

Award Winning Magazine, Established in 1995

# COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2025

£2.00

Rooted in Community and Growth: RJC Dance and Mango Arts present 'BANYAN' at Leeds West Indian Carnival 2025 | RJC Dance



**BANK HOLIDAY  
SUNDAY**

**FREEDOM WALK**

**EMANCIPATION  
SERVICE**

**MY JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE  
AND FAIRNESS**

**WHAT'S ON**

**SHIPAWAY  
BOARD GAME**

**[WWW.SHIPAWAY.ORG](http://WWW.SHIPAWAY.ORG)**

**AND SO MUCH  
MORE**





## Community Highlights Leeds Sharon Patricia Jones

@comhighlights  
Mob: 07944376574  
comhighlights@yahoo.com  
www.communityhighlights.co.uk

Community Highlights  
050106 56703097 Yorkshire bank

Donate to Community Highlights

### Welcome to the Carnival issue.

Wishing everyone an awesome, fun August bank holiday weekend.

While we revel and rave, eat, drink and make merry, let us spare a thought for those no longer with us, and their bereaved loved ones, as well those who are sick, vulnerable, or otherwise unable to partake in the festivities - our thoughts are with them all.

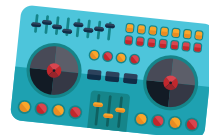
Wishing you all an amazing holiday season. Please be safe, and above all ENJOY!!!

[WWW.SHIPAWAY.ORG](http://WWW.SHIPAWAY.ORG)  
[HTTPS://AMZN.EU/D/4BVKJLO](https://AMZN.EU/D/4BVKJLO)

# BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY

## BLACK MUSIC FESTIVAL LINEUP

Get ready for an unforgettable day of vibes, rhythm, and culture!



### MAIN STAGE

12-1.45pm DJ Wave Winner of mix and vibes competition pre BMF show time warmup in the park

2:00 PM — West Yorkshire Lieutenant opens the festival!  
 2:05 PM — Hypa Crew kicks things off!  
 3:00 PM — Take it to the Stage Runners-up!  
 3:30 PM — Hypa Crew back again! (Secret Bassline Showcase)  
 4:00 PM — Hypa Crew (RJC Dance School & Stage Winners)  
 6:00 PM — DJ Gargamel from Stone Love, Jahfet & Aneillyon bring the reggae/ dancehall vibes!  
 6:30 PM — Melissa Steel's soulful sounds!  
 7:00 PM — Dyani takes the stage (HEADLINE!)  
 Hypa Crew closes the festival with a bang!

### TOP STAGE

2:00 PM — Saxon Sound starts strong!  
 2:45 PM — Ras Fidel hits the mic!  
 3:00 PM — Melo D gets the crowd moving!  
 3:20 PM — Ossie Gad vibes!  
 3:45 PM — Singer performs!  
 4:00 PM — Saxon Sound returns!  
 4:30 PM — Carman hits the stage!  
 4:40 PM — Winston Reedy brings the reggae!  
 5:05 PM — Mike Antony performs!  
 5:30 PM — Kenny B & Love Injection!  
 6:00 PM — Kush I vibes!  
 6:30 PM — Earl 16 reggae vibes!  
 7:00 PM — DJ Fluid spins the night away!

Come for the music, stay for the vibes!

Don't miss out on this epic line-up — see you there!

[www.blackmusicfestival.org](http://www.blackmusicfestival.org)



[www.communityhighlights.co.uk](http://www.communityhighlights.co.uk)

3

# LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL 58'

CELEBRATING THE EMANCIPATION OF THE ENSLAVED



**Come join us in our 58th year!**

**Monday 25th August 2025 - 2:00pm**

**Potternewton Park, Harehills Lane, Leeds LS7 4HA**

**Troupes will be going round twice and judged on their presentation and vibrant costume display!**

**Don't miss out on one of the biggest Caribbean Carnivals outside of London!**



# Programme of Events



## EMANCIPATION SERVICE

**Sunday 3rd August 2025**  
**Roscoe Methodist Church**  
 Francis Street, Leeds LS7 4BY  
**10:30am**

## CARNIVAL SUMMER SCHOOL

**Monday 11th – Friday 15th August 2025**  
**9:30am – 2:30pm**  
**Leeds Caribbean and African Centre**  
 Register on Eventbrite:  
**Young Masqueraders Summer School 2025**

## ROYALTY SHOW (King, Queen, Prince & Princess Show)

**Saturday 23rd August 2025**  
**6pm – 10pm**  
**Leeds West Yorkshire Playhouse**  
 Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UP

