



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

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

No. 48





FAMILY BARBECUE / SUMMER REUNION

With dancing in the Church Hall
Sunday 20 July
St John's Nature Garden, Clapham
Save the date!



SPONSORSHIP WEBSITE

www.qcsponsorshipprogramme.com

The brainchild of Management Committee Chairman **Mark Dalgety**, a new website has been launched with the aim of raising funds by encouraging alumni – and others – to make one off or regular donations to the Association exclusively earmarked for items on the school's wish list. The site was designed by alumna **Eva Dalgety-Spencer**.

AGM HIGHLIGHTS

The numbers attending AGMs seem to have levelled out at around 20, despite a membership living in the home counties of around 100. 17 members and four guests attended the 2013 AGM compared with 19 members and one guest in 2012, and 17 members and three guests in 2011.

OFFICERS FOR 2013–14

Neville Linton was once again returned unopposed as President, and existing Vice-Presidents **John Rafferty**, **David Man**, **Sir Shridath ('Sonny') Ramphal**, **Trevor Phillips**, **Henry Edwards**, **Derek Hugh**, **Ivor Ying** and **Gary Ramprashad** reappointed. (The foregoing appointments are all non-executive.) It being determined that there was nothing unconstitutional in having a Vice-President serve on the Management Committee, **Ian Wishart** agreed to accept appointment as a VP.

The seven members of the Management Committee (all returned unopposed) are: **Mark Dalgety**, **David Blackman**, **Praveen Hanoman**, **Allison Lindner**, **Bruce Nóbrega**, **Ian Wishart** and **Claire Carballo**. At the first Committee meeting on 23rd November, **Mark Dalgety**, **Ian Wishart** and **Praveen Hanoman** were respectively returned unopposed as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, whilst **Mark Adamson**, **Christopher Chunnillall**, and **Peter Fraser** were co-opted (see last page for contact details). Chris and Peter were appointed ICQC representatives.

DISBURSEMENTS

In addition to the donation of school ties to the value of £2062 sent to QCOSA in October 2012 (sold to the students, the proceeds being used to fund the Special Awardees Programme – see *Newsletter* 46, Feb 2013) replacement bulbs to the value of £303 for the microscopes donated in 2001 (*Newsletter* 24, Nov. 2001) were sent in August.

For a full report, see the unadopted minutes of the AGM on our main website, www.qcoga.org.uk

JOINT DINNER-DANCE AND ANNUAL DINNER MAKE COMFORTABLE PROFIT

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of our Association and the Bishops' High School Alumni Association UK/Europe, a joint dinner-dance was held at the Grand Connaught Rooms, Holborn, London on 12 October. 70 persons attended, including members from other QC alumni associations/chapters who were also here for the ICQC Annual Business meeting (see p3). An overall profit of £1119, shared equally between BHSAA and ourselves, was realised. Special thanks go to VP **Derek Hugh** who was able to obtain the venue free of charge.



Photos courtesy Victor Moses and Lester Fernandes

Attendance at the Annual Dinner, held at the Bunga Raya Restaurant in Thornton Heath on 26th January, was almost back to the 2011 numbers with 56 attendees and an increased profit of £427. Comparable figures for the previous two dinners were 44 attendees and £323 profit in 2012, and 57/£401 in 2011. No dinner was held last year as the date would have been too close to the 25th anniversary dinner-dance. The next dinner will be back to its usual late November date this year. The restaurant provides excellent Malaysian cuisine (Sino-Indian) and you can eat as much as you like!

ICQC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The ABM held on 13 October was attended by delegates from Guyana, New York and Toronto. The following appointments were made:

President	– Mark Dalgety (ex officio as Chairman of host Association)
Executive Secretary	– Alfred Granger (New York)
Deputy Executive Secretary	– Gordon Wilson (New York)
Recording Secretary	– Victor Moses (Toronto)
Fund-raising Co-ordinator	– Eden Gajraj (Toronto).

SALVETE

We welcome **David R Blackman** (QC 76–79) and **Allison Lindner** (QC 91–98) and **Kenneth W McLean** (QC 81–84) to the Association, Kenneth as a life member; **John Jones-Alleyne** and **Phil MacInnes** have converted to life membership.

