



LONDON MISSION

VOLUME 77



CONTENTS

LONDON MISSION / ISSUE 77

- 1/ Message From Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes on the Occasion of Independence Day 2022
- 2/ Message From The Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, Prime Minister on the Occasion Of Republic Day 2022
- 3/ National Awards 2022

VIEWS FROM THE MISSION

- 7/ Virtual Nationals Meeting - August 2022
- 8/ Trinidad And Tobago's 60th Anniversary of Independence Evensong Service at Westminster Abbey
- 14/ Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes Represented Trinidad and Tobago at the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- 17/ London Mission welcomes New Security Attaché
- 19/ National Windrush Monument Unveiled at London Waterloo Station
- 21/ T&T Scholarship Student Jovi-El Paul Showcases Designs in End of Year Fashion Show 2022

THE DIASPORA SPEAKS

- 24/ The Duchess of Cornwall Share Light Humour with Rudolph Walker on Her Experience in Trinidad and Tobago
- 27/ Karla Cornwall First Solo Exhibition Flow - The Art Of Letting Go
- 28/ Former Soca Warriors Footballer Neil Shaka Hislop, Recognised with an Honorary Doctor Of Civil Law Degree
- 31/ The Life and Times of The Legendary T&T-Born Singing Sensation, Mona Baptiste Explored at the Irish Emigration Museum
- 35/ BOCAS LIT Fest's Historic UK Tour
- 40/ Soca Artist Triniboi Joojie Appears on Voice UK

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NEWS

- 42/ Trinidad and Tobago to Host Commonwealth Youth Games In 2023
- 44/ Trinidad and Tobago Showcased at World Travel Market 2022

EVENT ROUND UP

- 48/ Courtesy Call by Chief Secretary the Honourable Farley Augustine, Tobago House of Assembly
- 48/ Author Ayanna Lloyd Banwo wins the Eccles Centre & Hay Festival Writer's Award



A Publication of:

The High Commission for the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago, London
42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT

TEL: 020 7245 9351

FAX: 020 7823 1065

EMAIL: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

PRINTING

Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism
Department of The High Commission for
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ms. Jenny G Thompson

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mrs. Beverley Awonaya
Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

PROOFING:

Mrs. Beverley Awonaya
Ms. Jenny G. Thompson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mr. Lawson C. Lovell
Mrs. Beverley Awonaya
Ms. Kimberly Ibrahim

LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

STAY CONNECTED



Facebook
TTHC London



Twitter
@TTHC_London



Complete the Nationals Registration
Form online or in person at the T&T High
Commission.



Website
foreign.gov.tt/hclondon

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY 2022

Fellow citizens. “Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” These were the words of the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel in 7th century B.C.

We in Trinidad and Tobago are at a crossroads of our own on the occasion of our 60th anniversary of independence—the Diamond Jubilee—and I do not think that I would be engaging in hyperbole if I described us as a restless nation. Perhaps Jeremiah’s words can offer sound and timely advice.

From our present vantage point, the initial impression of the immediate landscape might be one of a wilderness, given the increasingly brazen criminality, ugly divisive politics, rampant unemployment, distressing reports of child abuse and troubling poverty. Surely, not what the architects of our independence intended and envisaged six decades ago; nor what citizens hoped for in 1962 when we grasped governance with our own hands; nor what Sparrow meant when he sang, “Oh yes, we want to achieve, we going to aspire; we bound to be a success”.

Those who have lived through all or most of the intervening period would be justified in asking, however rhetorically, “how the france we get here?”



Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Mercifully, this junction also affords the nation the opportunity to look back at its former ways with a view to revisiting some of the more salutary behaviours and practices which we may have unwisely abandoned.

There was a time, not too long ago, when as a nation, we were full of pride in ourselves, boasting an enviable literacy rate and booming industries, a place where respect for others and office was the default position and where integrity, decency and compassion were not unfamiliar—justifiably the envy of our Caribbean neighbours. Not that we were without our problems and issues; there

has always been lawbreaking, corruption, societal dysfunction and ethnic division, but not to the extremes that now exist. For many years after Sniper first sang ‘Portrait of Trinidad’ in 1965, we citizens sang along lustily, without hesitation or reservation.

The significant and wonderful thing about a crossroads is that it offers options—a choice of paths for the onward journey. The selection must be made with utmost care and caution. Trinidad and Tobago desperately needs to find where the good way lies and walk in it and we don’t have a moment to spare.

At the end of a decade, it is usual to be deeply contemplative, to pore over what has been, take stock of what is and plan what is to be. The 60th anniversary of our independence is an apposite time for individuals, institutions and the nation as a whole to engage in that exercise.

A 60-year-old person might reasonably be expected to have developed maturity, wisdom, fortitude, discernment and patience. Mistakes would have been made, misfortune suffered, trials and tribulations undergone, but useful lessons which inform future decisions would have been extracted from unhappy experiences.

Sixty years is young for a nation, but the same expectations can apply. As a people, we have had more than enough time to put aside childish things—our laissez-faire attitude, intolerant viewpoints and perspectives, irrational conspiracy theories and appetite for the latest bacchanal; to stop the blame game, social media character assassinations, the pointless rehashing of old grudges, none of which has yielded any result other than increasing bitterness and disaffection.

This is the point at which we must take up our precious Georgie bundle of enduring and admirable national qualities and legacies—creativity, diversity, generosity, resilience, energy and passion, among others—hoist it on our shoulders and set course for the future.



At left: President Paula-Mae Weekes, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces at the Independence Day Parade in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Above: Mounted Police escort Her Excellency from President’s House to the Queen’s Park Savannah for the Parade.

To make Trinidad and Tobago a better place, each of us must look at ourselves and then make a change—a “Man in the Mirror” approach. Our fortunes cannot improve unless we first take ownership of our part in creating the present malaise and make the necessary adjustments to our thinking, attitudes and behaviour.

Today would be a good day to set aside some time to envision and manifest our future. Imagine what we could achieve if, on their next working day, whatever their personal circumstances, every public servant, every journalist, every businessman, every police officer, every member of parliament, every CEPEP worker, began the day saying and meaning, “I am a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago. I have and I take direct responsibility for its affairs.” And went to their job with purpose, with pride, with integrity, with discipline, without cynicism, without hidden agenda, without bobol, without partisanship.

Try it for just one day to start, but this affirmation would require daily repetition until it becomes a personal credo. A serious commitment in homes, schools, offices, parliament and communities to turn our beloved country around accompanied by the necessary goodwill, patience and endurance can bring about sustainable change.

At times of national celebration such as this, we manage, if only temporarily, to put aside our differences of politics, faith, ethnicity and economic bracket to fully embrace our unique and special identity as Trinbagonians. Can we maintain that momentum?

Our national motto, “Together we aspire, Together we achieve” reminds us that the peace and prosperity we desire cannot be realised unless, though acknowledging our diversity, we come together as one— one people, one mission.

Today, we commemorate the events that took place on the stroke of midnight on the 31 August, 1962 when the red, white and black was raised to the tolling of bells and blaring of sirens. Later that day, Lord Brynner, winner of the Independence calypso competition, sang triumphantly:

“Because this is your land, just as well as my land

This your place and also it’s my place

So let we put our heads together

And live like one happy family

Democratically, educationally,

We’ll live independently.”

Let us all join in the chorus. Happy Independence and May God bless our nation.

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE DR. KEITH ROWLEY, PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY 2022

Fellow Citizens, Today marks the 46th anniversary of the founding of our Republic, and I bring greetings to every citizen, wherever you are, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, my family, and myself, as Prime Minister of this our blessed nation.

Yes, we are, indeed, a fortunate people, to be the owners and beneficiaries of these islands. Let us acknowledge this truth about a country which is populated by exceptional people. This all becomes more evident, when one scans the globe, and notes particularly its recent assessment by the U.N. Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, who said that nations are “gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction” and overall “our world is in peril – and paralysed.”

However, within that global ball of chaos and confusion, there are two islands at the southern end of the Caribbean archipelago, facing, of course, its own socio-economic political challenges -- yet its people, in their various ways, thank the



Pictured: Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Almighty, hold to their unique spirit and idyllically celebrate the joys of just being alive, and live on with “boundless faith in our destiny”.

If as a people, we do a balanced introspection, we will recall that at our political independence in 1962 our Founding Father, Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams challenged us with building a nation-state, which meant the daunting

challenge of constructing, out of fragile, tenuous and agitating ethnic groups, a cohesive, disciplined society, intellectually, and now technologically, sophisticated enough, to face the fast-paced modern world, and at the same time founding a political entity acceptable, stable and respected within the international community.

That is the modern Trinidad and Tobago in which we live. Claim your heritage. Last month we celebrated our diamond jubilee. We feel the pride!

On this day as we celebrate its birth, we can point to its many social ills, the current crime wave, the short-comings in our infrastructure, the buckling and impeded education system, our institutions, our faltering work ethic, disregard, in some places, of the environment, etc. – but on the other side of the national balance sheet, we must give ourselves positive grades as being a people, with a confident pride in ourselves. We, the nationals of this country, confidently believe that we are as good as the world’s best – and in

many spheres, we have proven that we are.

Let us look at ourselves further. We can see that confidence whenever we interact with the developed world. In short, there is a pervading Trinbagonian spirit, something which is still giving birth to what will be a distinctive national character, which is showing traits of flowering into world-class successes and achievements.

Also, we have been constructing a Republic, probably not strictly according to Dr. Williams’ designs plans, but within the traditions of Western democracy. We each can cite incidents of our people’s tolerance for each other’s differences, rather than holding to rigidity and inflexibility. We can talk about instances of general acceptance, rather than rejection and alienation of another group. We can move our discussion to the general acknowledgement of an individual’s rights, and now on to the promotion of individual responsibilities.

Modernised societies, it is said, are also characterised by downsides where citizens feel stressed, chronically-bored with experiences of insecurity, anxiety, burn-out and depression. It is here that I want to appeal to parents and children, the newly-founded Ministry of Youth Development and National Service, along with various other State agencies, to promote a host of vocational training programmes, some

with stipends – all providing opportunities for the advancement of youths and the improvement of their quality of life.

My advice to parents, help our boys and girls -- from very early – to search for their calling in life; look out for those areas, the signs, subjects, specific activities, which may catch their attention. Let them know that their individual life’s calling is all within them; help them discover their purposeful energy, and follow its potential to a better life. Help your children to search for a purposeful life, rather than be adrift, without meaning – then turning to crime, violence and ultimately early death.

Citizens, I will not say much on our economy, because the Honourable Minister of Finance is due to deliver his Budget 2023 on Monday. However, I do wish to remind that on my return from my recent visit to Europe in which I met the major energy players in our country, I emphasised some truths about our continued dependence on our oil, gas and the energy sector, with the hope that citizens, when they demand wage and salary increases, will understand clearly that this country is only a small vulnerable unit, in a large, volatile international market.

Finally, I wish to remind citizens of the now pervasive dangers of misinformation and disinformation, and the forces,

within our nation, who deliberately and calculatedly set about on social media to put their destructive spin on every bit of information in the public space -- all to their hopeful advantage.

A democratic Republic caters for alternative points of view, but not those that deliberately distort and undermine the legitimacy and effectiveness of its own political system. UNESCO, in a recent publication, warned of these dangers, charting misinformation and disinformation techniques from “Cleopatra to Cambridge Analytica” -- that U.K. disinformation agency, which was established here in Trinidad and Tobago some 10 years ago, and is now considered as the originator of the world-wide “crisis of misinformation.” I advise, be alert, be that good citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.

Fellow Citizens, I appeal for your continued support for this great Republic and the observance of the national watch words, “Discipline, Production and Tolerance” which Dr. Williams gave to this nation. Each word continues to have equal and tremendous significance in our daily lives, as we live on in the 21st century.

Happy Republic Day!

May God continue to Bless Trinidad and Tobago.



NATIONAL AWARDS 2022

The National Awards ceremony took place on 24th September, 2022 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts. The following awards were conferred on sixty-three (63) citizens who were honoured for their service and achievements on the occasion of the Forty- sixth Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago’s Republic Day:

Pictured: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with Dr. Roshan Parasram, Chief Medical Officer and Professor Sterling Frost recipients of the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

NAME	POSITION	IN THE SPHERE
ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - The highest award in TnT for distinguished and outstanding service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Dr. Roshan Parasram	Chief Medical Officer	Public Health
Professor Sterling Frost	Banker	Banking, Education and Community Service

CHACONIA MEDAL (GOLD) - For Long and Meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Balliram Maharaj	Businessman	Sport and Community Service
Professor Betty McDonald	Head, Professional Development Unit: Teaching, Learning and Instructional Support, University of Trinidad and Tobago, Tamana Campus	Business
Mr. Ramdeo Boondoo	Farmer	Agriculture
Dr. Avery Hinds	Technical Director, Epidemiology Division, Ministry of Health	Leadership in Public Service
Dr. Michelle Trotman	National Covid-19 Coordinator and Lecturer, University of Trinidad and Tobago	Leadership in Public Service
Dr. Maryam Abdool-Richards	Principal Medical Officer, Ministry of Health	Leadership in Public Service
Professor Christine Carrington	Professor of Molecular, Genetics and Virology	Leadership in Molecular, Genetics and Virology

CHACONIA MEDAL (SILVER) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Professor Emeritus Gordon Rohlehr	Professor	Literature, Culture, History and Education
Mr. Jarrette Narine	Retired Politician	Public Service
Mrs. Joycelyn Hackshaw	Retired Registered Nurse	Nursing, Healthcare and Public Service
Mr. Victor Edwards	Artistic Director and Playwright	Theatre, Culture and Education
Ms. Hazel Franco	Dance Coordinator, University of West Indies (Retired)	Performing Arts
Mrs. Rudylynn DeFour- Roberts	Restoration Architect	Built Heritage Conservation and Preservation
Ms. Claire Gittens	Social Worker	Social Work

CHACONIA MEDAL (BRONZE)) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Professor Emeritus Edgar Julian Duncan	Professor Emeritus	Education and Research
--	--------------------	------------------------

THE HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (GOLD) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Dr. Alfredo Walker	Forensic Pathologist	Medicine
Professor Kit Fai Pun	Professor of Industrial Engineering	Engineering Education and Research
Mr. Martin Terry Rondon	Councillor	Community Service
Mr. Clement Lue Yat	Hair Stylist	Hair Styling
Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh	Lecturer	Education and Volunteerism
Mr. Lenny Kumar	Wireline Operator/ Cultural Ambassador	Culture
Mr. Machel Montano	Entertainer/ Entrepreneur/ Philanthropist	Culture
Mr. Michael Phillips	Managing Director	Sport
Dr. Primnath Gooptar	Part-time Lecturer	Culture and Education
Mr. Nicholas Paul	Athlete (Cyclist)	Sport (Cycling)
Mr. Jereem "The Dream" Richards	Professional Athlete (Sprinter)	Sport (Track)
Mr. Machel Cedenio	Athlete	Sport (Track)

Mr. Asa Guevara	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Dwight St. Hillaire	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Kashief King	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Che Lara	Athlete	Sport (Track)

THE HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (SILVER) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Joseph Vautor-La Placelière (Mighty Lingo)	Handycraft, Worker and Part-time Entertainer	Culture
Mr. Kion Benjamin	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Eric Harrison Jr.	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Jerod Elcock	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Akanni Hislop	Athlete	Sport (Track)
Mr. Kyle Greaux	Athlete	Sport (Track)

THE HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (BRONZE) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Evans Hinds	Security Officer	Gallantry
Master Gregg Mannette	Secondary School Student	Gallantry
Mr. Otis Morrison (Posthumously)	Boat Engineer	Gallantry
Mr. Norris Ferguson	Pensioner	Sport

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (GOLD) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Mr. Rudolph Gordon	Teacher /Principal (Retired)	Education and Community work
Miss Esme Raphael	Director	Cooperative and Credit Union Development
Major General (Retired) Kenrick Maharaj	Chief of Defence Staff	Defence and National Security
Major General (Retired) Rodney Smart	Chief Executive Officer, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management	Defence and National Security
Rear Admiral (Retired) Hayden Pritchard	Consultant	Defence and National Security

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (SILVER) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Mrs. Sandra Tamby-Russell	Special Education Teacher/ Consultant	Education and Rehabilitation Training
Mr. Vel Lewis	Retired Permanent Secretary	Public Service/ Heritage Preservation

MEDAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (GOLD) - For outstanding contribution to The development of women's rights and issues in trinidad and tobago

Dr. Gabrielle Hosein	Senior Lecturer, Institute for Gender and Development Studies University of the West Indies, St. Augustine	Public Education and Advocacy
Mrs. Gia Gaspard- Taylor	President of the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago	Public Service



National Awards Ceremony held at the National Academy for the Performing Arts
<https://youtu.be/5SvLhnIMP4A>



Far left: HE Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT with the recipients of Hummingbird Medal Gold (L-R) (back row) - Mr. Michael Phillips, Dr. Primmath Gooptar, Mr. Machel Montano, Dr. Alfredo Walker, (front row) Professor Kit Fai Pun, Mr. Clement Lue Yat, Mr. Martin Terry Rondon, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, Mr. Lenny Kumar.

