



The Jamaican High Commission London - Newsletter

Year in Review

MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, H.E. MRS. ALOUN NDOMBET-ASSAMBA



We have come to the end of another hectic year at the High Commission. We had a number of Ministerial visits over the period, witnessed the launch of the Diaspora Mapping Project and supported as well as participated in countless events put on by the Diaspora across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. Our increas-

ingly popular Citizenship Ceremonies and other outreach activities were successfully undertaken and we expect to build on what was achieved over the past year. We had our usual events to mark significant milestones both here and in Jamaica, and introduced new initiatives like our inaugural Literary Evening, which was held in September.

The High Commission also continued to participate extensively in discussions with bilateral, multilateral and business partners both here and in the UK, as well as in the countries to which I am concurrently accredited as Ambassador (Finland, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Cyprus).

2014 was also a year of important developments in the Diaspora, particularly with the establish-

ment of the Jamaica Education Taskforce UK (JET UK) and the International Health Group UK, both of which have been doing extensive work.

As a Mission, we are proud that we were able to have done so much, notwithstanding our limited resources. We could not have done so without your continued support and cooperation – thank you.

I close by reassuring you of the High Commission's continued commitment to working with you all in 2015.

We expect that it will be an even more exciting but challenging year but with your support and partnership, we will be able to build on the progress realised thus far.

HIGH COMMISSION EVENTS

REGGAE MONTH



Scores of music lovers braved the London Underground strike and bad weather to celebrate Bob Marley's birthday at the High Commission on February 6.

The event also paid tribute to late singer Dennis Brown, whose birthday was on February 1. A minute's silence was observed for the late William 'Bunny Rugs' Clarke of the band, Third World, who would

have also celebrated his birthday on February 6. Deputy High Commissioner, Mrs. Diedre Mills, who gave the official welcome, said Bob Marley blazed a trail that very few could have conceived for a youngster born in Nine Miles, St. Ann.

To stage, the event the High Commission collaborated once again with the London-based performing arts charity, UK UNSIGNED, headed by Mr. John Downie. There were performances from singer GI Joe; the poet, Miraculous; saxophonist Lancelles James; the trio, True Identity; Aysa Loren; John McLean; Teejah Prayze and the SLV Choir; Keith Mindlink; Cutty Williams and the Ciyò Brown Trio.

INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOWCASE (IFS)



Jamaican's participation in the International Fashion Showcase (IFS) in London was formally launched on February 12 at a glittering reception and fashion show at the High Commission.

Entitled 'Threadbare,' it featured the works of five Jamaican designers. The designers and the management team from the

HIGH COMMISSION'S EVENTS CONTINUED

Jamaica Business Development Corporation, including Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Valerie Veira and Ms. Marie Casserly, Project Development and Implementation, also hosted and participated in a series of workshops and seminars.



The High Commissioner, who officially launched the event, said Jamaica's participation in the International Fashion Showcase was a wonderful platform for Brand Jamaica.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The High Commission paid special tribute to five pioneering Jamaican women, in keeping with the theme of this year's international Women's Day – 'Inspiring Change'.



The women featured during a special exhibition put on by the High Commission were Shirley Graham Paul of Reading; Hartnell Campbell of London; Councillor Norma Hutchinson of Leeds; Connie Mark of London and Louise DaCocordia of Manchester.



The event also featured a performance by Birmingham based internationally renowned singer, Jaki Graham, who had the large audience rocking to some of her best known songs including "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love."

COMMONWEALTH DAY COMMEMORATION

On March 13, the High Commission hosted a "Discussion on the Commonwealth" to mark Commonwealth Week 2014. The keynote speaker was Mrs Patsy Robertson, a Jamaican national who not only served at the High Commission when it was set up in 1962, but who was a former Director of Information and Commonwealth Spokesperson for many years. Currently the Chair of the Ramphal Institute, Mrs Robertson reflected on the theme for Commonwealth Week 2014 - "Team Commonwealth."



