

NEWSFLASH: Heritage Chronicles

NEWSFLASH SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

CSEP Prize Giving, 7th July 2007

JONKONNU

J.....is a carnival like musical celebration which can be traced back to West Africa.

Legend states that the name originates from “John Canoe” an African tribal chief who demanded the right to celebrate with his people even though he was enslaved in the West Indies.

It is believed that the festival started in the 16th century. Slaves on the plantations were given three days off during Christmas time where they would celebrate the holiday with African dance music costumes.

Even after emancipation of enslaved Africans by the British in 1838 the tradition continued.

Today J.....musical acts are seen in carnival processions in various islands in the Caribbean such as Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, St Kitts & Nevis, North American carnivals such as New York & Florida and Carnivals here in the UK such as Notting Hill, Leeds, Manchester, Huddersfield and Luton.