Left: HE Paula-Mae Weekes, ORTT with the recipients of the Development of Women Medal Gold - Dr. Gabrielle Hosein, and Mrs. Gia Gaspard-Taylor.

PRIME MINISTER ROWLEY MEETS WITH PROMAN SENIOR EXECUTIVES IN SWITZERLAND AND GERMANY

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister and Mr. David Cassidy, Chief Executive of Proman travelled from Zurich, Switzerland to the company’s office in Dusseldorf, Germany on Tuesday 06 September 2022. They both met with the leaders driving the energy company’s global projects with a view to exploring opportunities for further development in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Stuart Young received detailed presentations surrounding Proman’s technology and innovation approach and its applicability to the local industry.



Future projects, including proposals related to upstream gas projects and proposals related to carbon capture utilization and storage, featured heavily at the talks.

Pictured: L-R (seated) Mr. David Cassidy, Chief Executive of Proman, a member of the Proman executive team, the Honourable Stuart Young, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, and (standing) Trinidad and Tobago national Anita Gajadhar, Managing Director Marketing, Logistics and Shipping working from Zurich, Switzerland. **Photo:** OPM

PRIME MINISTER ROWLEY MEETS WITH BP EXECUTIVES IN LONDON AND SHELL EXECUTIVES IN THE NETHERLANDS

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister met on Thursday 08 September, 2022 with BP’s Chief Executive Officer, Bernard Looney, at the energy company’s global headquarters at St. James’s Square in London.

The Honourable Stuart Young, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister joined the Prime Minister at the meeting.

BP was also represented at the talks by Anja-Isabel Dotzenrath, Executive Vice President Gas and Low Carbon Energy,

David Campbell, President, BP Trinidad and Tobago (incoming) and Giselle Thompson, Vice President Corporate Operations, Trinidad and Tobago.

BP provided an update to the Prime Minister on their plans for future gas production including the sanctioning of new projects. The discussions also touched on the progress of the Atlantic LNG restructuring negotiations which is expected to be finalised soon.

Both parties reiterated their commitment to working together to ensure the future

of Trinidad and Tobago’s energy sector.

The Prime Minister used the opportunity to reinforce with BP that future fabrication of platforms and other infrastructure should be done in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Looney reiterated that Trinidad and Tobago remains an important asset in BP’s global operations and gave the assurance that the BP team would continue working assiduously with the Government on delivering a number of initiatives that would benefit both Trinidad and Tobago and BP.

The Prime Minister also travelled to the Hague, Netherlands and met with senior Shell executives and discussed the energy company's current and future development

project in Trinidad and Tobago. Both parties acknowledged the success of their continued collaboration which resulted in an increase in Shell's

production over the last five years since the company re-entered the upstream market in 2016.



Pictured: (L-R) Ms Anja-Isabel Dotzenrath, Executive Vice President Gas and Low Carbon Energy, Mr. David Campbell, President, BP Trinidad and Tobago (incoming), Mr. Bernard Looney, BP's Chief Executive Officer, Prime Minister Dr. the Hon Keith Rowley and the Hon Stuart Young, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister. **Photo: OPM**



Pictured: (L-R) Mr. Cederic Cremers, Executive Vice President for LNG, Mr. Eugene Okpere, Senior Vice President and Country Chair for Shell Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Anders Ekvall, Business Opportunity Manager for Shell, the Hon Stuart Young, Minister of Energy and Energy Industries and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Wael Sawan, Director of Integrated Gas and Renewable Energy Solutions, and Prime Minister Dr. the Hon Keith Rowley. **Photo: OPM**

VIEWS FROM THE MISSION

VIRTUAL NATIONALS MEETING - AUGUST 2022

On Wednesday 17 August 2022 the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London hosted its Virtual Nationals Meeting (UK).

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Chair of the Meeting, gave the Welcome Address. His Excellency spoke about his diaspora-focused policies, the changes made at the High Commission, the upcoming renovations of the High Commission and the events to celebrate Trinidad and Tobago's 60th Anniversary of Independence, which included the efforts of Councillor Natalie Nicholas to promote Trinidad and Tobago in Liverpool.

There was a presentation by Mr. Victor Rubadiri, President Artists' Coalition of Trinidad and Tobago regarding the possibilities of a staging of 'PANTHEON 2022 - AN EXHIBITION ON THE KING AND QUEEN COSTUMES OF THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO CARNIVAL' alongside the exhibition and performance of the Carnival King costume 'Conduit Messenger Healer'. Mr. Rubadiri exhorted nationals to

seek assistance in establishing links with persons who may have venues and exhibition spaces to hold the exhibiton. He also informed that he would like to get in contact with organisations wishing to sponsor or collaborate with him on the project.

Another presentation was delivered by the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Association UK, Dr. Michaelene March-Holder who renewed the call for nationals to register with the Association. She also gave notification of upcoming events and



activities at Association House.

Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary at the High Commission answered questions regarding consular matters with an emphasis on the role of the Consular Department.

Ms Alicia Acres-Youksee, based in the Immigration Division, Port of Spain answered questions on passport and other immigration-related issues.

The Questions and Answer segment focused on passport queries and consular matters.

High Commissioner Dhanpaul concluded the meeting with an invitation to all nationals to attend the Interfaith Service at the St Peter's Eaton Square Church to celebrate Trinidad and Tobago's 60th anniversary of Independence.

Pictured: The 'Conduit Messenger Healer'; Joseph Lewis - King of Carnival 2022; at the launch of PANTHEON 2022 at Mille Fleurs, Port of Spain. **Photo: Victor Rubadiri**



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO’S 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE EVENSONG SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY



Above: (L-R) Ms Greta Mendez MBE, Ms Isabelle Parasram OBE, His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, Reverend Stephanie Matthias, Archbishop Joyce Turner, Ms Fawzia Muradali-Kane, and Mr. Audley Graham. **Right:** Trinidad and Tobago national flag being flown on the roof of Westminster Abbey. **Photos:** Redcoat Photography

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul and members of staff of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission joined nationals in the United Kingdom and other devotees for Evensong at Westminster Abbey, on Tuesday 30 August 2022.

This year's Evensong assumed special

significance as it was held to celebrate Trinidad and Tobago's 60th Anniversary of Independence.

During the Service, High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul read the Second Lesson. Given the occasion, special prayers were offered for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, its leaders and its people.

Notably, and with great pride, Trinidad and Tobago's flag was flown above the Westminster Abbey in tribute to the country's Diamond Jubilee, the first time such an honour had been done by the Abbey.

FLAG RAISED AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Trinidad and Tobago made history by being the first country to have its Flag raised at the House of Commons to celebrate 60 years of Independence. The flag-raising event occurred on Wednesday 31 August 2022. In attendance at the House of Commons were High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Ms Jenny G. Thompson, Counsellor, Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary and Mrs. Beverley Awonaya and Mr. Lawson Lovell, officers in the Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department at the High Commission.

A tour of the Speaker's Apartments followed the milestone the flag-raising event.

Pictured: Trinidad and Tobago's national flag being flown at the House of Commons - UK Parliament.





Above: (L-R) Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Officers Lawson Lovell and Beverley Awonaya, Counsellor Jenny G. Thompson, Second Secretary Kimberly Ibrahim, and High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, **Photo: ©UK Parliament/Andy Bailey, Top and bottom right:** A tour of the Speaker's Apartments led by Tara-Jane Kerpens-Lee, Speaker's Protocol and Projects Manager, House of Commons - UK Parliament.

FLYING THE FLAG FOR T&T IN LIVERPOOL

A flag raising event, was held to celebrate Trinidad and Tobago's 60th anniversary of Independence at the St George's Hall in Liverpool on August 31, 2022. The event was a collaborative venture between with Councillor Nathalie Nicholas and the High Commission.

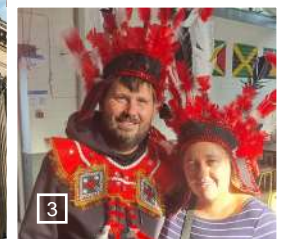
Councillor Nathalie Nicholas expressed her astonishment at the nation's milestone achievement, stating "Although it was first achieved long before I was born, I vividly remember the celebrations [and] parade, we religiously attended every year when growing up in Trinidad."

She reminisced, "I remember the sea of red, white and black that all appeared fused after standing in the sun. Singing together and being together as one. One people under the sun. Children and adults alike, caring, sharing without a fight. Smiling faces and music mixed with joy to everyone's delight. To the rhythm of the soldiers marching as in flight."

In 2013, Councillor Nathalie Nicholas led a trade and tourism mission with the High Commission, showcasing her dedication to local economic growth and international partnerships.

Significantly, other Independence celebration activities were held by nationals based in Liverpool at the Caribbean Centre.

Pictured: 1) Trinidad and Tobago flag raised on St George's Hall, Liverpool, **2)** Councillor Nathalie Nicholas (at right) holding a celebratory Trinidad and Tobago banner at Liverpool Caribbean Centre, **3-6)** A cross section of attendees who participated in the Carnival head piece making workshop at Trinidad and Tobago day at the Liverpool Caribbean Centre. **Photos courtesy Nathalie Nicholas**



NATIONALS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM CELEBRATE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE



Above: A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service. **Below:** The Trinidad and Tobago flag raised to signal the start of the ceremonial military procession made up of a marching band of cadets and members of the Armed Forces in front of the High Commission.

Members of the diaspora congregated at St Peter's Eaton Square, in London, on Sunday 04 September, 2022, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Due to the High Commission's longstanding relationship with the Parish of St Peter's Eaton Square, the Church was chosen as the venue for the independence celebration.

(RNCWN) preceded the celebrants, High Commission's staff and members of the diaspora from outside the High Commission to the St Peter's Eaton Square Church. This is the first time in the history of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission that a ceremonial event of this nature has taken place to commemorate Trinidad and Tobago's independence.

As Trinidad and Tobago's Diamond Jubilee on August 31, 2022, is of notable significance, the theme chosen for the event was "Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve".

The day's event started with a ceremonial military procession made up of a marching band of cadets and members of the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces personnel led by Petty Officer "Joe" Joseph RN, Co-Chair Royal Navy Commonwealth Network



High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul read the President's Independence Address during the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Father Henderson George who based his remarks on the theme, "Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve", delivered the Homily. Dr. Ozair Hasnain of the Muslim Community, Revd Joyce Turner and Revd Stephanie Matthias representing the Spiritual Baptists, Ms Omadaye Soogrim-Sawh of the Hindu Community and Counsellor Jenny G. Thompson represented the Christians, shared prayers and



Pictured: 1-2) The procession of the marching band of Cadets, members of the Armed Forces, Celebrants and members of the congregation proceeded on Upper Belgrave Street. **3)** The Cadets and Armed Forces personnel at the end of the march lined up for inspection in the St Peter's Eaton Square Church yard, **4)** Cadet Mignott, Flag Bearer leads the procession of the Celebrants down the aisle, **5)** Anne Fridal, **6)** Reverend Jonathan Kester, Vicar at St Peter's Eaton Square delivering the Welcome and introduction of the Inter-Faith Service theme - *Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve*

readings on behalf of their respective faiths. The Revd Jonathan Kester, newly appointed Vicar at St Peter's Eaton Square Church delivered both the Welcome and the Blessing. A vote of thanks was delivered by Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, of the Public Affairs Culture and Toursim Division.

Internationally acclaimed Dramatic mezzo soprano Anne Fridal accompanied by Mr. Marvin Smith and Ms Faye Clinton gave a stunning performance of the 'Ave Maria' and 'Calypso Music' and also led the congregation in the singing of the hymns. Further entertainment by the sister and brother duo Jada Marsh and Steven Marsh with their rendition of 'Hallelujah' and 'Ganges Meet the Nile' by David Rudder reflected the patriotic fervour felt by attendees. In accordance with customary practice in having the steelpan take pride of place at events hosted by the High Commission the sweet sounds of steel echoed throughout the church in the Melodians Steel Orchestra UK's rendition of 'Portrait of Trinidad' by The Mighty Bomber' and 'Tribute to Spree Simon' by Lord Kitchener.

After the official ceremony, nationals and other guests shared greetings and refreshments in the courtyard of the church.

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul expressed his delight at the attendance of more than 300 nationals who took the time out of their schedules to attend the special Interfaith Service. Nationals were expressive in their delight at the afternoon's event. High Commissioner also thanked the staff for the work that went into making the Interfaith Service such a success.



WATCH THE VIDEO

Trinidad and Tobago High Commission London 60th Interfaith Service: https://youtu.be/6aq_l6tnCNE



1) High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, 2) Dr. Ozair Hasnain, 3) Archbishop Joyce Turner and Reverend Stephanie Matthias, 4) Mrs. Omadaye Soogrim-Sawh, 5) Ms Jenny G. Thompson, Counsellor, 6) Ms Anne Fridal and Mr. Marvin Smith leading the hymn for the congregation, 7) Ms Jada Marsh violinist and Mr. Steven Marsh cellist, 8) Mr. Terry Noel MBE (far right) and the Melodians Steel Orchestra, 9) Ms Beverley Awonaya, 10) Father Henderson George, 11) Ms Faye Clinton cellist



11) High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul with members of the Cadets, 12) Mr. Andy Hayling, Ms Pauline Birbal, Chef Hasan DeFour and Sister Monica Tywang, 13) High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul and Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Consular and Student Officer with members of the Armed Forces, 14) Mr. Hoyte West, Ms Laurene Hoyte West, Mr. Antony Hoyte West, Ms Angela Cox, Mr. Tyrone Alleyne, 15) Ms Elizabeth Metivier, Ms Beverley Awonaya, Mr. Ashton Joab, Mrs. Ruth Joab, 16) Ms Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul with Ms Jada Marsh and Mr. Steven Marsh, 17) Congregation gathers outside for refreshments, 18) Mr Peter Seepersad, Ms Annie Jagdeo and Ms Daisy Seepersad, A 19) Ms Sian Young, Mr. Lowellyne James and daughter, 20) (L-R) Mr. Joe McIntosh, Ms Anne Fridal, Mr. Marvin Smith and Ms Brenda Hinds.

HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES REPRESENTED TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT THE STATE FUNERAL OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, was among the Heads of State of other countries who attended the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey, London on September 19, 2022.

She was also among the 500 world leaders and foreign dignitaries at a reception held by King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, on Tuesday September 18, 2022.

In her official statement offering condolences on the passing of the British Monarch, Her Excellency wrote:

“On behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago and on her own behalf, Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago offers her deepest condolences to King Charles III, the rest of the Royal Family and the people of the United Kingdom on the death of their beloved monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth’s 70-year reign—the longest of any British monarch—was personified by humility, dignity and absolute dedication to duty, traits that are to be greatly admired.

May she rest in eternal peace.”

Top: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes signs a book of condolence at Lancaster House in London. **Photo:** Jonathan Hordle/PA Media Assignments

Middle: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes and High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul spent a few minutes of quiet reflection when the late Queen Elizabeth II was Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall in London. **Photo:** Royal Central.

Below: Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, among other Heads of State enters Westminster Abbey for the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. **Photo:** BBC Livestream



HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES INTERVIEWED BY SKY NEWS

On Monday 19 September, 2022, Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes ORTT, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was interviewed by Mr. Dominic Waghorn, International Affairs Editor, Sky News. Part of that interview was included in a national broadcast by the Sky News Channel.



Her Excellency Paula Mae Weekes interview with Mr. Dominic Waghorn, International Affairs Editor, Sky News: <https://youtu.be/WtD4QurCb74>

Photo: Sky News

THE PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO EXTENDS CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister on 08 September 2022 expressed condolences to His Majesty King Charles III, the other members of the Royal Family and to the Government and People of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-serving monarch. The Prime Minister stated that, after reigning for 70 years, Her Majesty has left a lasting legacy for the people of the UK and the world.

The Prime Minister noted that Queen Elizabeth II's life was marked by her strong sense of duty and dedication. The Prime Minister recalled the promise that

the Queen had made at the age of 21 when she pledged her life to the service of



In Remembrance: HM Queen Elizabeth II arrives at Piarco International Airport for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on 26 November, 2009. **Photos:** MNS TT

her people. That promise was refreshed on her Coronation Day when she asked for "God's help to make good that vow... I do not regret, or retract, one word of it."

It may be recalled that Her Majesty visited Trinidad and Tobago on several occasions, the most recent of which was in 2009 to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The Prime Minister said that although Trinidad and Tobago gained its Independence and later became a Republic, this country recognises the lasting legacy of Her Majesty. He said that she will be particularly remembered for her selfless duty to the Commonwealth.

