



bespoke homes jamaica

RECONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR ISLAND

May 2013

Back To Your Heart

Issue 18

Records galore at Champs

The annual Champs athletics gathering for secondary school pupils proved an enormous success two weekends before Easter. Twenty seven new records were established. Of the thirty records broken over the five days, girls gained 11 and boys 19.

Pre-event favourites for girls were Edwin Allen School – the winners last year. They were 40 points ahead of Holmwood Technical High, of Christiana, Manchester, before the final day. Having won 9 of the previous 10 Champs, Holmwood could not be ruled out. Yet their surge and move ahead only came on the final evening – with a victory margin of just 5 points.



(Photograph: Holmwood celebrate; The Gleaner)

For boys, Calabar High School lay in third place on the penultimate day. But a dominant final day saw Calabar finish 40 points ahead of Jamaica College and Kingston College, followed by Wolmer's, St Jago & Munro. That was Calabar's 23rd title in the 103-year history of Champs. One of their former pupils, Herb McKenley, helped blaze a trail with his 1948 sprinting successes.

From St Elizabeth's Munro College came a new "Champs great", in Delano Williams. His 20.27 seconds for 200m placed him second only to Usain Bolt's 2003 time of 20.25 for William Knibb.

Jubilee Market restoration

Destroyed by fire in 2009, work to restore Jubilee market in Kingston is beginning. In the meantime, traders will have the option of registering at Redemption Arcade.

IF YUH BACK MONKEY IM WI FIGHT TIGER

Support gives persons courage

We're simply the best

Even in the coldest of weather, we can still be the best. Able to rise to big challenges. We bring news of a most hardy Jamaican. One who has already conquered the Arctic. One who is now planning to tackle the Antarctic. If Dwayne Fields succeeds he will enter the Guinness Book of Records as the first black person to walk to both poles. His main aim is to inspire youngsters and show them what can be achieved through planning and perseverance. As he recently said to Janelle Oswald in The Gleaner: "I want to inspire the youth to think outside the box". Quoting Thomas Edison, he continued: "Many of life's failures are people who did not realise how close they were to success when they gave up".

Someone who certainly didn't give up is Paul Richardson. He's just gained a top US energy industry award for his work on a project that enables electricity workers to detect stray current using a smartphone.



(Photograph: Observer; not the sub-continent)

And then we had the blast from the sub-continent. On St George's Day, St Christopher hit the fastest century in professional cricket, taking a mere 30 balls. Playing for the Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL, Gayle's record 17 sixes contributed to the highest individual Twenty20 score. To cap a fine day, the giant from Kingston took 2 for 5 in Pune Warriors' final over. They fell 42 short of his 175 not out.

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Focus on St Elizabeth

Of 140,000 persons living in St Elizabeth, just 4,000 live in the capital, Black River. Yet the parish has the second largest land area, just a little smaller than St Ann.

Beyond bauxite mining, farming is important, especially for sugar and fishing, tobacco & cocoa.

From the 1990s, tourists flocked to Treasure Beach. Attractions now also include the Appleton Rum Refinery, Y S Falls and Lovers' Leap.

Held on Easter Monday since 1963, the flower show of the St Elizabeth Horticultural Society has just celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Black River is said to be the first Jamaican town to have electricity and the motor car. Recently it acquired a new medical training facility, run by the All American Institute of Medical Services. Students from far and wide can study for their doctorate or other medical qualifications.



Black River Chocolate

We bring further news of great interest in Black River Chocolate – the only Jamaica-sourced luxury chocolate. At the recent International Sweets & Biscuits Fair in Cologne, top buyers showed serious interest. Many welcomed its Jamaica-origin, sustainability and fair trade along with the option for low sugar. More recently, there was big interest at the Miami Rum Festival. A fair in Japan comes next.

Based in London, Black River Chocolate offers a prime example of Jamaicans abroad making a big difference to the island. What's your idea?

Tackling disability

Back in 2001, the Census seemed to show that Jamaica had less than half the 400,000 disabled persons that records in the rest of the world suggest we are likely to have. If true, many persons across the island will not be receiving much of the meagre help that the Government can provide. Many persons won't get suitable help with learning and employment opportunities. And the Government will be less successful at bidding for international funding.

The Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities is now taking action. It is setting up a database that uses new data, collected by its workers in each parish. Health fairs and other means are being used to gain direct contact with as many persons as possible by June.



To help children from birth until 6 years, the Early Stimulation Programme (ESP) is doing some valuable work, both in assessment and intervention. Over 1,400 children are already enrolled. Many more children could be covered, especially if the programme had more than one Early Childhood Institution – the existing one being based in Kingston.