VALETE

We regret to announce the deaths of: **John Malcolm Agrippa** (QC 51–60), *b.* 28.6.41, *d.* 22.12.13; **Orin McKinley Austin** (QC 50–58), head boy 57–58, *b.* 5.11.38, *d.* 8.10.13; Association Life Member Dr **Laurence Clairmonte Clarke** (QC 62–69), *b.* 26.1.52, *d.* 11.2.14 in Mozambique (see Obituary below); **John D Dennison** (QC 58–67), Citizenship Judge in Ottawa, *d.* 14.1.14 in Ottawa; Association Life Member Dr **Amin Melville ('Mel') Gajraj** (QC 55–63), *d.* 29.1.14; **John Michael Gray** (QC late 40s–mid-50s), QC Troop Queen's Scout 1954, *b.* 26.2.37, *d.* 19.12.13 in Trinidad; **Terence Ormond (Terry) Holder** (QC 52–60), former Deputy General Manager, Guyana Telephone & Telegraph Company, *b.* 27.8.40, *d.* 8.1.14 in Georgetown; **James Elliott McTurk** (QC mid-50s/60s), mining engineer, *b.* 21.11.44, *d.* 13.1.14 in Gibsons, British Columbia; **Louis Narain** (QC c. 53–60), *d.* 23.12.13 in Guyana; **Hugh Alistair Roland Paul** (QC 51–58), tragically killed 12.11.13 in Georgetown.

To the bereaved relatives the Association extends its sincerest condolences.

The Association also extends its sympathy to the families of the late **Doreen Rosemary Roberts** (née **Dolphin** – sister of Lynette) who died on 5th November last age 92, **Cécile Elise Doreen Nobrega** (née **Burgan**) who died on 19th November age 94, and **Daphne Ryan** (née **McLean**) who died on 13th March after a long illness. Doreen was the widow of Association founder member Lloyd Roberts. Cécile, mother of Committee member Bruce, was well known in the Caribbean community, latterly with regard to her pet project the Bronze Woman statue erected in Stockwell Memorial Garden, South London. *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Telegraph* all carried obituaries. Doreen and Cécile were both Bishops' High School old girls. The Association was well represented at both funerals (some of our alumni even managed to join in the singing of the BHS school hymn at the gravesides). Daphne, alumna of St Rose's, was the sister of life member Peter.

OBITUARY

DR LAURENCE CLAIRMONTE CLARKE, BSocSc, BComm, MBA, PhD

Laurence Clarke, who died of pancreatic cancer in Maputo, Mozambique on 11th February, was one of QC's – and Guyana's – most distinguished sons, his career taking him to the senior echelons of the World Bank. In April 2011 Laurence had been promoted to Country Director for Mozambique, Angola and São Tomé & Príncipe (see *Newsletter* No 43, June 2011); he was due to retire at the end of January this year. He had been receiving treatment for his condition in Washington, but chose to return to Mozambique in January (presumably to effect an efficient handover), "[dragging] his frail body through an exhausting 4 day journey back to Africa" – the words of a colleague.

Laurence was born in Plaisance on 26th January 1952. He came from a humble background, but being a bright pupil gained admittance to Queen's in 1962 through his performance in the Common Entrance Examination – a whole year before his age group. At Queen's, Laurence shone in all areas of school activity. He was consistently at the top of his class in languages, track and field athletics champion in 1968 (under 17) and 1969 (senior), triple jump record holder in both divisions, a top table-tennis player, member of the Wight Cup cricket XI, and the school's Sportsman of the Year for 1968–69. Between 1966 and 1968 he was editor of the school's newspaper (*The Lictor*) and magazine, and in his final year Captain of Austin ('C') House and a sergeant in the Cadet Corps. As expected he passed his 'O' and 'A' levels with flying colours. Few, if any, will have equalled his range of achievements at Queen's.

After leaving school, Laurence worked in local banking, becoming the youngest Deputy General Manager of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank. During this period he secured his first two bachelor's degrees at the University of Guyana (Economics 1974 and Business 1975) and an MBA in Finance from the University of Windsor, Canada (1976). He later became a Fellow of the UK Chartered Institute of Bankers (1982), and gained a PhD in Monetary Economics from the University of the West Indies (1986).

