

Joyce Simpson with four of her children



Courtenay Street, and sold newspapers, comics and paperback books. His wife Joyce was a bus conductor.

Harry and Joyce had six children. They attended St Joseph's Roman Catholic School; none of the other schools in the town would take them because their father was black.

Harry died in 1973, aged 60. Joyce lived to the age of 76, dying in 1994.

NOTICING NEWTON ABBOT

AN EXPLORATION OF THE TOWN'S BUILDINGS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Leaflet written by Katy and Michael Bennie from research by Tess Walker

NEWTON ABBOT STORIES



The Jamaican Stowaway



Harry Simpson at his market stall

Harry Simpson Boxer, Soldier, Market Trader

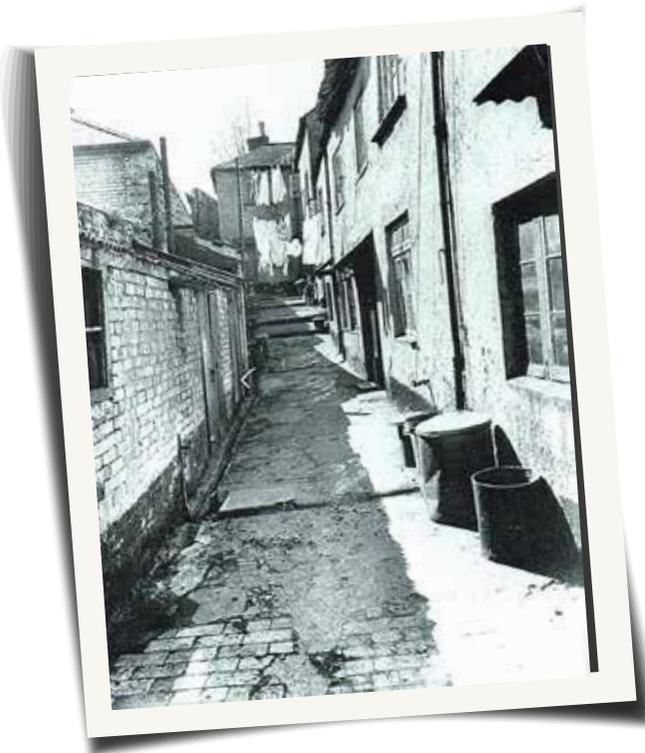
On 31 December 1935, the Jamaican banana boat the *SS Jamaica Producer* arrived in London. On board was a stowaway, 21-year-old Harold George Simpson. When the ship docked, he was discovered, but instead of being sent back to Jamaica, he was allowed to stay in England.

In order to earn a living, Harry took up boxing, under the name Harry

McCormick. He toured the country and ended up in Newton Abbot, where he met a girl called Joyce Tetreault, who lived in Halcyon Road. They married, and their first child was born in Newton Abbot in 1938. The family moved to London, but when the Second World War started, Harry moved them back to Newton Abbot.

In 1940 he joined the Army, and had postings in different parts of Britain. However, his health deteriorated and in 1945 he was discharged as no longer fit to serve. He returned to Newton Abbot, and he and his family lived in a small house in Shapley's Court, where they had to share an outside tap and toilet with all the other people in the court. They later moved to a council house in Greenaway Road.

Harry couldn't find work when he came back, so he bought a van and became a market trader. He had a small stall in



Shapley's Court