly women's glossy, *Pride*, which is still in circulation.

Towards the end of the 1990s, the *Voice* lost its cutting edge and sales began to flag. It is currently published by GV Media Group Limited.

Photo © The Voice Newspaper



WILLIAM ‘BILL’ MORRIS

Lord Morris of Handsworth rose from shop floor to shop steward to lead one of Britain’s biggest trade unions

Bill Morris was born in Jamaica in 1938 and grew up in the parish of Manchester, where he excelled at cricket and hoped to one day to play for the West Indies. He also intended to go to agricultural college but after his father died he moved to Birmingham, England, to live with his mother in 1954.

He found a job at Hardy Spicers, a local engineering company, and began studying at Handsworth Technical College. In 1958, he joined the Transport and General Workers Union (T&G). Bill became a full-time union official in 1973 when he took the post of organiser for the Nottingham and Derby district; he later became the Northampton district secretary.

His first national role came in 1979 when he was appointed National Secretary for the Passenger Services Trade Group, negotiating pay and conditions on the buses. In 1986, he became Deputy General Secretary at a time when the Thatcher government was introducing legislation to limit union powers. His main role was to manage union activity in four transport sectors, energy and engineering sectors, as well as represent white collar members.

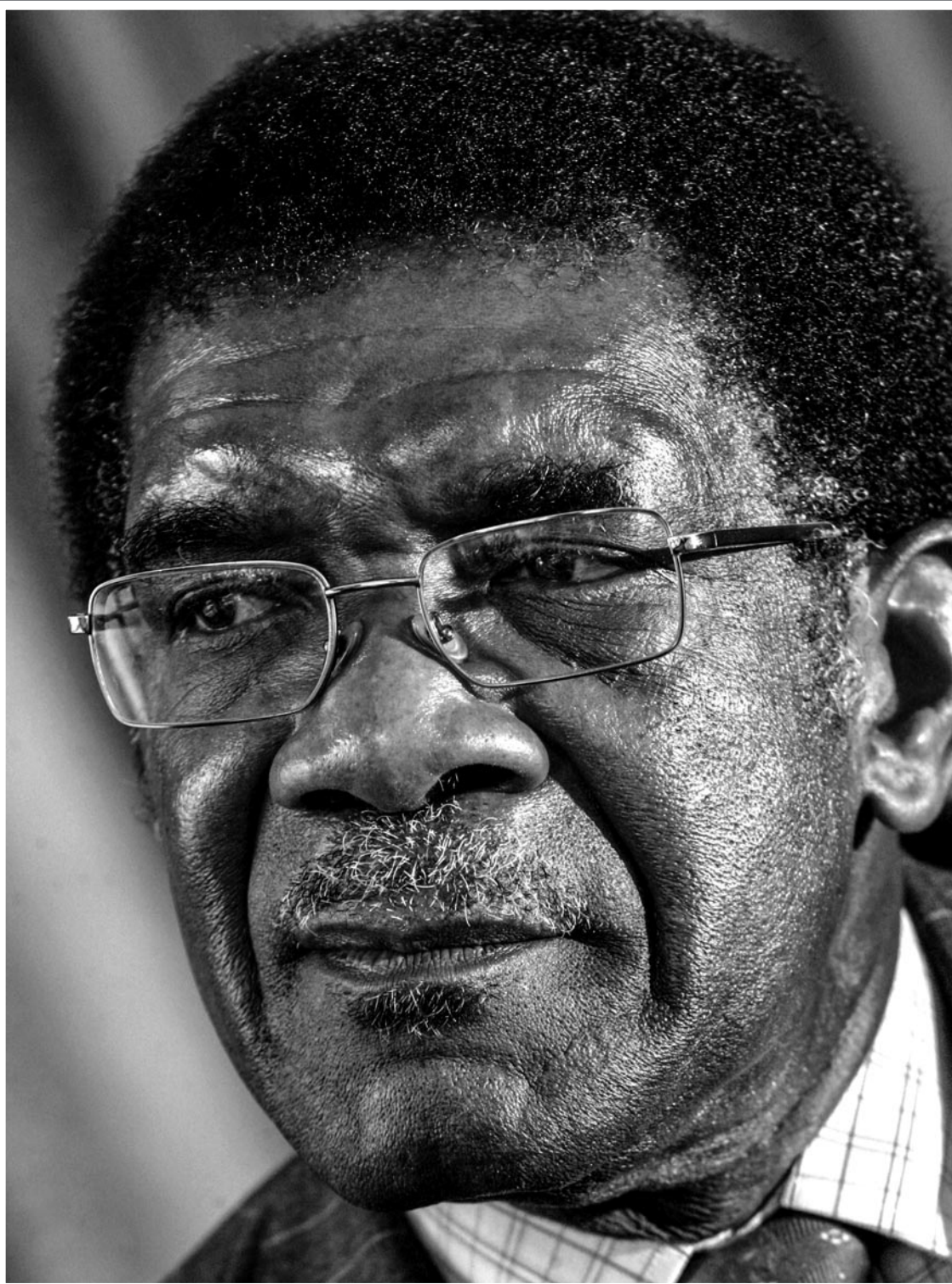
Bill took over the leadership of the union when he was elected to the position of General Secretary in 1991. During his 12-year term of office, he was involved in many campaigns to improve workers' rights and establish greater equality in the workplace.