Among other things, Mrs Robertson made reference to the tumultuous discussions in the Commonwealth regarding apartheid and South Africa and the leadership role that the Commonwealth has always played in championing issues of concern to small states. She underscored the value of the camaraderie among the Heads of yesteryear and, with an eye on the future, challenged the Commonwealth to tackle big international issues which will resonate outside the Organization.

In addition to High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba, His Excellency, Dr Carl B. W. Roberts, CMG, former High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda and immediate past Chair of the Commonwealth Board of Governors, also brought remarks. The programme for the evening also included the reading of a poem entitled "Together - We March...", penned by Ms Angela Edwards of the High Commission and read by Ms



Omyele Rosenior-Patten a 16 year old secondary school student of Jamaican and Sierra Leonean parentage.

Among those in attendance were officers from the Secretariat, including the Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Social Development, as well as a cross section of High Commissioners and staff from Commonwealth missions, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Commonwealth Countries League (organisers of the annual Commonwealth Fair) and members of the Jamaican community.



INDEPENDENCE CHURCH SERVICE

Nearly one thousand Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica attended the annual Service of Praise and Thanksgiving held to commemorate the island's 52nd Anniversary of Independence on July 26 at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster, London. In a special message for the service, which was read by the High Commissioner, Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson-Miller, ON, MP, assured Jamaicans in the United Kingdom (UK) of the Government's commitment to strengthening ties with the Diaspora as part of the nation building process.

The High Commissioner, for her part, praised the UK Diaspora for their hard work and continued dedication to Jamaica.

The service also acknowledged the centenary of World War I and the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

There was a special performance of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" by the group True Identity, and a special dance of praise choreographed by Jackie Guy, MBE.

The flag bearers were members of the Jamaica Ex-Soldiers Association, while the officiating clergy were Senior Pastor Peter Loo from the Emmanuel Evangelical Church; Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to Her Majesty the Queen, the

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Rev. Rose Hudson Wilkin; General Secretary of the Assembly of the First Born, Rev. Errol Vassell and the Rt. Rev. Delroy Powell, National Presiding Bishop of the New Testament Assembly, who delivered the sermon.



INDEPENDENCE DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION

The Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, members of the Diplomatic Corps and scores of Jamaicans and Friends of Jamaica joined the High Commissioner in celebrating Jamaica's 52nd anniversary of Independence at a reception at the High Commission on August 5. Cricket Legend Hon. Michael Holding and Actress Donna Croll were also among the guests in attendance. High Commissioner, H.E. Aloun Ndombet Assamba who formally welcomed the guests, thanked them for being a part of the special occasion.



PANEL DISCUSSION ON REPARATIONS - BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Dr Robert Beckford, Professor of Theology and Culture in the African Diaspora, was the moderator of a special Panel Discussion on Reparations at the High Commission on October 30, as part of activities to mark Black History Month. The Panel included Dr Mark Ledwidge, Senior Lecturer in History and American Studies and Esther Stanford-Xosei a Reparations legal expert and activists.

DR OMAR DAVIES THE MUSICOLOGIST

Dr the Hon. Omar Davies, MP, Jamaica's Minister of Transport, Works and Housing has embarked on a musical journey to rank his country's top 100 songs from the past 50 years. The outcome of the project was shared with members

of the Diaspora at a presentation at the High Commission on November 25 as well as in Birmingham on November 26.

A self-confessed 'musicologist', Minister Davies believes that Jamaica's popular music, perhaps more than any other aspect of what the country has achieved, has established the island as 'a super power' despite its size and economic status.

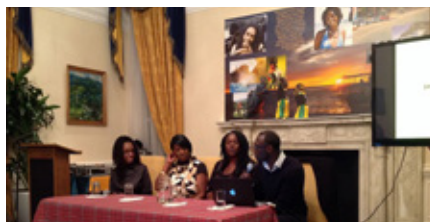
"The social commentary contained in the lyrics of many of the songs, particularly those written and recorded in the late 1960s and 70s, have found resonance in many other countries which have, ostensible, very few links with Jamaica," said Dr Davies. "As such, people ranging from guerrilla fighters in Africa to inner city residents in South America and Asia, have all identified with the lyrics written about oppressive social conditions in Jamaica. While for those living outside the island in the Jamaican Diaspora – the US, Canada and Britain – the music has bonded them over the years at social gatherings."