## J'OUVERT MORNING

**Monday 25th August 2025**  
**Jouvert 6am till 8:30am**  
**Leeds Caribbean and African Centre**  
 10 Laycock Place, Leeds LS7 3AJ

## CARNIVAL PARADE

**Monday 25th August 2025**  
**2pm till 8pm - Parade Leaves at 2pm**  
 Potternewton Park, Leeds LS7



**Leeds West Indian Carnival 82 Sheepscar Street North, Leeds LS7 3AF**



**The Official Leeds West Indian Carnival**



**@leedswestindiancarnival**

# Unity Does MAATer CIC Wins "Business of the Year" at Yorkshire Black Business Awards 2025

Leeds – 4 July 2025

Unity Does MAATer (UDM) CIC is proud to announce that it has been named Business of the Year at the Yorkshire Black Business Awards 2025, a prestigious honour celebrating outstanding Black-led organisations that drive impact, inclusion, and economic empowerment across the region.

The award was presented on Friday 4th July at the Cedar Court Hotel in Bradford during a ceremony hosted by the Yorkshire Black Business Awards. The event recognises and celebrates the achievements of African and Caribbean professionals and entrepreneurs whose work uplifts and strengthens communities.

Celebrating 10 Years of Impact

Founded in March 2015, Unity Does MAATer began as a grassroots initiative with a mission to serve and empower the African and African Caribbean community in Leeds, recreating the saying it takes a village to raise a child, however it is extended to say it takes a village to love and support each other. In 2019, the organisation formally incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC), allowing it to expand its reach, deepen its programming, and amplify its impact. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, UDM continues to be a powerful force for education, creativity, wellness, and cultural pride in Chapeltown Leeds and beyond. "This award is a celebration of 10 years of community, courage, and collective love," said Lisa, Treasurer of Unity Does MAATer CIC. "It belongs to our volunteers, our elders, our young people, our stallholders,



and the entire Chapeltown community. Our unity truly does MAATer.”

Over the past year, Unity Does MAATer CIC has led a series of transformative projects, including:

Two 4-day Edutainment Holiday Programmes for young people focusing on self-development, creativity, and Black history

The Afrikan Market Leeds, providing a vibrant platform for 30+ Black-owned businesses from across the UK

Ongoing Chat and Craft in Chapeltown sessions promoting creativity, wellbeing, and intergenerational connection

The Elders Digitally Enabled training

programme to reduce digital exclusion for our Elders

Collaborations such as Africa Day at Leeds University Union and a feature on BBC Local Radio

UDM is deeply grateful to all its funders, including The Leeds Fund: Micro Grants, The Leeds Digital Inclusion Fund, and countless community supporters, and to its dedicated volunteers, facilitators, partners, and event attendees.

As it marks a decade of service, Unity Does MAATer CIC remains rooted in love, driven by purpose, and committed to building a legacy of empowerment through the principles of unity, self-determination, and cooperative economics and the values of MAAT



# Freedom walk



ORGANISERS

On Saturday 26th July 2025, members of the Chapeltown community took part in a 7.2-mile walk in support of Leeds West Indian Carnival and the culture it represents. Following the traditional Carnival route, the walk honoured the legacy of the Windrush generation and called for greater recognition, protection, and support for one of the UK's most important community-led celebrations. The walk was part of a wider petition effort — demanding fairer treatment and challenging the growing restrictions placed on Carnival. This was more than a walk — it was a message: our culture matters, and our voices will be heard. Thank you to everyone who showed up, stood with us, and helped amplify the message. This is only the beginning.

# Emancipation Service

## 03.08.2025

Emancipation Day is a celebration of Resilience, Roots of Freedom, the Beat of the African Drum, the Movement of Bodies

Celebrations of the Caribbean Carnival started as an act of Resistance from Slavery, holding onto Cultural Identity, Ancestral Remembrance and the memories go on.

Remember Carnival is a Deep Celebration A Spirit of Carnival

58 YEARS Celebrating the Emancipation of the Enslaved





# what's on



Mahogany Market's Pre Carnival Night Market to coincide with Leeds West Indian Carnival's Royalty Show. Saturday 23rd August 5pm till 10pm (maybe later depending on finishing time of the show)

For stalls please apply to the link below

Thank you

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnlmKrYFSErXOLCxsWsBCTbPyN5mkOkyojvqA\\_ZnFU4TjPgw/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnlmKrYFSErXOLCxsWsBCTbPyN5mkOkyojvqA_ZnFU4TjPgw/viewform?usp=header)



