



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

The Queen's College of Guyana Association (UK)
(Registered Charity No. 801250)

No. 43

ANNUAL SUMMER REUNION — GARDEN PARTY

Barbecue by Gloria's Kitchen

Music by DJ Sherwin

St John's Nature Garden, 386 Clapham Road SW9

Sunday 10th July, 2 to 9 pm

Adults £18, Children £6 (over 6 to under 12)

Details of ticket sellers are given in the flyer (mailed separately)

BRUNCH MAKES A TIDY PROFIT

Over 90 persons attended the second annual Brunch at the Bedford Pub, Balham, on 10th April. Although numbers were down on last year when we had over 100 attendees, a tidy profit of £891 was made, helping to replenish our depleted coffers. Overall organisation was again undertaken by Rod Westmaas, with catering by Beverley Headley. Rod, Mark Dalgety and their helpers are to be congratulated on a successful event.

DONATIONS TO QC

In last June's issue of the *Newsletter* (No 41) we reported that the family and friends of the late Bob Batchelor had raised "around £400 to be directed to the art department in his memory". The actual amount raised was £450, and after discussions with the art mistress, it was agreed to use the money for the purchase of books on art (students supply their own art materials) and a cupboard for them to be kept in. These were all purchased in Guyana. As some of the donations received had been "gift-aided", the Association benefited from an additional £91.

The Florida Association had received a request from the school to provide five batteries for the uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for their computers. Florida were able to obtain a discount from the suppliers but could only afford to fund the purchase of two batteries. We accordingly chipped in to fund the purchase of the other three, at a cost of £651.

And a further £1500 has been promised to assist the Toronto Association in funding the Library Project. The donation will go towards the work needed to air condition part of the school library. With the inclusion of that that amount, the cumulative total of our donations to the school, in cash and kind, will exceed £123,500.

ICQC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

This year's Business Meeting of the International Committee of the Queen's College Alumni Associations, and associated events, will be held in London on the weekend of Friday 7th to Sunday 9th October 2011. The planned programme comprises a reception on the Friday evening at the High Commission, a Cultural Evening at Kensington Central Library on the Saturday evening and the Business Meeting, including a lunch, on the Sunday at Rod Westmaas's place of work in the City. The reception will be **open only to overseas delegates, Association members, other alumni/former members of staff and special invitees**. Admission charges will be £10 for overseas delegates, paid-up members of the Association and special

invitees, and £15 for other alumni/ex-staff members. The Cultural Evening will be a public event with a proposed admission charge of £15. The Business meeting will be open to overseas delegates and Association members only. The charge for lunch will be £10. Definitive details will be circulated nearer the time.

QC's EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESSES

Last December Queen's won the National School's Chess Championship, defeating St Stanislaus, the previous year's winners, and in March won the IMON Wireless Solutions Inter-schools Badminton Tournament. Runners-up were Marian Academy, followed by BHS and Saints.

DR LAURENCE CLARKE PROMOTED TO SENIOR WORLD BANK POST

Association life member Dr Laurence C Clarke (QC 1962–9) has been appointed to the level of Director in the World Bank. This is the third most senior level below the President, and equates to Assistant Secretary-General in the UN. As Laurence was quick to point out in a recent email, the reports in *Stabroek News* and *Kaieteur News* were not entirely accurate, implying as they did that he was being promoted to No. 3 at the Bank. There are two further levels between the Directors and the President: the Vice-Presidents and the Managing Directors. Laurence's appointment in the Africa Region will cover Angola, Mozambique, and São Tomé & Príncipe. He will be based in Maputo, Mozambique. His previous assignments in Africa include posts in Botswana, Zambia and Sudan where he was latterly Manager, Southern Sudan Programme and Juba Office. Laurence is the third Guyanese, but the first QC alumnus, to attain the level of Director in the Bank. Alumni will recall Laurence's *magnum opus*: *Queen's College – Records of a Tradition of Excellence (1844–1994)*. The Association congratulates Laurence on his sterling achievement.

LIFE MEMBER DR INGRAM HAZLEWOOD APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF US NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF PRACTICE

Dr Arthur Ingram Hazlewood ('Ben' to his contemporaries – QC 1945–53) who lives in New York, is one of the Association's overseas life members. In October last year he became President of the National Academies of Practice, an organisation comprising distinguished Fellows (in his case of the American College of Dentists) drawn from ten major, independent fields of science-based health care practice.

