



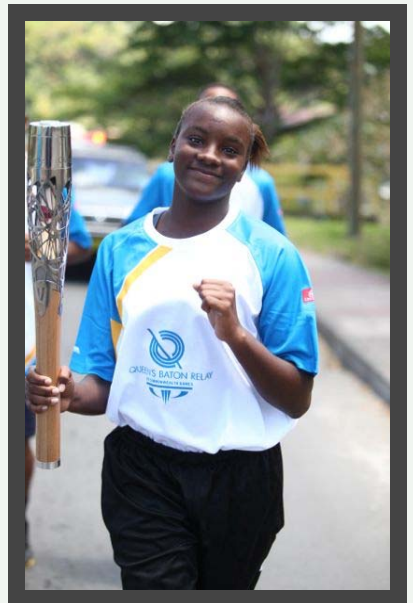
DOMINICA HIGH COMMISSION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 03 JULY 2014

DOMINICA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN GLASGOW

Team Dominica is set to participate in the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and the athletes will feature in the Opening Ceremony which is scheduled to take place in Celtic Park in Glasgow Scotland on 23rd July 2014.

The High Commissioner, Her Excellency Francine Baron will be representing the Government of Dominica at the Opening Ceremony. The event will be attended by Her Majesty The Queen, other members of the Royal Family, along with Heads of Government, Heads of State and Royal Families from across the Commonwealth of Nations. The Commonwealth Games Baton which has travelled to every territory of the Commonwealth arrived in Dominica on 19th March 2014 and was received with celebratory events around the island (more on page 5)



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MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, HER EXCELLENCY FRANCINE BARON

I thought it fitting that my message in this Newsletter should focus on what can be considered to be a coming of age for the judicial system in Dominica.

On Tuesday the 1st of July, 2014, the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Dominica took the historic step of agreeing to amend the Constitution of Dominica to allow for Dominica to delink from the Privy Council and adopt the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) as its final appellate court for appeals in civil and criminal matters. This amendment put forward by the Roosevelt Skerrit Administration, required the concurrence of two thirds of the elected members of Parliament (a total of 16). There were 18 votes in favour by Government elected MP's. Of the three elected MP's on the opposition side, one abstained and the other two were absent for the vote. The Bill will now be forwarded to His Excellency the President for his Assent.

This decision of the Parliament of Dominica will result in Dominica becoming the first OECS country and the fourth country in CARICOM (after Barbados (2005), Guyana (2005) and Belize (2010), to adopt the CCJ as its final appellate court. While the countries of the OECS in 2012, committed to acceding to the CCJ's appellate jurisdiction as soon as possible they have not yet done so. The Prime Minister of Antigua, Hon Gaston Browne, when addressing his fellow CARICOM Heads in Antigua on Tuesday the 1st of July said that his Government intended to hold a referendum as soon as was practically possible on accession to the CCJ's appellate jurisdiction.



Her Excellency Francine Baron, High Commissioner

Jamaican Prime Minister Simpson Miller noted that in approving the constitutional amendment to sign on to the appellate jurisdiction of the CCJ, Dominica had set an example for several other member states, including Jamaica, which have not yet adopted the CCJ as their final Court of Appeal.

You will recall that in the March edition of our Newsletter last year, we spoke about the way in which the CCJ had been set up, which insulates it from the possibility of, or the appearance of, political interference. The Court is independently funded and the appointment of Judges is undertaken by an independent body namely the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission.

The Privy Council is a legacy from British Colonial Rule. The view has been expressed by many, that it is necessary for the Caribbean region to embrace full independence and release itself from the last vestiges of colonialism. It is also felt among other things, that the Judges of the CCJ will be more familiar with the particular nuances of the Caribbean and therefore be able to apply a local perspective to the matters that come before it.

The CCJ is able to function as an itinerant court. It is therefore able, where circumstances warrant it, to travel from the seat of the Court in Trinidad, to individual Member States to adjudicate on matters. Citizens will therefore enjoy greater access to the final Court, not only because of this, but also because it is expected to be less costly to bring matters before the CCJ than the Privy Council.

As we embark on this new chapter in our history, we adopt the words of Hon. Prime Minister Skerrit, that we look forward to our citizens taking advantage of the CCJ so that they can feel that they have gone through the full process of the justice system. I look forward to the day when the entire CARICOM region adopts the CCJ as its final court of appeal for civil and criminal matters.

DOMINICA PARTICIPATES IN THE 8TH UK CARIBBEAN FORUM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: 16TH TO 17TH JUNE 2014

Dominica's Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, the Honourable Matthew Walter, headed Dominica's delegation at the 8th UK Caribbean Forum, which took place in London from 16th to 17th July 2014. The two-day conference was hosted by the Hon. William Hague, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, under the theme "A Partnership for Prosperity".

Her Excellency Francine Baron, Dominica's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ms Janet Charles, Second Secretary were part of the Dominica delegation. Among the delegates were UK Government Ministers, senior officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the CARICOM Secretariat, Foreign Ministers from the Caribbean including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba and the UK Overseas Territories. The Forum was first held in 1998 in The Bahamas and the UK and the Caribbean take turns in hosting the Forum. The last Forum in the Caribbean was held in Grenada.

The Forum which takes place every two years provides the opportunity for Caribbean Governments to hold high-level discussions with the UK Government. Caribbean Ministers held discussions with the Foreign Secretary and Mark Simmonds MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Caribbean and raised a number of on-going issues on immigration, highlighting the difficulties for business persons and artistes wanting to take advantage of the trade opportunities under the EPA. Ministers further highlighted the frustrations in respect of the restrictions of the UK visa policy for students whose professional qualifications require on-the-job training. The issue of reparations was mentioned. The UK Government were informed of the economic situation of the region and the need to renegotiate and establish new terms of engagement between small and large states and the classification of the region under the UN system.

