



Essential St. Paul's: A walking tour of St. Paul's Black History

Essential St. Paul's is your brief 101 to St. Paul's community history. The walk runs along a flat course around the heart of St. Paul's. The tour begins in front of the *Migration* street art piece and will lead you over City Road and Grosvenor Road to the location of the former Bamboo Club near Portland Square. Along the way, you will discover some of the most essential stories of the African Caribbean community after the 1950s. Find the complete map with story-layers on the Bristol Museums blog – bristolmuseums.org.uk.

Stop A: 20 Campbell Street (51.46417, -2.58515)

The arrival at St. Paul's

The 1950s mark the arrival of African Caribbean's to Bristol. Many of the Windrush generation moved to overcrowded apartments in St. Paul's. Housing was rare and they were not always welcome. Roy Hackett remembers the discrimination and how signs such as 'No Blacks, No Irish, No Dogs' were common.

Stop B: 158 City Road (51.46484, -2.58437)

St. Paul's Carnival

The St. Paul's Afrikan Caribbean Carnival is an annual street festival in St. Paul's. It was set up in 1968. Initially it was managed by the Bristol West Indian Parents and Friends Association. The carnival draws huge crowds every year. Aside from a stage and food stalls, the carnival has a parade with community created costumes and locally famous 'sound systems' - big portable DJ sets playing Caribbean music.

Stop C: Owen Henry Mural/City Road (51.46519, -2.58318)

The Bristol Bus Boycotts

This mural shows Owen Henry, one of the 'Seven Saints of St. Paul's' by artist Michele Curtis. Owen and other campaigners like Paul Stephenson, helped organise the Bristol Bus Boycott in 1963, protesting against the bus company's policy of not hiring black people. The protests were so big that they became national news and helped bring about anti-discrimination laws.

Stop D: Grosvenor Triangle (51.46561, -2.5813)

Alfred Fagon

Alfred Fagon was an influential poet, actor and playwright from Jamaica, who arrived in Bristol in the 1950s. His works such as *11 Josephine Street* (1972) were influenced by the African Caribbean community in St. Paul's. He was a friend of many local activists, such as Paul Stephenson.

Stop E: 75-85 Grosvenor Rd (51.46452, -2.58253)

Black and White café – St. Paul’s riots

On 2 April 1980 there was a police raid on the local Black and White café, which was popular with young people. The raid marked the beginning of the St. Paul’s riots. Young people protested against the lack of job opportunities and targeting of the area by police. The protests escalated to full scale riots in the evening, with damage to property.

Stop F: St. Paul Street (51.46032, -2.58432)

The Bamboo Club

The Bamboo Club was an iconic music venue, mainly playing Caribbean music. The club was run by Tony and Lalel Bullimore. Until a fire in 1977 the club was also an important community hub and was used for meetings and as headquarters of local clubs such as the Bristol West Indian Cricket Club.

Stop A:
Arrival at St Paul's

Stop B:
St Paul's Carnival

Stop C:
Bristol Bus Boycotts

Stop D:
Alfred Fagon

Stop E:
Black and White cafe

Stop F:
The Bamboo Club

The BAMBOO CLUB
1966 - 1977
The home of ska, reggae and blue beat.
Created by Tony and Lalel Bullimore.
Bob Marley, Ben E King, Desmond Dekker
Percy Sledge and Jimmy Cliff played here.
Awarded by
BBC Radio Bristol
British Plaque Trust