In 1978 Laurence joined the World Bank's Young Professional Program, initially as a Financial Analyst based in Washington, moving up to Senior Investment Officer. During this period he founded the World Bank–IMF Staff Caribbean Association – still in existence – and was a founder member (1984) of the QC Alumni Association of Washington – the first overseas alumni association, now sadly defunct. He also began writing his *magnum opus*, finally published in time for the school's 1994 sesquicentennial celebrations: *Queen's College of Guyana – Records of a Tradition of Excellence (1844–1994)*. Laurence kindly donated to our Association the proceeds from the sale of his book in the UK, and was accordingly made a Life Member of the Association. (It was during the 90s that I first met Laurence, and would teasingly ask him how many third-world economies he'd managed to destabilise – which, needless to say, he took in good humour.)

Between 1991 and 1998 he was seconded to the IMF Technical Assistance Program, initially as Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Botswana, and from 1995 as Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies at UWI, Trinidad. There he worked closely with eight central banks of the Caribbean (including the Bank of Guyana) in research and training in the field of monetary economics and finance.

In 1998 Laurence returned to the World Bank, subsequently serving as Resident Representative and Country Manager in Zambia, and then in Angola where in 2002 he helped establish a post-conflict reconstruction programme. In 2006, at the behest of Africa's first democratically elected female head of state, Liberia's Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, he was seconded to that country as her Economic Advisor. He returned to the Bank in 2008 and was posted to Juba, where he helped oversee South Sudan's path to self-determination.

From the fulsome tributes paid to Laurence by his former colleagues at the World Bank, it is clear that he was highly regarded, particularly for his "personal warmth, professionalism, passion and humour" (the words of a World Bank Vice-President).

Laurence's funeral service was held in the village of his birth, Plaisance, on 26th February, at which the Association was represented by Management Committee Chairman Mark Dalgety who was in Guyana at the time. A World Bank Memorial Service was held at their headquarters in Washington on 16th March.

Laurence is survived by his wife Ingrid, son Ayinde, and daughter Tawina who was with him in Maputo at the end.

Ian Wishart

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ALUMNUS

A J SEYMOUR

Arthur James Seymour was born on 12th January 1914. The leading literary figure in Guyana from 1945 to 1989, he was honoured in January this year in Georgetown by being the first person admitted to the National Hall of Fame, by a poetry reading at the Theatre Guild Playhouse and by the intention of the Caribbean Press to republish the first thirteen issues of *Kyk-Over-Al*. As Ian McDonald writes in his Introduction to Seymour's *Collected Poems*:

It has to be remembered – especially by those who think of him first as a poet – that AJS made an incalculable impact on life and letters in Guyana simply by his active presence and leading role in the country's cultural and educational life.

In 1933 Seymour entered the Civil Service as an unpaid volunteer (unpaid internships are not recent) before joining the Bureau of Publicity and Information. By 1954 he was head of the Government Information Services. He was Information and Cultural Collaboration Officer of the Caribbean Organisation in Puerto Rico from 1962 to 1964. He then worked for the Demerara Bauxite Company until 1971, rejoining the Civil Service as Deputy Chairman of the Department of Culture and Director of Creative Writing, before retiring in 1973. In 1972 he served as Literary Co-ordinator for the first Caribbean Festival of Arts, held in Guyana.

Seymour's first collection of poetry appeared in 1937, but not in a vacuum. Norman Cameron in 1930 formed the British Guiana Literary Society, whose members included Edgar Mittelholzer, Peter Ruhomon and E R Burrowes. In 1931 Cameron had edited *Guianese Poetry (Covering the Hundred Years' Period 1831–1931)*; C E J Ramcharitar-Lalla had published *An Anthology of Local Indian Verse* in 1934; and P H Daly's *Story of the Heroes* (3 vols, 1940/41/43) was the predecessor to Arthur and Elma Seymour's *Dictionary of Guyanese Biography* (2 vols, 1985/6). Cameron contributed several articles to early editions of *Kyk-Over-Al*.

His second collection followed in 1940, and the third, *Over Guiana, Clouds*, in 1944. His fourth, in 1945, included 'The Legend of Kaieteur' (later set to music by Philip Pilgrim).

In 1945 Seymour founded *Kyk-Over-Al*. It survived until 1961: its earliest issues contained some of the earliest works of Wilson Harris, Martin Carter and Roy Heath. Women were not left out: in 1948 there was an article by Rajkumari Singh on theatre, and, in 1951, one by Lilian Dewar on the novel. Nor was it exclusively Guyanese: Canon Ramkessoon wrote in 1952 about C L R James, and work by Aimée Césaire, Derek Walcott and Kamau Brathwaite appeared. In 1984, assisted by Ian McDonald, he revived *Kyk-Over-Al* (which has died again, though not from lack of quality). Number 41 was a joint issue with another pioneering journal *Bim*, founded in 1942 by Barbadian Frank Collymore.

