

## Health, wealth & happiness

Life expectancy in Jamaica now averages 73 years. Compared to an average life of just 48 in the early 1950s, a gain of 25 years. Almost half a year gained for every year that has gone by.

The World Health Organisation also ranked Jamaica's health as among the top six for the region and in the top three for the English-speaking Caribbean. Infant mortality and fertility rates have also improved a great deal. As Health Minister Rudyard Spencer said, however, the Government is pressing ahead to achieve greater access to quality & affordable health care.



Negril is to get a state-of-the-art hospital. Finance Minister Audley Shaw wants to ensure continued duty concessions on the importation of hospital equipment. And the Government has been looking for health partners in the Diaspora. At the opening of the Jamaican Diaspora and Friends of Jamaica Healthcare Mission, Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Malahoo-Forte, said the gathering illustrated the success of the partnership between medical professionals living in the Diaspora and the Ministry of Health. Success was helped by the recent St Ann Diaspora Convention.

While much more is needed, the Diaspora is already delivering. The US charity Bridge of Life has just donated 20 dialysis machines to two hospitals in Kingston and one in Mandeville.

## Downtown kids to be healthier

Kingston MPs Bruce Golding and Ronnie Thwaites have spent some Constituency Development Fund on training educators and parents on preparation of nutritious, economical meals.

## *EBERY DAY NO CHRISTMAS, EBERY DAY NO RAINY DAY*

*There is nothing in the world that is all bad or all good*

## Christmas greetings

We at Bespoke Homes Jamaica wish you and your family a pleasing Christmas and a happy and healthy 2012. We can all look forward to our Independence Anniversary on 6 August and great medals at the London Olympics.

## Standing room only for BHJ in Croydon

It was standing room only at Fairfield Halls, Croydon, on 23 November. If your heart was nestled in Jamaica, Lillalee Wright showed how BHJ could enable you to reconnect with it. Our new focus on one-to-one meetings was a key first step to realising that dream of reconnection to your heart in Jamaica. Five people have now had/booked their one-to-one.

Lillalee also launched BHJ's new offer, of a free flight to Jamaica to anyone who introduced a friend who signed up to build a bespoke house in Jamaica. You can do so too, by emailing [flight@bespokehomesjamaica.com](mailto:flight@bespokehomesjamaica.com). How JN could help with finance was set out succinctly by Vasel Atkinson.



Lillalee Wright, with Vasel Atkinson (JNBS) in Birmingham; and with Daven Hinkson (VMBS) & Kwame at the ACNA Centre, St Ann's, Nottingham

## BHJ seminars in the Midlands

During October we held seminars in Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Nottingham. The enthusiasm for our ideas plus the range of searching questions showed there are many Jamaica dreams across England.

While talking to the landlord after our event at his Wolverhampton pub, the iPhone brought us the news that Jamaica had gained its ninth Prime Minister. It turned out that our host had been a couple of years ahead of Andrew Holness at school in Kingston. He even recalled similar spectacles and a big interest in politics! Now, the election is on 29 December.

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# Bespoke Homes Jamaica

December 2011

*Back To Your Heart*

Issue 11

## **Celebrating Jamaica taking root**

Do you know the National Geographic magazine? It's been around for years. It's just published "Food Journeys of a Lifetime" in which Devon House is judged to be the fourth best place in the world to eat ice cream. Of places in Europe, Florence manages 10th and Copenhagen 9th. The first three are all in the USA: in Philadelphia, St Louis and San Francisco. So fourth is pretty good going!



The Government's plans for celebrating 50 years of Independence next August are taking root. It has just announced that it will be planting 50,000 fruit trees across the island. And, the UK leg of the global celebrations was launched this month in the city of London.

## **And yet more Jamaican enterprise**

Born in Clarendon but migrated to Britain in the 1950s, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones was the guest presenter at the National Commercial Bank's Nation Builder Awards ceremony. His Black Farmer brand is now worth £8 million. Using his "anything is possible" approach, Emmanuel-Jones' success has brought many awards - such as the National Cheese Award 2011. The NCB awards are designed to recognise and encourage the entrepreneurial spirit of persons in Jamaica.

Emmanuel-Jones now plans to tackle the American market. But crucially he is looking to create a base in Jamaica by next August. He then hopes to start exports to the US within 3 years.

Meanwhile, the Jamaica Association of Young Professionals (JAYP) Entrepreneurial Marketplace held its first meeting. A wide range of young people was represented - mostly socially oriented, business focused and outreach driven.

## **We're simply the best**

One of our favourite songs is Tina Turner's "Simply The Best". It's truly amazing just how world class Jamaica and Jamaicans are. So we are launching a new regular feature to explore our transcendence. This month we celebrate the world's only country (apart from the USA) with ten sub 10-second, 100-metre runners. The ten are: Nesta Carter, Yohan Blake, Steve Mullings, Michael Frater, Mario Forsythe, Raymond Stewart, Nickel Ashmeade and Percival Spencer – oh...and Asafa Powell & Usain Bolt. Manual timing also clocked Donovan Powell at 9.7 & Donald Quarrie at 9.9. A. Powell has about 80 such runs.

## **Jamaica transcendent at World Travel Awards**

For the sixth successive year, Jamaica won the WTA's award for the Caribbean's Leading Destination. Among other "Leading" awards for best in the Caribbean were: Leading Cruise Destination, Cruise Port, Beach, Airport, Meetings & Conference Centre and Sports Tourism Destination.

