

CHAPELTOWN / NEVIS



Putting Nevis and Chapeltown on the Map
Shelagh James, Communications Officer for the Ministry of Tourism in Nevis. Shelagh was born and raised in Chapeltown she is of Nevisian and Antiguan descent and resides in Nevis. During a recent interview Shelagh expressed a strong determination to put Nevis on the map at the Leeds West Indian Carnival 50th Celebration 2017.

Shelagh noted that the Government of Nevis have recognized the symbolic importance of this event and want to pay homage to a son of their soil Arthur France MBE one of the founders of the Leeds West Indian Carnival he like so many homesick Caribbean's transported his heritage and culture in 1957 to the city of Leeds West Yorkshire England.

Arthur, along with other founder members crafted and helped develop the Leeds West Indian Carnival into the remarkable event that it is today. Shelagh excitedly explained, "We will be bringing 4000 miles together. It's all about heritage culture, diversity and unity. It's a celebration! We feel we need to be part of that.

We are associated with local organisations Leeds City Council have agreed to unveil a plaque with our dignitaries from Nevis in recognition of Arthur and his colleagues efforts in bringing heritage and culture to Chapeltown Leeds. We are delighted to be working in partnership with Leeds City Council for this momentous event. We are in talks with the Black Health Initiative, they are absolutely ecstatic! The Leeds West Indian carnival committee are also offering their support and we have assistance for our homestay programme from the St. Kitts and

Nevis Association.

We are having continued dialogue with The West Yorkshire Playhouse in organizing an exhibition for a month leading up to the 50th Anniversary of carnival we have an amazing opportunity to showcase Nevis art Culturama costumes, stoneware, photography, and footage of Culturama. We will be plugging Culturama and the Nevis Blues Festival 2018.

We are hopeful that many people young and old will enjoy this exhibition to be held in the foyer at the West Yorkshire playhouse and familiarize themselves with the origins of Caribbean culture which has secured a place in the communities of Leeds namely Chapeltown.

Shelagh reflected, "I do question whether Carnival in Leeds would have lasted as long as it has if Arthur and Colleagues were not involved? I dare say it wouldn't have. Which is why we have to take our hats off in celebration for the magnificent tireless efforts of these wonderful people. Many elders know who Arthur France is he is a son of the Caribbean but importantly he is a son of Nevis. Arthur has received all his accolades from the City of Leeds it's high time that he receives his accolades from his birth place Nevis.

We are bringing a delegation of fifty persons to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Leeds West Indian Carnival our ambassadors will pay tribute to Arthur by means of performances to be showcased at the various shows during the Leeds carnival season 2017. You can expect to see Soca Monarchs, Moka Jumbies, String Band the original music from Nevis. Masquerades. A troupe and band.

We will of course bring a film and camera crew to record this momentous occasion."

Shelagh's enthusiasm for the Leeds West Indian Carnival 50th Anniversary is infectious and we cannot wait to see what the people of Nevis have to show us!