Ministers welcomed the announcement earlier this year by the UK Government of the decision to amend the Air Passenger Duty band and saw this as a first step in the right direction to alleviate the negative impact the tax has had on the region's tourism industry. A trade and investment event took place within the margins of the Forum, to promote new business opportunities in the Caribbean. Ministers also participated in a 'Caribbean Question Time' event with UK parliamentarians and the UK-Caribbean community.

At the end of the Forum, which focused on joint efforts to promote prosperity and encourage economic growth, the UK and the Caribbean agreed to follow-up on areas such as energy security, education for economic development, security and tackling serious and organised crime and foreign policy. There was a commitment to work together on a proposal of a regional gas market in the area of sustainable energy.

Both sides recognised the unique relationship that exist between the UK and the region which is based on friendship, mutual understanding and shared values and for some a historic past.

The next UK Caribbean Forum will take place in the Caribbean in 2016.



CARICOM Ministers with the Earl of Wessex at St James Palace



CARICOM Ministers with Foreign Secretary William Hague at Lancaster House

MASSIVE INVESTMENT IN SPORT DEVELOPMENT IN DOMINICA



Honourable Justina Charles, Minister for Sports

During an address delivered at the 8th annual Sports Awards on Wednesday May 7th 2014, Honourable Justina Charles, Minister responsible for Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs commented, 'the Labour Party Government is well-aware of the integral role sports play in youth development and has invested tremendously in its advancement island-wide.'

Honourable Charles made special mention of various projects around the island, including investment in playing fields for several communities. The Minister confirmed that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to establish new playing fields and the refurbishment of others, with villages such as Grand Fond, La Plaine, Woodford Hill, Petite Savanne benefiting from these investments. Plans are confirmed for lights to be installed at the Benjamin's Park in Portsmouth, while new hard courts have been constructed at Tete Morne, San Sauver and Salybia. These recent investments and development of sports facilities will certainly support the advancement of young persons who are interested in enhancing their sporting talents and this in turn will place Dominica in better stead to participate in local, regional and international events.

The Minister further commented that "efforts have been put into strengthening and harmonizing our school sports programmes. Structures are put in place at the community level to ensure that all our sports people are given the opportunity to benefit and participate. We continue to provide support to all our national associations and other sporting organisations through the provision of duty free concessions and grants. The equipment stocks at our schools have been significantly increased and we have also ensured that appropriate equipment are made available to our students as they participate in age grouped sports programmes."

GOVERNMENT OF DOMINICA TO CONSTRUCT INDOOR SPORTS FACILITY

The Government of Dominica continues to recognize the role of sports in developing strong bodies and disciplined minds, and in preventing social unacceptable behaviour among the nation's youth. Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, the Honourable Roosevelt Skerit has announced that plans are well underway for the construction of a "state of the art, indoor sporting facility" with a seating capacity of no less than 3,000. Addressing thousands of supporters of the Dominica Labour Party on Monday, May 5, 2014 in St. Joseph, Prime Minister Skerit stated that preliminary studies have been conducted and designs for the new indoor sports complex have been mapped out.

"A team of structural engineers and architects from one of South Florida's leading construction and development firms is busy finalizing drawings that will form part of a proposal for the setting down of this facility in Dominica, before the end of this calendar year. That high level team of experienced practitioners in this business will be visiting Dominica later this month and shall seek the input of all sporting associations, in the formulation of the master plan that will be submitted to the Cabinet within the next six weeks," Prime Minister Skerit stated.

The facility to be located at Stockfarm will be built to international specifications and will be able to host major tournaments in basketball, volleyball, netball and other such sporting disciplines. Representatives from local sporting associations are to serve on a consultative body with which the developers shall interact so as to ensure that the specific and peculiar needs and conditions of Dominica are catered for. The Government recognizes the economic potential of sports and has pursued the development of sports facilities across Dominica. The construction of the Windsor Park Stadium and the development of playing fields in Grandfond, Loubiere, LaPlaine and Petite Savanne highlight government's continued investment in sports development in Dominica.

Source: GIS

COUNTDOWN TO COMMONWEALTH GAMES—GLASGOW 2014 BATON RELAY IN DOMINICA



His Excellency Charles Savarin accepting the Commonwealth Games Baton

The countdown to the Commonwealth Games was signalled by the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay which took place at Buckingham Palace on 9th October 2013. The launch, which was attended by a representative of the High Commission, is the traditional curtain raiser to the Commonwealth Games. Her Majesty the Queen placed a message within the Baton before it began its journey across the Commonwealth.

The Baton arrived in Dominica on 19th March 2014 for a two-day tour and was welcomed with a traditional Kalinago dance performed by a group from Dominica's indigenous people. Officials from the Commonwealth Games

National Organizing Committee of Dominica were also at Melville Hall Airport to welcome the Baton and its custodians. Celebratory events were held with tours to several communities and a relay involving Dominican athletes and students. The Baton was also formally presented to the President of Dominica, His Excellency Charles Savarin.

The Baton arrived in Glasgow on the 14th June 2014 and the message from Her Majesty will be read at the Opening Ceremony of the Games on 23rd July 2014. Team Dominica will be proudly flying the Dominica flag and the High Commissioner extends her best wishes to the team, for every success in the Games.