May Her Majesty's Soul Rest In Peace.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PAYS TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Pictured: On Friday 9 September, 2022, Her Excellency Harriet Cross, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland opened a Condolence Book at the British High Commission, Port of Spain on the occasion of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Left: Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs signs the Condolence Book .

Right: Her Excellency Harriet Cross and Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne. **Photos:** Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs



Pictured: The National Flag of Trinidad and Tobago was flown at half-mast from September 9, 2022 to September 19, 2022, as a sign of respect, on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II at all Government buildings and Trinidad and Tobago diplomatic missions.

Left: National flag at half-mast at The Red House, Trinidad and Tobago Parliament in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. **Photo:** TT Parliament

Right: National flag at half-mast at Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London





Pictured: 1) (L-R) Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Lady Hochoy, Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams, HM Queen Elizabeth II, Sir Solomon Hochoy, Governor General, and Erica Williams, the Prime Minister's daughter, during the HM Queen's visit to T&T, February 7-9, 1966, 2) HM The Queen inspecting the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment (February 7-9, 1966), 3) HM Queen Elizabeth II visited the Red House in Port of Spain accompanied by Prince Philip, where she opened the new session of Parliament (February 8, 1966), 4) Queen Elizabeth II receives flowers from a student at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, Port of Spain, during her visit to T&T, November 1-3, 1985, 5) Queen Elizabeth II at UWI St Augustine Campus, Trinidad (November 1-3, 1985), 6) Queen Elizabeth II receives a gift from then President Sir Ellis Clarke during her visit to T&T (November 1-3, 1985), 7) HM Queen Elizabeth II, standing next to His Excellency George Maxwell Richards, lays a wreath at the Cenotaph in Port of Spain, November 26, 2009, Photo: Kenroy Ambris/Commonwealth Secretariat, 8) (L-R) Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Mrs Jean Ramjohn-Richards, HM Queen Elizabeth II and Maxwell Richards at a banquet held in the queen's honour by then president Max Richards, President's House, Port of Spain (November 26, 2009), Photo: Information Division 9) HM Queen Elizabeth II greets children in carnival costumes on her visit to Queen's Hall, Port of Spain (November 28, 2009), Photos: The Royal Household, 10) (Front row, seated) Prime Minister Patrick Manning, Host and incoming Chair-In-Office, HM Queen Elizabeth II, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta, President, Uganda and outgoing Chair-In-Office and Mr. Kamallesh Sharma, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth with other Commonwealth Heads of Government (November 27 2009), Photo: OPM TT.

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW SECURITY ATTACHÉ

On Tuesday 18th October, 2022, Mrs. Carol Valentine-Heath assumed duties at the High Commission as its new Security Attaché. Mrs. Valentine-Heath has been a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service for the past twenty-two years and is a Sergeant of Police. She spent sixteen of those years at the Special Branch.

The High Commission wishes Mrs. Valentine-Heath a very memorable stint in London.

Pictured: Mrs. Carol Valentine-Heath, Security Attaché.



COURTESY CALL BY AUTHORS YISHEBAH BAHT GAVRIEL & ENOMWOYI DAMALI

contribution by YISHEBAH BAHT GAVRIEL

During this year's Black History Month celebrations two Trinbagonian authors of the UK diaspora were granted a courtesy call with High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London.

On October 31, 2022, Ms Yishebah Baht Gavriel, first-time publishing Children's author, met with the High Commissioner to present him with a copy of her 'Clever Chrissie and the Mango Stories' a fun and didactic book about 'Sharing is Caring' set in her birth town Point Fortin; and told via the prism of her childhood.

Ms Baht Gavriel, whose book was published by the London-based Conscious Dreams Publishing company founded by Ms Daniella Blechner, Book Journey Mentor also published the 'Nzinga Series' by compatriot Ms Enomwoyi Damali, who accompanied her to the meeting.

His Excellency took the opportunity to share his role and plans for engaging with members of the diaspora. He also passionately encouraged them to take shared ownership of the space by submitting proposals for creative



community-based activities led by nationals. His Excellency stressed that, "...this is your Mission, and I am a custodian and servant of the people here."

High Commissioner Dhanpaul also stressed that, as the former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Trinidad and Tobago, he was keen to explore import and export business opportunities for the country; and invited the writers to signpost him to any such outlets of interest. The High Commissioner further expressed the view that all nationals should, play a full part in the partnership activities of the Mission.

A special presentation was also made to him, of the operational portfolio of the Tobago Writers' Guild, on behalf of Marketing Executive Member Mrs. Jewel Greene-George. The document was

presented with the hope, it would furnish High Commissioner Dhanpaul and staff with the vision, mission and Tobago-centric activities of the Guild's writers and authors. The wish was also expressed that a shelf with copies of the Guilds' publication would be made available at the Mission's library.

Both authors presented His Excellency with copies of their book and he recommended that they partner with BOCAS Lit, the Trinidad Author's Guild. The courtesy call concluded with the authors' hope for a collaborative relationship with the Mission's staff and His Excellency during his tenure, including the hosting book launches and other activities.



Top: Ms Yishebah Baht Gavriel presenting her book to High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, **Above:** Ms Enomwoyi Damali presenting her book to High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul.

ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY CONFERRED ON CALYPSO ICON DAVID RUDDER



Above: Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs presents the Order of the Caribbean Community medal to Mr. David Rudder. **Top right:** The Honourable David Michael Rudder OCC as he addressed the gathering following the conferment of the Order of the Caribbean Community, **Photos:** Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

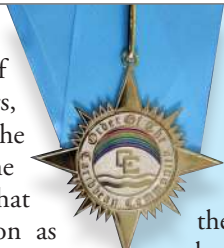
On Wednesday August 10 2022, Mr. David Michael Rudder received the Order of the Caribbean Community at the Diplomatic Centre in St. Ann’s, Port of Spain. This followed the decision taken by CARICOM Heads of Government to confer the Order of the Caribbean Community on Mr. David Rudder at the 43rd CARICOM Heads of Government Conference held in Paramaribo, Suriname in July 2022. Mr. Rudder had been unavailable to attend that event and so the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, together with the CARICOM Secretariat, conferred the award at a special function.

Ms. Allison Drayton, Assistant Secretary General of Human and Social Development of the Caribbean Community praised Mr. Rudder for raising the spirits of the region. She noted that everyone felt Trini to the Bone as a result of his music.

His Excellency Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of the Republic of Suriname, in a pre-recorded address as the Chair of the Caribbean Community, thanked Mr. Rudder for his sterling contribution to calypso and to the region.

Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, presented Mr. Rudder with the award, and delivered from the podium a detailed Citation that praised his stellar contribution as a cultural icon to the social fabric of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean as a whole. The Minister lauded the wide span and longevity of Mr. Rudder’s work, and included specific reflections on the profound impact of Mr. Rudder’s seminal work in 1986 when his album “The Hammer” broke into the consciousness of Trinidad and Tobago and the world. Dr. Browne’s presentation also highlighted that the clarion call of Mr. Rudder to Rally Round the West Indies remains cemented as an emotional anthem for West Indies cricket to this day.

In accepting the award, Mr. Rudder sincerely thanked the Caribbean Community and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the honour and admonished young people to continue to learn and never to give up.



BACKGROUND ON THE ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

Initiated in 1987 during the Eighth (8th) Conference of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, the Order of the Caribbean Community is conferred upon nationals of the Caribbean whose contributions to the development of the region are considered to be outstanding.

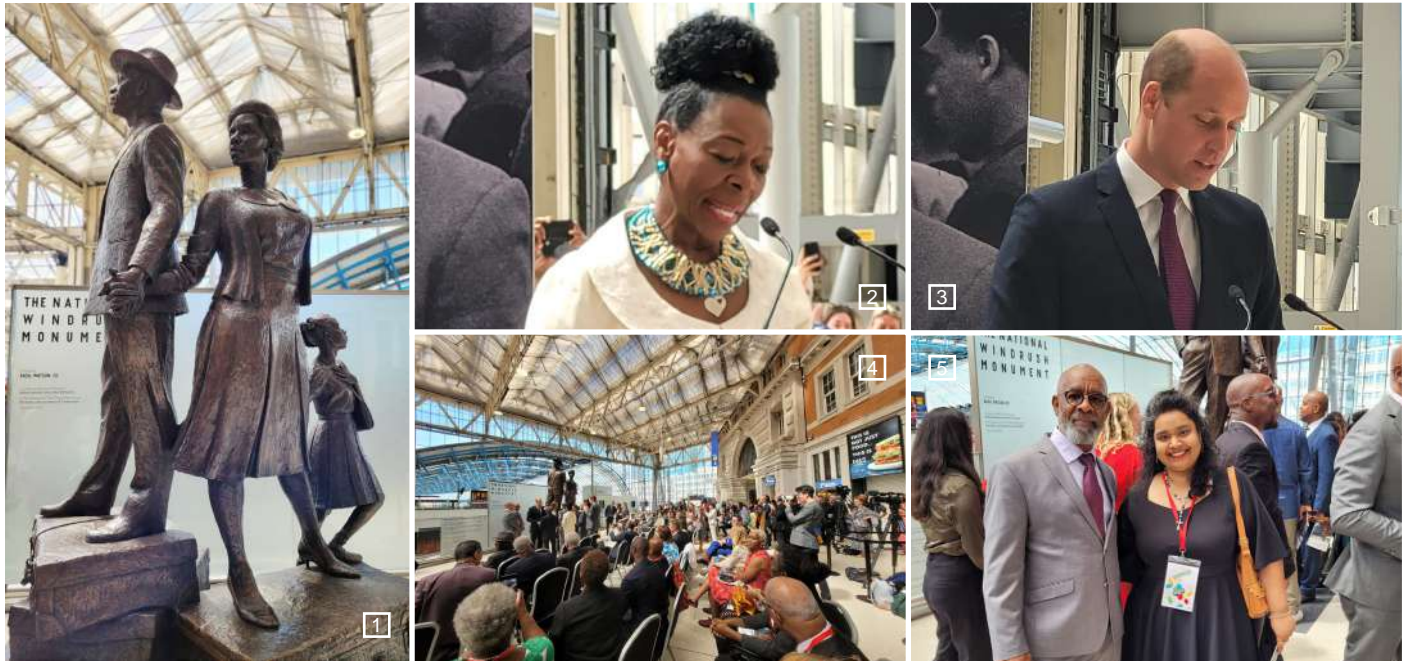
At the 43rd Conference of the Heads of Government held in Paramaribo, Suriname, three other awardees were conferred the Order of the Caribbean Community, namely, His Excellency Irwin LaRocque, former Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community; Sir Vivian Richards, cricketer; and Dame Billie Miller, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Barbados.

The Order of the Caribbean Community represents the highest award in the region and is bestowed with great pride and joy. The award can only be held by 15 living awardees at any time. Prior to 2022, the O.C.C. had not been conferred in 10 years.



Order of the Caribbean Community conferred on David Rudder: https://youtu.be/_Agpabbhz0g

NATIONAL WINDRUSH MONUMENT UNVEILED AT LONDON WATERLOO STATION



Pictured: 1) The National Windrush Monument designed by renowned artist Basil Watson, 2) Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE DL, 3) HRH Duke of Cambridge, 4) Attendees at the unveiling of the National Windrush Monument at London Waterloo Station, 5) Mr. Basil Watson and Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission.

On June 22nd 2022, Members of the Windrush generation and specially invited guests joined HRH Duke and HRH Duchess of Cambridge, at London Waterloo Station to witness the unveiling of the National Windrush Monument. The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was represented by Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Consular and Student Officer.

Designed by renowned Jamaican artist Basil Watson and delivered with £1 million funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Monument symbolises the courage, commitment and resilience of the thousands of men, women and children who travelled to the UK to start new lives from 1948 to 1971.

It acknowledges and celebrates the Windrush generation's outstanding contribution and has been created as a permanent place of reflection, to foster greater understanding of the generation's talent, hard work and continuing contribution to British society.

The three figures – a man, woman, and child – Dressed in their “Sunday best” are

climbing a mountain of suitcases together, demonstrating the inseparable bond of the Windrush pioneers and their descendants, and the hopes and aspirations of their generation as they arrive to start new lives in the UK.



Above: (L-R) Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, MBE, QHC, Bishop of Dover and the Bishop in Canterbury, Alford Dalrymple Gardner, Baroness Benjamin DBE and Mr. Keith "Levi Roots" Graham.

Following widespread acceptance of Basil Watson's design, he was commissioned to create the Monument by the Windrush Commemoration Committee (WCC), chaired by Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE DL. Mr Watson worked collaboratively with a team at Pangolin Editions in Stroud, Gloucester to complete the monument.

The Monument's location at the London Waterloo station, was chosen due to its significance in the Windrush story as thousands of people who arrived from the Caribbean passed through the station on their way to start their new lives across the country.

For further information on the National Windrush Monument and Windrush Day Grant Scheme please visit: <https://Windrush-monument.levellingup.gov.uk>

REMEMBER GRENFELL - A SPECIAL MEMORIAL FOR THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday 14 June 2022, a memorial service took place at Westminster Abbey to mark the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

The service was led by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle. Candles were lit as the names of the 72 people who lost their lives in the tragedy were read by: Father Gerard Skinner, St Francis of Assisi, Notting Hill, Abdurahman Sayed, CEO, The Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre Trust, Al-Manaar Mosque, Leon Sassoon, Life President, Holland Road Synagogue, Gurpreet Singh Anand, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Khalsa Jatha British Isles, Central Gurdwara, Father Liqe Teguhan Tekle Mariam, Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Aliya Azam MBE, Head of Science, Al Sadiq School and Al Zahra, and Interfaith Advisor, Al Khoei Foundation

Tributes were read by broadcaster Jon Snow and IMr.an Khan QC. There were musical performances by Rihab Azar, Nancy Mae, and Damel Carayol and the Community Choir.

Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was among those in attendance.

At the end of the service, members of the congregation were invited to lay flowers at the Innocent Victims' Memorial, as the Abbey bell tolled 72 times in remembrance of all those who died.

 Edited from <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/abbey-news/abbey-marks-anniversary-of-grenfell-tragedy>



Pictured: 1) Westminster Abbey was adorned in green to remember those 72 people who lost their lives at Grenfell five years ago, 2) Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, 3) White roses are laid on the Innocent Victims' Memorial at Westminster Abbey, 4) Damel Carayol and the Community Choir.

RESEARCH UPDATE: ANTONY HOYTE-WEST – TRANSLATION, INTERPRETING, AND MULTILINGUALISM IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

written by ANTONY HOYTE-WEST

I am a Trinidad & Tobago national based at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland where I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of English. My research looks at translation studies and multilingualism in a variety of countries and contexts.



Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, as well as in Lithuania at Vilnius University.

A project I have started recently examines translation, interpreting, and multilingualism in the Anglophone Caribbean, with a special focus on Trinidad and Tobago and the evolving role of Spanish and also our English Creole and French Creole (patois) languages. To

In October this year, I was invited to give an online presentation on “Observations on conference interpreting in the post-pandemic era: Opportunities and challenges for the Anglophone Caribbean” to the inaugural research symposium

date, this project has included conference presentations in Poland at the University of Szczecin and the Institute of Slavic Studies of the

of the Translators and Interpreters Association of Jamaica, which brought together scholars and practitioners from across the English-speaking Caribbean.

In terms of related publications from the project, three articles are currently open access in the journals English Studies at NBU, Open Linguistics, and Adeptus. I welcome all opportunities to assist with academic and practical topics relating to translation, interpreting, and multilingualism in the Caribbean context.

For more information, please see: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4410-6520> and <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Antony-Hoyte-West>

T&T SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT JOVI-EL PAUL SHOWCASE DESIGNS IN END OF YEAR FASHION SHOW 2022

edited from Jovi-el Paul's Portfolio | GRADUATE FASHION WEEK

The University of East London (UEL) presented its students' designs at London Fashion Week (LFW) for the first time after it was recognised by the British Fashion Council.

The university's Bachelor in Fashion Design students presented their looks under the theme 'Intersection' on the runway in a disused office building at Broadgate. There were 300 guests at the event which included industry professionals, press, stylists, casting agents and buyers.

Ms Jovi-el Paul, a Trinidad and Tobago scholarship student who attended UEL, was among those selected to showcase designs at LFW 2022. The following is from Jovi-el Paul's Portfolio:

ABOUT ME

I am a Trinbagonian designer intent on empowering through conceptual yet wearable garments embedded with a message. Through my work, individuals have access to different perspectives that are often untouched or overlooked.

I design both womenswear and menswear while operating in the digital fashion space. My creative process integrates technology, innovation and heritage which makes my designs meaningful and timeless to customers. I aim to create a space for people to cultivate a greater understanding of truth, who they are, their value and the value of others through fashion in a way that is ethical, relevant and sustainable.

INSPIRATION

A retelling of a people disenfranchised using bits of genealogy passed down by my grandpa.