Special issues were *An Anthology of Guianese Poetry* (1954), *An Anthology of West Indian Poetry* (1952, with another in 1957 without the indefinite article). *A Treasury of Guyanese Poetry* appeared in 1980, but his most significant anthology was *New Writing in the Caribbean* (Georgetown: National History and Arts Council, 1972), an outcome of Carifesta.

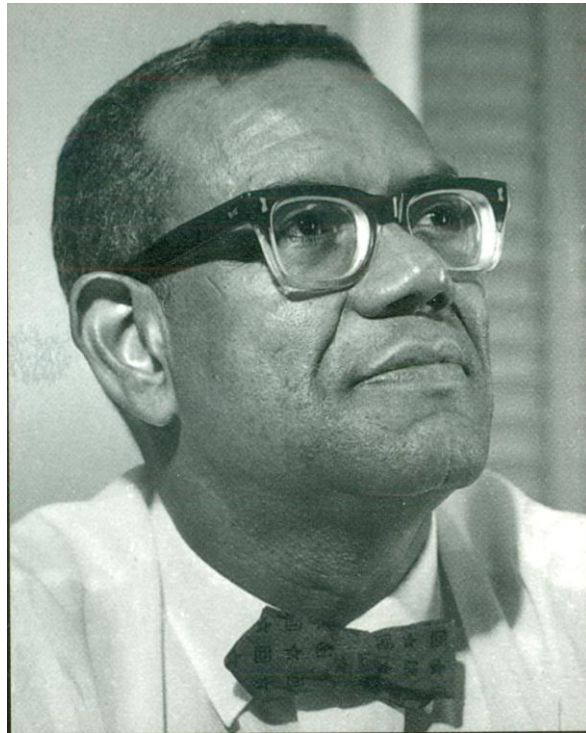
The definitive *Collected Poems, 1937–1989*, edited by Ian McDonald and Jacqueline de Weever (New York Blue Parrot Press) was published in 2000. For it Nesha Haniff had collected manuscript and typewritten unpublished poems (her work, as AJ, editor and believer in good manners would have insisted, deserves to appear on the title page, not merely in the acknowledgements, as it is *that* work that makes definitive editions). Seymour was a good poet, but a better editor as well as a substantial Caribbean one. As he did not enter Queen's until he was fourteen, his other almae matres the Collegiate School and the Guianese Academy should share some credit with QC for his achievements. He died on Christmas Day 1989.

Peter Fraser

FROM ALMA MATER

(The last verse of **Seymour's** reminiscence of his school days at Queen's)

And masters thawing; seated in the Sixth
Working in earnest for now days are few.
Athletic, House and Prefect's duties mixed
And sometimes nearly fifty things to do.
And then the last House Feed, the last Speech Day,
The last exam, the Head now told goodbye,
And walking sadly on the field of play
For the last time, and wondering where would lie
The years to shape me quite as much as these
On which the door had closed, and is as men
Back to the shadows of the towering trees
The years would bring the scattered Form again.



CONGRATULATIONS/THANKS TO

Clairmonte Taitt (QC 1940s) on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Earl Warren Foundation Trust, Barbados, for his contribution to the theatre in that country;

Members **Esmond Fernandes**, **Peter Fraser**, (President) **Neville Linton** and **Fred Weston**, and supporter **Esther Persaud**, for their donations to the Association.

MANDELA: THE CARIBBEAN CONNECTION

*The article below is a shortened version of that by Association Life Member Sir **Ron Sanders** which appeared in Cyril Bryan's On-line Newsletter of 17th December. It is written with Ron's kind permission. (Ron's opening tribute to the great man has been omitted as similar sentiments have already been widely expressed in the world's media, and need no repetition.)*

The purpose of this commentary is to recall the role played by Caribbean people in freeing Nelson Mandela and ending apartheid.

None in the Caribbean played bigger roles than the Cubans and Fidel Castro. Much Cuban blood was spilled and hundreds of Cubans were buried in Angola over a 13-year period in a war against South African forces for the liberation of southern Africa. Mandela did not forget that sacrifice.