All photos of Baton in Dominica are courtesy of the Dominica Olympic Committee

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR DOMINICA

The Government has announced that an agreement for the construction of an international airport in Dominica is in the making and should be finalized in the coming months. The announcement was made by the Honourable Prime Minister on 5th May 2014 as he commented 'we have been having very in-depth discussions with a team of private developers out of China, who are proposing the popular BOOT - Build, Own, Operate and Transfer - option for the construction of an international airport in Dominica'.

The Prime Minister assured the nation of the Government's continued commitment regarding the construction of an international airport for Dominica. The Government recognizes that improvement to the Melville Hall Airport was necessary to meet the immediate to medium term air access needs of Dominica. Recent improvements, particularly night landing facilities, have eliminated some of the main problems faced by travellers to and from Dominica.

The Prime Minister has since led a delegation to the People's Republic of China to engage in advanced talks relating to the proposed international airport. The Prime Minister also disclosed that other developmental projects were on the agenda for discussion with the Chinese investors.

Source: GIS

FEAST OF ST. ISIDORE CELEBRATED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM BY THE GRANDBAY COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

On Monday 26th May members of the Grandbay Community Alliance again celebrated the Feast of St. Isidore in the United Kingdom. Dominican nationals all over the UK look forward to being part of this tradition. It is an event that brings Dominicans together and Her Excellency Francine Baron, Dominica's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom was part of this event.

In her address to those at the event, the High Commissioner congratulated the Grand Bay Community for their continued commitment in organising the event and keeping the culture of Dominica alive. She highlighted the developments in Dominica and conveyed messages of congratulations from the Government and people of Dominica.



Catholic Church in Grandbay, Dominica

The church service was followed by celebrations at the Ilford Sports Club, where patrons were treated to Dominican food and drinks, as well as dancing and entertainment from local DJs.

Meanwhile, in Dominica, Fete Isidore was celebrated with various activities mainly held in the villages of Grand Bay, Good Hope, San Sauveur and Petite Soufriere. Activities included a sports day, a traditional night with lapeau kabwit, a fish night, a cultural expo, a dance and other cultural activities.

Also included was the farmers' award ceremony where for the first time, 14 female farmers from Petite Soufriere, Good Hope and San Sauveur were recognized for their hard work in the agricultural sector. The fete ended on Monday 9th June with a Mass where a cultural elder was honoured.

PROFILE OF DOMINICAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

There is a significant number of the Dominican Diaspora residing in the United Kingdom. A conservative number of 20,000 has been suggested, which would include first, second and third generation persons, who consider themselves to be of Dominican background. Given that the population of Dominica, according to the 2011 census is 70,000, we can see that in the United Kingdom, there is a vast and vibrant Dominican community and if efforts are jointly harnessed, a positive impact towards development in Dominica can be made.

The role of the various Dominican associations in the UK cannot be over emphasized. The associations provide a medium through which UK based Dominicans can coordinate their efforts, their time and talents towards worthy causes for Dominica. The associations also provide excellent networking facilities where Dominicans can connect with each other and celebrate the rich and unique culture of Dominica.

In the past, the associations have raised funds for disaster relief, educational grants and scholarships for Dominican students, made donations of medical supplies and equipment, and made donations to schools and libraries in Dominica.

The Dominica High Commission works with the associations, where possible, on various ventures and in the general promotion of Dominica. The High Commission applauds the work of the associations and urges members of the Dominican community in the UK to participate. In each edition of the High Commission's future newsletters, one association will be introduced and in this publication we focus on the Dominica Overseas Nationals Association.

DOMINICA OVERSEAS NATIONALS ASSOCIATION (DONA)

The Dominica Overseas Nationals Association was established as a charity in June 1978; charity number 279643. Soon after this, in August 1979 DONA assisted in sending much needed aid and medical supplies to Dominica which had been hit by destructive Hurricane David. As one of the first groups to respond to the appeal for aid, the Association, with the cooperation of British Airways and British West India Airways was able to send 17 trained nurses to Dominica. The association also provided medical equipment and other vital resources.

Since then the Dominica Overseas Nationals Association has continued to work tirelessly to provide assistance to various causes both in Dominica and the UK. The projects include providing medical equipment and resources to health establishments in Dominica; supplying Dominican schools, colleges, and the library with books and other educational material. The association also makes many monetary donations to other charitable bodies, individuals and those in need.

DONA is proud of its strong links with the Dominican community in the UK and is keen to maintain its cultural heritage. It formed a Quadrille Dance Group in 1978. The group have performed at Buckingham Palace, The Millennium Dome Greenwich, as well as community and national events all over the country.

In 2009 with a grant obtained from the London Borough of Ealing, the Association successfully organised Black History tours to Liverpool, Bristol and the British Museum in London.

Sylvia Mitchell, DONA's Development Officer, author and an advocate of the Dominican Kwéyòl language has facilitated language classes for members of the Association.

(continued on page 8)

Dominica Overseas Nationals Association (DONA)

Over the years the Association has been privileged to have hosted a number of interesting talks. In 2013 as part of its Lifelong Learning Programme, Sylvia Smith, Independent Social Work Consultant and Expert Court Witness led a seminar entitled, 'A parenting workshop for everyone'. The first talk in 2014 has been on prostate cancer by Trevor Walker, a survivor of the condition and speaker from Prostate Cancer UK.

To achieve its goals DONA works closely with other groups and associations. DONA is affiliated to the Dominica Natural Disaster and Development Fund (DNDDF). DONA also has links with Waltham Forest Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica Twinning Association, which has recently celebrated 15 years since it signed its Charter.