The Minister embarked on the project back in 2008, when he appointed a five-member panel which included himself, Vaughan 'Bunny' Goddison; Wayne Chen, co author of the book Reggae Roots; Frankie Campbell, founding member of the Fab 5 band; and radio presenter Francois St Juste.

While Minister Davies said the list of songs had been created to simply to invite discussion rather than lay Government policy, he stressed the importance of making sure that up and coming artists were encouraged and any intellectual property rights protected.

DISCUSSION ON THE BUSINESS OF REGGAE MUSIC

The High Commission, in collaboration with local charity UK-UNSIGNED, hosted a very informative and lively discussion on the Business of Reggae Music on May 29. The Discussion was moderated by Mr. Mykaell Riley, FRSA, Head of Music Production -University Westminster and Programme Director, Black Music Research Unit. The Panellists were John Downie, UK-UNSIGNED; Keecia



Ellis, Universal Records Licensing Department; and Kwaku, Editor of British Black Music.com. The Guest contributor was Leanne Brackett of www.promosetgo.com, who is a young Social Networking promotional expert.

JHC HOSTS FAREWELL FUNCTION FOR COMMONWEALTH HIGH COMMISSIONERS

On August 21, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba hosted a Farewell Reception at the High Commission for the outgoing High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda, H.E. Dr. Carl B. W. Roberts, CMG, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore, H. E. Mr Thambynathan Jasudasen, and the Acting High Commissioner of Barbados, Mr Donville Johnson. High Commissioner hosted her outgoing counterpart, H.E. Mr. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner, Trinidad & Tobago, at a special dinner in March.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

The High Commission hosted two citizenship ceremonies in 2014. The first was held on May 10 and the second on November 22 to recognise UK-born persons of Jamaican heritage, who take up Jamaican citizenship.

High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, congratulated the new citizens and urged them to become involved in the development of the Jamaican community in the UK.

The Jamaican Constitution allows for persons born outside of Jamaica but of Jamaican parentage to be certified as Jamaican Citizens. Both Jamaica and the UK allow for dual nationality and in recent years a growing number of persons of Jamaican heritage have been applying for certification as Jamaican citizens.

The first ever citizenship ceremony was held in December 2013 and the High Commission is committed to hosting regular ceremonies.





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SPECIAL VISITS

ROYAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM



High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, made a special visit to the Royal Air Force (RAF) Museum on March 19, to view an exhibition about the Caribbean pilots and other service personnel, who fought for the Royal Air Force (RAF) during both World Wars. The exhibition, which was unveiled on November 1, was entitled: 'Pilots of the Caribbean: Volunteers of African Heritage in the Royal Air Force'. In commenting on the exhibition, the High Commissioner noted that it was an important undertaking that would enable second, third and fourth generation of Jamaicans and other Caribbean nationals, to be proud and confident of the history and contributions of their parents and grandparents. She also noted that it was equally important for the wider British society to remember and recognise the sacrifices made by the British colonies and immigrants from the Caribbean, who volunteered for the war effort and contributed significantly to the rebuilding of the country.



The exhibition was curated in partnership with the Black Cultural Archives.

MARY SEACOLE DEDICATION CEREMONY

High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba was among the guests at a site dedication ceremony for the long-awaited statue for pioneering Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole, at the Gardens of St Thomas' Hospital in Westminster, London.

Chairman of the Mary Seacole Memorial Statue Appeal, Lord Clive Soley of Hammersmith, said the statue, which will be the first in

London to be dedicated to a named black woman, will be erected in 2015.

The High Commissioner said that all Jamaicans are very proud of Mary Seacole and that the statue was a great honour to her.

The campaign to erect a statue to honour Mary Seacole started in 2010. The goal was to raise £500,000. Much of this target has now been reached but Lord Soley said that a further £90,000 was needed to ensure that the Statue would be unveiled in 2015 to mark the 160th anniversary of Mary Seacole's arrival in Crimea.

