



Nubian Jak Community Trust

11th September 2026

Dear All,

Following some recent comments and enquiries regarding the wording of the Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers Plaque, we would like to clarify its purpose and the historical context behind it.

There appears to be a misconception that the plaque states that Notting Hill Carnival was founded by people who came directly to Britain from Africa. It does not make that claim.

The plaque refers to the much broader global history of Carnival and its development among people of African heritage and the African diaspora following emancipation. This includes the development of Carnival traditions in places such as Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, New Orleans and elsewhere.

Importantly, the plaque specifically identifies Trinidad as the principal Caribbean influence in the founding and development of Notting Hill Carnival in Britain, reflecting the significant contribution of Trinidadian pioneers and the wider Caribbean community.

The full text of the plaque reads:

NUBIAN JAK COMMUNITY TRUST in association with **CARNIVAL VILLAGE TRUST** and **WESTWAY TRUST**

A Tribute to

Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers

Europe's largest multicultural festival takes place on the streets of West London every August Bank Holiday weekend. The roots of Carnival began as an artistic expression by people from Africa and its Diaspora celebrating emancipation. The Notting Hill Carnival is a re-interpretation of Trinidad's carnival that evolved from the political and artistic resistance to colonization.

The integrated framework for Notting Hill Carnival involves live performances in 'Five Art Arenas':

1. Mas 2) Steel Pan 3) Calypso & Soca 4) Static Sound Systems 5) Mobile Sound Systems.

The 70 names highlighted on this plaque include: Carnival Committee Administrators, Steel Band Leaders, Pan People, Mas Band Leaders, Costume Designers and Sound Systems.

They are a small, but important, representation of the countless individuals (especially women) who helped to shape and create the history, tradition and legacy of Notting Hill Carnival.

Claudia Jones • Rhaune Laslett • Russell Henderson • Sterling Betancourt • Leslie 'Teacher' Palmer • Selwyn Baptiste • Merle Major • Lawrence Noel • Andre Shervington • Pearl Conner • John Hopkins

Junior Telfer • Granville Pryce • Victor Crichlow • Anthony Perry • Robert 'Bigger' Hamilton • Tony Soares • Bertha Joseph • Vijay Ramlal Rai • Alex Pascal • Claire Holder • Ali Pretty • Ralph Cherrie • Peter Joseph • Pedro Burgess • Ashton 'Tailor' Charles • Peter Minshall

Arthur Peters • Silma Faustine • Rocky Byron • Vernon 'Fellows' Williams • Larry Forde • Roy Campbell • Clary Salandy • Dexter Khan • Michael La Rose • Nicky Lyons • Philmore 'Boots' Davidson • Clive 'Mash Up' Philips • Tony 'Cowboy' Charles • Gerald Forsythe • Pepe Francis • Frank Rollock

Joyce Bacchus • Carlton 'Ziglee' Constantine • Theo Stevens • Ralph Richardson • Desmond Brown • Emmanuel 'Eman' Thorpe • Gloria Cummins • Wilfred Walker • Brian Henderson • Ezekiel 'Biggs' Yearwood • Audrey Bryan • Cyril Khamal • Corinne Skinner Carter • Basil 'Black Patch' Jarvis • Bernice McNaughton • Sir Coxone

Paddington Terror • Ashton 'Tiger' Moore • Shadow Hi Fi • Lord Sam • Ginger Johnson • Sister Monica Tywong • Lincoln Rahumat • Martha Ferrier • Daddy Vego

** and to the innumerable carnival contributors, volunteers, stewards, stall holders, revellers, radio DJs and friends who helped to develop and establish the Notting Hill Carnival.*

Thank You!

The 70-name concept also has a specific history. The plaque was originally unveiled in 2018 as part of the 70th anniversary commemorations of Windrush and has remained on public display at the Venture Centre on Wornington Road, London W10, ever since.

The names were researched and selected following consultation with Carnival historians, practitioners and members of the Carnival community. We fully recognise that it would be impossible to achieve universal agreement on a definitive list of 70 individuals. Indeed, there are 69 named individuals on the plaque, with the 70th position deliberately representing the many thousands of people who, over the decades, have contributed to the creation, development and continuation of Notting Hill Carnival.

The plaque itself is approximately six feet in circumference and is being installed as part of a wider homage to six decades of Notting Hill Carnival.

The Nubian Jak Community Trust takes all comments and historical observations seriously. We accept that some aspects of the wording concerning the wider origins of Carnival could have been expressed more clearly, and we welcome constructive discussion about Britain's Black history and the history of Carnival.

However, we hope that consideration of the actual wording of the plaque in its entirety will make clear that its intention has always been to recognise the predominantly Caribbean pioneers who established Notting Hill Carnival in Britain—particularly those from Trinidad and Tobago—while also acknowledging other significant individuals whose contributions helped shape and develop the extraordinary cultural phenomenon that Notting Hill Carnival has become.

Our intention is not to rewrite or diminish Carnival's complex history, but to recognise, preserve and make visible the contributions of the people who helped create it.

NB: Along the carnival route there are already 18 plaques installed to carnival pioneers. With 124 plaques and three public statues, the NJCT is the leading deliverer of diverse plaques and statues in the world.

Kind regards,

Nubian Jak Community Trust

Dr Jak Beula



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