

# 1945-1965

**1945**

**1945** End of the Second World War, servicemen and women return to the Caribbean.

**1945** Yorkshire-born musician and composer Geoff Love and his family had been living in Tottenham since the 1930s.

**1946**

**1946** Randolph Turpin, the first black British boxing star, made his professional debut at Harringay Arena. Randolph's father was born in British Guyana and came to England to fight in the First World War.

**1948**

**1948** British Nationality Act passed granting the status of British Subject to citizens of the UK and Colonies, stating that "the expression 'British Subject' and the expression 'Commonwealth Citizen' shall have the same meaning."

**1948** On 21st June HMT Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Dock, heralding the start of large-scale immigration from the Caribbean.

**1949**

**1949** The new National Health Service began to recruit staff from the Caribbean. After a largely unsuccessful campaign in Britain, the Tottenham Hospital Management Board reported 'such energetic campaigning deserves better results'. Of 17 enquiries for 737 vacancies, only two potential students and one qualified nurse had come forward.

**1949** In March, Tottenham Borough Council wrote to the Home Office to request the ban of a Fascist Union Movement march from Dalston to Tottenham.

**1949** US singer and political activist Paul Robeson performed at Harringay Arena, as part of his UK tour.

**1956**

**1956** At the invitation of the Barbados Government, London Transport began direct recruitment of bus conductors, Underground staff and canteen assistants. The Barbados government lent recruits their fares to Britain, to be repaid over two years.

**1957**

**1957** Textile designer Althea McNish arrived in Tottenham. Althea designed for companies including Liberty and Hull Traders and her work is represented in the V&A collections. She is associated with the Caribbean Artists' Movement.

**1958**

**1958** Violence against black people led to race riots in Notting Hill and Nottingham.

**1959**

**1959** Trinidad-born activist Claudia Jones organised the first indoor Caribbean Carnival in response to the violence. Alex Pascall worked with her and the carnival was televised by the BBC. Claudia wrote 'our Carnival [symbolizes] the unity of our people resident here and of all our many friends who love the West Indies'. Tottenham has a long history of award-winning carnival groups and mas bands.

**1961**

**1961** Welcome to Citizenship launched by Hornsey Council, welcoming all 21 year-olds entitled to vote.

**1962**

**1962** Commonwealth Immigrants Act passed to make temporary provision for controlling the immigration of Commonwealth Citizens to the UK.

**1962** Nelson Mandela visited Oliver Tambo at his home in Muswell Hill for secret meetings with other leaders of the African National Congress (ANC). Tambo was President of the ANC from 1967 to 1991 and served in exile until 1990, when the ban against the ANC was lifted.

**1964**

**1964** Hornsey Co-operative Credit Union was set up by members of Ferme Park Baptist Church unable to get credit from banks. Credit unions, known as pardner or susu, were widespread in the Caribbean and members paid weekly contributions. Hornsey Credit Union was the first in Britain. Two founder members, Basil Lewis and Blair Greaves became Haringey councillors. In 2012, the union merged with London Capital Credit Union.

**1965**

**1965** Race Relations Act passed.

**1965** North London West Indian Association (NLWIA) formed. Secretary Jeff Crawford was a pioneering campaigner against racism. Jeff was Haringey Council's senior community relations officer from 1976 to 1987, later appointed as an ethnic minority member of the Police Complaints Authority. He was a member of the Metropolitan Police independent advisory group from 1998 to 2003.

Mr. B. Greaves, (a West Indian, of the Hornsey Credit Union)—More people could be helped through savings. West Indians have difficulties in getting mortgages.