DONA also works in partnership with the United Anglo Caribbean Society, an Ealing based Association which provides information, advice and housing to vulnerable groups and facilitates, recreational and cultural activities.

DONA's main objective for 2014 is to strengthen its relationship with Chances, A Home of Safety for Disadvantaged Children. The Home, situated in Jimmit, Dominica has benefitted from DONA's generosity in the past. Members of DONA's executive board were fortunate to have attended the home's official opening in 2011.

Monies raised from DONA's sponsored walk in May 2014 will be shared equally between 'Chances' and DONA's Building Fund.

For more information or to join the association please contact:

See website: <http://www.dona.org.uk>

Email: donassoc@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 028 8992 0142

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

POSITION

NAMES

Chairman	Mr Joseph Vidal - josephvidal@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Mrs Clara St. Paul
Treasurer	Mrs Ethelca Brand MBE, MSA
Development Officer	Mrs Sylvia Mitchell
Membership Officer	Ms Hilma Alfred
Public Relations Officer	Mr Clifton Brand
Welfare Officer	Mrs Elenora Royer-Desbonne
Youth Officers	Mr Albert Lambert Mr Marcel Matthew
Committee Member	Dr David Michael



DONA's Quadrille Group performing at the ALBA Photography Exhibition for Black History Month

COMMONWEALTH DAY CELEBRATIONS 2014



Carlos Carrette with H.E. Francine Baron

On Monday 11th March 2014 Her Excellency Francine Baron, the High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Dominica, joined 52 countries to observe Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Prince Phillip.

Other members of the Royal Family present included The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, The Earl of Wessex, and The Countess of Wessex. Other attendees included a representative from the UK government, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, senior politicians, High Commissioners, Commonwealth dignitaries and over 1,000 young people.

The theme for 2014 is **Team Commonwealth** and according to the Commonwealth Secretariat, it "expresses the spirit of friendship and motivation towards the shared goals and values that exist between

Commonwealth members." The day is celebrated on the second Monday in March every year. "It is an opportunity to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and the work of Commonwealth organisations, which aim to improve the lives of citizens."

The flag of the Commonwealth of Dominica was proudly carried into Westminster Abbey by Carlos Carrette. Carlos was born in Dominica and is an athlete whose specialised sporting discipline is long jump. He has competed for his school in Hackney, and has also represented the United Kingdom in several competitions. Carlos has won a number of medals and awards.

Similarly in Dominica, Commonwealth Day was recognised (students of the St Martin's Primary School had a key role in the ceremony with a rendition titled "Stand Together"). The day was observed with students from various schools participating in the annual ceremony organised by the Ministry of Education. The event was held at the Arawak House of Culture and was attended by the President of Dominica, Ministers of Government, the diplomatic corps, schools and civil society partners. Persons in attendance enjoyed a presentation by students of the sign language club of the Convent High School.

The President of Dominica, H.E. Charles Savarin, read the Commonwealth Day message from The Queen. President Savarin referred to the Commonwealth Games taking place in Glasgow later this year as "an ideal example of the Commonwealth coming together in true team spirit."

Also featured at the ceremony was the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Alix Boyd Knights, who is also a Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Honourable Speaker expressed the desire to see old values reinstated in society today and speaking on the theme referred to the days when team work was the hallmark of Dominica's development and stated that "we seem so ready to discard the old ways for modern ones, we hardly use team work in our development anymore, we have now become an 'I' society isolated by choice. Is it wishful thinking on my part to hope that this year's Commonwealth Day Theme may ignite a spark that induces us to be more willing to help and to share with each other?"

LOCAL TWINNING ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

On Saturday 26th April 2014, The Waltham Forest, Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica Twinning Association marked 15 years of the signing of their Twinning Charter. The anniversary celebration was held at Waltham Forest Town Hall's Council Chamber.

The occasion was made particularly special because the Founder Mr Franklyn Georges, the original Chair Mrs Undeen George and the former Waltham Forest Town Twinning liaison officer Mr Ken Kilbey, who were present at the time of the signing, were able to join with The Mayor Cllr Nadeem Ali in the anniversary celebrations.



Pictured with the Twinning Charter : (l-r) Franklyn Georges, Ken Kilbey, Undeen George, Althea Vanderpoole Banahene, The Mayor Cllr Nadeem Ali, Mervin Caesar-John, Janet Charles. (Photo: ©Richard Etienne).

Also present on both occasions were the representatives of the High Commissions of Antigua & Barbuda Mrs Althea Vanderpoole Banahene and of Dominica Ms Janet Charles.

Guests were welcomed by the tropical sounds of Harry Hughes and his junior steel band to start the evening's programme which was infused with the cultural flavours of the linked areas. It included entertainment from poet and storyteller Baden Prince Jnr, saxophonist Colin Evans, poet, singer and storyteller Jane Grell and the DONA Quadrille dancers. Mr Georges' granddaughter Kemet Tenkamenin was able to take time out from her university studies to explain how her grandfather and her participation in the youth exchange project influenced her to find out more about her culture and heritage. Young film maker Richard Etienne showed an extract from his forthcoming documentary entitled The iD Project.

Referring to his civic experience as Waltham Forest's first African-Caribbean Mayor in 1990, Mr Georges reiterated his wish for the African-Caribbean community to have greater civic engagement and involvement in community affairs. He is looking forward to the continued positive working relations of the twinned areas, with the council being central to that focus.

The Mayor expressed his pleasure about the event and, as its patron, wished the Twinning Association continued success with its activities. He stressed the benefits to Waltham Forest and thanked Mr Georges for his vision for setting up the twinned arrangements.