Following 12 awards for Sandals, the Tourism Minister declared that "Jamaica is very proud that a home-grown brand has now become the worldwide standard by which luxury-inclusive products are judged".



Not Sandals, but a Lucea hotel, Hanover

Meanwhile, Industry Minister Christopher Tufton called on the cocoa industry to seize the opportunity to supply chocolate products to the 3m per year visitors to the island - or 12m for the whole Caribbean. And more farms could be profitable: 6000 now compared to 11000 in the 1970s.

In Britain, we have just seen the launch of a Jamaican single-source luxury chocolate, created from Jamaican cocoa beans out of the 2011 harvest. The chocolates can be bought via [blackriverchocolate.com](http://blackriverchocolate.com) or on Twitter via #blackriverchocs.

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## Focus on St Elizabeth

St Elizabeth has the second largest land area, just a little smaller than St Ann. Of its 140,000 population, just 4,000 live in the capital, Black River. The main river goes by the same name and is one of the longest rivers in Jamaica.

Since the 1960s, bauxite mining has been the main activity, focused around the Alpart refinery at Nain. Port Kaiser, near Alligator Pond, provides a deep-water pier for bauxite exports. A recent deal for UC Rusal to buy the remaining 35% of Alpart will increase the Russian company's ownership of Jamaica's alumina assets to almost two-thirds.



Farming is also important, especially for sugar and fishing. Other crops include casava, corn, peas, beans, pimento, ginger, tobacco, tomato, rice, sweet potatoes, coffee and cocoa. Tourism grew from the 1990s, with many visitors to Treasure Beach. To the north, in Cockpit country, the Appleton Rum Refinery Tour also attracts lots of visitors. A new market is now planned for Black River next year, which will house 300 vendors.

Much community and government work has been happening in Parottee, just outside Black River. This follows Hurrican Ivan's damage to the low lying area. The raising and resurfacing of the two-mile Pondsides to Hilltop Road cost \$40m. The Parottee Citizens' Association has upgraded the basic school with help from the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. A number of returnees and overseas nationals have played a big part.

The parish has a wide range of ethnic groups - perhaps the greatest mix in Jamaica. Other towns include Accompong, Balaclava, Junction, Lacovia, Maggoty, Santa Cruz and Middlequarters.

## More green shoots?

Jamaica achieved its third consecutive quarter of growth, to leave it well ahead of Britain's growth rate. Future prospects improved, with the start of a trade agreement with Trinidad and Tobago. Meanwhile, 15 companies signed an agreement with the Government to grow their exports by a fifth within two years. Under the Export Max programme, the mostly agro-processing companies will get some state backing.

With food exports to the USA at US\$118m in 2010, the Food and Drug Administration's tougher regulations on food imports from January 2012 have posed a big challenge for Jamaica's Scientific Research Council, based in Hope Road, Kingston. With four-fifths of exporters previously not up to the new standards, lots of work has been going on.

That work will be vital, as agriculture continues to show good signs of growth. Pickapeppa is one example, of a company investing heavily to ensure expansion in the USA. The 90-year-old company at the foot of Shooters Hill in central Manchester exports 95% of its production, mostly to the USA. Four-fifths of its raw materials are bought from farmers in Manchester, Clarendon and St Elizabeth.



*Plenty of Montegans heading home from work*

Turmeric is set to be the newest export crop. With help from the Ministry of Agriculture's export division, farmers in the west are making a concerted effort to break into the US\$133m export market. The USA accounts for a tenth of world turmeric demand. Turmeric being a close cousin of ginger, the prospects are very good. Jamaica's ginger is so well recognised that it commands twice the world price of US\$4 per kg. Meanwhile, tobacco production has increased considerably in the last two years, especially in St Elizabeth and St Ann.

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## Investment opportunities

**LAND:** Moorlands, Manchester – J\$7.6m (c. £60,000)



A cul-de-sac residential lot of > 1/3 acre of flat land.

**Montego Bay, St James – US\$380,000 (£245k)**



A four-bedroom, five-bathroom detached house with a/c in bedrooms. Gutters & water tanks. 10 mins from Montego Bay clock. **The seller is motivated to sell.**

### HAMILTON DALEY

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### Facilitators For a Better Jamaica

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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.

**Mandeville investment opportunity: 3-bed & 2-bed apartments on 1 acre:** less than 5 mins from Mandeville centre - J\$28m (c. £215k)



A great investment opportunity – whether for a family or investor. The two-bed apartment is downstairs and currently occupied. The upstairs three-bed apartment is unfinished. Must be seen.

**Edgewater, St Catherine: 4-bed, 3-bath house - J\$11.5m (c. £88,000)**



A 2,600 sq. ft. home in an attractive community. Price cut of 15%.

**Newfield: very large property** some 20 minutes from Mandeville centre – J\$15m (approx. £115,000)



A house with lots of potential. Seven one-bed units and a 2-bed unit. 15 minutes' drive from Northern Caribbean University and Mandeville. **All offers will be considered.**

**Nr Hellshire, St Catherine: 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom town house – J\$15.5m (approx. £120,000)**



A recently renovated town house with helper's quarters. Only minutes from Hellshire Beach.

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