My Final Major Project entitled 'History, Mystery, My-story?', is a journey I take to discover who my enslaved ancestors were before they came to Trinidad and Tobago. I used this project as a research point to discover an identity lost, stolen



Above: a range of the clothing fashion designs by Ms Jovi-el Paul showcased at London Fashion Week, **Photos: Graduate Fashion Week, Below:** Ms Jovi-el Paul and Ms Kimberly Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission at UEL showcase staged in Broadgate, on Saturday, 11 June 2022.

and forgotten collectively by the Afrikaans brought to the Americas through the Atlantic slave trade. My first point of reference was my grandpa, whose forefathers told him that they are of the lineage of the Hebrews and this aligned with many slave records.

Through much research, I uncovered many identities that tie my ancestors to mainly Western Afrika (North to South). The tangible element that connected my West Indian, West Afrikaan and Hebrew



heritage together is the "Bangle" in its varying forms, which ignited my design process. I combined this knowledge with techniques of kirigami and laser-cutting to create unique silhouettes, distinct prints and details that allow me to retell this mysterious history to form my story.

DETAIL

Laser-cut Designs Based on the Concept of Connected Bangles

The connected bangles are symbolic of my 3 cultural references; West Indian, West Afrikaan and Hebrew heritage connected together through transaction/change. The connecting circles in the form of Borromean rings; shows the fragility of this story, when one part is missing, everything falls apart; so the bangles holds precedence in this tale.



Edited from <https://www.graduatemission.com/search-portfolios/jovi-el-paul>



T&T CULTURE SHOWCASED AT HM QUEEN DIAMOND JUBILEE - PLATINUM PARTY AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE



Pictured: 1) UKASPO performing at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party at Buckingham Palace, 2) Mr. Sterling Betancourt MBE conducting the steel orchestra, 3) Triniboi Joojie performing Lord Kitchener's calypso song 'Pan in A Minor', 4-6) Ms Clary Salandy, Artistic Director, Mahogany Carnival Arts and various members of Mahogany Carnival Arts performing at the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, 7) Artist Mr. Carl Gabriel (far right) with his sculpture of HM Queen head and bust. **Photos:** BBC.

The UK All Steel Percussion Orchestra (UKASPO) made up of over one hundred players from the top Steel bands in the United Kingdom played for Her Majesty the Queen at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party at Buckingham Palace on Sunday 5 June. There were twenty five players each from Ebony Steelband, Croydon Steel Orchestra, Metronomes Steel Orchestra and Mangrove Steel Orchestra. The selections played were Lord Kitchener's (Aldwyn Roberts) 'Pan in A Minor' and 'London is the Place for me'. The songs were arranged by Andre White with the pans tuned by Birch Kelman and Dudley Dickson. Musical Director for the performance was Leon 'Foster' Thomas. Mr. Sterling Betancourt MBE, one of the last surviving members of Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (TASPO), had the honour of conducting UKASPO.

The Trinidad All-Steel Pan Percussion Orchestra (TASPO) was formed to participate in the Festival of Britain in 1951. The group was the first steelband to travel abroad from Trinidad and Tobago, presenting the newly invented steelpan to an international audience. The steelband performed in London as well as elsewhere in Britain and in Paris. TASPO returned to Trinidad on 12 December 1951 without Sterling Betancourt, who stayed in London and is heavily involved in the Notting Hill Carnival

The steel band also featured soca artiste Triniboi Joojie who sang the selection 'Pan In a Minor' which was well received by the crowd.

Also featured at the Platinum Jubilee Pageant were Clary Salandy and her team from Mahogany Carnival Arts. Together with fellow Trinbagonian artist

and wire bender Carl Jacobs, who uses the traditional technique of wire-bending together with his own innovations created a story which told about The Queen's 70-year reign and the UK's changing social landscape. They chose to reimagine the setting where the young Princess Elizabeth learned she was Queen in 1952, while on a wildlife expedition in Kenya, to spark a sense of fun and fantasy. They featured three-hundred carnival costumes made up of elephants, giraffes, and flamingos with decorated mobility scooters ridden by elder members of the community. A 4 meters tall, 85-kilogram wire bust sculpture of The Queen, wearing a crown served as a centerpiece for the performance.

There were two hundred and fifty artists and performers from the Caribbean community dancing on the day.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE BEACONS RECEPTION

The Platinum Jubilee Beacons was the first community event of the four-day Jubilee Weekend, Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June 2022.

The event was hosted by Lord Waldegrave of North Hill, Chairman of Courtts and Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons and held at 440 Strand, London.

The lighting of the beacon occurred promptly at 8:00 pm.

This was the first time a British monarch has marked a Platinum Jubilee, 70 years as Sovereign. In September 2015, The Queen overtook Queen Victoria as the longest reigning monarch.

Top: The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon lit by the Queen Commonwealth Trust's Team and Young Leaders, **Photo:** The Queen's Commonwealth Trust. **At right: (L-R)** Ms Beverley Awonaya, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, Commonwealth Secretary-General, and Ms Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul, wife of H.E. Vishnu Dhanpaul.



KING'S ROAD JUBILEE STREET PARTY



Pictured:

- 1) Ms Terry Gay at the Trinidad and Tobago booth,
- 2) Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission at the special banqueting table,
- 3) Customer queuing up at the Trinidad and Tobago booth,
- 4) Mrs. Anastasia Geofroy-Dhanpaul (second from left) and Mr. Terry Noel MBE (front row, centre) with members of the Melodians Steel Orchestra UK.

In celebration of the extraordinary seven decades of the Queen's reign, a weekend of regal jubilation occurred in Chelsea on Saturday 04 June.

One of the activities was the King's Road Jubilee Street Party. Pedestrianised from Sloane Square to Cheltenham Terrace, the Jubilee celebrations included a special Jubilee edition of the Fine Food

Market which took place on the green opposite Saatchi, collaborating with the Royal Commonwealth Society offering delicious food representative of flavours from across the Commonwealth.

Ms Terry Gay, a national based in the United Kingdom, ably represented Trinidad and Tobago. Her stall offered an array of mouth-watering delicacies, which

included pelau, rum punch, poulourie, tamarind balls, khurma, roast and fried bake with fish and of course pepper sauce.

There were plenty of opportunities for celebratory toasts. Visitors were able to picnic on the grass and had the opportunity to eat at the special banqueting table.

THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL SHARE LIGHT HUMOUR WITH RUDOLPH WALKER ON HER EXPERIENCE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Pictured: The Queen Consort, then the Duchess of Cornwall being greeted by Rudolph Walker.

Photo: BBC/PA


On Thursday 2 June, 2022, Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, appeared in a special episode of EastEnders to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In a special scene within the EastEnders episode, the Duchess of Cornwall traded jokes and chatted with veteran character Patrick Trueman, played by Trinidad and Tobago-born actor Mr. Rudolph Walker CBE. As he welcomed her to Walford, the Duchess of Cornwall pointed out the

'nice little bottle' of rum from Trinidad and Tobago that Patrick was holding. In unison, they say: 'A Drop a day keeps the doctor away', causing the cast to laugh along with them.

The Duchess of Cornwall said that she had tried the rum during a visit to Trinidad and Tobago, to which he replied: 'And you're still standing, Mam?'

Mr. Walker asked the Duchess if he could interest her in a tot of rum before she leaves, to which Duchess of Cornwall agreed as the cast cheered in the background.

 Edited from <http://bit.ly/3O9ZVHH>



Above: Alexander D' Great. **At Left:** Audience standing ovation for Alexander D' Great. **Photos:** BGT | ITV

ALEX'S JUBILEE CALYPSO IS HUGE HIT AT BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

edited from Stephen Spark's Article | **SOCA NEWS**

throne. It's easy to imagine the late, great Aldwyn Roberts HBM DA 'Lord Kitchener' (Coronation Calypso) and George Browne 'Young Tiger' (I Was There at the Coronation) nodding in approval.

A fine horsewoman the Queen has always been!



When 'Alexander' sang the song on Britain's Got Talent on May 14, 2022 it received four immediate 'yes' votes from the judges and was also well received by the audience.

As Britain tied itself up in bunting and got ready for some full-on street-partying, Alex Loewenthal performing under the sobriquet 'Alexander D Great' – who surely qualifies as a 'national treasure' himself – released a suitably festive calypso.


In typical Alexander style, the calypso jauntily runs through the Queen's reign, from her childhood and accession to the throne in 1952, and checks off her fashion style and interests:

*As young Princess Elizabeth she joined the guides
And won the Children's Challenge Shield aged 13.
She loves art, music, theatre and equestrian rides.*

Big Party For Your Platinum Jubilee is an unashamedly upbeat, positive song about the massive contribution the monarch has made in her 70 years on the

Sample comments on YouTube: "That is soo beautiful! Great way to honor the queen"; "Hope the Queen get to watch this as Her Majesty would love it"; "Brought me to tears with that song."

 <https://socanews.com/news/alexs-jubilee-calypso-is-huge-hit-at-britains-got-talent>

 **WATCH THE VIDEO** Alexander D' Great BGT performance: <https://youtu.be/RFwXcr4jAck>

CULTURE DAY AT 3 REGIMENT ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS

Ms. Madonna Hosten, a Trinidad and Tobago national currently serving in the British Army, contacted the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission to request tourism materials to highlight Trinidad and Tobago's rich cultural heritage at the 3 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps cultural day held on Sunday, June 5, 2022. The event aimed to promote mutual understanding among troops about each other's home countries. Soldiers delivered engaging talks and vibrant displays, sharing insights into their diverse cultures, cuisines, and traditions.

Pictured: 1) Ms Hosten's Trinidad and Tobago Booth at 3 Regiment RLC Culture Day, 2) Table displaying various books, photos of landscapes and ornaments from Trinidad and Tobago, 3) Posters with information on Trinidad and Tobago's culture and traditions. **Photos courtesy Madonna Hosten**



INTERNATIONAL FAIR AT EATON HOUSE THE MANOR SCHOOL

Ms Vashti Maharaj, a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago, whose daughter is a student at Eaton House the Manor School, was invited to participate in the school's International Fair on Friday, July 8, 2022. The event aimed to showcase the diverse cultures and geographies of different nations.

Ms. Maharaj, with the support of materials provided by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, shared interesting insights about Trinbagonian culture, cuisine, music, and various aspects of life with the students. Eaton House the Manor School's International Day was a resounding success, and the valuable support extended by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission was greatly valued and appreciated.



Pictured: (From left) Ms Vashti Maharaj with her daughter (wearing red shorts), students and staff members of Eaton House the Manor School, **Photo courtesy Vashti Maharaj**

KYEIYANNE JAMES REAPPOINTED BAME STAFF NETWORK CHAIR AT PLYMOUTH NHS TRUST

submitted by **JO BEER & KYEIYANNE JAMES**

Trinidad and Tobago national Ms. Kyeiyanne James was reappointed as Chair of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Network in Plymouth.

Ms James works as an Associate Practitioner in the Immunology/Flow Cytometry department of the Plymouth Trust at the Derriford Hospital, a large

teaching specialist hospital in Plymouth, Devon. The Plymouth NHS Trust recently established their first BAME network to help progress and build a diverse and inclusive culture for their staff and patients.

The hospital has spoken of their delight at Ms James' work with the BAME. Ms Jo Beer, Director of Integrated Care and



Pictured: Ms Kyeiyanne James, **Photo: Plymouth NHS Trust**

Partnership at the University Hospital Plymouth NHS Trust informed the High Commission that “We are so impressed with Kyeiyanne. She speaks so highly of her home country and has shared with us the inclusive culture that she grew up in before moving to the UK ten years ago. As Chair, Kyeiyanne will play a significant role and will have the opportunity to bring about change in the NHS, enable and empower

BAME people to be heard, help us improve health inequalities and access to appropriate health care and contribute to the national BAME network agenda. I know that she will be an authentic and inspirational leader and hope you don't mind me sharing this great news with you as it's such a great accomplishment for Kyeiyanne's home town of Eastern Quarry Laventille and Trinidad and Tobago”.

Congratulations to Ms James on her huge accomplishment working with the BAME Network in Plymouth.

To learn more about Ms Kyeiyanne James and her work with the BAME Network in Plymouth please visit: <https://www.plymouthhospitals.nhs.uk/bame>

DR. SINGH FLIES T&T FLAG AT QUEEN'S BATON RELAY FINAL LEG



Pictured: (L-R) Batonbearer Mr. Ollie Phillips, a former England Rugby Sevens International, Dr. Michael Singh, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Dr. Gerard Millen, Paediatric Oncologist, Dr. Suma Uday, Consultant Endocrinologist and Perry the official mascot of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England. **Photo: Talk BWC**

The Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Trust welcomed the Queen's Baton Relay on 27 July 2022, as it began its final leg of the journey towards the Opening Ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games at Alexander Stadium.

After opening speeches from Ms Sarah-Jane Marsh, CEO, the Batonbearer,

Mr. Ollie Phillips, a former England Rugby Sevens International, took the baton with mascot Perry from Waterfall House, through the hospital's first floor and out of the main entrance, cheered on by enthusiastic patients, families and colleagues who lined the corridors.

Ms Sarah-Jane said: “It's been absolutely amazing. We've been looking forward to the Commonwealth Games in

Birmingham for years so for the moment to arrive when it's starting and for the Children's Hospital to be part of that and to be able to include children, young people and families has been a really special morning.”

The baton left the hospital to big cheers from the gathered crowd to continue the last leg of it's 294 day-long journey across the Commonwealth.

Dr. Michael Singh, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, from Trinidad and Tobago, was one of the three Commonwealth representatives from the Children's Hospital, who took to the stage to represent and fly the flag for their home countries.

In the interview with Talk BWC, Mr. Singh said, “It's been very, very exciting – it was really good to see Perry the bull this morning and to see the baton bearers, and the transition from one bearer to the next. The crowd was very excited!” Getting in the spirit for the Commonwealth Games, he concluded, “My family and I are going to the opening ceremony tonight to celebrate further”.

 Edited from Talk BWC monthly newsletter - <http://bit.ly/3txl0k1>



The Mission wishes to invite submissions from the Diaspora on various topics which may include short stories, poems and other interesting tidbits on life here and back home for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Email: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

KARLA CORNWALL FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION FLOW - THE ART OF LETTING GO



Pictured: (L-R) Snergy Physical Side print 39"x 32", The Kiss print 39" x 32", Avatar and Modern Monroe print 24" x 20".
Below: Marvin print 19" x 19" and Ms Karla Cornwall with her art installation EVO (The Awakening), **Photos** courtesy Karla Cornwall.

Ms Karla Cornwall, held her first solo exhibition entitled "Flow - The Art of Letting Go", from June 28, 2022 to July 9 2022, at Campbell's Art "Pop-up Gallery" in South Kensington, London.

The exhibition embarked on Ms Cornwall's spiritual journey which she channelled through her creative practice, bringing visitors into her mesmerizing world of textures and vibrancy. Inspired by her fashion background having studied at London College of Fashion and her love of fabrics, all influenced a wonderful manifestation of haberdashery heaven including colourful threads, embellishments, synthetic wools, denim among others and were displayed on a variety of different platforms fusing fashion with the arts. Karla takes you through the process showing how challenges can be rewarding, self-belief, perseverance is key and through adversity you can end up discovering your true purpose, one that will set your soul free.

When questioned on the source of inspiration for her work Ms Karla Cornwall said that *"as an Abstract Expressionistic Contemporary Artist, I thrive on pushing the boundaries of individualism and expressive freedom which empowers me. The distinctive techniques which I've mastered over the years through experimenting, runs continuously through this show. I want visitors to see that being a creative has its highs and lows, nothing happens before its time and you must instil*



patience into your practice. Through patience, perseverance, self-belief and most importantly by protecting your mental and emotional health, you will be able to see your personal growth and ideas flourish right before your very eyes"

She continued "It still amazes me how every piece I have created started off with a blurry vision. I never draw my ideas - they come to me in snapshots of emotions, colours, and silhouettes. Working this way allows the energy to flow naturally, there's no rules no restrictions it can change at any moment in the process. I believe by doing so I keep it fresh and organic staying true to my inner self every time."

High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul visited the exhibition and was amazed by the use of thread in her works and the uniqueness of each piece. His Excellency expressed his delight at Karla's creativeness and commented that Trinidad and Tobago is indeed blessed with an array of talent.

In November 2017, Ms Cornwall showcased her work in a joint exhibition with Eclectic Artwork by Artists Ainsley Yearwood entitled EMOTIONS IN COLOUR at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission.

For short video presentation on her latest three piece installation called "JULEZ, please visit: <https://karlacornwalllondon.com>



FORMER SOCA WARRIORS FOOTBALLER NEIL SHAKA HISLOP, RECOGNISED WITH AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF CIVIL LAW DEGREE



Pictured: Mr. Neil Shaka Hislop CM
Photo: Newcastle University

“I often say that Show Racism the Red Card couldn't have been founded anywhere else. Receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Newcastle University, especially in Civil Law, in recognizing the work that Show Racism the Red Card has gone on to do, the difference the campaign has made over the years, is an honour I never expected”.