The Chair of the Twinning Association Mr Everton George gave the vote of thanks and, with the compliments of the respective High Commissions, presented The Mayor with two beautiful publications about Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica.

The Twinning Association was set up to promote friendship, information exchange and mutual understanding of cultural, recreational and commercial activities of the linked areas. It encourages exchange visits by individuals and groups, particularly by children and young people and the development of personal contacts.

It is keen to work with local schools to form links and partnerships with schools in Antigua & Barbuda and Dominica. The 'Links and Partnerships' project will be kick-started in July and there are several elements to the project which is aimed at developing greater intergenerational and cultural links within the linked communities.

DASSSA HOSTS SAMEDI GRAS FETE



Members of DASSSA

Under the theme 'Rekindle the Dominica Carnival Spirit' the Dominica Secondary School Supporters Association (DASSSA) embarked on its first fundraising venture for 2014. The Samedi Gras Fete was held at Blake Hall Sports Club in Wanstead on 1st March 2014. The evening was a great success and supporters were entertained with the lively music provided by DJ Vern, Mr Vibes and saxophonist F. Winston. There was appetising Dominican food and drinks on sale, and prizes for best traditional wear.

The High Commission was represented by Ms Janet Charles. DASSSA's principal objective is raising funds for assistance of academically promising but needy students in Dominica. Great importance is placed on education as a requisite for development and DASSSA's efforts in funding education for disadvantaged students in Dominica must be applauded. In 2013, DASSSA sponsored 3 boys from one family with tuition and exams fees attending the Dominica Grammar School.

The Association is currently working on selecting five students from secondary schools around Dominica to be sponsored for the 2014/2015 academic years.

Given the success of the Samedi Gras Fete, DASSSA plans to make this a yearly event.

DUKA COMMUNITY FAMILY FUN DAY

On 5th May 2014, DUKA hosted its Family Fun day at the Ilford Sports Club and Cricklefields Athletics Stadium in Seven Kings, Essex. With fine weather, patrons were kept entertained with a variety of activities and stalls providing excellent catering, and sweet treats. There were wellbeing products on offers as well as jewellery and crafts.

Children were kept entertained with bouncy castle, face painting, puppet show and cotton candy stalls, while the adults were treated to Zumba, Boxing workouts, 5-A-Side football and dominoes competition, The extravaganza continued with a 'candy dance' choreography and music by DJ's Vern Island Selector, Crazy, Redboy, Ninjaman Lloyd

The High Commission was represented by Ms Janet Charles, Second Secretary. DUKA has expressed their appreciation to the High Commission and Ms Charles, as well as the DJs, the West Side 24 Crew, Ziro D and all helpers who made the Fun Day an enjoyable and memorable event. The event was attended by about 200 people and DUKA plans to make it an annual event in their calendar.



Members of DUKA with dance competition winner

Sylvia Mitchel launches her book "*Kwéyòl Donmnik: Dominican Kwéyòl for Beginners*".



High Commissioner Baron with Sylvia

On the evening of 21st March 2014, Sylvia Henderson Mitchel, a London resident of Dominican parentage (mother from Soufriere and father from Grand Bay), launched her book entitled "*Kwéyòl Donmnik: Dominican Kwéyòl for Beginners*".

The event was hosted by the Dominica High Commission and attended by approximately 100 guests. Sylvia's motivation for writing this book, was the lack of available resources, particularly in the UK, for people wishing to learn Dominica's Kwéyòl heritage language. The evening included a reading of one of the conversational scenes from the book entitled: "Fè Konmisyon". The scene was read by Sylvia Henderson Mitchell, Clara St. Paul and Ainsley Henderson-Daley.

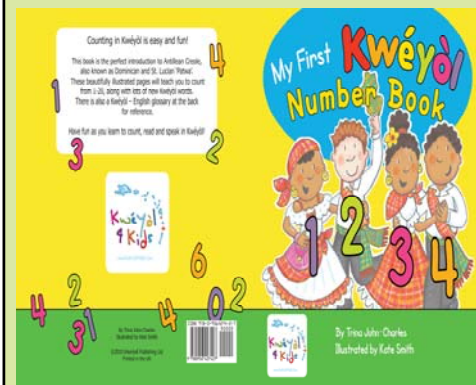
Kwéyòl Donmnik: Dominican Kwéyòl for Beginners is designed to teach Dominica's Kwéyòl heritage language, using easy step-by-step instructions. Kwéyòl grammar is explained in very simple terms and the book also contains plenty of exercises for practising, useful Kwéyòl phrases, some conversations, proverbs and two glossaries.

In her remarks to the guests, the High Commissioner Her Excellency Francine Baron congratulated Sylvia on her achievement. High Commissioner commented that it was especially admirable when persons born outside of Dominica develop this kind of pride in their Dominican identity, and the Dominican culture.

Kwéyòl Donmnik: Dominican Kwéyòl for Beginners is available from the following stockists: Lulu.com, WH Smith; Foyles Bookshop; Blackwell's Bookshop; and Amazon. The book can also be ordered by contacting Sylvia directly by e-mail at: sylviahmitchell@gmail.com.

Contributed by Sylvia Michel

Children's Creole Books written by Tina Jno Charles is published



Kwéyòl 4 Kids Ltd was founded in 2009, by Trina John-Charles. The vision was to provide books and teaching aids for children in Dominican and St. Lucian Creole / Kwéyòl, also known as patois. Born in England to Dominican

parents, Trina, like many other children of Kwéyòl descent living in England, was never taught Kwéyòl.