Mary Seacole, who was born in Jamaica and was well known as a 'doctress' for her work in Jamaica and in Panama, has been voted the greatest Black Briton. She also set up the 'British Hotel,' where she fed and cared for wounded soldiers.



COMMUNITY VISITS

Leicester

High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, paid an official visit to Leicester from October 4 to 5, where she met with the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor John Thomas, and held discussions with the Chair of the Leicester Asian Business Association, Uday Dholakia, to discuss business links with Jamaica.

The High Commissioner was the



guest speaker at the Leicester Caribbean Credit Union's 40th Anniversary celebrations and presented special awards to some of the founding members of the credit union, including the Chairman Mr. Eric Hudson. The High Commissioner congratulated Patricia Munroe and the Contrast Steel band, which is also

celebrating its 40th anniversary. She was accompanied by Ms. Leonie Livingstone, Minister-Counsellor, Consular and Diaspora Affairs, and Mrs. V. Siva, Community Relations Officer.

Cardiff



High Commissioner was one of the featured presenters at the REMOVING THE DIVIDE -Respecting and Understanding Cultures, Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Conference 2014 hosted by Cardiff University School of Social Sciences on June 20. She was accompanied Ms. C. Dale, Counsellor, and Mrs. V. Siva, Community Relations Officer.

The High Commissioner's topic was 'Jamaica Out of Many One People' during which she explored how Jamaica's culture has been influenced by the island's history and its different racial and ethnic

It was the High Commissioner's first visit to Cardiff and before her presentation at the Conference she met with the Deputy Presiding Officer for the Welsh Assembly, David Melding AM.

Later in the afternoon, she met with Jamaicans living in Cardiff at a community meeting at the New Testament Church of God in Butetown.

The High Commissioner also met Mrs. Betty Campbell, who took time from celebrating her 61st Wedding Anniversary to attend a Community meeting. Mrs. Campbell was the first black head teacher in Cardiff.



Hackney



The High Commissioner paid an official visit to Hackney on March 14 and met with civic officials and members of the Jamaican and Caribbean community. During the visit, the High Commissioner visited The Urswick School in Paragon Road . She was joined by The Queen's representative to Hackney Lt Col Roderick Morriss; Speaker at the Hackney Council, Councillor Michael Desmond and Hackney Cllr Patrick Vernon, OBE and was also accompanied by Mrs. Vivienne Siva and Ms. Leonie Livingston from the Jamaican High Commission.

The group attended the morning assembly, which was attended by 450 students aged 11 to 14. During the assembly, the High Commissioner presented Student of the Week awards to students in Years 7 and 8.

The High Commissioner also paid a courtesy call on the speaker at the

Hackney Town Hall and met with members of the Jamaican community, the Member of Parliament, Diane Abbott and London Assembly Member, Jeannette Arnold. The High Commission also made a brief visit to the Hackney Museum as well as to the Hackney Caribbean Elderly Organisation.

Redditch

More than 100 people enjoyed an evening with the Jamaican High Commissioner to mark Black History Month in Redditch. H.E. Aloun Ndombet -Assamba paid a visit to Redditch on October 24 as part of an event organised by Caribbean Roots Connection.

Mayor Pat Witherspoon, former Mayor Madge Tillsley, MBE, Borough Council Leader Bill Hartnett and the High Commissioner all spoke at the event, which included performances from the Redditch Community Gospel Choir.

HIGH COMMISSIONER SUPPORTS MEMORIAL

Brave but largely unsung African and Caribbean soldiers who fought valiantly for Britain in the First and Second World Wars will finally be elevated beyond a "footnote in history" with a permanent memorial unveiled in their honour. The sculpture in Windrush Square, Brixton, was revealed to the public on Armistice Day (Nov 11) following the observation of the traditional two-minute silence at 11 a.m.