On May 13, the former footballer was named Freeman of Newcastle by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle Habib Rahman and the Newcastle City Council for his work as a founding member of Show Racism the Red Card.

With this award, Hislop joins an elite group of Freedom of Newcastle honorees, including Nelson Mandela (1986) and President Jimmy Carter (1977). He is also one in a rarified group of only four former footballers – John Edward Thompson “Jackie” Milburn (1980), Alan Shearer (2000), and Sir Bobby Robson (2005) – to be so honored dating back to the mid-17th Century.

 Edited from <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/articles/latest/2022/07/shakahislopandanncleeveshonorarydegrees/>

Former Trinidad and Tobago national footballer, co-founder of Show Racism the Red Card and broadcaster, Mr. Neil Shaka Hislop, was recognised with an Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree for his significant contribution to anti-racist education. He attended ceremonies as part of Newcastle University’s summer graduations, in the historic King’s Hall, where he received his Honorary Doctorate.

Mr. Hislop has made a significant contribution to anti-racist education

since the mid-1990s, when he played for Newcastle United. He became founding patron of the anti-racism education charity ‘Show Racism the Red Card’ in November 1995 and was the first player to visit schools with the charity to answer young people’s questions about racism.

Mr. Hislop said: “Newcastle, as a city, has given me so much that I am proud of. Newcastle United FC gave me the opportunity to live my wildest boyhood dream of playing football at the highest level. My eldest daughter was born at the RVI.

CASSA PANCHO MBE, FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BALLET BLACK, WINS BEST DANCE PRODUCTION




Pictured: Ms Cassa Pancho MBE. **Photo:** Ivan Weiss | Black British Theatre Awards 2022, supported by the National Theatre

Ms Cassa Pancho MBE of Trinbagonian and British parents and founder of Ballet Black won awards in the categories for Best Dance Production for their double bill of 'Say It Loud' and 'Black Sun', Best Use of Innovation and Technology for 'Eightfold' and Best Soloist for Cira Robinson at the Black British Theatre Awards 2022.

Ms Pancho founded Ballet Black, a British ballet company in 2001 after graduating from professional dance training. She was one of the first dancers and choreographers in the Company. Her initial goal was to provide role models to young, aspiring Black and Asian dancers

and to provide these dancers and students with inspiring opportunities in classical ballet.

The Black British Theatre Awards 2022 took place on 16 October, in celebration of the stage’s finest talents. The awards are the United Kingdom’s first award show to celebrate the excellence and influence of Black performers and creatives in the theatre industry. The 2022 list of nominees included productions from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022.

 Edited from <https://www.blackbritishtheatreawards.com/new-blog/2022/10/17/the-2022-black-british-theatre-awards-winners>

RAF MARHAM CELEBRATES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S HERO SQN LDR ULRIC CROSS ORTT CM DSO DFC



Above: Lady Hollick OBE and Royal Air Force Marham Station Commander, Group Captain Fred Wigglesworth unveiling the plaque at the RAF Marham Aviation Heritage Centre memorial wall. **Photo:** Royal Air Force, **Below:** Petty Officer Joseph and Lt Cpl Kavel Alexander played the Lost Post on the tenor steel pans, **Photo:** PO Joseph

followed by the naming of the main conference room in the Lightning HQ as the Ulric Cross Conference Room.

Lady Sue Hollick and Nicola Cross both daughters of Sqn Ldr Cross were present to witness and be part of this monumental day. Also present were Lord Hollick and Felix Cross the nephew of Sqn Ldr Cross.

RAF Marham Station Commander Gp Capt Fred Wigglesworth spoke of the importance of having the event at the station where Sqn Ldr Cross career began.

Each year, the Ministry of Defence holds various events across the United Kingdom in recognition of Black History Month. These events vary from numerous conferences, seminars, to dinners, held in an effort to help unearth and highlight the history and sacrifices made by those who fought for democracy. The theme for BHM 22 is 'Time for Change, Action Not Words'.

This year Trinidad and Tobago national PO Joseph of the Royal Navy took the

initiative to celebrate the achievements of Trinidad and Tobago national hero Sqn Ldr Ulric Cross ORTT CM DSO DFC, who served during WWII and was the most decorated RAF Navigator from the West Indies. The event was held on Wednesday 19 October, 2022 at RAF Marham in Norfolk.

A plaque was unveiled at the Royal Air Force Marham Aviation Heritage Centre memorial wall in memory of the late Squadron Leader Ulric Cross DFC, DSO



COURTESY CALL BY DR. LOWELLYNE JAMES, TECH-ENTREPRENEUR AND UNITED NATIONS SPEAKER

Dr. Lowellyne James accompanied by his wife Sian Young and daughter paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul on Wednesday 24 August.

Dr. James is an academic, author and consultant specialising in the application of sustainability and corporate social responsibility tools within small businesses and fast growth companies. He also pioneered the development of the Certificate in Sustainability Strategy and Diploma in Sustainability Strategy. His research is aimed at assisting businesses in the creation of products and services that are inherently sustainable, align objectives to achieve a social purpose and achieve profitability. Another talented Trinidad and Tobago national flying the flag.

Pictured: High Commissioner Dhanpaul with Mr. Lowellyne James, Tech Entrepreneur, his wife Mrs. Sian Young, Chief Executive Officer - Co-Founder, Centre for Sustainable Action and daughter.





Pictured: Sonny Ramadhin. **Photo:** Saddleworth Independent

Sonny Ramadhin, the West Indies cricketer, who has died aged 92, was immortalised as one of “those two little pals of mine, Ramadhin and Valentine” in a calypso by his fellow Trinidadian, Lord Beginner. With the left-handed Jamaican Alf Valentine, Ramadhin, a right-hander, was one part of the most famous West Indian spin bowling duo – perhaps the most famous in all cricket.

He made his Test debut at Old Trafford in 1950, the year when West Indies first beat England at Lord’s, and also won their first ever away series against the “mother country”.

Prior to the trip, Ramadhin had only played two first-class matches, and to select both him and that pal of his, Valentine, also a complete novice, for a full Test tour was a daring gamble. But it paid off: they dominated the series as dramatically with the ball as the Three Ws – Everton Weekes, Clyde Walcott and Frank Worrell – did with the bat, Ramadhin playing a pivotal role in the second Test at Lord’s which turned the tide of the game and the series towards West Indies. After his first year of first class cricket Ramadhin was named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1951, and he went on to have a highly successful career across 43 Tests, with 158 wickets at an average of 28.98. In all first-class matches he took 758 wickets at an average of 20.24.

Even more significantly for the development of the game, Ramadhin was the first East Indian – a West

REMEMBERING THE SPORTING LEGEND SONNY RAMADHIN (1929 – 2022)

written by **BC PIRES**

Indian of Indian extraction, so called to distinguish them from Indians native to the Caribbean – to play for West Indies, and for close to 10 years he was the only one. Alvin Kallicharran (66 Tests), Rohan Kanhai (79 Tests) and the Trinidadian spin bowlers Inshan Ali and Raphick Jumadeen (12 Tests each) followed.

Lord Beginner’s Victory Test Match calypso, celebrating West Indies’ win at Lord’s and the contribution of ‘those two little pals of mine, Ramadhin and Valentine’

Ramadhin’s grandparents had emigrated to Trinidad from India to work as indentured labourers. He was born in St Charles village, Port of Spain, but after both his parents died when he was young, he was raised by his Uncle Rock in Esperance village, south Trinidad. Cricket was the one benefit he derived from attending – or more frequently, not attending – a Canadian mission school, where he was called Sonny to go along with the one name with which he arrived there, Ramadhin. His birth had not been registered, and he adopted the initials KT only when told that a cricketer could not tour without them.



Pictured: Sonny Ramadhin. **Photo:** Trinidad and Tobago Newsday.

Although spin bowlers generally need years of first-class exposure to mature, Ramadhin bowled spectacularly from his first game, for Trinidad against Jamaica, at the end of January 1950, taking five

wickets for 39 runs in his first innings and three for 67 in his second. That match was also Valentine’s first class debut, though he did not take a wicket and conceded 111 runs. Ramadhin had never left Trinidad before the 1950 tour to England, and though awed by the novelty of his experience – he was delighted by the “upstairs” buses, for instance – he was not entirely unsophisticated. Called upon to order dinner for other players at a London Indian restaurant, he not only assured them of a fine spread, but quietly left the table unobserved during dessert and settled the bill, successfully fending off all attempted contributions from West Indian gentlemen players substantially more wealthy than himself.

Before leaving Trinidad he had bowled only on the island’s makeshift matting wickets. Yet on that first tour he took 135 first-class wickets at an average of 14.88 from more than 1,000 overs bowled. He took 26 of the 80 wickets available in the four Tests at an average of 23.23, bowling 377 overs in total. In the critical Lord’s game he took 11 for 152 from 115 overs, 70 of them maidens. It was he who made the breakthrough on the final day, bowling Cyril Washbrook after he had spent more than five hours at the crease, and finishing with six for 86 off a staggering 72 overs.

From 1965 to 1990 he and his English wife, June (nee Austerberry), ran the White Lion public house in Delph, Saddleworth, north east of Manchester, until forced to retire when brewery monopoly rules would have made it necessary for them to buy the pub outright. Their daughter Sharon married the Lancashire fast bowler Willie Hogg, and grandson Kyle Hogg, a seam bowler, played for the county from 2001 to 2014.

June and Sharon predeceased Ramadhin. He is survived by their son, Craig, two grandchildren, Natalie and Kyle, and two great-grandchildren, Nancy and Fifi.

 Edited from <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/feb/27/sonny-ramadhin-obituary>



Pictured: Yusuff Ali. **Photo:** Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Veteran broadcaster Yusuff Ali died on Sunday 30 October, 2022 in his home in London. She was 85.

Yusuff Ali is remembered as being a pioneer in both radio and television media during Trinidad and Tobago's history. He was present during the formative years of 610 Radio - also known as Radio Guardian - and was one of the persons who opened the station in October 1957. In August 1957,

YUSUFF ALI, VETERAN BROADCASTER AND NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST (1935 - 2022)

written by NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO


Radio Guardian had tested its new, "hi-fi" radio station for two weeks, and found that it instantly became popular with listeners all over the country, who often wrote letters to the Guardian Newspaper commending the station's clarity and broadcasters.

Soon after, Radio Guardian officially launched the morning of 6 October 1957, with Ali as a broadcaster. He worked there for 4 years while training with experts in his field: Frank Hughes and Ed Fung. Ali eventually became Chief Editor of the newsroom, and was part of the team responsible for the concept of announcing news, "every hour, on the hour".

After Ali left Radio Guardian, he worked abroad until returning to Trinidad & Tobago during the late-1960s, when he became the News Director/Panorama Producer at TTT (Trinidad and Tobago Television Limited). In this position, he

was responsible not just for informing the country of newsworthy events - such as the 1970s Black Power Riots, and the constitutional reform that led to the creation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago - but also for putting these events into an understandable context for viewers.

Ali left TTT in 1975 and migrated to London, where he worked at the Commonwealth Secretariat. For 25 years, he also wrote newspaper columns for the T&T Guardian Newspaper, and the T&T Newsday. He is remembered for creating an incredibly talented news team at TTT that included notable journalists Jai Parasram, Dale Kolasingh, Dominic Kalipersad and Neil Giuseppe, who have described Ali as being, "an individual who helped shape the media landscape as we know it in T&T today".

 Edited from <http://bit.ly/3Uzlin7>

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE LEGENDARY T&T-BORN SINGING SENSATION, MONA BAPTISTE EXPLORED AT THE IRISH EMIGRATION MUSEUM

As part of its "Revolutionary Routes: Ireland and the Black Atlantic" exhibition, EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum uncovered the Irish connections of two passengers who were aboard the Empire Windrush in June 1948. Both were women and both travelled first class.

The first was English author, activist and shipping heiress Nancy Cunard, whose mother was Irish American. Her great-great-grandfather was Thomas Addis Emmet - a politician, lawyer and anti-slavery campaigner in New York and the brother of Irish revolutionary Robert Emmet. Cunard continued on the family vocation with her own activism against racism and fascism.



Pictured: Mona Baptiste. **Photo:** Bill Hern

The second was Trinidadian singer Mona Baptiste, who would eventually settle in Dublin after marrying an Irishman.

Growing up in the Port of Spain

Born June 21st, 1926, Mona Baptiste started out life in Port of Spain - the capital of Trinidad and Tobago. She was one of five daughters. Her father Henry was an accountant of Indian heritage and her mother Ruth had Trinidadian, Scottish, Irish and Venezuelan roots, according to a chapter in *The Three Good Fridays* which was penned by Bill Hern.

When Baptiste was growing up, the family moved to the affluent St. Clair area of the city and she went to school at the prestigious St. Joseph's Convent School.

From a young age, Baptiste began to sing on the radio and at dance halls. By 13, she even had a weekly programme on Radio Trinidad.

From Trinidad to Tilbury Docks

At the age of 21, Baptiste boarded the HMT Empire Windrush to emigrate to England. According to black history blog *Historycal Roots*, she bought an 'A' class ticket for £48 – which was a huge amount of money back then. (Almost £2,000 by today's standards.)

While she was one of the few women aboard, it appears she travelled alone. However, her ticket came with the luxury of a private cabin. She may also have known some of the other musicians on board.

The voyage took the best part of a month. The journey from Jamaica took around 22 days, according to passengers. However, the ship had stopped at Trinidad before arriving at Kingston.

By the time it arrived at the Port of Tilbury in Essex on June 22nd, Baptiste was 22-years-old. She celebrated her birthday the day before the ship docked.

Building a successful singing career in Europe

Although immigration officials recorded Baptiste's occupation as a clerk, she began to develop her music career immediately after her arrival in London. In fact, when she debarked the Windrush, she posed for pictures with a saxophone alongside West Indian members of the RAF.

Just weeks later, she booked a gig to appear on BBC Radio that August. She performed alongside Lord Beginner – aka Egbert Moore – who also arrived on the Empire Windrush.

As well as continuing to perform on radio programmes, Baptiste also appeared on stage with various jazz groups. She even toured the country's ballrooms and music halls with well-known jazz singer Cab Kaye.

By 1949, the British press lauded Baptiste as the next big thing. And, in 1951, she began recording music. One of her most famous songs, 'Calypso Blues', was released that year.

This was a migrant song originally written and performed by African American jazz icon Nat King Cole. The song nostalgically describes a simple island life left behind and the burdens that come with being an immigrant.

Sittin' by the ocean, me heart she feels so sad.

Don't got the money, to take me back to Trinidad.

The glamorous Baptiste brought her own style and context to the melancholic song – as did her band, which consisted



Pictured: Mona Baptiste, Photo: Bill Hern

of a Jamaican saxophone player and a Nigerian Drummer, according to *Contemporary Black History: The Other Special Relationship*.

As well as English, Baptiste also sang in French, Spanish and German. As a result, she built a name for herself across Europe. She became a regular face in films and on TV. Her IMDB listing includes 19 film acting credits – the first of which dates back to 1951.



Pictured: Mona Baptiste on board the Empire Windrush, Photo: Windrush Foundation

According to *Historycal Roots*, Baptiste also married a man called Michael Carle in London that year. Together, they had a son called Marcel, but Michael sadly died in a car crash in 1958 when Marcel was just five.

Falling for an Irishman

In his recent book *The Three Good Fridays: Memories of an Irish Octogenarian*, William Morrison recalls meeting Baptiste in the late 60s.

At the time, he worked for Bord Fáilte – Ireland's tourist board at that time. During a week-long promotional visit to Baden-Baden in southwestern Germany, he was introduced to Baptiste who was set to perform at the closing night gala.

Afterwards, they went their separate ways – Baptiste returned to Munich and Morrison to Dublin. However, they reconnected when he migrated to London for work.

In his book, he writes: "A few years later, while I was based in London, we met up again briefly as she was passing through on her way home to Trinidad, where she was born, for a family reunion. After that, we corresponded sporadically long distance and got married in Munich..."

That was in 1972. After an Irish honeymoon, they both continued their careers and spent long periods apart. But this was something they were well used to. However, after settling in Dublin, Baptiste's career abated. Though she did appear on Irish television in a Maeve Binchy play.

The pair were married for 22 years, until Baptiste's death on June 25th, 1993. She is buried in Dublin's Deansgrange Cemetery under the name Mona Baptiste Morrison.

The exhibition at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum ran throughout the month of October 2022.



Edited from <https://epicchq.com/story/mona-baptiste-the-Windrush-passenger-who-settled-in-ireland/>

T&T ARTISTS REFRAMES PICTON IN NEW WALES EXHIBITION

Reframing Picton, a community-led exhibition featuring the works of a Trinidad and Tobago artist opened at National Museum Cardiff, Wales.

The exhibition includes two newly commissioned artworks, which will become part of Wales' national collection.

The two new commissions include an immersive installation of sculpture, objects from the Amgueddfa CyMr.u collections, striking photographs and film.

