



THE NOTTING HILL SOCIAL COUNCIL

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OVERVIEW

- *Key figures involved*
- *How it operated*
- *Some key initiatives*



NOTTING HILL SOCIAL COUNCIL



- *Est. 1960*
- *Revd David Mason*
- *Notting Hill Methodist Church*

“[AN ORGANISATION FOR LOCAL PEOPLE TO] JOIN TOGETHER IN THE FIGHT FOR BETTER HOUSING, BETTER EDUCATION, BETTER HEALTH PROVISION AND BETTER DEALS FOR BLACK AND OTHER NEW-COMERS TO THE NOTTING HILL AREA”.

Revd David Mason

GOING BACK TO GRASS ROOTS GOVERNMENT

Donald Chesworth and the Social Council

COUNTY HALL AND KENSINGTON Town Hall
have never been more remote from the people than

KEY FIGURES

David Mason: Chair

Donald Chesworth: Director

Stephen Duckworth: Treasurer

Pansy Jeffrey: Secretary



So there is a grass-
roots organisation through which the community can
have some say in the decisions which most affect the
way they live.

These are the aims of Donald Chesworth, director of
Notting Hill Social Council and a member of a working
group whose unique job it is now to set up the Golborne
Community Council.

Chesworth has been in the area for a week that the concept of
a community body in urban
electoral wards, was by
themselves, was by
means a new idea.

phrases "urban
I" was "circulating
ys of the old LCC (of
Mr. Chesworth was a
for 13 years).
the concept never
within arm's reach until
ar, when Dr. Michael
director of the Insti-
Community Studies
we decided on the Gol-
borne Ward because this area
has always been a part of
North Kensington which has
felt itself to be particularly
neglected and apart from
other areas. There has also
been a growing militancy in
Golborne."

by Steve
MURPHY

PANSY JEFFREY

“FIRST-RATE AND CRUCIAL TO THE LIFE OF THE SOCIAL COUNCIL”.

Revd David Mason

WAYS OF OPERATING

- *Emphasis on partnerships*
 - *Temporary coalitions with different groups*
 - *Open monthly meetings*
 - *Fiery debate!*
 - *“A SAFETY-VALVE FOR ACTIVISTS IN THE COMMUNITY.”*
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“IT WAS CRUCIAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE MAXIMUM CO-OPERATION AND THAT KEY INDIVIDUALS SHOULD KNOW AND RESPECT EACH OTHER.

IT WAS NO GOOD SIMPLY THE CLERGY AND THE SOCIAL WORKERS GETTING TOGETHER. IT HAD TO INCLUDE WAY-OUT BLACK LEADERS, THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP, RADICAL GROUPS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES.”