WELL ATTENDED EVENT



# what's on

SOUL - MOTOWN - NORTHERN - JAZZ - LATIN - SALSA

# BOHEMIA

SPINNING ORIGINAL VINYL

SPECIAL GUEST DJ **MAV**

ES FROM EVENTRITE/£4.0TD  
2ND FLOOR EVENT SPACE - 3PM - MIDNIGHT

RESIDENT DJs **MIKE WALWYN - STEVE WALWYN - MARK WARNER**  
G **JULIE MENZIES** GROUND FLOOR DJs **SKULLY ROOTS - FLUID IRIE**

## SUN 31 AUG - THE WOODS

THE WOODS - STAINBECK CORNER - CHAPEL ALLERTON - LEEDS LS7 3PA

Leeds Barbados Association PRESENTS

# FUN DAY

16 AUG 1PM

**FEATURES**  
Food & Drink on Sale  
Bouncy Castle. Tombola. Raffles. Stalls  
Glitter Tattoos. Face Paint. Bingo. Horse Racing

MORE INFO: 07447078029  
15 REGINALD ROW, LEEDS, LS7 3HP

Northern School of Contemporary Dance

## Wishing everyone a happy Carnival!

nscd.ac.uk  
@northernschool

NSCD student Adama Fobbie

# what's on

**LIVE MUSIC THEATRE SHOW**  
**SOULSATION**  
 "Soul Train Era"



**SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025**  
 @ PECKHAM THEATRE LONDON  
 Contact - 07463 836 036  
[www.mosaic soul.co.uk](http://www.mosaic soul.co.uk)  
**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**  
 e [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)  
 "Soul" "Motown" "Disco" "Bois"



**45<sup>th</sup> Untcg**  
**Leeds DISTRICT CONVENTION**  
 Connecting Generations  
**THEME ONE VOICE, MANY STORIES**  
 United in Christ across generations and cultures



**JOIN US**

<b>23RD AUG.</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> (12:30PM - 8:30PM)	<b>EVENT ACTIVITIES:</b> BIBLE STUDY   DISCUSSION   PRAYER   OPEN MEDITATION   EXHIBIT PRIZES & WORKSHOPS   TESTIMONIES AND MORE
<b>24TH AUG.</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b> (8:00AM - 1:30PM) (1:30PM - 7:30PM)	<b>EVERYONE WELCOME, COME AND BE BLESSED</b>

**VENUE:** NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD  
 3 Easterly Road, Leeds, LS8 2TN

**CONTACT:** YVONNE (0113 240 8061)



**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2025**  
**SOCA Meets DANCEHALL**  
*Rep your flag*  
**LEEDS CARNIVAL AFTER PARTY**



**LIVE FROM SAINT VINCENT**  
**DYNAMITE**  
*performing Brave & More*

**BIGGEST DJ FROM KINGSTON JAMAICA**  
**DT GARGAMEL**  
*Biggests from Jamaica*

**LUCKLE JAY - HYPACREW - DJ LAUNDRY - DJ JUICE**

**TRIN! FREEDOM MILLS**  
 UNIT 47  
 KINGSTON ST  
 LEEDS LS3 1JG



**WESLEYAN HOLINESS CHURCH**  
 Presents  
**Men and Women's MINISTRY**  
*BBQ Fundraiser*



**SATURDAY AUG 30<sup>th</sup>** **LAYCOCK PL. LEEDS LS7 3JA** **BBQ STARTS 14:00PM**

Bring your family, your work and your appetite  
 Donations welcome

**EVENT:**

- A Bouncy Castle
- Delicious Food & Drinks
- Table Top Sales

**CHILDREN EAT FREE**

Contact Minister Grant for Table Top Sales  
 07913 461604

# what's on

BRISA BRINGS TO YOU AN EVENT THAT AIMS TO ALIGN, EMPOWER & ENCOURAGE FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS OR BUSINESSSES. OUR CONCEPT SUPPORTS GROWTH WITHIN HUDDERSFIELD & WEST YORKSHIRE & HELPS BUILD ROYALTY PARTNERSHIPS. JOIN US AND CELEBRATE OUR 5TH ANNIVERSARY - EVERYBODY WELCOME.