The commissions follow a callout by Amgueddfa CyMr.u in January 2021 for artists to explore alternatives to the colonial narrative represented by the portrait of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton and to centre Black experiences.

The new artworks by Gesiye and Laku Neg explore narratives of ancestry, healing, transformation and empowerment and they challenge the colonial narratives that have traditionally existed in National Museum Cardiff's galleries by centering Black consciousness, experiences, and voices.

Gesiye (pronounced gay-see-yay) is a multidisciplinary artist from Trinidad and Tobago. Her work with individuals and communities explores storytelling, connection and healing across various mediums, and is inspired by a deep love and respect for the earth.

Her commission, "The wound is a Portal" uses the cathartic process of tattooing to explore generational trauma in relation to the land. Her installation includes a series of portraits and a short film. Each tattoo in this intergenerational work is connected through a stop motion animation, facilitating a reclamation of agency and acting as a portal to re-connection with self, with each other, and with the land.

Gesiye said: This healing offering is a portal, an ode to our island, to its beauty, and to our belonging. The trauma of slavery and colonialism continues to impact the African diaspora's relationship



Pictured: Gesiye Souza-Okpofabri

with the land. In "the wound is a Portal," I use Afrodiasporic healing modalities to weave mythology of land and personhood, celebrating individual identity while creating space to acknowledge our truths and transmute our pain. I'm grateful to have created this work in collaboration with musicians, designers, filmmakers, photographers, and eight volunteers from across the island who met through this experience.

Laku Neg (Black Yard in Haitian Kwéyòl) is represented by four artists, three of Trinidad and Tobago heritage, who live and work in the UK. The group promotes expressions of African diaspora knowledge through the arts.

Laku Neg's commission 'Spirited' is an immersive installation - a tapestry of memory and understanding, comprising a metal sculpture, bamboo frames, twisted paper, found objects and audiovisual elements. It is inspired by the Ol' Mas' traditions, practice and aesthetic of the Trinidad and Tobago Carnival. Their commission explores a re-presentation of

Luisa, Thisbe and Present, named victims of Picton's brutal regime in Trinidad.

"This ancestral work honours fractured African traditions in Trinidad that feed and underpin our island culture. Here, we offer re-imaginings and re-creations of a period in which Trinidadian and Welsh history overlap - and which continues to imbue our lives with inequity. We acknowledge that injustice and racism are still with us, as is the power of transformation. We celebrate our presence and our belonging. We are here," Laku Neg said.

These works will help reframe the legacy of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton (1758-1815) and give a voice to those most affected by Picton's actions, and to those who live with the legacy today.

Alongside the new commissions, Picton's portrait will return to the museum's walls in a travel frame following its removal in November 2021.

The portrait by Sir Martin Archer Shee has been a part of Amgueddfa CyMr.u's collections since its founding in 1907.

The decision to reinterpret the portrait was made as part of Reframing Picton – a youth-led project team involving the SSAP Youth Leadership Network and the Amgueddfa CyMr.u Producers.

The project team worked with the museum's curators to provide additional information and context about Picton's legacy as Governor of Trinidad at the turn of the 19th century.



 To read the full Loop TT article, please visit: <http://bit.ly/3Amt2Sx>

Pictured: Three of the artists from Laku-Neg. (L-R): Ms Miguela Gonzalez, Ms Adeola Dewis, and Ms Mary-Anne Roberts who are of Trinidad and Tobago heritage.
Photo: Wales Online

FORMER TT NATIONAL DECATHLON ATHLETE TURNS PASSION FOR BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU INTO OUTREACH PROJECT IN TOBAGO



Pictured: Mr. Julian Fletcher with a cross section of the attendees at the at jiu-jitsu classes and training camps. **Photo courtesy Tobago Brazilian Jiu-jitsu**

Mr. Julian Fletcher, former Trinidad and Tobago national decathlon athlete and veteran British soldier has plans to return to Trinidad and Tobago, and open a new academy of martial arts primarily practicing Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is a self-defence martial art and combat sport based on grappling, ground fighting, and submission holds. It teaches smaller people how to defend themselves against larger adversaries by using leverage and proper technique. Since leaving Trinidad and Tobago 11 years ago, Julian Fletcher has focused mainly on the area of Brazilian jiu-jitsu over the years and is

currently a purple belt and an instructor of the art in Newport MMA. His goal is to provide Tobagonians with the opportunity to have Brazilian jiu-jitsu so they reap the great benefits of the art. His goal is to provide opportunities for residents to strengthen their self-confidence, self-discipline, and overall mental and physical fitness through the study and practice of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Mr. Fletcher returned to his homeland in September to embark on an ambitious outreach project to explore opportunities in setting up dojos and classes in self-defence martial art. This was done in partnership with Karate Black belt

professor Cael Stevens and Karate Black belt Landro Grant. He hosted several jiu-jitsu classes and training camps from 30 of August 2022 to 10 September 2022 at the Glen Road Community Center in Scarborough, Tobago

All attendees expressed that they thoroughly enjoyed the jiu-jitsu classes, given the nature of learning and physical fitness that complimented all age groups and sexes.

Mr. Fletcher goal is to open a permanent Brazilian jiu-jitsu school in Tobago. This will be done with the support of one of the leading martial arts schools in Wales - Newport Mixed Martial Arts School. Additionally, he revealed that there are over 15 other academies in the UK anticipating the opening of Tobago Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu chapter. Fletcher hopes it will bring a new branch of tourism to Trinidad and Tobago and increase the number of visitors to the country.

For more information on Tobago Brazilian Jiu-jitsu or any of its programs, please email Julianfletcher33@hotmail.co.uk **or visit** <https://www.facebook.com/Tatajiujitsu>



Pictured: Ashiana Mohammed and Daniel Rajkumar, Commonwealth Essay Competition gold award winners, **Photos:** Trinidad Guardian

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO YOUNG NATIONALS WIN GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE IN THE COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2022

The Queen’s Commonwealth Essay Competition 2022 is the world’s oldest international writing competition for schools, established in 1883. With thousands of young people taking part each year, it is an important way to recognize achievement, elevate youth voices and develop key skills through creative writing.

The Essay Competition received a record-breaking 26,322 entries in 2022 from every Commonwealth region. Each year, entrants write on a theme that explores the Commonwealth’s values, fostering an empathetic world view in the next generation of leaders and encouraging young people to consider new perspectives to the challenges that the world faces.

Themes have included the environment, community, inclusion, the role of youth leadership, and gender equality.

In 2022 the competition theme was 'Our Commonwealth', reflecting on the late Patron Queen Elizabeth II's seven decades of service to the Commonwealth as an inspiring example of the steadfast commitment and important contribution we can all make to our societies.

Trinidad and Tobago cupped Gold, Silver and Bronze awards by four talented youngsters. Secondary school student

Ashiana Mohammed won gold in the Junior Category entitled *The Kingdom of Cane* in response to the prompt – 'Imagine you are a grandparent in 2022. Tell your grandchildren a bedtime story about an inspirational person.' In her essay Ashiana showcased Trinidad in the 1950's in order to portray the inspirational impact of her East Indian heritage.

Twelve-year old Daniel Rajkumar won gold for his essay about the selfless contribution made by Queen Elizabeth during her tenure as Head of the Commonwealth.



Anuradha Vaishnawi Sandira Singh won silver for her essay on Mother Theresa, the famous Catholic nun who became a saint after dedicating her life to caring for the destitute and dying in the slums of Calcutta.



Vivekanand Singh won bronze for his job description for a superhero that's needed to solve a problem in his community.

Photos courtesy 103fm.tt

BOCAS LIT FEST'S HISTORIC UK TOUR

Written by Dr. Marina Salandy-Brown

Two dozen Caribbean and diaspora writers were in the spotlight as the NGC Bocas

Lit Fest launched its first British tour. Visiting five cities across the United Kingdom between 26 October and 3 November, the Bocas UK Tour 2022 featured outstanding authors of all genres, including a slew of recent prizewinners.

Since its inaugural festival in 2011, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Trinidad and Tobago's annual literary festival, has won an international reputation as the leading annual showcase for Caribbean books and writers. Now, in 2022, the Bocas UK Tour — originally planned to mark the festival's 10th year but postponed due to COVID-19 — turned the spotlight on the vibrant diversity of contemporary Caribbean writing, with a line-up that included the last two winners of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature alongside authors of some of 2022's most anticipated books.

The tour began in Leicester, and continued with events in Norwich and Leeds, concluding at the Belfast International Art Festival. The main event on Saturday 29 October, took place at the British Library in London, and was a day's programme of readings, discussions, and performances, tackling themes from personal and collective

histories, to fraught questions about belonging and "home".



British audiences finally had the opportunity to encounter seven visiting writers, all at the top of their game: 2022 OCM Bocas Prize winner Celeste Mohammed of Trinidad and Tobago, with her debut book of fiction *Pleasantview*, and 2021 winner Canisia Lubrin from St. Lucia, whose poetry collection *The Dyzgraphxst* has won numerous accolades in the Caribbean and North America.



Top: High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Mark Loquan, President of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) (back row, centre) and Dr. Marina Salandy-Brown, Founder and President of Bocas Lit Fest (Front row, second from right), with visiting writers and UK-based writers from Trinidad and Tobago. **Bottom:** Mr. Shem Ochola, Deputy Director-General Commonwealth Foundation and wife Mrs. Ochola enjoying steelpan music played by Mr. Dexter Marchan.

Acclaimed Barbadian speculative fiction writer Karen Lord, poet Celia Sorhaindo of Dominica, and Trinidadian authors of two newly published memoirs: *The Stranger Who Was Myself* by Barbara Jenkins and *Love The Dark Days* by Ira Mathur excited audiences everywhere they went, selling many copies of their new books. Trinbagonian poet Shivane Ramlochan continues on tour in the UK with her acclaimed debut collection *Everyone Knows I Am A Haunting*.

The visiting writers were joined by UK-based Caribbean writers in the Bocas tour programme, including 2022 Forward

Prize nominee Anthony Joseph, and fellow Trinidadian prizewinning novelist Amanda Smyth, OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry winner 2022 Jason Allen-Paisant, and Tessa McWatt 2020 OCM Bocas Prize nonfiction winner. Trinbagoian writers Ayanna Lloyd Banwo, named one of the top 10 new writers by the Sunday Observer for her debut novel *When We Were Birds*, Claire Adam and Sophe Jai also took part as did Queen's poetry medallists Grace Nichols and John Agard, both of Guyanese origin.



Above: A cross section of the attendees at the Bocas UK Tour Reception at Marlborough House.

The tour was a landmark literary project, supported by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission. On Friday 28 October, High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul joined the Deputy-General of the Commonwealth Foundation Shem Ochola and Bocas Lit Fest founder and president Dr. Marina Salandy-Brown to host a reception for the writers and members of the publishing world at Marlborough House in London. His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul received the token of a book portraying the work of iconic Trinidad and Tobago photographer Noel Norton from Mark Loquan, president of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC), title sponsors of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

High Commissioner Dhanpaul took the opportunity to announce that the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission at Belgrave Square, London, which is currently being refurbished, will be made available free of charge to all the nation's artists, including writers,

to launch and promote their cultural products. The news was received with loud cheers by the assembled 100 guests, which included, the immediate former president of BP in Trinidad and Tobago, Claire Fitzpatrick, celebrated writer Dame Marina Warner, Lucy Hannah, Vice-President of the Bocas Lit Fest and former head of Literature at Commonwealth Writers, Nicholas Laughlin, Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and representatives of some of the many sponsors and partners who made the tour possible, including the British Library, the British Council and the Hollick Family Foundation.

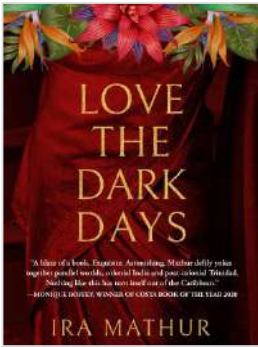
ABOUT THE BOCAS LIT FEST

In 2011, the NGO hosted Trinidad and Tobago's first annual literary festival and founded the now highly coveted OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. With the continuing support of NGC, the Bocas Lit Fest has hosted 19 festivals in Trinidad and Tobago and played a pivotal role in the development of a new generation of Caribbean literary talent through its workshops, masterclasses, prizes, publishing and array of projects and regional and international interventions for children, youth and both emerging and established writers. Bocas Lit Fest works with several international partners and funders to support Caribbean writers and writing around the world. **You can become a Friend of the Bocas Lit Fest.** See: www.bocaslitfest.com/friends

Below: 1) Ms Lucy Hannah, Vice-President of the Bocas Lit Fest, 2) Mr. Mark Loquan, President of NGC (far right) with attendees, 3) Ms Dominique Le Gendre, Ms Greta Mendez MBE, Mr. Kevin Le Gendre, 4&5) A large number of people gathered for the UK Bocas 2022 day-long programme of festival book sales, stories, poems and music at the British Library. 6) Mr. Nicholas Laughlin chairs Q&A with authors Mr. Cecil Browne and Ms Amanda Smyth.



Writer's Corner



LOVE THE DARK DAYS
IRA MATHUR

'Astounding wealth and equally astounding levels of alienation distinguish the globe-spanning Love the Dark Days.'

- The Observer



PLAYBOY OF THE WEST INDIES THE MUSICAL
MUSTAPHA MATURA

'This bright calypso musical, a feel-good reboot of Mustapha Matura's play, features a tremendous cast and sweet duets''

- The Guardian



BOGEYMAN (STAGE PLAY)
EMILY ABOUT

Photo: Geraint Lewis

'BOGEYMAN is a thrilling, genre-defying tale of hope, rebellion and connection within a broken system'

- The New Current

From award-winning journalist Ira Mathur, *Love the Dark Days* is about accrued intergenerational damage between mothers and daughters in post-colonial worlds.

This frank, fearless and multi-layered debut centres on a privileged but dysfunctional Indian family, with themes of empire, migration, race, and gender.

The Victorian India elephant in the room in Ira Mathur's silk-swathed memoir *Love the Dark Days* is in chains. By the time calypso replaces the Raj in post-colonial Trinidad, the chains are off three generations of daughters and mothers in a family in their New World exile.

But they are still stuck in place and enduring insecurity and threats, seen and unseen.

Set in India, England, Trinidad and a weekend in St Lucia, with Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott *Love the Dark Days* (Peepal Tree Press) follows the story of a girl, Poppet, of mixed middle-class Hindu and Elite Muslim parentage from post-independent India to her family's migration to post-colonial Trinidad.

Profoundly raw, unflinching, layered, but not without threads of humour and perceived absurdity, *Love the Dark Days* reassembles the story of a disintegrating Empire.

Edited from <https://www.irasroom.org>

Based on the Irish Classic *The Playboy Of The Western World*, Mustapha Matura's hilarious reinvention of *Playboy Of The West Indies* has delighted audiences and critics worldwide for over 35 years. Now, the classic play has been transformed into a glorious new musical with a toe-tapping, finger-snapping score firmly rooted in the Caribbean.

With a voice like honey, he tantalises the women and unnerves the men with a terrible story. As he weaves his magic spell on Peggy, her forthcoming nuptials to Stanley are thrown into doubt, and the village is plunged into an uproar. While the women vie for this stranger's attention, the men plot their downfall. Will events conspire to unmask his wild tales of derring-do?

Durone Stokes (*A Taste Of Honey* – Trafalgar Studios / *Dreamgirls* – Savoy Theatre) will play Ken and Nicole Sawyerer will play Peggy (*Much Ado About Nothing* – RSC / *Beneath The City* – Birmingham Rep).

Playboy of the West Indies is presented as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival, a six-month celebration of creativity in the West Midlands surrounding the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.go.' DBC Pierre

Edited from <https://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk/whats-on/playboy-of-the-west-indies>

Emily About from Trinidad and Tobago is an award winning playwright, theatre director and film director at Lagahoo Productions. Her directing credits include *SPLINTERED*, (also writer Edinburgh Fringe 2019, Soho Theatre 2022), *Pink Lemonade* (Bush Theatre 2021, Edinburgh Fringe 2019), *The Fairytale Revolution* (Theatre503), *British Book* (Roundhouse 2021), *What We Talk About when We (Don't) Talk about Race* (Theatre503), *Hopes, Dreams or Goldfish* (Bunker Theatre) among others.

Her latest play, *BOGEYMAN*, explores the question of what we fear and why.

In 1791, a Vodou Ceremony begins the Haitian Revolution, to end enslavement on the island. In the present, a man is haunted by ghosts in his city. *BOGEYMAN* is a thrilling, genre-defying tale of hope, rebellion and connection within a broken system from writer and director Emily About. This ghost story playfully combines music, movement and history in an underdog story of resistance against the oppressor; *BOGEYMAN* aims to empower and uplift and bring to life forgotten histories.