Revd David Mason

KEY PROJECTS

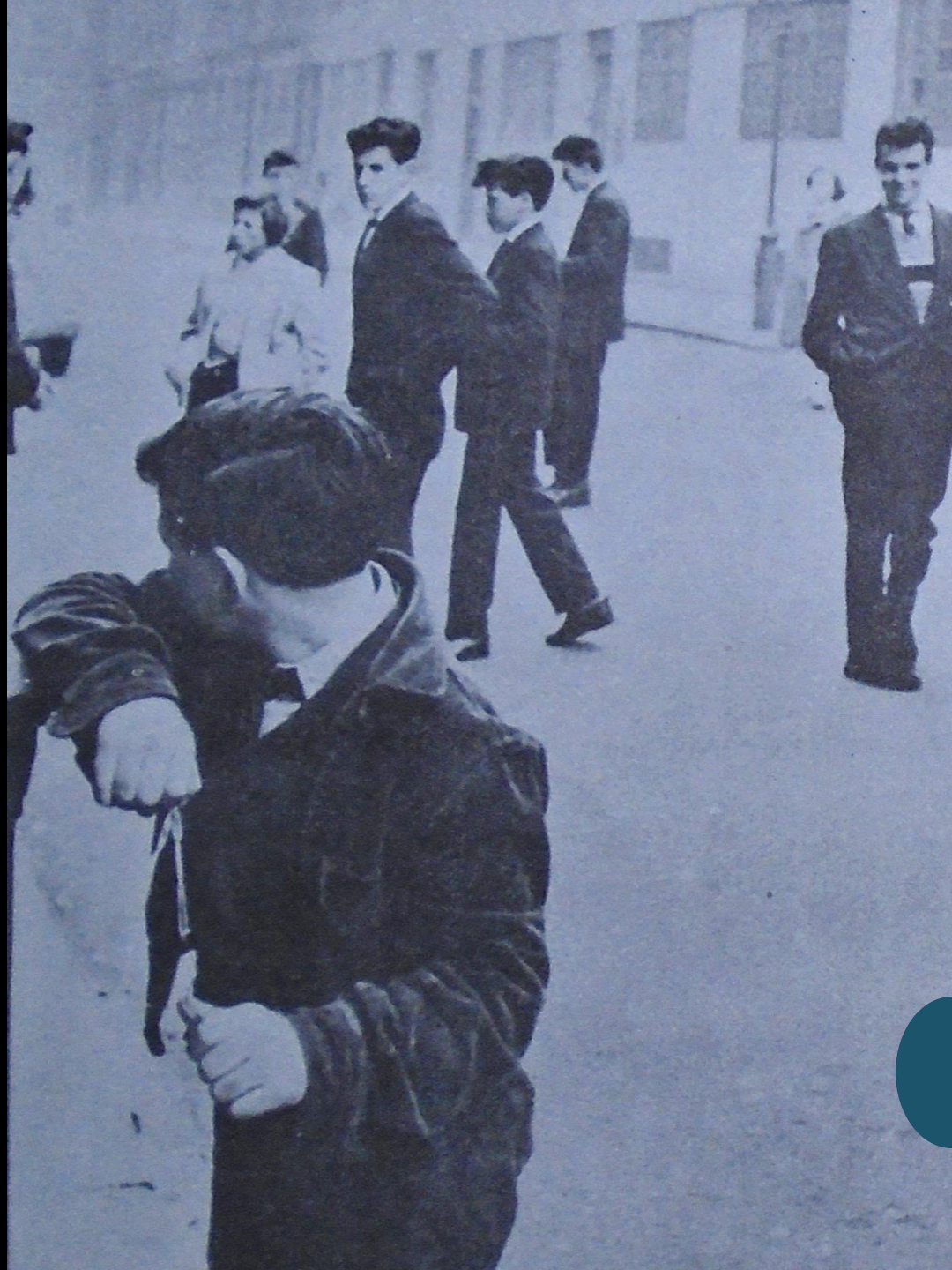
“THE MIGRANT
IN THE

- *Youth*
- *Housing*
- *Race/racism*

COMMUNITY”

YOUTH WORK

- *The Portobello Project*
 - *Proto-social enterprise*
 - *Members-only coffee shop*
 - *Racism from the white youths fluctuated over the decade*
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NOTTING HILL SUMMER PROJECT

**29th JULY -
26th AUGUST**

- Inspired by SNCC's voter registration project in Mississippi
- Main aim was to compile a register of housing conditions
- Also wanted to dispel racist myths around council housing



THE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The Workshop's aim is to help people build a community organisation in an area of poverty and deprivation. Most of the area's social needs stem from housing; a great number of the population are coloured. Problems of housing and race are linked.

"Racial prejudice," says Mr. Clark, "is deeply ingrained: we feel that the reasons are largely social and largely economic. The main reason for prejudice is often that people are afraid that somebody is going to get in front of them, to jump the queue."

George Clarke

So many black people think the English are hypocrites for refusing to admit the extent of racial discrimination — and the English think every black man has a chip on his shoulder when he complains he is being discriminated against, but can't prove it with facts and figures.

And when both sides are living in appalling housing conditions, these are the sort of attitudes that stop understanding let alone any kind of real integration.

Patricia Philo

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF THE
NOTTING HILL SOCIAL COUNCIL

...BUT WHAT DOES IT ACTUALLY DO ?

- *Umbrella organisation*
 - *Tried to be all things to all people*
 - *Created **temporary** bridges to facilitate **momentary** and **specific** community needs*
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