**CEDAR COURT HOTEL**  
LINDLEY MOOR RD HUDDERSFIELD HD3 3RH

**FREE EVENT**

**BLACK BUSINESS EXPO 2025**  
5th Anniversary

**30 AUG 2025**  
10:00am - 5:00pm

**KEY NOTE SPEAKER**  
REGGAE ROYALTY  
**SYLVIA TELLA**

**STALL ENQUIRIES...**  
t: 07824 515487 e: [bbexpo25@gmail.com](mailto:bbexpo25@gmail.com)  
[www.blackbusinesssexpo.co.uk](http://www.blackbusinesssexpo.co.uk)



**BRADFORD 2025**  
UK City of Culture

**Hot Caribbean Beats IN THE PARK**

**02 TUES SEPT**

Amanda **START AT 6PM** Dan Sax

Calvin

**Kindred Soul**  
**Selah Sounds**

**THE BEACON TOURING VENUE**

MUSIC BY: **DJ ROY STONE + MIKEEGEMINI**  
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, TICKETS £5. DRINKS AVAILABLE. OVER 16'S

**CARIBBEAN CUISINE ALSO AVAILABLE**

THE BEACON LISTER PARK BRADFORD, BD9 4NS  
TICKETS: [bradford2025.co.uk](http://bradford2025.co.uk)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF JAM THRU ROOTS REGGAE MUZIK**

**LUV OF DUB**  
30th AUGUST SESSION 2025

MOVING FROM HEARTY & SOUL ALL TRIBES WILL COME

SATURDAY 30th AUGUST 10am - 11pm (DOORS 10am) TICKETS ARE NOWHERE

**ROOM 1** DJ'S: **ROY KANE**  
HOSTED BY: **TERRIER TONE HI FI**

**ROOM 2** DJ'S: **DEEP HOUSE**  
HOSTED BY: **TASLA SOUND**

**ROOM 3** **CHILL OUT LOUNGE**  
DJ'S: **Soul / Rare Grooves / Deep Reggae / R&B / 90's RnB**

ALL RIMMS LEAD TO: **ROCK & ROLL CIRCUIT CLUB & CANAL ROAD LEEDS LS72 2PL**

ASHER F. SILVER DAN  
NARY DANGHOUE  
RAE SEE HIGHNESS  
PINKYING  
CHMO ROOTS  
12 NAZDUB

IT'S A JOY TO BE MARRIAGE LEADS REGGAE 05L  
DJ: **NATURAL PHILOSOPHY** (LONDON) DJ  
DJ: **UNION FINE & DEEP HOUSE**  
DJ: **MR MASTER ALISTER**  
LIVE: **THURSDAY BAZZ**

**REAL SOUND**

JAMYAH ENTERTAINMENTS  
TARTANMUSIC AND NARRIUS MUSIC

**FRIDAY 22 AUG 2025**

**SHINEO**  
LIVE IN CONCERT

**THE DARK ROOM UK TOUR 2025**

AND BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND IN LONDON

**DJ GARGAMEL FROM**

**JAHFET . NAAZIR . ANEILLYON**

**@ JAMYAH**  
(FORMERLY RAILWAY, WAKEFIELD ROAD, BRADFORD, BD4 7PL)

**DOORS OPEN 9PM - SHOWTIME - 12AM - FINISHES 4AM**  
ONLINE TICKETS - SHOOTS / TICKET SELLERS: EARLY BIRD TICKETS £30  
STANDARD £25 + BOOKING FEE MORE ON THE DOORS.

MADE BY: **HURRICANE JERMAINE** - **HFFA CREW** - **TECHNICS**  
BRADFORD LEEDS MANCHESTER

# what's on

**CREATIVE HANDS HAIR COURSES**  
DONE BY EARLENE (TUTOR)

*Rejoice in the LORD always*

Earlene is the founder of Creative Hands Hair Courses where passion meets purpose with decades of experience in hair care. Earlene teaches and trains patience & a work led by love.

- HAIR CUTS
- HAIR STYLING
- TREATMENT - BLOW DRYING
- CURLING - WEAVING - BRAIDING
- PERMING - WIG MAKING
- FLAT IRONING - HAIR WASHING
- SET & STYLING & MORE

12 & 18 WK COURSES IN NVO LEVEL 1, 2 & 3

40+ YEARS EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH IN HAIR CARE

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!  
**07704437429**  
YOUR.EARLENE@GMAIL.COM

**Happy Carnival!**

**Unity**  
Homes & Enterprise

Supporting BME Communities

**WISHING OUR RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS TENANTS AS WELL AS OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS ACROSS LEEDS AN AMAZING CARNIVAL 2025!**

**LEEDS**  
FREESTYLE MEMBERSHIP

Timetable  
Mon 1930-2100  
Weds 1930-2100  
Sat 1330-1500

**Beginners welcome**  
**07912526345**

THE MANOR HOUSE ROUNDHAY  
6 PARK AVE, ROUNDHAY, LEEDS  
LS8 2JH

**Summer Fair**

Free Entry everyone Welcome

25<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
1:30pm - 4:30pm

FOOD DRINKS, TOMBOLA, RAFFLE, SHOPS, GAMES, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND MUCH MORE

More info:  
ahmad.nawaz@manorchar.org.uk

**The Manor House**

Northern School of  
Contemporary Dance



**Happy Carnival from  
all of us at NSCD!**

[nscd.ac.uk](http://nscd.ac.uk)

[@northernschool](https://www.instagram.com/northernschool)

NSCD student Nyomi Grant © Eily Welford

# My journey for Justice and fairness

As a child growing up, I remember always having a strong sense for fairness and would often be vocal around matters that I felt were unjust. For example, I would stand up for those experiencing bullying at school.