A firm and frank chastisement by a friend's mother, for not being able to speak her native language fluently, not only prompted Trina to learn Kwéyòl, but also quickly sent her entrepreneurial cogs in motion.

"My friend's Mum wanted to tell me something, but she didn't want everyone else to hear. She knew my parents were Dominican and asked if I could speak patois. When I said, 'no' she basically told me my parents had failed [laughs]. In a weird way she was right." So reminisces Trina.

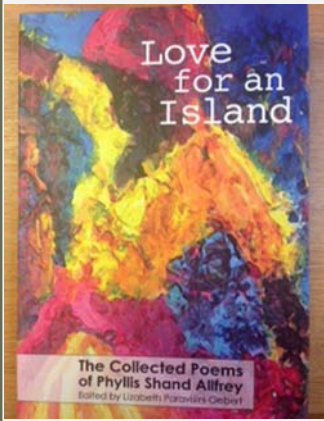
"I heard Kwéyòl in the house as a child, but my parents only ever spoke it if they were discussing something they didn't want us [children] to understand, or when they were talking to their friends." Trina explains. "It was embarrassing that all my friends - Spanish, Irish, Greek, Nigerian, Ghanaian, even Welsh - all knew their mother tongues, why didn't I? This is really what prompted me to learn."

"If the language is to be perpetuated, the best way to start is with the children - from the ground up". Armed with a degree in journalism and a flair for creative writing, Trina started the Kwéyòl 4 Kids project, with a view to teach Kwéyòl in an easy format that children could follow and in a way where parents could learn with their children. This first title is, 'My First Kwéyòl Number Book', which teaches you how to count from 1-20 in Kwéyòl.

This is accompanied by two activity books, 'My Kwéyòl Colouring Book' which is aimed at younger children, with simple Kwéyòl colouring and writing exercises. 'My Kwéyòl Activity Book' is slightly more advanced, with Kwéyòl puzzles and games, which is very popular with both adults and children alike. There are also four posters teaching numbers 1-10, days and months, parts of the body and colours. All the items can be purchased from the website www.kweyol4kids.com Twitter: @kweyol4kids Facebook: www.facebook.com/kweyol4kids

Contributed by Trina Jno Charles

"REAL GEMS": THE POEMS OF PHYLLIS SHAND ALLFREY



For many decades, Dominican Phyllis Shand Allfrey was better known as a politician and newspaper editor than as a writer. Then came the re-publishing of her novel, *The Orchid House*, in the early 1980s, and her short stories, *It Falls into Place* (2004). Now her collected poems, *Love for an Island*, have just been published by Papillote Press, the small publishing company based in London and Dominica.

The High Commission hosted a book launch for *Love for an Island* on Monday May 12 and an enthusiastic audience was welcomed by the representative of the High Commissioner. The book was introduced by the publisher, Polly Pattullo, who talked about visiting the elderly but spirited Allfrey in her home at Copt Hall. The book's editor, Professor Lisa Paravisini-Gebert, discussed the poems, and a selection was read by the Dominican poet and storyteller, Jane Ulysses Grell.



Poet Jane Grell and Professor Lizabeth Paravisini –Gebert

Among those who attended the launch was Stewart Brown, editor of the Oxford book of Caribbean Verse, who has endorsed the book. He wrote: "Thrillingly, the collection includes real gems that truly enrich our sense of the treasury of Caribbean poetry."

Phyllis Allfrey was born in Roseau in 1908 into a white, upper-class family. However, in London, from the 1930s-1950s, she became involved in the UK Labour Party and anti-colonial activities. She returned to the Caribbean in 1955 to become the co-founder (with Emanuel Loblack) of Dominica's first mass political party, the Dominica Labour Party. She was elected to the West Indies Federation where she was a Cabinet minister. On her return to Dominica she became publisher of *The Star* newspaper. She died there in 1986.

Love for an Island: the Collected Poems of Phyllis Shand Allfrey, published by Papillote Press, at £8.99. Visit www.papillotepress.co.uk for more details.

Contributed by Polly Pattullo

DISTINGUISHED LAWYER LESLIE THOMAS MADE A QUEEN'S COUNSEL

On Friday, 16 May 2014, a celebration party was held for Leslie Thomas QC, at Garden Court Chambers, London, who took Silk in April 2014. Leslie Thomas QC is of Dominican parentage. His father was Godfrey Thomas of Weirs, Marigot, in Dominica and his grand-father was Hector Thomas. His mother is Antiguan. The evening was attended by great mix of people from lawyers, non-lawyers, Leslie's family, teachers, former students whom Leslie taught at the Universities of Kingston and Westminster, and his friends.

A number of the above gave tributes to Leslie's professional and personal character and achievements, including the fact that, despite an incredibly busy law practice, he is a linguist in Russian, French and Spanish.

Leslie's Head of Chambers, Henry Blaxland QC, gave a great speech in respect of Leslie's success at the Bar and how he not only takes on the difficult cases concerning human rights and deaths in police custody (which need to be handled with courage, firmness and sensitivity) but that he is committed to giving his time on a pro bono basis for a number of causes, which has included the National Council for Civil Liberties, the Central London Community Law Centre and the INQUEST Lawyers group. For those who may be unaware, Leslie was instructed on behalf of the family in relation to the Mark Duggan inquest and has handled a series of cases where the State has acted beyond its powers in various judicial reviews.



Leslie Thomas Q.C and Rev Hewlette Andrews

Among well wishers at the event were Leslie's cousin, Reverend Hewlette Andrews and Mr Darren Sylvester, who kindly provided his commentary on the ceremony.