Other Caribbean leaders played important roles too. Despite the antagonism of the US government, which then stood beside the apartheid regime, Errol Barrow and Forbes Burnham, in the mid-1970s allowed Cuban planes transporting military advisers and equipment to be refuelled at the airports in Barbados and Guyana. Also, financial support was given to the ANC by Guyana and Jamaica, under Burnham and Michael Manley, whilst Antigua under V C Bird Snr. gave passports to ANC exiles who were deprived of travel documents.

Long before this – in the 1950s – British Caribbean colonies had boycotted the importation of South African products in protest against apartheid.

The sporting boycott of South Africa initiated in 1977 by the Commonwealth Heads of Government was one of the sanctions that helped to end apartheid. Instrumental in this was Michael Manley, with support from [Association Vice-President] Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Between 1982 and 1984, South Africa, in an attempt to break the sporting ban, lured cricketers, including some West Indians who went without the consent of their cricketing authorities, to play there. However those South Africa most wanted to parade, among them Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards, Joel Garner and Courtney Walsh, stood firm in their solidarity with the oppressed in South Africa.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 1985 in Nassau was the turning point in the Commonwealth's struggle with Margaret Thatcher in her obdurate opposition to sanctions. Bahamas Prime Minister Lyndon Pindling, as chair, steered the meeting to that end. It was sanctions, started by the Commonwealth and pushed into the UN that eventually crippled the apartheid regime, drying up loans from the international market and deterring investment.

The meeting also established the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) mandated to promote a dialogue for establishing a genuine non-racial democracy in South Africa. At Ramphal's suggestion, Dame Nita Barrow of Barbados became the Commonwealth Caribbean's nominee on the EPG, and would be the first West Indian to visit Mandela – in prison*. A vital member of the Group, she was the first among them to enter Soweto, dressed as a local woman accompanying Winnie Mandela. The EPG's report, *Mission to South Africa*, became the catalyst for sanctions, and produced a negotiating concept to which the regime turned in the end to surrender its apartheid apparatus, and release Mandela.

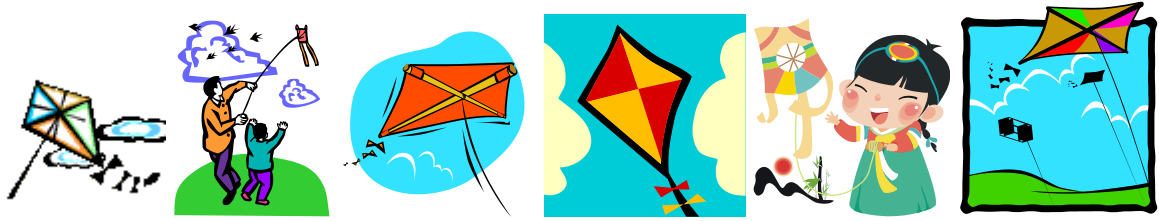
During his tenure as Commonwealth Secretary-General, Ramphal's efforts to end apartheid and secure Mandela's release entailed constant mobilisation of Commonwealth governments and contacts with leaders in Europe, Asia and even Washington to bolster the crusade of front-line African states. At times he even used conduits in the religious community to get messages to Mandela in prison.

Mandela never forgot that tireless and determined work, and later fulsomely acknowledged the Commonwealth Caribbean's special solidarity – support of which he was well aware despite the prison bars that confined him – when receiving an honorary degree from the University of the West Indies in 1991.

In memorialising Mandela, Caribbean people can proudly say that they stood with him in the time of the great struggle against apartheid – and he showed his appreciation.

*Mandela had by then been moved from Robben Island to Pollsmoor maximum security prison near Cape Town.

KITE FLYING IN GUYANA



The following text was uploaded from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kite_flying on 13 April 2014:

In [Guyana](#), kites are flown at Easter, an activity in which all ethnic and religious groups participate. Kites are generally not flown at any other time of year. Kites start appearing in the sky in the weeks leading up to Easter and school children are taken to parks for the activity. It all culminates in a massive airborne celebration on Easter Monday especially in Georgetown, the capital, and other coastal areas. The history of the practice is not entirely clear but given that Easter is a Christian festival, it is said that kite flying is symbolic of the Risen Lord. Moore^[35] describes the phenomenon in the 19th century as follows:

A very popular Creole pastime was the flying of kites. Easter Monday, a public holiday, was the great kite-flying day on the sea wall in Georgetown and on open lands in villages. Young and old alike, male and female, appeared to be seized by kite-flying mania. Easter 1885 serves as a good example. "The appearance of the sky all over Georgetown, but especially towards the Sea Wall, was very striking, the air being thick with kites of all shapes and sizes, covered with gaily coloured paper, all riding bravely on the strong wind"

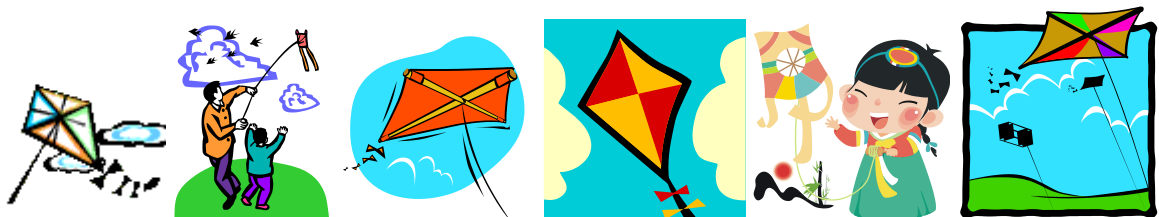
(His quotation is from a letter to The Creole newspaper of December 29, 1858). The exact origins of the practice of kite flying (exclusively) at Easter are unclear. Brereton and Yelvington^[36] speculate that kite flying was introduced by Chinese indentured immigrants to the then colony of British Guiana in the mid-19th century. The author of an article in the *Guyana Chronicle* newspaper of May 6, 2007 is more certain:

Kite flying originated as a Chinese tradition to mark the beginning of spring. However, because the plantation owners were suspicious of the planter class (read "plantation workers"), the Chinese claimed that it represented the resurrection of [Jesus Christ](#). It was a clever argument, as at that time, Christians celebrated Easter to the glory of the risen Christ. The Chinese came to Guyana from 1853-1879.^[37]

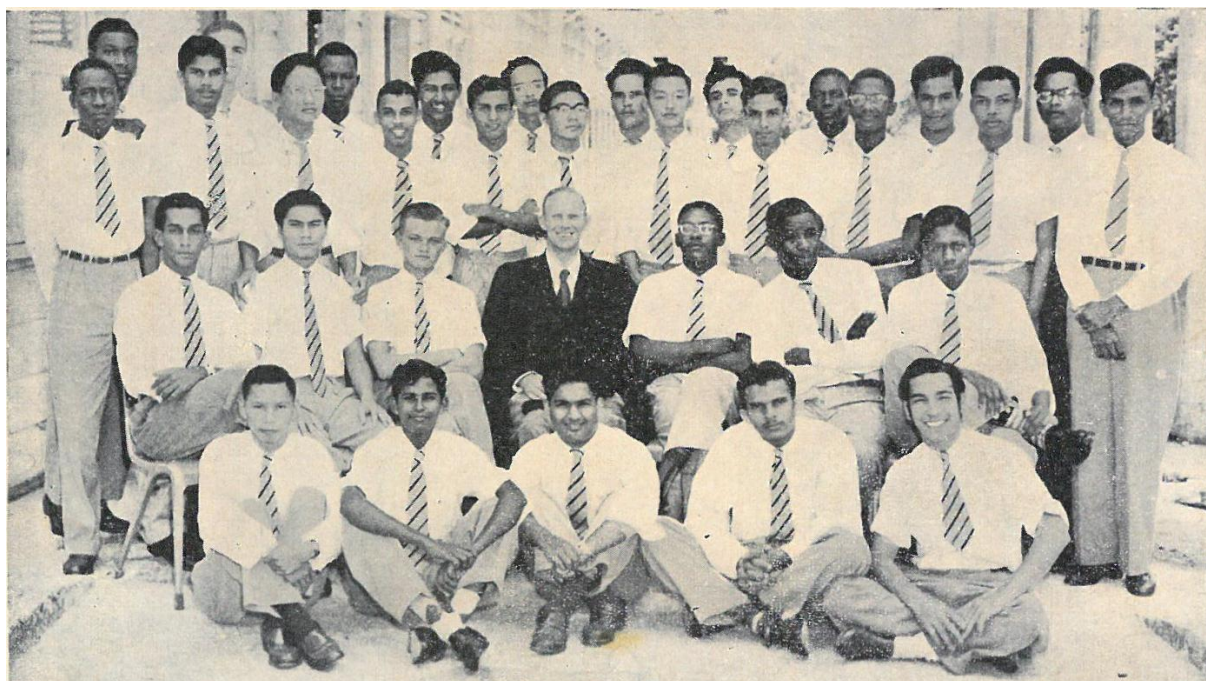
^[35] Moore, Brian L. (1995). *Cultural Power, Resistance, and Pluralism: Colonial Guyana 1838-1900*. McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP, ISBN 978-0-7735-1354-9