I recall my late grandad who was active within the union having such a strong positive influence in my life during my childhood and beyond. Listening to him often talking about his cases at work fuelled my interest further.

Fast forward as I entered the world of work, where my passion grew for fairness and equality. I remember being vocal and standing up for those who couldn't or wouldn't in the workplace. This attitude and mind set propelled me into activism within the trade union movement. I was elected as a union and health and safety rep. I remember feeling fulfilled in these roles, which utilised my skills in representation. These experiences then provided me with the confidence and opportunity to advice and support colleagues who were experiencing difficulties at work such as unfair treatment. The trade union provided training which enhanced my professional development. I remember being able to implement effective change despite the numerous challenges.

During my role of representing members in the trade union I discovered a strong desire that I could not ignore and felt a calling to study law. What an adventure! After five years of dedication and persistence I graduated with a law degree. Studying Law equipped me with strong analytical communication skills, to develop

logical arguments as well as the ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and persuasively.

Fast forward I landed the role of "Employment Specialist" at Chapeltown Citizen Advice. Within this role I provide high quality advice and casework. Supporting clients with their employment issues. Though, fundamentally I advocate for Justice and work towards positive social change.

I recently had a great opportunity to meet Shaun Wallace "The Dark Destroyer" from The Chase at an event in Chapeltown hosted by Patricia Jones. This was a fantastic event for me as we connected through our passion for justice and law. Should anyone seek advice or assistance in employment matters, you can contact me, Michelle Elliott through Chapeltown citizen advice on Telephone 08082787878



# Stitch and Shade Ragdolls

Stitch and shade rag doll's greatest wish is to embrace the beauty in every shade. Each doll is made with love, for you to enjoy from me to you.

My dolls are developed and handcrafted from mainly recycled and reused materials to reflect symbols of diversity, fun, joy, and recognition for not only little ones but also those of us who are grown.

Each doll is lovingly made to reflect a beautiful spectrum of skin tone celebrating identity and making every child feel seen and special.



## CARNIVAL INFO



# Retirement Legacy : Sheila Howarth and Raymond Wilkes

After 25 years of working in this school as a pastoral manager, and my brother Raymond working 23 years as a Mentor and Teacher We Have decided to retire from Leeds City Academy.

We had the privilege of walking alongside thousands of students, guiding, mentoring, and helping them find their voice and path. We always believed in giving young people the tools they need to grow into kind, resilient, and positive role models in their communities.

But none of this happens alone Behind every successful student is a dedicated team—teachers, support staff, admin staff—who pour their energy, time, and hearts into this work. You give so much of yourselves, often without pause. That's why I always dreamed of a staffroom that truly honored you—a space where you could step away, even briefly, to breathe, laugh, reset, and simply be.

We both have been honoured by having Gold Plaques in the school with our names on the Them I Have the Staff Room and Raymond the music room  
The staffroom is more than just a place



to make tea or check your email. To me, it symbolizes care for caregivers. It's a sanctuary—a space to reconnect with one another, to find support on the hard days, and to recharge your spirit so you can continue the incredible work you do. Having this room carry my name is a humbling honor. But the real honor has been working with all of you—supporting each other through the highs and lows, always with the shared goal of giving our students the best start in life. My Brother Raymond Wilkes have worked at the school for 23 years and in his honor the school has named the Music Room after him. To Raymond performing arts is a way student can express themselves whether it is, Dance music or Drama. Thank you for the memories, the trust, and the community. May this space serve you as faithfully as you've served



# Streets paved with gold

## Victor Richard

The wait is almost over! We are so excited to announce that the UK premiere of 'Milestone - Streets Paved with Gold' is happening at Phoenix Cinema Leicester.

This film is a moving and vital story, celebrating the Windrush generation. Join us for this special event on Sunday, 19th October at 5pm. The evening includes the screening, an after-party in the café bar, and special guests.

Secure your spot today!