Ingram's contribution to dental health care, in the US and internationally, has been exemplary. As Director of Planning at New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation he directed the planning of two major teaching hospitals. He was a founding member of the faculty at Stonybrook College of Dental Medicine, NY, and is currently chairman of an organisation with drug treatment programmes in more than sixty countries. He also played a major role in the reorganisation of oral health care delivery in Guyana.

Among the posts he has held and the several awards received are: President of the American Association of Hospital Dentists (see *Newsletter* No 11, January 1995); Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Dentistry at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center, New York; Chairman of New York Section of the American College of Dentists (see *Newsletter* No 21, April 2000); Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Dentists and Award of Distinction from the Academy of Dentists International.

At an age when most of his contemporaries are enjoying a quiet retirement, Ingram continues to make a major contribution in the field of dental health. The Association once again congratulates him on his sterling efforts.

SALVETE

We welcome **Robert Lalljie** to the Association as a 'Friend' member.

VALETE

We regret to announce the deaths of: **Paul E ('Bull') Burnett** (QC 45–50) *d.* May 2011 in the USA; life member **Neville Leyton Franker** (QC 34–41), *d.* 7.6.10; **Donald Locke** (art master 64–69), *b.* 1930, *d.* 6.12.10 in Atlanta, USA; **Hayden Singh** (QC 62–69/70), CEO of Courts, Jamaica, Cadet CSM c.68–70, *d.* Feb 2011 whilst on a visit to Miami; ex-member **Wellesley A Stephens** (QC 40–49), *d.* 5.5.11; **Lawrence McGregor Stewart** (QC 56–65), *d.* 15.3.2011 in New York; ex-member **A Neil Storey** (QC 42–46), *b.* 7.2.1926, *d.* 1.2.2011 (see obituary below); **Neville Austin Valz** (QC 45–50) *d.* 19.12.10 in Guyana; **Harold Edward Wilkinson** (QC 45–52) *d.* Feb 2011 in Canada, **George Williams** (QC 39–41) *d.* 24.6.11 in Jamaica.

To the bereaved relatives the Association extends its sincerest condolences.

NEIL STOREY

Neil was born in Golden Grove, East Coast Demerara where his father was the headmaster of the local government school. The family moved to Georgetown where Neil attended Queen's College, doing well in the School Certificate exams (the precursor of O-levels/GCSEs). He joined the civil service, working in the Education Department and then the Treasury whilst studying accountancy, subsequently becoming Accounts Officer at the Technical Institute. In 1959 he married June Ann Zitman, and they went on to have four children. With Guyana's independence approaching, he was selected for diplomatic training in Trinidad, and was posted to London in 1964 to establish the Guyana High Commission, which was then located in Cockspur Street near Trafalgar Square.

He returned to Guyana with the family in 1971, and was appointed Chief of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this position he accompanied the Minister (Association Vice-President Sir Shridath Ramphal), Prime Minister Forbes Burnham and President Arthur Chung on several state visits and other Foreign Affairs business to many parts of the world.

In 1981 he retired from the Guyana government and joined the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He was posted to the Solomon Islands until 1985, thereafter to The Bahamas. During this time he organised and assisted at two Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings. He retired from Diplomatic life in 1991, and then did part time bookkeeping at Harrods for a short time, followed by voluntary work at Age Concern shops in Wembley and Harrow until final retirement in 1996.

Neil was a member of the Association from its establishment in 1988 until 2003, serving on the Committee as Treasurer in the 1991–92 year.

After several bouts of prolonged illness, Neil was admitted to St Anne's Residential Care Home, Wembley in March 2009, where he died peacefully in his sleep on the night of 31st January–1st February. His funeral on 9th February at All Hallows Church, Greenford, where he was Church Warden for a number of years, was well attended, with the Association represented by Vice-President Ivor Ying, Management Committee Chairman Christopher Chunnillall, and Committee members Mark Adamson, Peter Fraser, Bruce Nóbrega, Rod Westmaas and Ian Wishart.

Neil is survived by June Ann, his wife of 51 years, their children (Association life member and former Committee member) Marc, Nicolas, Sylvana and Joanna, and five grandchildren.

Arthur Neil Storey, born 7th February 1926, died 1st February 2011.

HISTORY CORNER

THE HOUSES OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE

The piece that follows by Ian Wishart is based (with added comments) on a lengthy article by David Granger that appeared in Sunday Stabroek on 7th March last year. It is written with his kind permission. Historian, retired GDF brigadier and current Presidential candidate, David attended Queen's from 1956 to 1964. His extensive, in-depth research has uncovered many interesting facts about the men after whom QC's houses are named.