^[36] Brereton, Bridget; Yelvington, Kevin A. (1999). *The Colonial Caribbean in Transition*. University Press of Florida, [ISBN 978-0-8130-1696-2](#)

^[37] ^[dead link] *Guyana Chronicle*.



QC PREFECTS 1953-54



L-R

Back row: K R Adams (B), R A Collins (E), N C Phillips (D), C A Roberts (C), R E A Lam (F), B B Hope (F),
L A L Fernandes (C), O Persaud (B), P J Ramphal (C), S R Insanally (D), B C Tang (B),
E N Rickford (C), V E A Chin (A), C A Mekdeci (A), C A John (E), V F van Nooten (E),
C E Seaforth (D), J W Holder (E), D A Trotman (D), H A Sukhdeo (D), H Searwar (F)

Middle row (Heads of Houses): N A McConnell (A), M A Lee (C), C I C Wishart (B, Head Prefect), V J Sanger-Davies
(Headmaster), K E D Potter (D, Deputy Head Prefect), A P Abrams (E), G D Nicholson (F)

Front row: H V S Ho-A-Shu (C), J M Ragnauth (C), M N H Mohamdee (E), L H R Folkard (B), J A Singh (D)

Absent: L A R Banarsee (F) and R N V S Misir (A)

ATHLETES 1953-54



Standing, L-R: R A Willock, G M Baker, T E E Matthews, H A D Chesney, R B Fields, D O Niles, J W Holder

Sitting, L-R: B B Hope (Capt), E N Rickford, J Chow, P H Kaufmann, D A Trotman

FAMILY BARBECUE / SUMMER REUNION



Photo courtesy Anthony Wishart

A section of the gathering at last year's BBQ

MORE HEADLINES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Courtesy of Allan Lee, Toronto

(These are actual headlines scanned from various newspapers)

Worker suffers leg pain after crane drops 800 lb bomb on his head
City unsure why sewer smells
Study shows frequent sex enhances pregnancy chances
Federal agents raid gun shop, find weapons
Statistics show that teenage pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25
Barbershop singers bring joy to school for deaf
Homicide victims rarely talk to police
Starvation can lead to health hazards
Total lunar eclipse will be broadcast live on Northwoods Public Radio
Miracle cure kills fifth patient

Information Release



Held every 5 years in Guyana!

Here is an opportunity to do it again or make up, celebrate the 170th Anniversary of QC, and to meet and mingle with old class and school mates.

Date	Event	Comments
Sun Oct 26	Registration & BBQ	BBQ hosted by the Guyana alumni chapter (QCOSA).
Mon Oct 27	General Assembly	QC Cleanup activity under consideration
Tue Oct 28	Evening cocktail & social	QC Cleanup activity under consideration
Wed Oct 29	Day Trip	Points of Interest to be identified
Thu Oct 30	Annual Business Meeting (ABM)	- Each Chapter to provide 2 delegates but any alumnus/a can attend. - All can contribute but only delegates can vote. - Non-affiliated alumni can appoint 2 delegates for that group.
Fri Oct 31	Party or Dinner & Dance	TBD
Other events may be added as plans develop		

Don't wait for another 5 years!

DIARY DATES

SUN 27 APR	BRUNCH	The Bedford pub, Balham
SUN 20 JULY	FAMILY BARBECUE	St John's Nature Garden, Clapham
SUN 24 AUG	CARNIVAL FETE	Club Jasmins, Tooting
SAT 22 NOV	AGM	High Commission
SUN 30 NOV	ANNUAL DINNER	Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath

WEBSITES

UK Association:	www.qcoga.org.uk and www.qcsponsorshipprogramme.com
High Commission:	www.guyanahclondon.co.uk
New York Association:	www.qcguyanaalumny.org
South Florida Association:	www.qcalumnifl.org
Toronto Association:	www.qcalumnitoronto.com
QC Magazine archive:	www.geocities.com/qcmagazine/index.html

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