High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, called the memorial to "overlooked" Africans and Caribbean servicemen a "fitting permanent tribute" to those who played a critical role in the war effort. These sentiments were echoed by the Chair of the West Indian Association of Service Personnel (WASP), Mr. Vince McBean, and the Chair of the Nubian Jak Commemorative Plaque Scheme, Mr. Jak Beula, who also spoke at the event. The sculpture is engraved with every names of the African and Caribbean regiments which contributed to Great Britain's war effort and who made the ultimate sacrifice for the 'mother country.'

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS - NORWAY

The High Commissioner presented her Credentials to His Majesty the King of Norway on November 6. By doing so, she becomes Jamaica's Non-Resident Ambassador to Norway. During her visit, the High Commissioner met with officers from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps as well as officials from key business entities in Norway. She also met with the individuals behind the Little Jamaica project as well as members of the Jamaican community in Norway. The High Commissioner was supported during the visit by Jamaica's Honorary Consul to Norway, Mr. Haagen Oust.

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



- The project supported by Chain of Hope to increase the number of cardiac surgeries at the Bustamante Hospital for Children and the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre were among the beneficiaries of the proceeds from a Jamaican-themed fund raising party, hosted at the Polish Club in South Kensington. High Commissioner Ndombet-Assamba was the special guest at the June 25 event. A cheque for some £6,000 representing the proceeds was formally presented to the High Commissioner.

- A team from the High Commission provided information and advice on the range of services offered by the High Commission to the thousands of patrons who attended the annual Jamaica Basic School Foundation Jamaica Day Fair and Food Festival at Crystal Palace Park on August 3, and visited the High Commission's stall. The annual event, which is one of the main fund raising events for the Jamaica Basic School Foundation's project in Jamaica, is popular with wide cross sections of patrons.



- The High Commission rang out with the sounds of Jamaican folk songs and ring games as children and teachers from 12 primary schools across London were treated to a very special Jamaican Christmas, on December 5. Featured entertainment was provided by noted Jamaican

choreographer, Jackie Guy, MBE, who got the children and their teachers involved in singing and dancing to a range of traditional and contemporary Jamaican music. Members of staff of the High Commission also participated. The students and their teachers



were also treated to a traditional Jamaican Christmas lunch, which featured chicken, rice and peas and fried plantains. All the schools were presented with gift bags from the sponsor of day's activities, Victoria Mutual Building Society (VMBS). The Schools Christmas programme is part of the High Commission's community outreach programme.



- Ten IR200 Noncontact Forehead Thermometers valued at nearly J\$125,000 were handed over to Minister of Local Government, Hon. Noel Arscott, for the Ministry of Health on November 12 at the High Commission to support Jamaica's Ebola preparedness campaign. The Thermometers were sourced by the International Healthcare Group UK and funded by the Association of Jamaicans UK Trust. The UK health group is made of several individuals and organisations that fund raise and support health care in Jamaica.

- Colonel Torrance D. G. Lewis, Chairman of the Jamaica Legion received a cheque from Senator the Hon. Arnold J. Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, from proceeds collected at the 52nd Independence Church Service held in London on July 26. Established in 1949, the Jamaica Legion is an affiliate of the Royal



Commonwealth Ex Services League. The Legion operates the Curphey Home in Newport, Manchester for indigent ex-soldiers. The Legion also provides monthly and quarterly financial assistance to over 100 veterans and their widows.

- Thanks largely to the generous support of the Jamaican community the High Commission was able to donate £5,000 to the Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) Fund from the proceeds generated at the annual CCL Fair held at Kensington Town Hall on November 8 in which countries from across the Commonwealth participate annually. The Fund provides sponsorship for the secondary school education of girls throughout the Commonwealth, including Jamaica. In addition to this donation, the High Commission was able to contribute £500 to the CCL Fund in June following a series of fundraising cake sales.

- Christmas concert raises funds for Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre THE High Commission was the venue for a special Christmas concert to assist the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre in Kingston. The evening was organised by Ms. Dorothy Ottey on behalf of the Friends of the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre to assist with the refurbishing of the existing work shop at the Centre as well as the Althone Wing of the centre that houses disabled children from all over the Caribbean.