The house system at Queen's was introduced in 1916 at the suggestion of E O ('Bogus') Pilgrim, who was to become the longest serving member of staff (1905–59). Students were grouped into two houses: 'A' and 'B'. The intended purpose of the house system was to encourage team spirit and foster group solidarity. However house members only came together for sporting events – and not everyone had athletic or sporting ability – and the annual house 'feed' at Christmas (the staff failed miserably in their attempts to get the boys to refer to these events as house 'socials'). This lack of cohesion was belatedly corrected in the late 1940s (47?) when daily general assemblies were replaced by house assemblies four days a week.

The practice of naming houses was started in 1922, the year after 'C' house was established. The names Percival, Raleigh and Austin were given respectively to A, B and C houses based on a system of drawn lots, which explains why the name Austin was not given to A house.

Bishop **William Piercy Austin**, first Primate of the West Indies, was the school's founder and its first principal. The Austin family have been connected with Barbados and Guyana for over 300 years. It is probable that the bishop was descended from Thomas Austin who arrived in Barbados in March 1686 having been deported there by Judge Jeffrey (he of the Bloody Assizes) for having participated in the Monmouth Rebellion. The bishop was born in England but died in Guyana. He is buried in the churchyard of St James-the-Less, Kitty. Austin was a keen oarsman at Oxford, and it is largely due to his efforts that the first Oxford–Cambridge boat race was rowed, in 1829. Queen Victoria, who personally donated £200 (worth several thousands in today's money) to the establishment of the school, is said to have described Austin as "my youngest and most handsome bishop".

William Exley Percival, an exhibitor of Brasenose, Oxford, principal from 1877 until his death in 1893 (see History Corner, p5) is the youngest principal in the school's history and is likely to remain so, having been appointed at the age of 29. During his tenure the school's strength grew from 28 to over 100. The school had become a government institution in 1876, but by 1886 nothing had been done to grant exhibitions to promising pupils from elementary schools. Percival was so disgusted that he offered three exhibitions at his own expense. Following Percival's premature death, a group of old boys and friends subscribed a sum of money for the funding of an annual bursary, the Percival Exhibition. This was awarded until 1959, latterly based on O-level results.

The choice of **Raleigh** for B house is something of a mystery as it is unlikely that Sir Walter ever set foot in British Guiana / Guyana. Following his first voyage to what is now Venezuela, he published, in 1596, *The Discovery of Guiana* which made exaggerated claims as to what he'd discovered. After Elizabeth I died he fell into disfavour with her successor, James I, was imprisoned in the Tower but released to conduct a second expedition. Having failed to find El Dorado (one can imagine the locals, keen to get rid of these pesky foreigners, urging him to continue sailing up river) he was executed on his return to England. Raleigh house accordingly enjoys the distinction of being the only house named after someone who had his head chopped off. (I'm entitled to be rude about my old house.)

Those of us old enough to have been taught British History will remember the tale of Raleigh taking off his cloak to cover a puddle so that Queen Elizabeth I would not get her feet wet. I saw the scene re-enacted in 1953. Elizabeth II had begun her post-coronation Commonwealth tour with a stop in Jamaica. Delegates from the Caribbean colonies descended on the island, including yours truly representing the QC Cadets. Picture the scene at Port Royal from where the Queen made her departure. The parade ground is close to the water's edge. Offshore are the royal yacht *Britannia* and the escorting cruiser *HMS Sheffield* (the sister ship

of the *Belfast* currently moored between Tower and London bridges) both bedecked with flags. As the senior cadet present, I was accorded the privilege of posting the Jamaican Cadet Force ‘keepers of the ground’ on three sides of the perimeter. Standing left of line, I had a view along the front rank of the combined guard-of-honour: Royal Welch Fusiliers on the right of line, Jamaica Regiment on the left and the massed bands in between. The royal party approaches the saluting base. Suddenly a man darts out of the crowd, removes his jacket and lays it in front of the Queen, getting down on his knees. He is hastily removed by the police. Next day *The Gleaner* reports that the Queen ignored the incident and walked on unperturbed. However a member of the crowd had just taken a photograph, and when it was developed and printed a couple of days later (those were the days before instant photography) he found he had a perfect picture of the incident. The Queen had stopped with a big smile on her face, obviously appreciative of the historical tribute, whilst (Caribbean Area Commander) Brigadier Jackson and an equerry, unsure of the man’s intentions, were drawing their ceremonial swords. (What’s this got to do with QC’s houses? You may well ask.)