Edited from <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2022/aug/02/emily-about-bogeyman-edinburgh-fringe>



9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CARNIVAL ARTS AND CULTURES

The 9th International Conference on Carnival Arts and Cultures took place at Oxford Brookes University from Friday 1 - 2 July. The conference is held to celebrate Carnival Arts and Cultures and brings together carnivalists, artists, researchers, community organisers, costume designers, musicians, culinary artists, filmmakers and members of Caribbean Carnival organisations in the UK and internationally.

The Carnival Arts and Culture Conference at Oxford Brookes was organised by Hanna Klien-Thomas as part of her research fellowship with the Creative Industries Research and Innovation Network. There were a number of speakers from the Caribbean, Canada, the USA and the UK including Kela Francis, Roger Gibbs and Emily Zobel Marshall.

Friday's keynote lecture entitled 'Bikini, Bead and Feathers: The Latent Ritual Potential of Pretty Mas' was delivered by Kela Francis. There was also a panel themed 'Carnival communities'

– Carnival in Oxford, Notting Hill and Toronto. This was followed by a focus on the steelpan with the last element on the day being 'Calypso in the Diaspora'. Participants included Roger Gibbs from Canada, ACASA chair Vincent John and calypsonians Alexander D Great and De Admiral.

On day 2 of the Conference, the keynote address given by Emily Zobel Marshall explored the subject of 'Women in

Carnival: Mas Intersections'. The morning panel discussion explored themes of legacy, past and future in Mas. Greta Mendez also explained her Dramatic and haunting use of traditional mas in the film Ah! Hard Rain.

There was also debate on the possibilities and pitfalls of digital Carnival. The barrack yard took centre stage in the next session as the panel considered its role in steelpan education. Lynda Rosenior-Patten laid down a challenging "call to action for creative sector professionals", in a move "towards a decolonised, community focused strategy for arts and cultural development and production".

Next year's conference promises to be even more stimulating.

For more information, please visit <https://www.steelpanconference.com/9th-conference>



Pictured: Cowley Road Carnival. Photo Junie James

Edited from <https://socanews.com/news/oxford-gets-ready-for-carnival-arts-conference>

T&T DEFENCE FORCE STEEL ORCHESTRA AT FINNISH TATTOO

The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra participated in the Hamina Tattoo International Military Music Festival in Finland from 8 to 19 July 2022. The Tattoo Week of events included a selection of military bands' concerts in Kesäpuisto Park, a Tattoo Parade at Town Hall Square, as well as a variety of stalls and music performances along the Tattoo Street. The week culminated in the March Show performances of military bands at the Hamina Bastion event arena.

WATCH THE VIDEO | TTDFSO performances at the Hamina Tattoo International Military Music Festival: <http://bit.ly/3ggNdur>



Pictured: Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Steel Orchestra (TTDFSO) performing at the Hamina Tattoo International Military Music Festival in Finland. Photo: Hamina Tattoo



Pictured: 1) Mr. Ray Baldeo from Abir Mas Band, 2) Mr. Nigel Duncan (left), and Mr. Edison Bratwaite (right) Band Leaders of Pure Lime Chocolate Mas Band with masquerader, 3) Masqueraders from Tear Mas Band, **Photos:** Ray Baldeo 4) Mrs. Marcia Leacock-Garnes with her daughters Ms. Jamaia Garnes and Ms. Jahnae Garnes from Funatik Mas Band, **Photos:** Marcia Leacock-Garnes, 5) Music Artist Ms. Nikisha Reyes and Soul II Soul vocalists - Ms. Marizia Pyzer-Skeete, Ms. Natasha Bates and Ms. Nadine Caesar from Colours Carnival Mas Band, **Photo:** Nikisha Reyes, 6) Masquerader from Cocoyea London mas band, **Photo:** Peter Hogan/Soca News, 7) Patricia Forbes from the Mahogany Carnival Arts mas band, **from Photos:** Patricia Forbes, 8) HE Vishnu Dhanpaul with masqueraders from Elimu Mas Academy, 9) masqueraders from Elimu Mas Academy, **Photos:** Elimu Mas Academy 10) Masquerader from United Colours of Mas (UCOM) Band, **Photo:** UCOM, 11) Masqueraders from Omnia Carnival Mas Band 12) Mrs. Marisa Segbefia from D Riddim Tribe private section by Envy Designs, **Photo:** Marcia Leacock-Garnes.



Above: Mr. Rodell 'Triniboi Joochie' Sorzano performing on The Voice UK semi-final round on October 22, Photo courtesy Creative Media PR,

SOCA ARTIST TRINIBOI JOOCIE APPEARS ON VOICE UK

written by CREATIVAMEDIA PR

His entry into The Voice UK is an intentional attempt to advance his career and showcase the culture of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean by extension.

The Trinidad and Tobago national created quite a stir throughout his stint in the competition.

His entrance at the blind auditions with his soca song 'Bottle Over Head', a high-energy soca remix of Ed Sheeran's 'I Don't Care', and his semi-final performance of his soca song 'Obeyah' have all piqued the interest of numerous industry professionals.

For many, his authenticity throughout The Voice UK separated him from the other competitors. During his preparation for the semi-final round, Joochie's coach Anne Marie acknowledged his uniqueness yet again and requested that he perform one of his original songs.

At the semi-final showcase, all the coaches were out of their chairs dancing through his performance. Staying true to his Caribbean roots and advocating for soca music was his main objective when he agreed to audition for The Voice UK. Reflecting on his performance Triniboi Joochie said, "I am not sad that I did not secure a spot in the final round because I achieved exactly what I intended to and

that was to raise awareness and showcase the underrepresented genre that is soca."

Since his entry into the competition, Triniboi Joochie has been fielding inquiries from top industry executives who have expressed interest in his talents. As he explores all the possibilities, he is confident that great things are on the horizon for him. "My appearances on The Voice UK gave me the opportunity to reach around 12 million people, some of them would have never heard about Soca music or Trinidad and Tobago," he shares. Triniboi Joochie is now focused on the way forward, he says, "I am looking at the best opportunities for myself that would allow me to continue showcasing Soca music, Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean by extension"

Triniboi Joochie extends his gratitude to the Caribbean diaspora and everyone else who extended their love and support.

New music is on the horizon and updates on his career can be found on his social media platforms: @triniboi_joochie and www.joociemusic.com.

Edited from <http://www.creativamediapr.com/triniboi-joochie-journey-on-the-voice-uk-ends-at-semi-final%ef%bf%bc/>

Trinidad and Tobago's own Triniboi Joochie appeared on Season 11 of The Voice UK. The Voice UK has existed since 2012 and has been a career-defining opportunity for those selected to showcase their talents. Episode 5, which aired on Saturday 1 October 2022 showcased the talented performer, vocalist, pannist and Nottinghill Carnival Ambassador.

Joochie, whose real name is Rodell Sorzano continues to be one of Soca's foremost ambassadors in the United Kingdom and Europe. Best known for his 2020 hit collaboration with Wetty Beatz titled 'Bottle Over Head' he has been successfully advocating for Soca in Europe for over a decade. Earlier this year, in June, Triniboi Joochie sang 'Pan in A Minor' by Lord Kitchener backed by a 100-piece pan ensemble at the Queen's Jubilee at Buckingham Palace.

TOBAGO GOLD RUM LIQUEUR IN THE UK MARKET

Caribbean rum liqueur brand Tobago Gold was launched in the United Kingdom by Lars Söderström in 2020. The rum liqueur (17% ABV) is a blend of rum, Trinitario and Criollo cocoa, and spices. Distributor for the brand's Caribbean Chocolate Rum Cream liqueur is Skylark Spirits whose Sales Director Jaz Anand paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul on Thursday 25 August.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring the exciting Caribbean Chocolate



Pictured: Mr. Jaz Anand, Sales Manager, Skylark Spirits with High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul.

Rum Cream to the UK market,” said Jaz Anand, co-owner and sales director of Skylark Spirits. “It is inspired by the traditional Drink of ‘cocoa tea’ and created with premium Criollo and Trinitario beans”.

“Skylark are very well-known rum specialists in the UK and beyond, and as Tobago Gold is steeped in the Caribbean rum and cocoa tradition, I have full trust in their ability to position our rum cream in the best way on the market,” said Helena Zakmane, commercial director of Tobago Gold. Skylark Spirits is an importer and distributor of cane spirits based in the UK.



Tobago Gold is also available in Belgium and Sweden.



At left: A bottle of Tobago Gold Chocolate Rum Cream, Above: Mr. Jaz Anand, Sales Manager, Skylark Spirits doing Tobago Gold Chocolate Rum Cream Taste test with High Commission staff members - Mr. Jackson Dennie, Mr. Godfrey Lowe and Mr. Simon De Guglielmo.

T&T PRODUCT HANDPICKED FOR LIVE COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SPECIALITY & FINE FOOD FAIR 2022

CariBelle Foods, based in Moruga, Trinidad with the support of the Caribbean Export Development Agency and the European Union, participated at the Speciality & Fine Food Fair which took place at London Olympia from 5 - 6 September 2022. The trade event attracted international buyers and retailers from a range of sectors including hospitality, food service, import and export, and wholesale.

One of CariBelle products, a lime and mango dip, hand picked by top professional British chef and consultant Steve Walpole was featured in the Ethical Eating live cooking demo. The Dip was paired with a duck spring roll. This segment of the show explored emerging trends in the food industry especially in relation to sustainability, ethical production methods, and healthy living choices.

There is a great demand for Caribbean food and drink items from health conscious consumers in the United Kingdom and Europe who are looking for products that are as pure and natural as possible and still taste great.



Ms Hesma Tyson, Managing Director of CariBelle’s said that “The show proved to be amazing. The feedback was very positive since I wanted to know what would be their reaction to the heat and flavour of Trini hot sauce. They were amazed with the freshness and flavour of the sauces. They were also pleased that they are natural. Having the Lime and Mango Dip chosen from so many applications to be part of the Ethical Cooking demonstration was absolutely wonderful. When I saw the response from persons who tried it with the snack, it made me know that our recipes are spot on”.

The Food and Drugs Regulations Reviews who provide insights to help the product succeed in the UK market selected another of CariBelle’s product the Rum Flavoured Hot Sauce for review.



Top: Ms Hesma Tyson, the Founder and Managing Director of CariBelle Foods Limited at SFF Fair 2022. Bottom: Ms Tyson demonstrates how to cook with the CariBelle Food products at SFF Fair 2022, Photos courtesy Hesma Tyson | CariBelle Foods

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO HOST COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES IN 2023

Trinidad and Tobago are set to host the Commonwealth Youth Games in the summer of 2023. The decision came after Trinidad and Tobago were initially awarded the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games in June 2019, but that event was postponed due to the impact of the pandemic on the international sport calendar. The announcement was made at the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) General Assembly in Birmingham.

Following the postponement, the CGF reviewed the best alternative options and timeframes for staging the event in the future. The CGF then entered close dialogue with the Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Games Association (CGA) and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago before an agreement was signed at the CGF General Assembly.

CGF President Dame Louise Martin DBE said: "We are absolutely delighted that Trinidad and Tobago will be hosting the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games.

It was heart-breaking for us when we needed to postpone the 2021 event due to the pandemic however, we never gave up on our commitment of bringing the event to Trinidad and Tobago.

It will be an amazing event



Above: Ms Diane Henderson, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee (TTOC) and Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Games Association (TTCGA), Dame Louise Martin DBE, President of Commonwealth Games Federation, The Honorable Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Sport and Community Development, and Ms Annette Knott, TTOC and TTCGA Secretary General. **Photos courtesy The Commonwealth Games Federation**

in the twin island country that will showcase the very best of the Caribbean and Commonwealth Sport.

I would like to thank the Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Games Association and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for their support and I know the young athletes of the Commonwealth will be so excited to have the opportunity to compete in the Caribbean next year."

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Sport Shamfa Cudjoe said: "We are delighted and committed that we are able to stage the Commonwealth Youth Games next year.

Following the pandemic, this event will provide a fantastic boost for our country and provide amazing opportunities for young athletes across the Commonwealth to compete.

We are proud to be staging

such a prestigious sporting competition."

Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Games Association President Diane Henderson said: "We are honoured to be hosting the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games.

It was a difficult moment for everyone when the 2021 edition of the event was postponed so we are absolutely delighted to be hosting the event next year.

We know it will be a fantastic showcase of sport in the region that young athletes across the Commonwealth will really enjoy."

Built around the original concept of Trinidad and Tobago's winning bid, the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games has been created and inspired by young people for the youth of the Commonwealth.

Trinidad and Tobago will be staging the seventh edition of this competition in 2023. The first Commonwealth Youth Games was held in Scotland in 2000 with the event subsequently going to Australia, India, Isle of Man, Samoa and most recently the Bahamas in 2017.

Edited from <https://thecgf.com/news/trinidad-and-tobago-host-commonwealth-youth-games-2023>



The Sport Programme

The seventh edition of the Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) will take place from August 4-11, 2023. The Games will feature athletes aged 14-18 and hosted across Trinidad and Tobago with a sport programme of Aquatics (Swimming), Athletics and Para Athletics, Cycling (Road and Track), Triathlon, Fast 5 Netball, Rugby Sevens and Beach Volleyball.

GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZE FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022



1) Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Games 2022 delegation in Birmingham, Photo: Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee, 2) Trinidad and Tobago delegation take centre stage at the Commonwealth Games 2022 Opening Ceremony, Photo: Voice Online 3) Nicholas Paul on the podium with his gold medal from the Cycling Men's Keirin, Photo: AP Photos, 4) Jereem Richards next to the Men's 200m stop clock after winning the men's 200m finals in a speed of 19.80 seconds, Photo: Commonwealth Games 5) Jared Elcock, Eric Harrison Jr, Kion Benjamin and Kyle Greaux on the podium with their silver medal from the Men's 4x100m, Photo: Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee, 6) (L-R) Jereem Richards, Machel Cedenio, Asa Guevara and Dwight St. Hillaire on the podium with their gold medal from the Men's 4x400m. Photo: Alastair Grant.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games was an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth of Nations that took place in Birmingham, England between 28 July and 8 August 2022.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the organisation responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games, officially announced Birmingham as host on 21 December 2017. The Commonwealth Games held every four years, with a hiatus during World War II, marked England's third time hosting it after London 1934 and Manchester 2002, and the 7th Games held in the United Kingdom, with previous events in Wales and Scotland: Cardiff 1958, Edinburgh 1970 and 1986 and Glasgow 2014.

The Games have grown from featuring 11 countries and 400 athletes, to a global spectacle of 4,600 sports men and women from across 72 nations and territories. It marked the last time that the Commonwealth Games were held under Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II prior

to her death on 8 September, which was exactly one month after the conclusion of the Games.

Trinidad and Tobago athletes made their debut in the 1934 Games, and have attended every Games since apart from the 1950 and 1986 editions. In the 2022 Games, Trinidad and Tobago competed in 12 disciplines – aquatics, athletics, basketball (3x3), beach volleyball, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, judo, netball, squash, table tennis and triathlon. Track and Field Sprinters Jereem Richards and Michelle-Lee Ahye were the Trinidad and Tobago's flagbearers during the 2022 Games Opening Ceremony.

At the 2022 Commonwealth Games Nicholas Paul became the first Trinidad and Tobago rider to achieve Commonwealth cycling gold since Roger Gibbon at the 1966 Games in Jamaica. Paul won the gold medal at the Cycling Men's Keirin, silver medal at the Cycling Men's sprint and bronze medal at the Cycling Men's 1km time trial.

Trinidad and Tobago's Track and Field athlete Jereem Richards won the 200m title for the second time beating England's

Zharnel Hughes on 6 August. Richards' time of 19.80s broke the Commonwealth Games record of 19.97s which was previously held by Frankie Fredericks of Namibia as it also made Richards the second fastest Trinbagonian of all time behind Ato Boldon.

The following day, Jerod Elcock, Eric Harrison Jnr, Kion Benjamin, and Kyle Greaux and Aaron Armstrong (reserve), secured silver in the men's 4x100-metre relay. Trinidad and Tobago clocked a season's best time of 38.70 seconds to finish second. Hosts England won the gold medal in 38.35 seconds and Nigeria secured the bronze medal in 38.81 seconds.

Trinidad and Tobago men's 4x400 metres team - Dwight St. Hillaire, Asa Guevara, Machel Cedenio, Jereem Richards, Che Lara (reserve), Kashief King (reserve) capped off the six-medal haul at the 2022 Commonwealth Games with a historic men's 4x400 metres relay gold at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. The last time Trinidad and Tobago won the Commonwealth men's 4x400m was in 1966, when Lennox Yearwood, Kent Bernard, Edwin Robert and Wendell Mottley topped the field in Jamaica.

FASHIONTT CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE WITH LOOKBOOK 6.0

In celebration of Trinidad and Tobago's 60 years of Independence, the Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company Limited (FashionTT) launched a special edition of its look book titled LookBook 6.0. This Diamond Edition commemorates the 60 years of Independence and contains a phenomenal combination of the landmark sights and locations of our twin island, as well as features the creative ingenuity of local designers.