<https://www.phoenix.org.uk/whats-on/programme/milestone-streets-paved-with-gold-uk-premiere/>

**I am so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing festival. The energy here is electric!**

**#EdinburghFringe #StreetsPavedWithGold  
#Edinburgh #LivePerformance  
#Theater #ArtistLife #FringeFestival  
#EdinburghFestival**



# Road to RJC Dance and Mango Arts' Carnival Troupe: BANYAN



The 58th Leeds West Indian Carnival 2025 is just around the corner and the excitement at RJC Dance is building. We met with Leila Gurnah and her daughter, Samara, members of RJC Dance Adult Community Class and Youth Provision, who shared their unique journeys and experiences ahead of this year's Carnival.

## Discovering RJC Dance - where our stories begin

Samara, 11, member of Youth Provision's Shahck Out Juniors, is eagerly anticipating her second Carnival with RJC Dance. Having previously participated as a member of the 't-shirt crew' in 'AZUL', winner of Leeds West Indian Carnival Best Troupe Overall 2024, Samara is excited to have been selected to be a performer for this year's troupe 'BANYAN', which is a celebration of deep roots, strong communities, collective growth and addressing rainforest conservation. She is excited about the unique colour palette of the costumes this year and the emphasis

on sustainability. Samara says 'the Carnival parade on the road is the coolest part of the day' and loves getting to meet new people along the way.

Leila Gurnah, Samara's mother, initially became involved through volunteering at RJC Dance and chaperoning Samara at last year's Carnival. She found the experience "unbelievable - such a privilege to be a part of". This year, Leila has become more involved, having joined the Adult Community Dance class, and hopes to take part in the creative costume workshops led by Mango Arts, helping the team with the finishing touches. As a volunteer, Leila will be supporting the 100 strong troupe throughout Carnival day. Preparing for **BANYAN: The Road to Carnival 2025**

As Carnival day gets closer, preparations are ramping up! Samara is ready for all the hard work that being a performer requires, particularly during the Carnival troupe rehearsals throughout



importantly, during the almost five-hour parade, Leila said, it's all about "keeping the vibe going!"

### **The Spirit of Carnival: A celebration of heritage, culture and community**

Leila has been attending Carnival for over 20 years as a spectator and now feels a deep appreciation for contributing and helping to preserve the event's community-focused roots. She added that it's "nice to put something back, to do something to contribute and to see all the hard work behind the scenes," emphasising that it's much more than "just a big party." Samara perfectly summed up her biggest takeaway from Carnival: "being more confident and being a part of the RJC Dance community."

August. When we asked for her top tips for participants, she wisely advised, "Be prepared. You're going to have to work hard, but remember this is also for you to enjoy yourself!"

Leila highlighted that Carnival weekend is a big commitment, often a whirlwind of activity for three days straight, leaving everyone wonderfully tired by Tuesday! She shared some super practical tips for the long day: "water, loads of it" if it's hot, and definitely "make sure your shoes fit" because it's non-stop dancing! Most

Make sure to come watch Leila, Samara and the rest of all the wonderful RJC Dance performers bring BANYAN to life at the Leeds West Indian Carnival on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August. See you at 2pm as the parade leaves Potternewton Park!

For more information, visit: <https://www.leedscarnival.co.uk>

Follow us on socials for exclusive BANYAN content!



# Rooted in Community and Growth: RJC Dance and Mango Arts present 'BANYAN' at Leeds West Indian Carnival 2025 | RJC Dance

RJC Dance and Mango Arts return to Carnival in 2025 with a powerful new theme: BANYAN. Taking its name from the ancient and majestic Banyan tree, this year's Carnival troupe is a celebration of deep roots, strong communities and collective growth, addressing rainforest conservation.

Inspired by the way Banyan trees grow, sending down aerial roots that connect, support and strengthen, BANYAN is a metaphor for resilience, unity and the intergenerational bonds that hold communities together. Just as the Banyan tree expands and shelters all in its path, our troupe reflects how culture, creativity and collaboration feed the roots of RJC Dance all year round.

This year's costumes, created by Mango Arts and based on original ink and watercolour sketches by artist Rhian Kempadoo-Millar, draw on powerful natural and spiritual symbols from around the world. Four bespoke designs represent a different facet of connection and regeneration.

The costume of Aranyani is inspired by the Hindu goddess of the forest, protector of nature and all living beings. The design captures the fragility and freedom of butterflies, highlighting the urgent environmental issues that threaten their habitats. As pollinators, butterflies are vital to biodiversity and their decline serves as a

poignant reminder of our responsibility to protect the ecosystems we depend on.