As the school’s numbers increased, D house was added in 1932, named after Lieutenant General Sir **Benjamin D’Urban** who oversaw the amalgamation of Berbice and Demerara–Essequibo in 1831 to form the colony of British Guiana, becoming its first governor. He subsequently became governor of Cape Colony in South Africa. The port of Durban in South Africa and the major street and park (originally the racecourse) in Georgetown are named in his honour.

Howard H Nobbs has the distinction (so far) as being the longest serving principal (1931–51) and one of the most successful. His greatest success was the realisation of the present, custom-built college building in Thomas Lands which opened in 1951. In 1945 it was decided to add two further houses, ‘E’ and ‘F’. In a fit of democratic enthusiasm for which he was not normally noted, Nobbs decided to allow the senior school to choose the names by ballot. Unsurprisingly, Pilgrim (E) and Weston (F) were chosen, as those were the men the boys knew.

Barbadian-born **Edward Oliver Pilgrim** was deputy principal at the time. He had joined the staff in 1905, and was deputy principal from 1931 to 1946 when he reached retirement age. However he went on to teach mathematics until 1959, a record of 54 years unlikely to be broken. (His explanation of equations to those being inducted into the mysteries of algebra was: “two scale-pans balancing O so nicely, O so sweetly; what you do to one side you must do to the other”.)

Frederick Thomas (‘Taffy’) **Weston**, a Welshman, was a great sporting all-rounder and immensely popular with the boys. His favourite recreations were cricket, rugby (at which he represented the colony), scouting and swimming. He became scoutmaster of QC Troop 27, Commissioner for Scouts, and served on the Boxing Board of Control. He returned to Britain in 1941 to serve in the RAF, but was killed in an aircraft accident in 1943. His son Fred, a ‘friend’ life member of the Association, who never knew his father, travels all the way from Wales every year to attend our AGM, sporting his Weston House tie given to him by Laurie Lewis when Fred visited the school in 2006.

In 1954 four new houses were established: Moulder (‘G’), Woolley (‘H’), Cunningham (‘K’) and Nobbs (‘L’).

In his book *Records of a Tradition of Excellence*, Laurence Clarke states in part A-I: “As it is virtually certain that Moulder was not born in Guyana, the first Guyanese-born confirmed Headmaster of the School would be Mr D. Hetram.” However David Granger states categorically that **Edwin Richard Denys Moulder** was born at Friendship Village, East Coast Demerara (his father was an Anglican vicar). A cricket website (Moulder played both for BG and the West Indies) states that Moulder was born in “St Paul Georgetown”. As Laurence pointed out in a subsequent exchange of correspondence: “St Paul may be the Anglican church in my village, Plaisance (in fact it is St Paul’s)”. So that’s probably where Moulder was christened. Moulder, who won the Guiana Scholarship in 1891, is not only the first Guyanese-born principal (1920–28), but the first who was an old boy.

Sir **Charles Campbell Woolley** ('cocktail Charlie') was the governor whose administration oversaw the post-war development programme, including the construction of the present school building, and the implementation of the Waddington Constitution which led to universal adult suffrage.

Admiral of the Fleet (the top rank in the Royal Navy) Sir **John Henry Dacres Cunningham** was born in Guyana and attended QC from 1896 to 1897. He was sent to England after his parents died in a sailing accident, where he completed his education. Despite having only attended the school for a year, he wrote to the principal Nobbs in April 1946 to render thanks for the educational foundation he had received at Queen's. Cunningham was at the time outgoing Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Station. The following month he succeeded his namesake Admiral of the Fleet Andrew Cunningham (1st Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope) as First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff.

David Granger concludes his article with the words: "What is clear, however, is that the men after whom the houses were named [were] exemplars of public service and sources of inspiration to students for over nine decades". (I'm unsure whether those words apply to Raleigh.)

BRICKDAM

Below we reproduce two photographs from Brickdam. These photographs were taken by Fred Weston during his time at Queen's College (see article above), and kindly provided to us by his son Fred, a 'friend' life member of the Association.



Entrance from porch, Weston (L) & Pilgrim (R)



View from north. The building on the right housed the physics lab (upstairs) and woodwork room (ground floor).