This edition highlights some of the pioneers and their contributions to the local fashion industry, these include Meiling, Heather Jones, Claudia Pegus, Robert Young and Professor Andrew RaMr.oop. The book also showcased



Above: Fashion TT LookBook 6.0 cover. Photo courtesy Fashion TT

amazing pieces from designers like CLD, Bene Caribe, Ted Arthur Leather Collections, and TJM Designs.

“The LookBook is a glamorous quarterly publication highlighting the tremendous work and craftsmanship of businesses in a variety of niches within the fashion industry. From leather working, accessories, bags, corporate and couture apparel to fine jewelry and resort wear. The broad spectrum of the Trinidad and Tobago fashion industry is well represented in this magazine.” – Lisa-Marie Daniel, General Manager, FashionTT

To view the LookBook 6.0, visit www.fashiontt.co.tt/lookbook To keep up-to-date in what's happening with FashionTT, follow the Facebook and Instagram pages: @fashionoftt.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SHOWCASED AT WORLD TRAVEL MARKET 2022

Trinidad and Tobago was well represented by delegations from both islands over a three-day period at the World Travel Market, Excel Centre, London. World Travel Market occurred during the period November 7 to 9 2022.

The World Travel Market (WTM) is the leading international travel event unlocking business opportunities for inbound and outbound tourism professionals. The premier location is where travel professionals come together to connect and hear about how leading companies have reshaped their businesses with data insights into trending destinations and products.

The Tobago House of Assembly delegation was led by Chief Secretary Farley Augustine and included Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation, Councillor Tashia Burris, Tobago Tourism Agency Ltd (TTAL) chairman Alicia Edwards, TTAL marketing co-ordinator, UK marketing partners, Tobago Hotel and Tourism



Pictured: International media and travel trade partners network on the Trinidad and Tobago stand after the press conference.

Association president Chris James, hoteliers from Comfort Inn and Suites, Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort, Coco Reef, Tropikist, a Sunshine Tours representative, the Tobago Performing Arts Company, a Drummer, a pannist and soca artiste Adana Roberts.

The Trinidad delegation included Permanent Secretary Simone Thorne-Mora Quinones, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Carla Cupid, Chief Executive Officer (interim) Trinidad Tourism Agency and Wendy Lake, International Promotions Specialist.

Members of the two delegations held intense meetings and networking events with travel partners in the United Kingdom, airline operators, travel media and content creators, tour operators and online travel agents.

Ms. Cupid said, “The team from Trinidad was well received and we met with key partners namely KLM and National Geographic who continue to show great interest in sharing all that Trinidad has to offer with the world.” TTL was able to announce the extension of the KLM service into Port of Spain into 2023 and the new direct service by British Airways three times per week. Additionally, Karen Battoo, General Manager of the Asa Wright Nature Centre revealed that the iconic eco-lodge will reopen for business on April 1st, 2023.



Chief Secretary Farley Augustine shared that there are plans for more room stock in Tobago, which include the construction of a 4-star Marriott branded hotel. Destination Tobago was presented with a silver award from Wanderlust Travel Magazine's Editor-in-Chief and CEO George Kipouros for Most Desirable Island.

Both delegations are committed to

tourism development for both islands and in so doing increase the revenue from the tourism sector.

Thousands of travel professionals walked through the doors at the World Travel Market with over 35,800 people participating. This number exceeded expected attendance, as it was more than double that of 2021. 2022 attendance at WTM London showcased a sector in recovery and demonstrated an appetite to do business and meet face-to-face. Global travel buyers with direct purchasing responsibility for travel product were up 25% compared with 2021.

World Travel Market London 2023 will take place on 6 – 8 November at ExCeL London, Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, Royal Docks, London E16 1XL.



1) Ms Lyn Hughes, Wanderlust Founding Editor (second from left) celebrates Tobago's win with (L-R) Ms Alicia Edwards, TTAL Executive Chairman, Chief Secretary Farley Augustine, and Councillor Tashia Burris, Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation, **Photo: Tobago Tourism Agency**, 2) Permanent Secretary Simone Thorne-Mora Quinones, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Chief Secretary Farley Augustine and Ms Claudia Cupid, Chief Executive Officer (interim) TTL, 3) (L-R) Mrs. Rachael Sharma, Managing Director of Tropikist Beach Hotel & Resort, Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission and Mr. Paul Harrison, Head of Community, Wanis Ltd, 4) (L-R) Mr. Dominic Williams, High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul, Mrs. Beverley Awonaya answering queries from visitors at the Trinidad and Tobago booth, 5) Ms Wendy Lake, International Promotions Specialist presenting a token to a tour operator, 6) (L-R) Mr. Danny Pegg - Head National Geographic Traveller, receiving a commemorative token from Permanent Secretary Simone Thorne-Mora Quinones, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and Ms Carla Cupid - Chief Executive Officer (interim) TTL, for recent publication showcasing Trinidad and Tobago as one of the Best of the World destinations 2023 in National Geographic Traveller UK, 7) Island Experiences Tours Trinidad and Tobago speaking with a group of young travellers, 8) Chief Secretary Farley Augustine and Ms Claudia Cupid, Chief Executive Officer (interim) TTL meeting with the UK Football Association, 9) Ms Karen Battoo, General Manager of the Asa Wright Nature Centre speaking with travel agents, 10) Entertainment from Tobago Performing Arts Company, **Photo: Tobago Tourism Agency**

COURTESY CALL BY SOCA ARTISTE NAILA BLACKMAN

Trinidad and Tobago soca artiste Naila Blackman, visited the High Commission on August 28, 2022, to pay a courtesy call on High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul.

The visit was an historic one as it was the first time that Ms Blackman accompanied by her Manager Anson Soverrall and DJ visited the High Commission. Nailah is the granddaughter of the late Garfield Blackman, also known as Lord Shorty or Ras Shorty I, who invented the style of music known as Jamoo and is also credited with inventing soca as a means of reinvigorating calypso music.

During the visit High Commissioner Dhanpaul pledged his support to all cultural artistes and reaffirmed that one of the objectives of the High Commission was to promote the culture of Trinidad and Tobago.

Top: High Commissioner Dhanpaul speaking with Ms Naila Blackman, Anson Soverrall and DJ Lady Drea. **Above Left:** Ms Naila Blackman signs guestbook, **Above right:** Ms Naila Blackman and High Commissioner Dhanpaul.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HEALTH UK FORUM ANNUAL CURRY-QUE FUNDRAISER

Trinidad and Tobago Health UK Forum (TTHUF) hosted their Annual Curry-Que fundraiser on July 16, 2022 at the Trinidad and Tobago Association House in London. Part of the funds raised was used in support of women with breast cancer in Trinidad and Tobago.

1-2) Trinidad and Tobago Health Forum UK team preparing and serving food for the curry que. 3) A cross section of persons that came out in support, 4) Trinidad and Tobago Health Forum UK team member and happy customer. **Photos courtesy Roger James/TTHUF**

NEWTOWN PLAYBOYS SYMPHONY AT BIRMINGHAM'S 'IT'S CARNIVAL'

Newtown Playboys Symphony from Trinidad and Tobago performed at 'It's Carnival' which was co-produced by ACE Dance and Music School and Birmingham Hippodrome on Saturday 6th August at the Bullring and Grand Central in Birmingham.



Pictured: 1) Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony player with spectators, 2) Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony, 3) Spectators enjoying the performance by Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony, 4) Mr. Keron Valentine, Director of Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony (Front row, third from left) and members of the Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony delegation at Gatwick Airport. **Photos:** Newtown Playboys Steel Symphony.

TT DIASPORA 60 - A DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

TT Diaspora 60 under the patronage of His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul, hosted 'A Diamond Jubilee Celebration' on 3 October 2022 at The Tabernacle in London.

The event's programme included a book launch of *Closer to the Church* by Mr. Louis Lee Sing, former Mayor of Port of Spain, recognition of achievements by nationals Mr. Jordan Soondar, Ms Laura Sooklalsingh, Ms Symone Williams, Ms Karla Cornwall, and Ms Jada and Mr. Steven Marsh. There were performances by D'Alberto, Tobago Crusoe, Alexander D' Great, DJs Piper and JP.OP.Vibez.



1) His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul delivers opening remarks, 2) Mr. Louis Lee Sing and Mr. Ansel Wong OBE, 3) Tobago Crusoe and D'Alberto, 4) Professor Haroun Shah. 5) Ms Laura Sooklalsingh, 6) Mr. Jordan Soondar, 7) Ms Karla Cornwall presented 'T&T Achiever' award by Ms Allyson Williams MBE, 8) Mr. Victoria Lenzo Lee with Ms Nitoo Golan, TTAUK Trustee announcing the winners of the raffle. 9) Mr. Ansel Barclay presented the 'T&T Achiever' award to Ms Symone Williams, Artistic Director of Genesis Mas Band. **Photos 7-9:** © Stephen Spark | **Soca News**

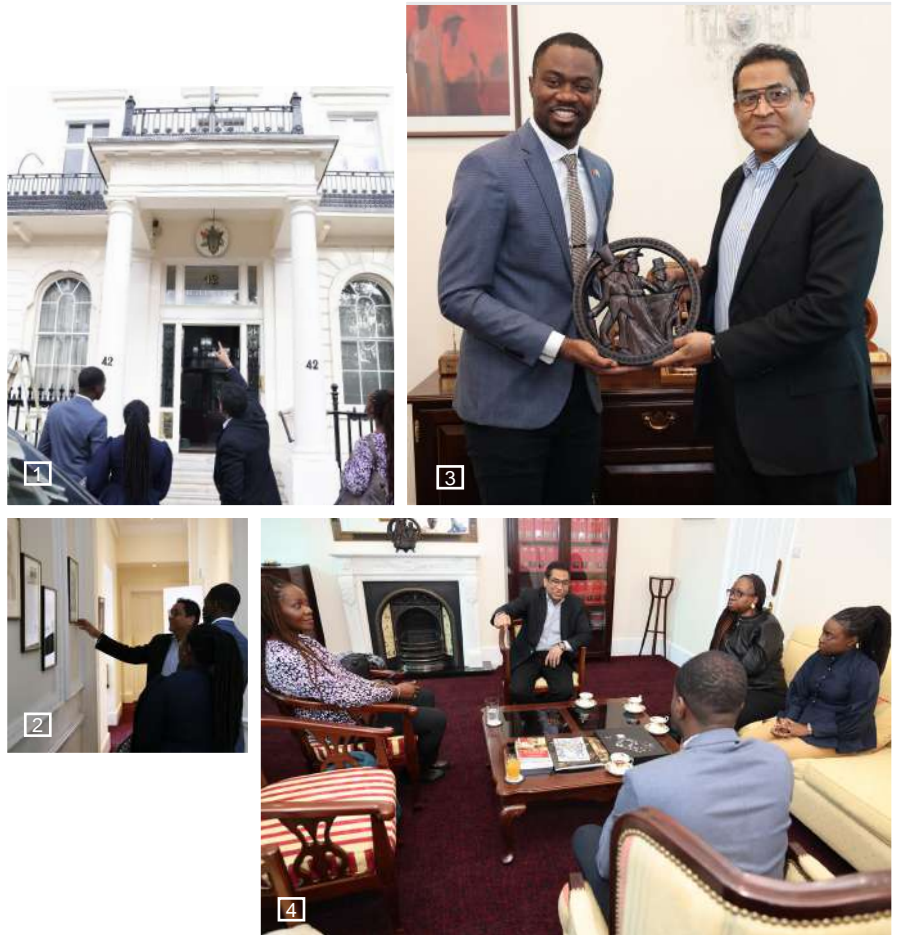
COURTESY CALL BY CHIEF SECRETARY THE HONOURABLE FARLEY AUGUSTINE, TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

On Friday November 11, 2022 the Honourable Farley Augustine, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul.

The Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation, Tashia Burris, Advisor Korice Nancis and Chairman of the Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL), Alicia Edwards were also on the visit.

The delegation was in the United Kingdom to take part in the World Travel Market. The members of the delegation were shown the refurbishment work that was in progress while being given a tour of the High Commission.

1-2) The Tobago House of Assembly delegation was given a short tour of the Mission by His Excellency Vishnu Dhanpaul. 3) (L-R) High Commissioner Vishnu Dhanpaul is presented a token from Chief Secretary the Honourable Farley Augustine, Tobago House of Assembly, 4) Ms Alicia Edwards, Chairman, TTAL, HE Vishnu Dhanpaul, Korice Nancis, Advisor, Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation, Ms Tashia Burris, Secretary of Tourism, Culture, Antiquities and Transportation, Chief Secretary the Honourable Farley Augustine, Photos: Tobago House of Assembly.



AYANNA LLOYD BANWO WINS THE ECCLES CENTRE & HAY FESTIVAL WRITER'S AWARD

Congratulations to Trinidad and Tobago national Ayanna Lloyd Banwo who together with Jarred McGinnis won the Eccles Centre & Hay Festival Writer's Award 2023 at an event held at the British Library on Wednesday 23 November. Ayanna won a year's residency with the British Library to develop her forthcoming book, plus the opportunity to showcase her work at future Hay Festival events in the United Kingdom and Latin America. The Eccles Centre & Hay Festival Writer's Award is a highly prestigious annual literary award of £20,000 for a current writing project

exploring the Americas.

The award facilitates and inspires world-class storytelling in the United Kingdom and across the Americas, supporting writers in the creative stage of a new fiction or non-fiction project. The prize grants a year-long residency at the British Library and access to curatorial expertise within the Library's world class Americas collections.

Ayanna Lloyd Banwo win Dark Eye Place tells the story of a family house, passed down to the daughter of each generation. Set in post-emancipation Port



Above: Ms Ayanna Lloyd Banwo, Photo courtesy © Rii Schroer | Eccles Centre

of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the novel explores women's changing lives, family

relationships, inheritance and ideas of belonging in the context of great social upheaval.

The judges said “We were drawn to the idea of using a crumbling house in Trinidad, passed down through the women of the family as a way to explore patriarchal inheritance laws, women’s lives, migration, and urbanisation against a backdrop of the great plantation estates and elite town houses. Ayanna Lloyd Banwo’s second novel promises to build on a new talent.”

The Eccles Centre for American Studies was founded in 1991 to increase awareness and use of the British

Library’s extensive collections of books, manuscripts, journals, newspapers and sound recordings related to the United States, Canada and the Caribbean and is housed within the British Library.

The Hay Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that brings readers and writers together to share stories and ideas in sustainable events around the world. The festivals inspire, examine and entertain, inviting participants to imagine the world as it is and as it might be.

Picture: Mrs. Beverley Awonaya, Public Affairs Culture Tourism, Trinidad and Tobago High Commission and Ms Ayanna Lloyd Banwo,
Photo courtesy © Rii Schroer/Eccles Centre



A TASTE OF HOME

MOUTHWATERING RECIPES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Coconut Sweet Bread

Preparation

Prep Time: 15 mins | Cook Time: 60 mins | Serves 8

Ingredients:

- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 4 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup chopped dried mixed fruit
- 1 cup raisins or 1 cup sultana
- 3 cups coconut, grated (not dried or sweetened)
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, ground
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg, grated
- 2 eggs, well-beaten
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 2 teaspoons almond essence
- 1/2 lb butter (melted) or 1/2 lb margarine (melted)

Method:

1. Mix and sift flour, baking powder and salt four times.
2. Add sugar and fruit; blend evenly.
3. Add coconut, cinnamon and grated nutmeg and stir well.
4. In another bowl combine the whipped eggs, milk, essence and cooled melted butter. Mix well.
5. Make a well in the flour mixture.
6. Pour the egg mixture into the well and stir with a spoon. Batter will be heavy and mixture will be fairly stiff.
7. DO NOT KNEAD or bread will be tough. Mix entirely by spoon, assisted by a knife.
8. Pile into 2 non-stick or greased loaf tins.

9. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 - 60 mins or until an inserted skewer comes out clean.
10. OPTIONAL: When done, glaze with mixture of one tablespoon sugar and one tablespoon water. Sprinkle with granulated sugar and Return to the oven for 3 -4 mins.

<https://www.food.com/recipe/coconut-sweet-bread-trinidad-190905>

Ponche de Creme

Preparation

Prep Time: 15 mins | Cook Time: 30 mins | Serves 10

Ingredients:

- 6 eggs
- 5 8 oz packages of evaporated milk (preferably non combined, or non-filled)
- 14 ozs condensed milk
- 2 cups dark rum
- 1/2 tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp minced lime zest
- 2 tsp Angostura cocoa bitters

Method:

1. In a blender process eggs with lime zest until light coloured.
2. Add evaporated milk and condensed milk, process to blend well. Strain.
3. Add bitters, nutmeg and rum, mix well, taste and adjust flavourings to suit.
4. Serve over crushed ice, and garnish with with lime zest or lime slices.

[Rahamut, Wendy. Caribbean Gourmet. Oct-Dec 2002.](#)