Contributed by Darren Sylvester

DOMINICAN NATIONAL DR VIOLET CUFFY RECEIVES AWARD

Dominican national Dr Violet Cuffy received a tourism award from the Council for Hospitality Management Education at the CHME 2014 conference which was held at the University of Derby, United Kingdom, May 28th-30th 2014.

Dr Violet Cuffy's conference paper 'Collaborative Planning for Lifelong Tourism Education & Training', won best themed paper under the conference track 'teaching, learning and assessment'.



The paper was based on a case study of the Commonwealth of Dominica conducted while reading for her doctorate at the University of Surrey.

She also is the forthcoming author of the book 'Lifelong Learning for Hospitality and Tourism Education and Training' and the 'Breakthrough Tourism Business Secrets™' – book series – based on the signature 4-step approach she has developed for achieving business growth, profitability and transformation.

Dr Cuffy is now a lecturer at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh Scotland. The High Commission congratulates Dr Cuffy on her achievement and encourages her to continue making Dominica proud.



DOMINICAN BORN BARONESS SCOTLAND APPOINTED NEW CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

In an inauguration ceremony held on 12th March 2014 The Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Asthal, PC, QC was appointed as Chancellor of the University of Greenwich. Baroness Scotland accepted this honorary position as ambassador and ceremonial figurehead of the University at the ceremony which was attended by over 200 persons.

Baroness Scotland was born in the Commonwealth of Dominica and at the age of two, she migrated with her family to the United Kingdom. She was called to the bar in 1977 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1991 at the age of 35.

Among the many auspicious roles which Baroness Scotland has held, she has served as a Deputy High Court Judge, Recorder and Master of Middle Temple, and in 1997, she joined the House of Lords and was appointed to the Privy Council in 2001. She went on to become Minister of State for the Criminal Justice system and Law reform at the Home Office. In 1997 Baroness Scotland was appointed as the first ever female Attorney General of the United Kingdom.



In her remarks Baroness Scotland commented "I am extremely proud to have been invited to become Chancellor of the University of Greenwich, which has such a vibrant and wide-ranging student body and is truly representative of the cultural diversity of the UK. The eclectic mix of talent, evident both in students and the teaching staff at Greenwich, is among the best in the country and I am confident that the university will continue to go from strength to strength. There is nothing that a person of talent cannot achieve if they are given the help and support to develop their gift."

The High Commission joins in congratulating Baroness Scotland on such an esteemed appointment.

DR DAVID MICHAEL ELECTED AS A COUNCILLOR FOR EVELYN WARD IN LEWISHAM

In the recently held UK Local Elections, Dominican born Dr David Michael was elected as a Councillor in the London Borough of Lewisham.

Dr Michael contested the 22nd May 2014 elections as a candidate of the Labour Party and he will represent Evelyn Ward in his Borough.

A retired Detective Chief Inspector of New Scotland Yard, Dr Michael is presently actively involved in the work of the Dominica UK Associations. During his long and illustrious career, he has been a champion in promoting racial equality within the Metropolitan Police and the wider community. He has received several awards and recognition for his work, and he continues to give his time towards community projects, both within the Dominican and UK societies.

As an elected member of the Council, Dr Michael is tasked with representing the interest of his constituents, in issues such as housing, social services, schools, and transport. Collectively, the Councillors are the policy-makers and are responsible for implementing strategic and managerial plans for the Borough.

The High Commission congratulates Dr Michael on his success at the recent polls and wishes him the best for a successful tenure.



CALLALOO NAMED NEW NATIONAL DISH OF DOMINICA



With ingredients that are widely available from Dominica's bounty, Callaloo is a flavourful dish, with green bananas, tania and dumplings. It is a soup based dish with a rich colour due to the use of either spinach or young leaves from the local dasheen plant. This forms the base for the dish.

Every cook has his or her special touch which makes Cal-

laloo truly unique. Some use crab, which is easily accessible during Dominica's hunting season, while others use smoked meat. A touch of creole seasoning and herbs such as thyme, parsley and celery finish off the dish.

Callaloo has been ever popular and well loved in Dominica and during the 2013 Independence celebrations, it was named as the national dish. The announcement was made by the Chief Cultural Officer, Mr Raymond Lawrence.

Mountain Chicken (or Crapaud as it is locally called) was the unofficial national dish up until that time.

Callaloo Recipe

Ingredients

500 gr smoked meat
250 gr plain flour, for dumplings
250 gr spinach (young dasheen leaves can be used instead)
4 tania
3 green bananas
4 small onions,
2 garlic cloves
6 beef, and 3 vegetable cubes
salt and pepper
Preparation

Wash and Boil spinach, onions, cubes, garlic for 15 minutes. When cooled, blend. Wash the smoked meat with lemon or lime cut in cubes and bring to boil for 15 minutes and discard the water. Peel the tania and banana, (cut the banana in slices, and the tania in cubes). Bring the smoke meat back to the boil. Add the banana and Tania on boiling point. Add the dumplings and the spinach mixture 10 minutes before end of cooking time. Season to taste.

A recipe from one of our nationals

COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES LEAGUE (CCL) FAIR

The Commonwealth Countries League (CCL) was established in 1925 as a pan Commonwealth organisation, with the primary focus on promoting education of girls in Commonwealth countries. The CCL's work is based on the ethos that educated girls who have developed a sense of responsibility and self-worth are more likely to secure a better future for themselves, their families and by extension, their countries. The CCL has a calendar full of fund raising events, including a fashion show, afternoon tea, Christmas dinner and the CCL Fair.