DEATH OF THE PRINCIPAL OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE

(From the *Berbice Gazette*, Wednesday 8th March 1893)

The death of Mr Exley Percival, BA, Principal of Queen's College, is announced. Mr Percival had been in ill health for some time, and had planned to leave the colony by the mail [ship], but towards the close of last week his illness assumed a very alarming development, and he expired about midday on Sunday. Mr Percival, who was a BA at Oxford, was appointed Principal of Queen's College in February 1887.

He was a very efficient Master, a learned and cultured gentleman, and was much liked by his pupils. Excepting in matters pertaining to higher education, he did not take a very active part in public affairs, though he was highly respected in private circles. The late Principal, who was 44 years of age, leaves a widow (a daughter of Sheriff Kirke) and a young child, for whom much sympathy is felt.

[Ian Wishart remembers his grandfather, the late Dr W deW Wishart, recounting how, wracked with ague (he was suffering from a bout of filaria, the pathology of which was unknown at the time), he sat his Greek paper for the Guiana scholarship wrapped in Mr Percival's gown, with Mrs Percival plying him with cups of hot tea. (The year was 1889, and although he couldn't complete the paper, he won the scholarship, awarded in 1890.)]

A HISTORY OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF BRITISH GUIANA

A few copies of Norman Cameron's (extended) *History* are still available at £12 plus £1.36 p&p. Contact Ian Wishart (see last page).

LITERARY CORNER

GUYANESE ACHIEVERS USA & CANADA

by **Vidur Dindayal** ('Friend' Life Member)

[Trafford Publishing]

Vidur has written a companion book to his *Guyanese Achievers UK* (see *Newsletter* No 35, May 2007). The book contains potted biographies of Guyanese who have "made it" in the US and Canada. For details visit www.trafford.com. ISBNs are 97814269586xx, where xx = 01 (hardback), 18 (paperback) and 25 (ebook). US prices are respectively \$39.50, \$29.50 & \$9.99.

Personally signed copies may be obtained directly from Vidur. The UK price are £31 (hardback) and £23 (paperback); to USA or Canada, US \$56 and US \$43 respectively. Cheques payable to "L. Dindayal" may be sent to Vidur Dindayal, 73A Woodbourne Avenue, London SW16 1UX, UK. Email: dindayal@sky.com

WALTER RODNEY: HIS LAST DAYS & CAMPAIGNS

by **Eusi Kwayana**

This book may be ordered for £11.99 from <http://caribbeanchronicle.co/Home.html>, clicking on the 'Shop' link, or from Friend member Robert Lalljie, 15 Sycamore Court, 46 Buxton Road, Birmingham B23 5GA, roblalljie@yahoo.com.

MISCELLANY

Did you know

That the largest *per capita* proportion of overseas volunteers in the British Forces during World War II were from the Caribbean colonies? (Source: BBC Reporter John Simpson in *Days from a Different World – A Memoir of Childhood*).

That "it has been estimated that 60% of all the crops grown in the world today originated in the Americas"? (Source: Bill Bryson in *At Home – A Short History of Private Life*).

Points to ponder:

"Multiculturalism is one of the most flexible words in the political lexicon, meaning whatever the speaker wants it to mean." (*The Observer* editorial, 6.2.11, referring to the debate on whether multiculturalism is beneficial or detrimental to social cohesion.)

"It is remarkable that ... our minds, which evolved – along with our intuitions – to cope with life on the African savannah, can grasp the highly counterintuitive laws governing the quantum world and the cosmos." (Martin Rees, Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics, Cambridge, in his contribution to *Seeing Further: The Story of Science & The Royal Society* [Ed. by Bill Bryson, Harper Press].)

"A religion, old or new, that stressed the magnificence of the Universe as revealed by modern science might be able to draw forth reserves of reverence and awe hardly tapped by conventional faiths." (Carl Sagan in *Pale Blue Dot*.)

QUEEN'S COLLEGE POLO SHIRTS

Available in Black or White

Sizes: Medium, Large, XLarge & XXLarge

Cost: £10 per shirt (P&P extra)

Contact Claire Carballo (see last page)

DIARY DATES

- 10 JULY** *SUMMER REUNION*, usual venue
28 AUG *QCA-BHSA CARNIVAL FÊTE* at Club Jasmins, 202 Upper Tooting Road, SW17 (full details later)
7-9 OCT *ICQC EVENTS* – see p1
12 NOV *AGM*, High Commission, 3 pm
27 NOV *ANNUAL DINNER*, The Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath (details later)

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USEFUL WEBSITES

- UK Association: qcoga.org.uk
Guyana Association: www.qcosa.org.gy
Florida Association: www.qcalumnifl.org
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