Given the importance of early help with special needs and disabilities, the Nathan Ebank Foundation (NEF) is helping to complement the work of ESP. NEF has just held its seventh Annual Special Education Needs and Learning Expo. But, of course, much more funding and other help will be essential to enable young and older persons to fulfil somewhat more of their potential.

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Cashing-in on creativity

After a year as chair of Jamaica's Entertainment Board (EB), Kingsley Cooper is implementing projects that will "cement Jamaica's place as the entertainment capital of the Caribbean and make us a global powerhouse among the entertainment, creative and cultural capitals of the world". In February, the "Arts in the Park" project started in Hope Botanical Gardens with many new and emerging musicians, painters and craft makers. International music executives showed keen interest. The "90 Days of Summer" project brings together many existing events under one umbrella, especially for branding & marketing. The events range across film, theatre, music, literature, dance, sport, food etc. Hopefully these early steps can help the entertainment industry realise much more of its potential.



Spinning the web

Three recent examples of wider use of computers and the internet (ICT) stand out. Working with Flow and Courts, Microsoft held its annual DigiGirlz event in Kingston. Over 150 girls from 19 schools gained advice and guidance on possible ICT careers. In parallel, the LIME Foundation launched a Web Design Training Programme for teachers. The week-long course is expected to be held each Easter.

Meanwhile, the wider potential of ICT has been demonstrated by Brandon's Car Wash. Founded in 2006, the business was struggling two years ago. Yet the car wash has been transformed by active use of social media marketing.

More enterprise needed

Jamaica gained a little breathing space when the board of the International Monetary Fund agreed the deal that made some of the government's loans cheaper. Tough conditions will mean cuts in public spending and tax rises.

One of the IMF conditions is that funding for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) should be doubled between now and 2016. Already this new tax year is seeing \$439m available, mostly through loans from the Development Bank of Jamaica. JAMPRO will help 20 export companies with improved marketing. Now could be a good time to set up that small business you have dreamt of in Jamaica.



The Branson Centre for Entrepreneurship, in Montego Bay, is now recruiting its latest intake, with a closing date of 26 May. As Richard Branson says: "The Branson Centre was created from the idea that entrepreneurs and small businesses create employment, drive growth and transform communities". The Centre is about to start a platform of virtual mentorship, to extend its support to developing businesses.

Sugar exports get going

The weaker exchange rate that has accompanied the IMF negotiations can offer new opportunities to exporters. Pan Caribbean Sugar has gained a new market, exporting raw sugar to Italy, via an EU food agency. Raw Jamaican sugar should soon be selling on Italian supermarket shelves. Meanwhile, a state-of-the-art lumber treatment plant is set to bolster exports both of lumber and doors. The ARC Systems plant occupies 11,000 sq ft in Bell Road, Kingston.

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Your land can empower you

The Jamaican and South Korean governments have reached a deal that will help register many plots of land. Only 450,000 of the 800,000 plots across the island are registered.

The Korean Republic is investing US\$2m over two years, to extend the Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP). Part of the deal will see 1,000 residents of St Ann, St Mary & Portland receive the title to their land for free.

Robert Pickersgill MP said the work is helping the country to be one "where social responsibility and pride in self, community, and nation are not alien concepts to our people, but are ingrained".

Initially, persons owning land will be empowered. Land with or without a house will be sellable. Upto 6,000 small farmers will be able to access micro finance, once land ownership is clear. And greater digitisation will enable faster delivery of records from the Titles Office.

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BHJ – “Helping You to Get Back to Your Heart in Jamaica”

Here at Bespoke Homes Jamaica we bring only positive news. Let's work for a better Jamaica - a better future for all of us. And if your heart is in Jamaica, we can help you get back to it.

St Catherine, Busy Park: J\$7.25m (c. £52,000)

This lovely, great value 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom house with open plan living has land for further expansion. Just 5 minutes from the highway.



St Catherine, Linstead: J\$11m (c. £78,500)

A great 3-bed, 4-bathroom house with garage. Almost 9,000 sq ft. A couple of minutes to the A1 N-S road; will be great for the new toll road. Living & dining rooms, helper's quarters, laundry room, wraparound balcony.



Kingston 11: BUSINESS: J\$12m (c. £85,000)

A repair shop of 2 bays for 12 cars. 2 buildings with bathrooms & kitchenette. Near Spanish Town Road & Marcus Garvey Drive.



St Catherine: LAND: Green Acres: J\$4.3m (c. £30,500)

This level quarter acre lot offers great views. Barely half an hour from Kingston. Surrounded by well established homes, mainly returnees. Security patrol.



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