MEETINGS

GLOBAL SUMMIT TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

From June 10 to 13, the High Commissioner and Counsellor, Ms. C. Dale, attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict here in London. The Summit, which was co-chaired by former UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ms Angelina Jolie, placed a spotlight on the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war. The High Commissioner joined the Co-Chairs, the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sexual Violence in

Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, and the representatives of several other countries in signing the Summit's Statement of Action. In doing so, Jamaica was able to lend its voice to support the end of sexual violence in conflict.

EIGHTH UK-CARIBBEAN FORUM

The Eighth UK-Caribbean Forum was held in London from 16 to 17 June 2014 under the theme "A Partnership for Prosperity." The Forum was attended by Foreign Ministers and representatives of the UK and Caribbean governments, including Jamaica's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon. A. J. Nicholson, Ja-

maica's Minister of National Security, Hon. Peter Bunting, the High Commissioner and staff of the Jamaican High Commission. Several important topics were covered during the discussions, including economic development, energy security, education and skills for economic development, trade and investment and security. The outcome of the discussions was summarised in a Communiqué issued at the end of the Forum. In keeping with the practice of alternating venues between the UK and the Caribbean, the next Forum is expected to be hosted in the Caribbean in 2016.

SPECIAL COMMENDATION/NOMINATIONS

HIGH COMMISSIONER NOMINATED FOR GRASSROOT DIPLOMAT INITIATIVE AWARD

High Commissioner, H. E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, was shortlisted from 70 candidates in May for the 2nd Grassroot Diplomat Initiative Award. The award recognises UK-based politicians and diplomats who are representing the interests of the public and their citizenry at the highest level. The High Commissioner was nominated for her vast voluntary work in empowering the youth of Jamaica.



HIGH COMMISSIONER RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL JURIST AWARD

On June 23, the High Commissioner received the 2014 International Jurists Award for her contribution in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) from the International Council of Jurists. The award was presented to the High Commissioner at the Council's International Conference that was held in London.

NATIONAL HONOUR PRESENTED TO LINTON KWESI JOHNSON

Minister of Transport, Works and Housing, Dr. the Honourable Omar Davies, presented the Order of Distinction to Jamaican-born poet Linton Kwesi Johnson at a ceremony at the High Commission on 25 October.



Linton Kwesi Johnson was born in Chapleton, Clarendon, and was conferred with the Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander (CD) on 6th August for his distinguished contribution to

Poetry and Popular Music but was unable to attend the Investiture Ceremony in Jamaica.

JAMAICANS IN THE DIASPORA

Second and third generation Jamaicans in the UK continue to make their mark in their chosen professions. One such is Jason Pitter, a barrister with one of the North's leading legal outfits, New Park Court Chambers in Leeds, and son of Jamaican parents, who continued the trend in April when he 'took silk' and the much revered title of Queen's Counsel (QC) at a special ceremony in Westminster recently.

Following a rigorous and demanding selection process Jason, who is highly recommended by the legal directories in fields including serious crime, is now one of only 100 members of the UK's legal profession to join the ranks of QC this year. The Leeds born 42 year old whose father hails from Kingston and late mother from St Elizabeth, joined his peers to accept the title from the Lord Chancellor who commented that they represent "the finest of the UK's justice system".

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Jamaica took home 10 gold, 4 silver and 8 bronze medals from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, in July, making it an impressive haul of 22 medals.

As usual, track and field athletes took the bulk of the medals on offer, but Alia Atkinson chipped in with 1 silver and 1 bronze in swimming breaststroke events, and Jamaica beat England to secure the bronze medal in netball.

Kemar Bailey-Cole took the gold medal in the men's 100m in 10 seconds flat, with another Jamaican in third, Nickel Ashmeade (10.12). There was a Jamaica 1-2-3 in the women's 400m, as Steph McPherson won in 50.67. Jamaica also took 1-2-3 in the men's 200m, won by Rasheed Dwyer in 20.14. Jamaican Kaliese Spencer (54.10) won the women's 400m hurdles, while in the men's shot put, Odayne Richards won with a throw of 21.61. Andrew Riley of Jamaica won the 110m hurdles in a time of 13.32, and another Jamaican, Kimberley Williams, won the women's triple jump with a leap of 14.21. The Jamaican women won the mile relay in 3:23.83, and they also won both sprint relays. The women were anchored to victory by Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce in 41.83, while the men triumphed with Usain Bolt at the helm in 37.58.

