**BOXING DAY CELEBRATION** 

## GOMBEY STREET PARTY



the streets for their traditional Boxing Day celebrations.

Today, the art form is instantly recognisable for its dance, rhythmic drumming, theatre and symbolically colourful dress — but those who took part were keen to ing of their culture, which harks back to the era of slav-

"A lot of people want to know more about it, and we Carolyn, whom he met pass the information about during a Gombey perforour tradition and culture onto them," said Wayne Raynor, who performed on Boxing Day with the H&H Gombeys group, which was founded by his grandfather Lawrence "Stickers" Hendrickson.

"To me, this always meant family and tradition. I take it seriously and try to pass it on, as it was passed on to me.

'That's not just for tourists, but for locals as well. A

the parade.

Ĥ&H Gombeys set out at lunchtime on Boxing Day from the Glebe Road home of Mr Hendrickson, who performed Gombey for the Queen in 1994 and has travelled the world with his

He told The Royal Gazette he felt proud that his four grandsons were all continuing the tradition, adding: "It makes me feel great."

Mr Hendrickson's wife mance in the 1950s, said: "I'm happy when they come out. It's a nice feeling and I get choked up."

And his grandson Zaniko Hendrickson, who has been participating in the parades since the age of two, added: "This means a lot. We're keeping the tradition alive, and it brings everybody together and shows our history.

"Once people hear that music, it takes over."



Happy to see you: West Avenue resident Mary Burchall with Warwick Gombey Troupe group leader. The Gombevs traditionally take to the streets on Boxing Day



Bright and beautiful: Warwick Gombey Troupe creates a party atmosphere moments before going through West Avenue, Southampton. The air was filled with rhythmic drumming



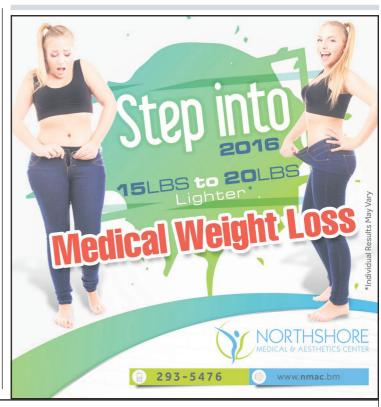
Dazzling display: Warwick

11-year-old Ari Outerbridge,

Gombey Troupe wow the

crowds. Pictured are

Feeling the beat: Deonna Hill dances with Warwick Gombey Troupe as it passes through West Avenue



## **PHOTOGRAPHS by AKIL SIMMONS**



Our Holiday Hours this week are: Monday, December 28th - Wednesday, December 30th: 10am - 5pm Thursday, December 31st: 10am - 1pm Friday, January 1st: Noon - 5pm

Saturday, January 2nd: 10am - 5pm Sunday, January 3rd: 10am - 5pm



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