



# *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”.*

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*Revd David Mason*

# GOING BACK TO GRASS ROOTS GOVERNMENT

## *Donald Chesworth and the Social Council*



### *KEY FIGURES*

*David Mason: Chair*

*Donald Chesworth: Director*

*Stephen Duckworth: Treasurer*

*Pansy Jeffrey: Secretary*



A portrait of an elderly Black woman, Pansy Jeffrey, with short, curly grey hair. She is wearing a colorful, patterned blouse with floral and geometric designs in shades of red, blue, green, and purple. She is looking directly at the camera with a gentle smile. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some green foliage and a white circular object on the right. The text "PANSY JEFFREY" is written in a white, italicized serif font in the upper left corner.

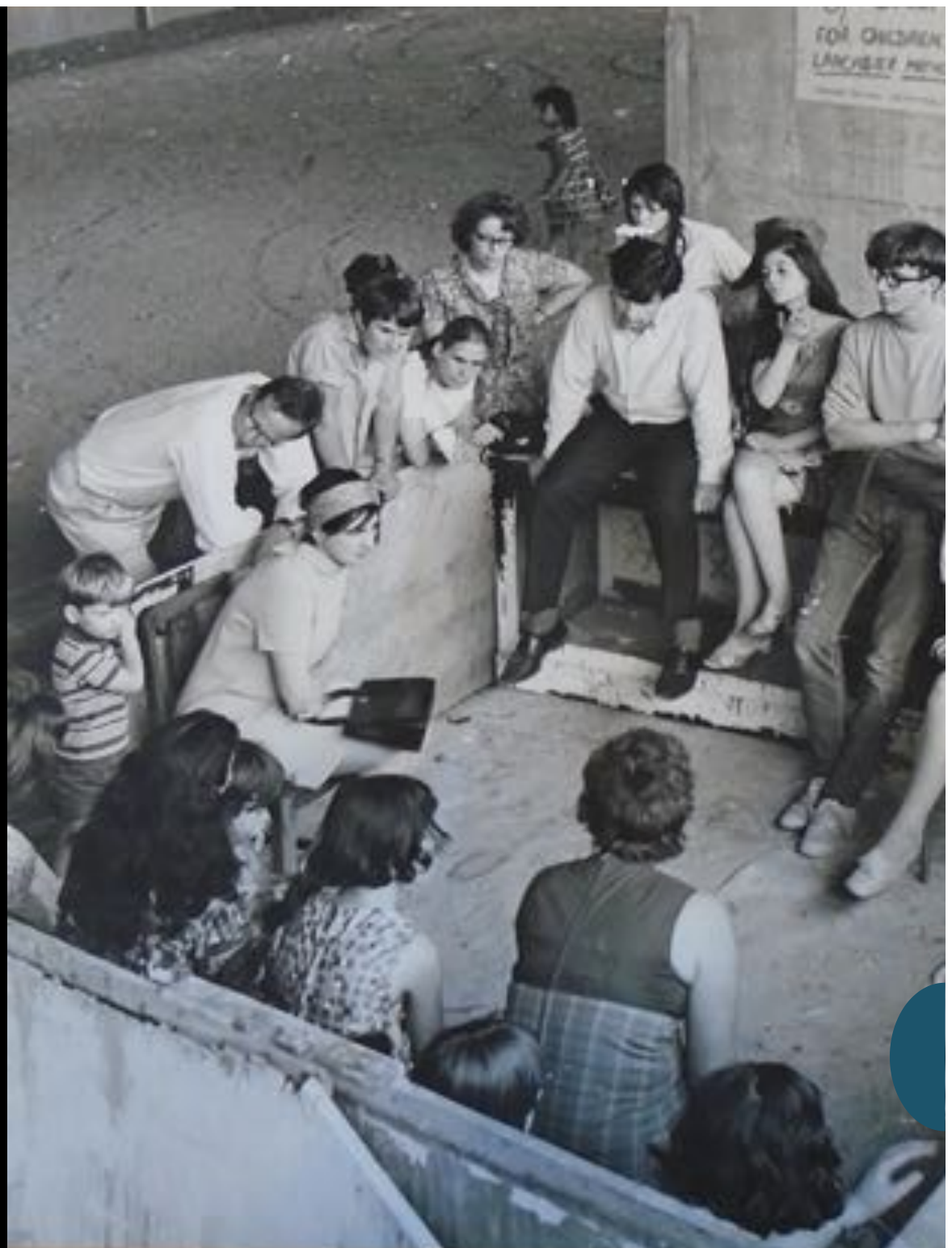
