



**Image credits:**

**Left:** A young Victor Ramsey.  
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**Right:** Victor Ramsey in his home in Cambridge, 2024.  
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**Text 1:** Victor Ramsey dancing.  
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**Text 2:** Victor Ramsey.  
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**Text 3:** Victor Ramsey playing the steel pan  
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# VICTOR RAMSEY

Born May 1942,  
Saint Kitts, West Indies

● **April 1960**

Arrived in the United Kingdom from St Kitts.

● **1960s**

Worked on the railways and later as a steel welder for a Steel Asphalt company.

● **1990**

Opened his first newsagents/general store in Cambridge.

● **1962 - Present**

Played as a lead steel pan player in a Cambridge-based steel band.



Victor Ramsey was born and raised in St Kitts, in the West Indies. After attending the local school until the age of 15, he followed in the footsteps

of his father and became a fisherman. Fishing was woven into the social fabric of his life in St Kitts. Victor fondly recalls the “jamming days” on the island, where steel bands would roam the streets.

Eventually, with many friends and family members going to England, Victor left home in 1960 by plane to Ireland and then onto Cardiff where he stayed for approximately 4 months and then took a train to Cambridge via London, where he would build his new life.



He began working on the railways before becoming a steel welder. Over time, Victor proudly owned and managed up to five general stores, served everyday necessities, acting as a helping hand to many.

Drawing from his memories of jamming in the West Indies, he became the first person in Cambridge to craft steel pan drums. Victor’s steel band performed at numerous prestigious events, including the May Balls at Cambridge colleges, as well as at local venues like the Midland Tavern and community hubs such as the Labour Club, bringing Caribbean rhythms to the heart of Cambridge.