The Fair is the main event of the CCL, and this year will be held on Saturday 8th November 2014 at the Kensington Town Hall. In recent years, the Dominica High Commission has been actively taking part in the fair with the participation and assistance of nationals and we are again planning a stall which will be offering authentic Dominican products and confectionaries. The CCL Fair is a great day out for families, with live entertainment, including cultural dances, and costume displays. There will be stalls offering beauty products, massages, mini manicures and reflexology. Children will be kept well entertained with face painting and arts and craft stalls. Patrons can experience the diverse culinary taste from across the Commonwealth, in the food Hall.

The High Commission is calling volunteers to assist on the Dominican stall. Please register your interest in assisting by contacting the High Commission. Members of the Associations and the wider Dominican Diaspora are also urged to attend the fair and support this worthwhile cause. Your involvement and generosity is greatly appreciated and we count on your continued support to ensure that Dominica is represented at this year's CCL Fair.

It has now been confirmed that 5 students from the Convent High School in Dominica have been accepted to receive sponsorships under the CCL Education Fund. The students will receive funds to cover costs for books and tuition. The High Commission would take this opportunity to again thank all the individuals who so willingly assisted in the 2013 Fair.



AIR PASSENGER DUTY (APD) UPDATE

The Rt Hon. George Osborne MP, in his budget speech on 19th March 2014, announced that from 1st April 2015 the banding of APD will be reformed in that bands C and D will be abolished and flights from London to destinations 2,000 miles or under will be in band A and flights from London over 2,000 miles will be in band B. The band B rate for 2015 is planned at £71 for economy class travel and £142 for premium economy, business class and first class travel. From 1st April 2015 a family of 4 travelling to the Caribbean in economy class will see a decrease in APD from £340 to £284. A family of 4 travelling to the Caribbean in premium economy, business class or first class will see a decrease in APD from £680 to £568. Until this reform comes into effect in 2015, the following rates will apply:

- (i) Band A Countries will see the duty remain at £13 for economy class travel and £26 for premium economy, business class and first class travel;
- (ii) Band B Countries will see a rise from £67 to £69 for economy class travel and from £134 to £138 for premium economy, business class and first class travel;
- (iii) Band C Countries will see a rise from £83 to £85 for economy class travel and from £166 to £170 for premium economy, business class and first class travel;
- (iv) Band D Countries will see a rise from £94 to £97 for economy class travel and from £188 to £194 for premium economy, business class and first class travel.

A family of 4 travelling to the Caribbean in economy class will see an increase in APD from £332 to £340. A family of 4 travelling to the Caribbean in premium economy, business class or first class will see an increase in APD from £664 to £680.

Contributed by Darren Sylvester

SONG BY DOMINICAN SINGER MICHELE HENDERSON HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS CARICOM THEME SONG



Michele Henderson receives award from Secretary General of CARICOM Irwin LaRoque

The song entitled 'Celebrating CARICOM' written by Michele Henderson, the well known and beloved Dominican Chanteuse, has been selected as the theme song of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Michele launched the song in a spectacular performance during the opening ceremony of the 35th meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government. The meeting took place in Antigua from 1st to 4th July 2014. The song was selected after 3 rounds of competition involving 60 entries from across the CARICOM countries.

In his comments at the opening ceremony, Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency Clarence Henry, expressed his pleasure remarking that "the Caribbean Community finally has an anthem".

The singer was presented with a cash prize of US \$10,000 and a plaque by Secretary General of CARICOM, His Excellency Irwin LaRocque, who himself is a Dominican national.

Prime Minister of Dominica, Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, headed Dominica's delegation, which included Minister for Employment, Trade, Industry and Diaspora Affairs, Honourable Dr John Collin McIntyre and Ambassador to CARICOM and the OECS, Felix Gregoire.

The High Commission congratulates Michele on her achievements. She continues to make Dominica proud.

EVENTS FOR 2014

DATE AND TIME	ASSOCIATION	EVENT AND ADDRESS
19th July—8pm	DCA	Social event and buffet at the Red House, 13 Upton Avenue, Forest Gate London E7 9PN
2nd Aug	DONA	Annual Summer Excursion to Poole Dorset
17th Aug—2pm	DONA	Annual Family Fun Day, North Acton Playing Fields, Noel Road, Acton, London W3 0JF
13th Sept	DASSSA	Quiz Night—Venue to be confirmed
7th December	DASSSA	Christmas Carol- Venue to be confirmed

For further information, please contact the Associations directly

Dominica Carib Association (DCA) - 079 43123 762

Dominica United Kingdom Association (DUKA) - 07740 105 488

Dominica Association of Secondary School Supporters (DASSSA) - 07955000551

Dominica Overseas Nationals Association (DONA) - 028 8992 0142

Independence Celebrations

On 3rd November 2014, Dominica will be observing its 36th Anniversary of Independence. The occasion will be marked in Dominica with the usual celebratory events, spanning several weeks to include the World Creole Music Festival, Creole Day, Creole in the Park and culminating with the National Parade and Community Day of Service. In the usual custom, Dominicans in the United Kingdom will also observe and celebrate Dominica's Independence. The following events have been planned to commemorate the occasion:

26th Oct—2.30pm	DNDDF	Independence Thanksgiving Mass Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Cambridge park Road, Wanstead, E11 2PR
31st Oct	Dominica High Commission	Creole Day
1st Nov	DNDDF	Show and Dance

**SUPPORT TEAM DOMINICA
GOING FOR GOLD IN GLASGOW**



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