# *PANSY JEFFREY*

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

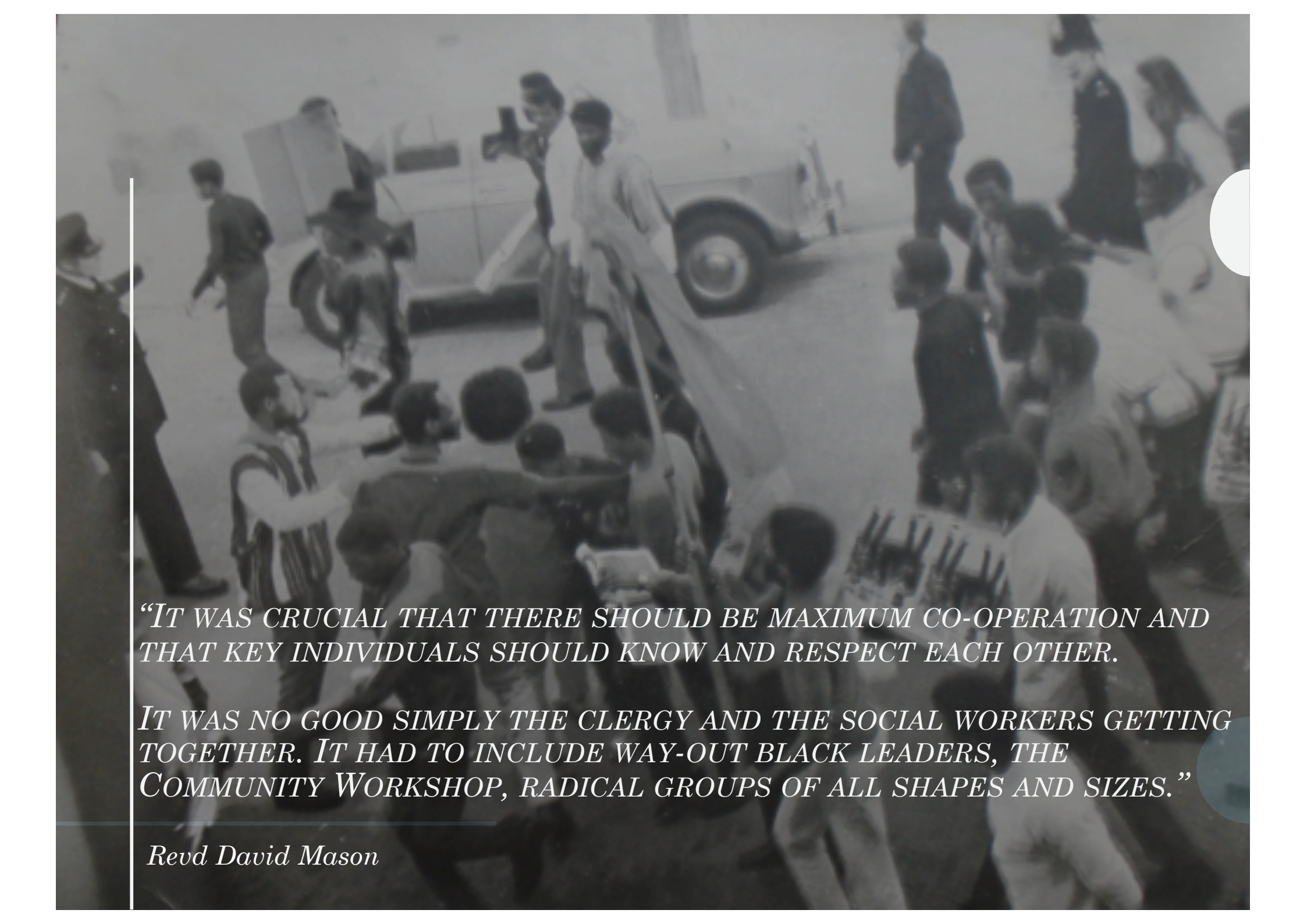
*Revd David Mason*

# 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*

NOTTING HILL SOCIAL COUNCIL

CONFERENCE ON

# *KEY PROJECTS*

“THE MIGRANT  
IN THE

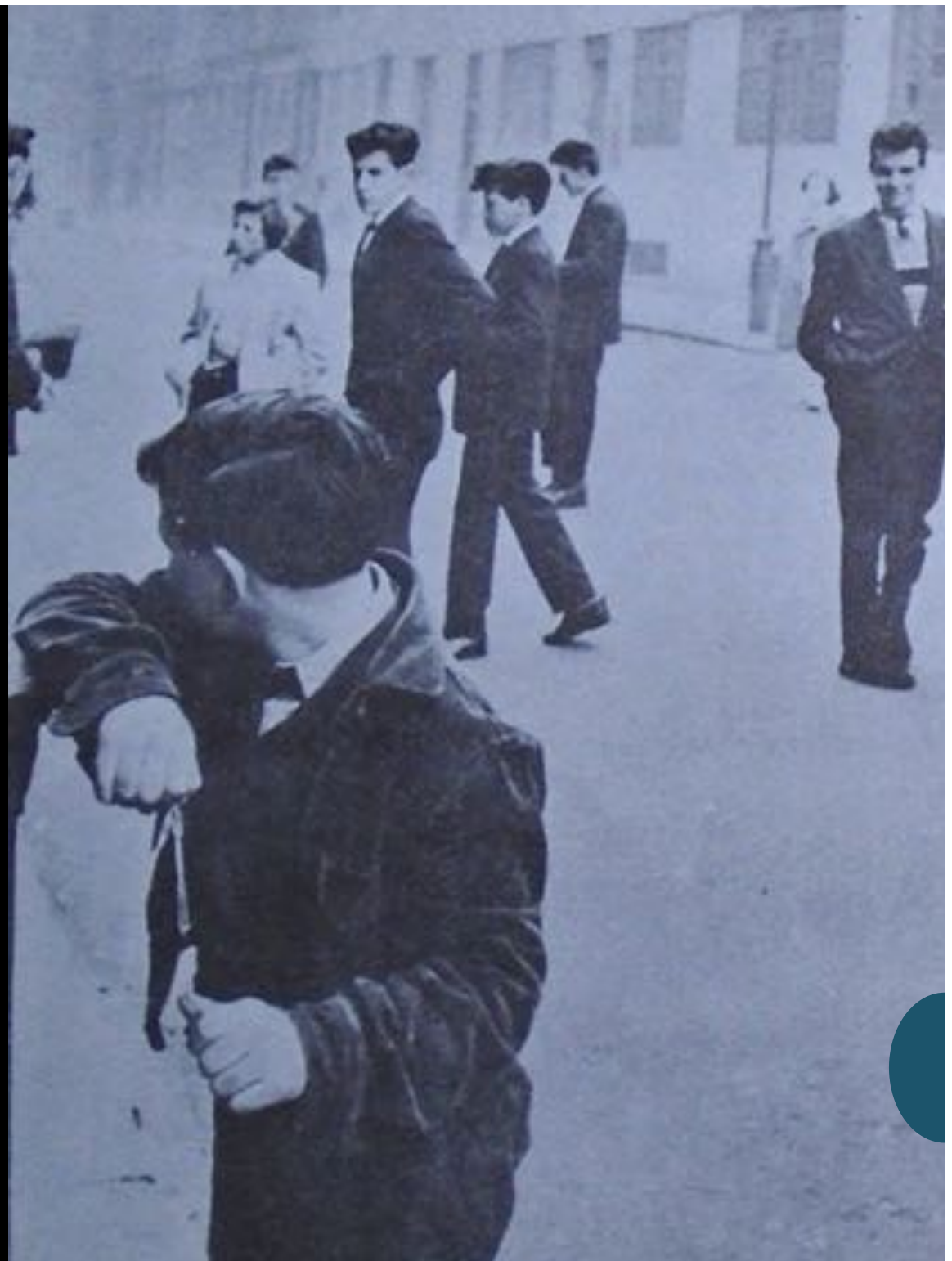
- *Youth*
- *Housing*
- *Race/racism*

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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