In the 1980s and 1990s he became a prominent campaigner for a minimum wage in Britain and one of the Blair government’s first achievements after its landslide election victory of 1997 was to implement a minimum wage.

Alongside his work for the T&G, which was absorbed by the new union Unite in 2007, Bill worked as an adviser to several national bodies, including the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority. In 1998 he became a non-executive director of the Bank of England and in 1999 he was part of the Royal Commission for Reform of the House of Lords.

In 2003 Bill received a knighthood. In 2006 Prime Minister Tony Blair gave him a life peerage and he took the title Lord Morris of Handsworth. He sits on the Labour benches and serves on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Photo © Alamy



WINSTON PINDER

After cutting his political teeth in the Caribbean, Winston Pinder became a pioneering youth worker who left a legacy in more ways than one

Barbados-born Winston Pinder was 19 years old when the Communist Party Caribbean Committee asked him to be part of the official group to welcome Claudia Jones on her arrival at London following her deportation from the USA in 1955.

He regarded her as his political mentor and in 1984, twenty years after her death, he led a fundraising campaign to raise money for a stone to be laid on her unmarked grave next to Karl Marx’s tomb in Highgate Cemetery.

He said: “For years it was just a mound of grass and I knew I had to do something to honour someone who’d made such an important contribution to the fight for social and racial justice”.

The campaign was run from the Afro Caribbean Organisation, a youth club Winston had started in Camden in the late 1970s. At the time he was a local youth worker who had been at the forefront of efforts to improve the lives of black youngsters, a task he had taken on since moving into the borough in the 1950s, and which began with him using his home as an informal drop-in centre.

He explained: “There were only two youth clubs in the area and black kids were not welcome in them”.

He left his job at the Post Office to become a full-time youth worker, becoming a familiar figure on the streets as he engaged with youngsters coping with all manner of problems, particularly the notorious police stop and search laws known as ‘sus’.

Like many of his generation, he had become politicised by the anti-colonial struggle in the Caribbean and had gone to Guyana to campaign for Cheddi Jagan, leader of a Marxist party there.

One of Winston’s heroes was the activist and singer Paul Robeson and in 1976 the Afro Caribbean Organisation opened a black youth hostel named after him. It had once been a derelict house that members occupied by squatting, until the council agreed to hand it over. The MP Tony Benn was the main speaker at the Paul Robeson House launch.

After clashing with the authorities in Camden over what he regarded as their lack of commitment to fighting racism, Winston was appointed deputy senior youth officer for Islington before becoming Hackney’s youth chief.

Winston currently helps run a luncheon club for Caribbean elders.

Photo © Angela Cobbinah



LEN DYKE, DUDLEY DRYDEN & ANTHONY WADE

Len Dyke, Dudley Dryden and Anthony Wade became self-made millionaires after launching their black hair business in north London

Len Dyke (Jamaica), Dudley Dryden (Jamaica) and Anthony 'Tony' Wade (Montserrat) arrived in the UK during the 1950s and went into business together.

Although moderately successful, they decided there was more money to be made from black hair and beauty than selling records and started Dyke & Dryden Limited in 1968.

It was targeted at black women and their first shop was in West Green Road, Tottenham, north London. The company expanded rapidly to six branches and warehouses, which enabled them to compete more effectively in the international market.

Their success was showcased at the annual Afro Hair and Beauty Show, which the company presented during the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, with new styles, fashions and products vying for attention.

In the early days the three men had to use their own money to develop the venture as at that time high street banks refused to support black businesses.

They also had to think big. Since the leading suppliers of black hair and beauty products were in the US, they had to fly regularly to New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Tennessee and Atlanta to ensure the company had enough stock to meet UK demand.

By 1986, annual turnover had reached a figure of £5 million, which at the time was quite an achievement for a black business in the UK.

Dyke & Dryden launched a range of natural beauty products and introduced a sodium hydroxide professional relaxing system for processing the 'straight look'. This came into its own after Soft Sheen of Chicago bought a controlling interest in the company

In a bid to generate yet more revenue, Dyke & Dryden decided to manufacture afro combs, which had hitherto been imported in great volumes from US. This proved to be a successful venture, creating a mass market for the comb.

The ownership of Dyke & Dryden was partially changed in 1987 when the company sold most of its shares to Soft Sheen. There were reservations from many quarters about the majority ownership by the US company but by now competition in the multi-billion-pound black hair and beauty industry was fierce.

Dudley Dryden died in 2002 and Len Dyke in 2006. Tony Wade returned to live in Jamaica and in 2015 described how the trio had changed black business for ever in his book, *How They Made A Million: The Dyke & Dryden Story*.



WINDRUSH

PIONEERS & CHAMPIONS

Windrush Foundation is a registered charity that designs and delivers heritage projects, programmes and initiatives which highlight the African and Caribbean contributions to World War II, to the arts, public services, commerce and other areas of socio-economic and cultural life in Britain and the Commonwealth. The London-based organisation was established in 1996 to promote good race and community relations, build cohesion, eliminate discrimination and encourage equality of opportunity for all - placing particular emphasis on addressing issues of 'race'/'ethnicity', equalities and cultural diversity. The organisation has a successful track-record for delivering both local community-based projects and high-profile national learning and participation activities for diverse audiences - including lectures/talks, multi-media presentations, group discussions, poetry, music, and other performing arts events featuring inter-cultural and Diasporic aspects of African, Caribbean and black British histories and heritage for children and young people, families and life-long learners.

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