Guacamaya, a vivid tribute to the majestic macaws of Latin America. These brightly coloured birds, deeply embedded in Amerindian culture and mythology, are now under threat due to habitat destruction and illegal trade. Their wings, symbolising flight, freedom and cosmic connection, are reimagined using paper-crafted headpieces and recycled macramé in a dazzling display of sustainability and spirit.

Osanyin, is rooted in Yoruba tradition. Osanyin is the deity of herbal medicine and forest knowledge - a powerful symbol of healing and reverence for the natural world. The costume features root-like recycled neckpieces and a bold paper mohawk, representing the strength found in tradition, nature, and ancestral wisdom.

Finally, Mama Mycelium explores the invisible networks that hold life together. Just like the underground fungal networks that connect trees and plants, this costume symbolises the unseen threads that link generations and communities. Made from recycled frames, paper and re-dyed silk, it celebrates the quiet power of support, exchange, and unity, all central values of RJC Dance.

As always, the Carnival troupe is intergenerational, bringing together

around 100 participants made up of youth provision members, adult performers, volunteers and creative artists, to form a living, moving representation of cultural heritage and collective growth.

**BANYAN: Where All Our Roots Interconnect**

BANYAN completes the RJC Dance and Mango Arts sustainability in Carnival trilogy.

In 2023, NATROBEAT celebrated the power and simplicity of nature using natural materials and traditional techniques to create fully biodegradable costumes, winning best troupe overall at Leeds West Indian Carnival.

In 2024, AZUL shared the beauty of the

oceans and the importance of preserving our planet by reusing industrial waste such as single use plastic and PPE, and won Leeds West Indian Carnival best on stage and best troupe overall for the second year running.

Leeds West Indian Carnival takes place on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August. Come and celebrate with us and watch BANYAN come to life.

For more information, visit:  
<https://www.leedscarnival.co.uk>

Follow us on socials for exclusive BANYAN content!



# TRIBUTES



Sister Marilyn Harel la Wilkes-Leader

Sunrise:18/12/1956

Sunset: 04/08/2025



In Loving Memory Of The Late  
**Arthur Nathaniel Newton**



**Tuesday 12th August 2025**

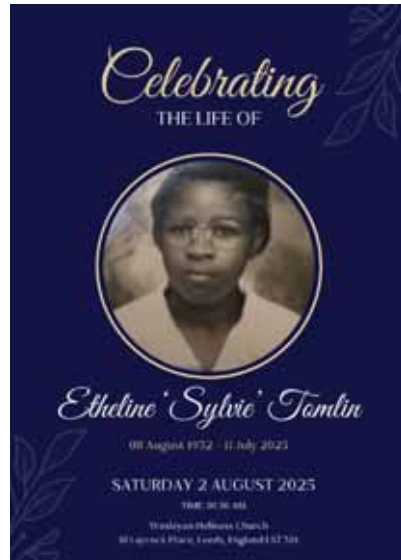
Church Service  
St. Martin's Church, 2A St Martin's View, LS7 3LB  
Time: 12:30pm

Burial  
Whinmoor Cemetery, Thorner Lane, LS14 3DW  
Time: 2:30pm

Wake  
Caribbean Cricket Club, Scottish Hall Road, LS7 2HH

(Coach Will Be Provided From St Martin's Church, Which Will Take You To Whinmoor Cemetery And Then Back To The Caribbean Cricket Club/St Martin's Church)

Gooding Funeral Services, 2a Newton Road, Leeds, LS7 4HX 0113 250 7988



# TRIBUTES



*Celebrating  
the life of  
Mrs Cynthia Coffin*



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH**  
8 Banstead Street, Leeds LS8 5PU

**Friday 22nd August 2025 at 11:45am**

Interment:  
**Lawnswood Cemetery**  
Clay Road, Aired, Leeds, LS14 6AH

**R.I.P.**  
**Palma Wong**

**Sweet memories**


**SWEET MEMORIES**  
Annette Morris  
Georgette Bartlette  
Megan Edward's



# TRIBUTES



The Celebration of Life of



*Ruby Plummer*  
*Sundae 23-08-1934 - Sunset 08-05-2025*

Service held at New Testament Church of God, Easterly Road, Leeds, LS8 2TN.  
 Taken 07 June 2025.

Burial at Harrogate Cemetery, Kinsbury Road, LS19 6LZ.

Requiem at The Green Gate, The Sheepscar and beyond.