MEETINGS HELD IN THE MARGINS OF THE GAMES

The High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, Mrs. Diedre Mills, participated in meetings organised in the margins of the Games to highlight and promote Jamaica. These include the Jamaica Trade and Invest Seminar held in conjunction with the Glasgow

Chamber of Commerce as well as Jamaica House, which was hosted by the Jamaica Tourist Board and Barrhead Travel. There was a special initiative put on by Mr. David Pott to recognise the links between Scotland and Jamaica entitled, 'Flag Up Scotland Jamaica' at which the Hon. Dr. W. McNeill, Minister of Tourism and Entertainment as well as Mr. Paul Pennicook, Director of Tourism, were also in attendance along with the High Commissioner and other officials.

OTHER SPORTING EVENTS

LAWN BOWLS

Jamaica took part in a lawn bowls event which was played at "The Carnival On The Green", at Kelvingrove Green in Glasgow in June.

This first ever lawn bowls Jamaican team comprised four players, two of whom are not regular bowls players. They included Leon Mann, a BBC sports commentator and also a Voice newspaper journalist, along with Junior Witter, a former WBC world, Commonwealth, European and British boxing champion. The other players were 2013 British crown green bowls association president Mervyn Edwards, the only ever ethnic member of the governing board, and Andrew Newell, the creator of the KNCC Carnival.

The overall winners were the British Crown Green team, beating the Scotland president team 8-5 in a tight final. The Jamaican team finished third, but had the pleasure of making history as being the first ever Jamaican lawn bowls team.

Andrew is hoping that Jamaica will compete in the Commonwealth

Games in 2018, but the support of Jamaicans is needed. The overall plan is to raise money to send lawn bowls equipment to Jamaica and put the sport in schools, colleges and universities. For more information please contact Andrew Newell on andrew@lawnbowlsjamaica.com

FENCING

Jamaica's Tia Simms-Lymn reached the final of the women's epee at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships, held in Inverclyde, Scotland. Tia had victories over opponents from Singapore and South Africa, before losing to Scotland's Georgina Usher 11-4 in the final. Usher had also beaten another Jamaican, Caitlin Chang, by a narrow margin 15-13 in the quarter-finals.

In the final rankings, of the 53 fencers who took part, Tia ranked second, and Caitlin eighth.

In the team event, Jamaica ended up fifth, behind Singapore, South Africa, England and Australia, but ahead of more-favoured teams such as Scotland, New Zealand, India, Canada and Wales.

JAMAICAN FENCING FEDERATION



CONDOLENCES

It was with deep regret that the Jamaican High Commission received news of the untimely passing of Ms. Christine Case in January. The High Commission extended sincere condolence to the family and friends of Ms. Case.

The High Commissioner also said she was shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely and tragic death of Shereka Marsh, whom she had the pleasure of meeting on her visit to Hackney in March. Shereka was one of two female students who accompanied the High Commis-

sioner on her official tour to Urswick School, where she was a student.

Books of Condolence were also opened in July and August respectively, to mark the passing of the former Governor-General, Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCVO, CD and former Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. Roger Clarke, CD, MP.

The Jamaican Community also said farewell to several outstanding members including Professor Stewart Hall the renowned Cultural The-

orist and Sociologist ; the Revered Amy Rose Powell, the Mother of Bishop Delroy Powell ; Mrs. Carmen Wray and Mrs. Delores Watson both of Manchester; Mr. William George Chung of Nottingham; well known football coach Mr. Trevor Hutton, community activists Mr. Seymour McLean and Mrs. Mavis Campbell, the wife of the Chairman of the Association of Jamaican's UK Trust.



