



bespoke homes jamaica

RECONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR ISLAND

October 2012

Back To Your Heart

Issue 15

Heroes old and new

National Heroes Day on 15 October recognised 157 Jamaicans for their outstanding contributions to nation building. Peter Tosh - Winston Hubert McIntosh – had the only new Order of Merit.

The Order of Jamaica went to nine persons, including posthumously to the sports administrator Howard Aris. Other OJs included Frederick "Toots" Hibbert and Neville "Bunny Wailer" Livingstone for music; Ferdinand Mahfood for philanthropy and establishment of Food For The Poor; Enid Bennett for politics; and professors Terrence Forrester and Henry Lowe for medical research and science respectively.



In his Heroes Day message, GG Sir Patrick Allen encouraged persons to build on the heroes' examples and commit to achieve a better nation. The fundamental values of honesty, discipline and respect for self and others should be embedded, along with strengthened family life.

On National Heroes Day, PM Portia Simpson Miller placed an Heroes Day plaque on the grave of Herb McKenley in National Heroes Park. She was accompanied by Usain Bolt, PJ Patterson & Andrew Holness. Bolt has already cited McKenley as one of the two people that he looked up to as a youngster, along with Don Quarrie.

Miss Jamaica UK

This year's contest is on 1 December. Bespoke Homes Jamaica is a main sponsor and we'll have a stall on the night. www.missjamaicauk.com has full details. We hope to see you there.

IF YUH WAN GOOD, YUH NOSE MUS RUN
Perseverance is necessary; nothing good comes easily

We're simply the best: London 2012

Next in our series on world class Jamaicans: London 2012.

Not until 1996 did we gain more Olympic medals (6) than we achieved with the 5 of 1952 - three of which were won by Herb McKenley (see the 4th paragraph, opposite). So the 11 medals at Beijing 2008 was a terrific performance. Only bettered by the fabulous Jamaica 12 of London 2012.

You probably still remember the main results. But just for the record... 100m women: Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce gold, Veronica Campbell-Brown bronze. 200m women: Fraser-Pryce silver. 4x100m women: silver to Fraser-Pryce, VCB, Simpson, Stewart-Calvert & Henry-Robinson. 4x400m women: bronze to Day, Whyte, Williams, Williams-Mills & Lloyd. 100m men: Usain Bolt gold, Yohan Blake silver. 200m men: Bolt gold, Blake silver, Warren Weir bronze. 4x100m men: gold to Bolt, Blake, Nesta Carter, Michael Frater and Bailey-Cole. 110m men's hurdles: bronze to Hansel Parchment.

The £1m spent on Jamaica House at the Greenwich Arena proved very popular. The shop (pictured) attracted lots of persons interested in investing in Jamaica – and many shoppers.



All of which left us a massive margin ahead of big, rich countries like USA, China, Russia, Britain on a medals per head basis. Unlike Beijing, we had to concede absolute top spot. We achieved 4.4 medals per million population. Of large countries, only the UK got near that with 1.05. But by winning a gold medal and having a very small population, Grenada "scored" the equivalent of 9.6 medals. With scores of 3 and 2.9 Trinidad & Tobago and the Bahamas completed the incredible Caribbean performance, with four of the top five places - New Zealand occupying the other spot with 2.95.

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Heroic news from England

The first female to write and perform dub poetry received the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Jean Binta Breeze from Hanover moved to London in 1985, in her late twenties. She studied at the Jamaica School of Drama and has written 8 books, including "Riddym Ravings". Jean has worked as a poet, scriptwriter, actor, teacher, choreographer and dancer.

Althea Smith from St James has become the Mayor of Southwark. She emigrated to Britain in 1973, aged 13. A trained nurse, she strove to bring better relationships between young black men and the police in her community. She has also set up an apprenticeship scheme with small businesses, aimed at creating permanent jobs.

Meanwhile, Keecia Ellis (pictured) will perform her final act as Miss Jamaica UK on 1 December when she crowns her successor. The event is at the Camden Centre, Euston Road from 9pm. Fifteen contestants will appear in the 22nd year of this great event. Guest artists are Nicole, Savana and Chardel. Tickets are £25, with proceeds going to the Jamaica Inner City Foundation. Email info@missjamaicauk.com.



Keecia is the daughter of Alton Ellis, the late reggae/rocksteady supremo. Her cousins include Owen 'Blakka' Ellis and Ity (Ian Ellis) of Ity and Fancy Cat. Keecia travelled the world with her father, who regarded her as his "handbag".

Bagasse re-born and other green IDEAS

Sugar producer Seprod Ltd is looking into the generation of electricity mostly using bagasse. Seprod's Golden Grove plant in St Thomas creates lots of bagasse. Jamaica Broilers is the only company known at present to generate electricity from its waste, at its poultry site in St Catherine.