THE FLOWERS FAMILY ARE SAD TO ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF **MELBOURNE FLOWERS** ON THE 15th June 2025

A SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN HIS MEMORY ON THE 8th August 2025 at 11:00 am

NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD 3 EASTERLY ROAD, ROUNDHAY, LEEDS, LS8 2TN

COMMITAL TO FOLLOW AT NINELANDS LANE, GARFORTH, LEEDS, LS25 1NX


REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT STAUDAN'S COMMUNITY HALL, ELFORD PLACE WEST, HAREHILLS, LEEDS, LS5 5QD

*Michelle Forbes*  
 Celebration of Life  
 December 14<sup>th</sup> 1966 - May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025



Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am - 4pm  
 Celebration Service 12-2pm  
 International buffet served from 2pm  
 Dress Code Bright and colourful  
 Bridge Community Church, LS9 7BK  
 Plenty of parking available

*Celebrating the life of*  
*Leslie John Simms*  
 Sunday: 14 April 1942 - Sunset: 19th July 2023



NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD  
 3 Easterly Road, Leeds LS8 2TN

Friday 15th August 2025 at 11:00am

Officiating Minister  
 Bishop Parry

Interment  
 Whitestone Crematory  
 Thomas Lane, Leeds, LS14 3JW





# Jamaica on ice

## UK's First Caribbean Frozen Ready Meals Delivered To Your Door!

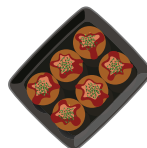


Packed with mouthwatering flavours and cooked in traditional Caribbean style – Jamaica On Ice is quality food, authentic taste and total convenience all in one serving

contact@jamaicaonice.com  
<https://www.jamaicaonice.com>



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**148 Chapeltown**  
**Road LS7 4EE**  
**Phone: 0113 3070787**  
**See you all over the**  
**weekend**

**For anyone who needs  
some support right now,  
you're not alone.**

- Anxiety UK - 03444775774
- CALM - 0800585858
- Mind - 03001233393
- No Panic - 08449674848
- Bereavement - 08088081677
- PAPYRUS - 08000684141
- Samaritans - 116 123
- SHOUT - 85258
- Abuse - 080820005000
- Refuge - 08082000247

You can also text SHOUT to 85258 if you don't feel like speaking over the phone.



# Harry's on Spencer Place



# Harry's on Chapeltown Road



Greetings everyone,  
Back by popular demand, our African and Caribbean Food Fest is now open, taking stall holders' applications.  
The event will still coincide, as usual, with Leeds' biggest street, Carnival...

Thank you, Ase!



Instagram \ Tiktok  
It's Plenticupcakesfull  
FB its Plenticupcakesfull  
homemade cupcakes

## Miracle Juice

### JUICE RECIPE:

- 5 carrots
- 8 ribs of celery
- 1 cucumber
- 1 beetroot
- 1/4 lemon
- 1-inch ginger



LEEDS CARNIVAL PRE-PARTY  
**TONY MATTERHORN**  
 DUTTY WINE / GODDAS / MAN FROM MARS  
**JAH HANIEF SENSATION MIXMASTER DJ VYBZ**  
**TICKETS:**  
 EARLY BIRD: £10  
 STANDARD: £15  
 ON THE DOOR: £20  
**VENUE: @EXODUS CLUB LEEDS, LS8 5DR**  
 TICKETS FROM SENSATION BARBERS ON 0740230335

<b>BRONZE</b> £250 2 BOTTLES 2 BOTTLES 2 BOTTLES 2 BOTTLES	<b>SILVER</b> £350 2 BOTTLES 2 BOTTLES 2 BOTTLES 2 BOTTLES	<b>GOLD</b> £500 4 BOTTLES 4 BOTTLES 4 BOTTLES 4 BOTTLES	<b>PLATINUM</b> £850 7 BOTTLES 7 BOTTLES 7 BOTTLES 7 BOTTLES
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ADVANCE BOOKINGS ONLY WITH 50% DEPOSIT BY THE NIGHT  
 FOR BOOKINGS AND INFO: 0740230335 / INSTA@scor:hornd

[www.shoobs.com/FullyChargedLeeds](http://www.shoobs.com/FullyChargedLeeds)

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RAINBOW PRIDE PROMOTIONS & SPINNING/GRASS DANCE EVENTS  
 PRESENT A NIGHT CALLED

**BACK 2 REALITY**  
 The Post Carnival Blow-Out

**FRIDAY 29TH AUG 2025**  
 9.00pm - Late

**FRIDAY 29TH AUG 2025**  
 @ The Ivory Bar  
 210 Thornton Rd  
 BD1 2JN

**Early Bird Tickets £7-1b**  
**Standard Tickets £10-1b**

Physical Tickets Available For Collection  
 07598 742687  
 Card payments accepted.

NO ENTRY WITHOUT A TICKET AFTER 9.00PM  
 ALL 18+ BOTTLE 100% BOTTLE CALLED BY 10.00PM

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