Merlene Ottey OD Jamaican Sprint Queen visited the Jamaican High Commission London on 25 February 2014 where she met with staff and clients in the Consular department.



Mrs Diedre Mills, Deputy High Commissioner (right) with Community Relations Officer Vivienne Siva and Mrs Ann Marie Turner offering customers in the Consular Department traditional Jamaican Bun and Cheese and soft drinks during the Jamaican High Commission's Easter Customer Appreciation Day on Thursday 16 April



Clients enjoying the Jamaica Day Quiz



Deputy High Commissioner Mrs. Diedre Mills with the Mayor of Gloucester and President of the St. Ann Society Gloucester, Mrs. Carol Francis-McGann. The Deputy High Commissioner was the guest speaker at the St' Ann Society's Annual General Meeting



Jamaican High Commissioner, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba (right) with the Deputy High Commissioner Mrs. Diedre Mills (centre) and Ms Christine Dale (left) enjoying the Jamaican Knowledge Quiz that was one of the activities hosted by the High Commission to celebrate Jamaica Day



Her Excellency, with Mr & Mrs Bolt, Norman who paid a visit to the High Commission in August



Jamaican High Commission
Deputy High Commissioner with Veron at Jamaica Day



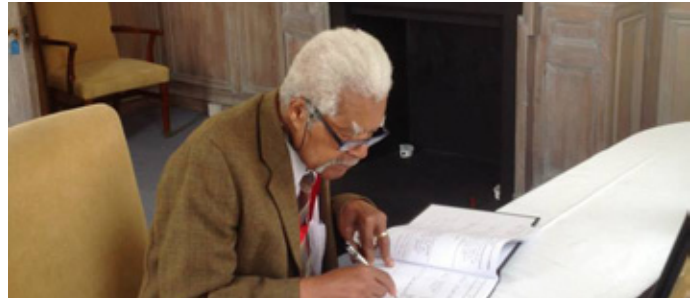
Rudolph Austin - Captain of Jamaica's National Reggae Boyz team & English Championship club Leeds United midfielder visited Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet Assamba in February. He was accompanied by his wife Caroline and newborn baby son Romario



The Monty Band at fund raising Christmas Concert for Sir John Golding Centre



In July Leeds based diver, Yona Knight, who represented Jamaica (his father's homeland), at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, paid a courtesy call on Jamaican High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, this week to update her on his preparation the games. He was accompanied by entrepreneur Levi Roots who is Yona's sponsor.



Community Stalwart, Founder of Windrush Foundation, First Black Mayor of Soutwark & World War 2 Veteran signing Book of Condolence for the former Governor-General, the late Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCMG, CD, who died on 11th July 2014 in Kingston.





Tessy Ojo - Chief Executive Officer, Diana Award UK paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet Assamba on 25 March 2014 to hand over The International Diana Award for Outstanding, Sustained & Selfless Contribution to Community. The award was presented to a young Jamaican in Kingston by the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Senator The Honourable Arnold Nicholson, Q.C

High Commissioner, H.E Aloun Ndombet-Assamba, Deputy High Commissioner, Mrs. Diedre Mills, with Tessy Ojo - Chief Executive Officer, Diana Award & Nathaniel Peat - Jamaican Inspired



Jamaica's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Aloun Ndombet-Assamba yesterday toured the Paradise Patties plant in Tottenham, in North East London as part of the activities to celebrate the company's 10th anniversary. The High Commissioner was hosted by Directors Herman Oliver and Delsie Johnson.



Wolverhampton Sickle Cell Care hosted a Patronage Ceremony in September for High Commissioner, H.E. Aloun Ndombet-Assamba



BRITJAM Brand Director Khori Hyde & guests



High Commissioner with Caribbean Steel Band



John Downie, Managing Director, UK Unsigned presents plaque of appreciation to High Commissioner & Deputy High Commissioner to say thank you for supporting Reggae Month in February



High Commissioner presents award to chair of the Leicester Caribbean Credit Union



High Commissioner with the Jamaican Flag bearer Onayomi Patten at the annual Commonwealth day flag raising ceremony in March at Westminster Abbey

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