Meanwhile, three local companies have won the 2012 IDEAS Energy Innovation contest. Each is getting US\$200k, plus technical and business development advice. Echos Consulting's biogas project will explore the use of organic waste in electricity and gas production. For The Family Garden business, seven farms in the Jacks Hill area will gain solar-powered pumps to send recycled water to hurricane-proof "hoop houses". This means that only a third of the previous amount of water is needed to grow vegetables. Caribbean Esco Ltd was the other winner.



A variety of other environmental gains are being achieved. Jamaica Broilers recently secured new contracts that will triple ethanol output in the year ending April 2013. A new recycling company in Retirement, St James, was recently recruiting 200 workers across western Jamaica. Panther Corporation of Canada has invested US\$26m in the solar-powered plant near Retirement Dump.

Further environmental news comes from the Institute of Sustainable Development at UWI. ISDF has gained US\$2.4m from the UN's Global Environment Facility to research, build and evaluate a net zero energy building in Jamaica. Starting in November 2012, the project will run for 4 years.

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Focusing on St Andrew

With a population of more than 550,000, St Andrew is much bigger than Kingston's 100,000. It was one of the first parishes formed by the British in 1655. Previously, the area was known as Liguanea. Half Way Tree (HWT) is the capital.

Agriculture dominates much of the parish, not least the top quality Blue Mountain coffee. Other agrarian activities include cocoa, tobacco & mango. The hotel trade flourishes in New Kingston, both for business and tourism, especially on Knutsford Boulevard.



Devon House is a major attraction, both for locals and tourists. Built in 1881 by George Stiebel, Jamaica's first black millionaire, it houses the most popular outlet for Devon House ice cream. One of the western world's oldest botanical gardens is on the Hope Estate. The Bob Marley Museum is on Hope Road.

Famous people with St Andrew connections include Bob Marley. The Wailers, Lee "Scratch" Perry, Toots Hibbert, Shaggy, William Gordon, Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Linford Christie.

Roads getting there

Great news if you want to travel quickly from Kingston to May Pen. The 7-mile section of Highway 2000 East-West opened in mid-August.

Road repairs are getting back on track. JDIP is back in action. And JEEP is to fund the patching of potholes during the final 3 months of 2012. Main corridors to gain are Bull Bay to Grants Pen, the Mandela Highway, the Nolan Hill to Border main road, & the Junction road in St Mary.

Economy twitching

Good news from ratings agency Moody's, which has given Jamaica a "positive outlook". Just as importantly, it reaffirmed the island's "stable debt" rating.

Tourism has shown further good signs. More persons staying a night or more have taken stopovers back above pre-recession levels - rising 6% in the three months to August. In addition, cruise ship arrivals have increased strongly. Up by a third in the first half of the year - an extra 240,000 persons. Of the total of 940k, Falmouth Pier (pictured) attracted 413k, a whopping increase of two-thirds.



More signs of richer countries spending more in Jamaica came in news that remittances were up 3.3% in 2012 to end-July.

Mixed messages on crime

Despite some worsening figures in the months before and after, July saw improvements in six of the seven main categories. Larceny was the sole area of deterioration.

At the beginning of the month, National Security Minister Peter Bunting had said: "It's really time that we issue a 'call to action'...to the entire society". And: "The empirical truth is, in areas where there is a neighbourhood watch, there is little or no crime...work in tandem with the police".

Bunting later praised the police for the reductions in July. A good sign of wider change came in early August with the charging of a bus supervisor who had tried to bribe officers at Spanish Town Police Station.

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Investment opportunities

Kingston 11: - J\$12m (c. £89,000)

A repair shop of 2 bays for 12 cars. 2 buildings with bathrooms & kitchenette. Nr Spanish Tn Rd & M. Garvey Dr.



Clarendon: Montclaire Hts: - J\$16.2m (c.£120k)

A 4-bed, 2-bath home of 2,000 sq ft in May Pen includes lounge, dining room and garage. Good value, esp. with the toll road to Sandy Bay under construction.



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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 Ann: Runaway Bay: - US\$499,000 (c. £320,000)

On a slope with commanding views of the sea is this 7-bed, 5-bath house of 6,000 sq ft. On beautifully landscaped land with features like the elegant dining room and wood burning fireplace. Fully furnished.



St Catherine: Green Acres: - J\$27m (c. £200,000)

A great 4-bed house with helper's quarters. Lots of splendid internal features. Fantastic verandah and roof spaces from which to enjoy the magnificent views



St Thomas: Sun Valley, Albion: - J\$9m (c. £66,500)

This 3-bed comprises a 2-bed house plus a 1-bed flat and a carport. Covering 1,390 sq ft, the property offers great value for money. Close to shops & just 2 miles from Yallahs.



St Thomas, Yallahs main road: mini plaza:-J\$24m (c.£178k)

Commercial. A mini plaza of three food businesses and a mechanics' workshop. Land of 52,200 sq ft stretches from the main road to the beach. Located in Yallahs Square, next to the Magistrates' Court.



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