



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

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

No. 41

ANNUAL SUMMER REUNION: GARDEN PARTY—BARBECUE—DISCO

at St John's Nature Garden, 386 Clapham Road SW9

Sunday 18th 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)

ASSOCIATION DONATES FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF CLASSROOM FURNITURE

The Association recently donated £8695 to QC, through QCOSA, for the purchase of chair-desk combinations. This brings the cumulative value of our donations to the school, in cash and kind, to over £118,000.

QC BRUNCH

As Alex Ferguson said, sometimes you need to 'freshen things up'. Committee member Rod Westmaas proposed that the UK Association hold a 'brunch' this year – the very first 'QC Brunch' having being held by the Florida Association in 2001 – with the intention that all of the Alumni Associations across the world would hold a brunch on the same day, June 6th. Our event took place at the well known Bedford Pub in Balham, South London, and was attended by around 100 guests. The basic idea was that most of the food and non-alcoholic beverages would be made by members of the Association, thereby keeping costs down, while the pub would run the licensed bar. While there were a few teething problems, the event raised over £1,000 for the Association's funds. All thanks must go to Rod, who organised virtually everything for the event, with some essential assistance from Mark Dalgety.



SALVETE

We welcome to the Association **John W Jones-Alleyne** (QC 78–83) – inadvertently omitted from our previous issue. John has been co-opted onto the Committee.

VALETE

We regret to announce the deaths of: **Brian Anderson** (QC 63–68) *d.* 5.12.09 in Washington, DC; life member **Robert William ('Bob') Batchelor** (formerly **Skinner**, QC student 40–46, art master 53–54), *b.* 3.2.29, *d.* 15.4.10 10 (see obituary below); **Winston Orlando DeBarros** (QC 70–75), *d.* 8.10.09 age 50 in New York; ex-member **James Leslie Hicks Eytle** (QC 34–39, a former mayor of Lewisham), *d.* 8.3.10; **Patrick ('Bobby') Fredericks** (QC c. 70s–80s), *d.* Feb 2010 in Guyana; **Bertram Albert Ho** (QC 50–59), *d.* 11.1.10 age 70 in Toronto; **Claude E Yhap** (QC 46/7–52), *d.* 15.1.10 age 77 in Toronto.

To the bereaved relatives, the Association extends its sincerest condolences.

We also extend our condolences to Clarence Trotz, and family, on the death of his wife Jocelyn on 1.4.10 in Canada, and to Peter Fraser and his sisters Carol and Diane, and their families, on the death of their mother Enid on 30.5.10. Clarence was a former student and headmaster of Queen's, and one of our Vice-Presidents when he lived in England; he was latterly President of QCOSA (Guyana). Committee member Peter, is a former Chairman of the Association; Carol and Diane serve on the Bishops' High School Alumni Association committee.

BOB BATCHELOR

Described in his obituary in the *Glasgow Herald* as a charismatic Guyanese artist, Bob Batchelor who died in April at the age of 81 was a life member of the Association. The son of an Aberdeen-born marine engineer Charles Skinner and Guyanese Marie Batchelor, Bob won a scholarship to Queen's in 1940, and left in 1946 to study drawing and painting at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen. At Queen's he was known by his father's name, but reverted to his mother's when he went to Scotland. After graduating in 1950, he underwent a teacher training course, returning to Guyana in 1953 as Art Master at Queen's. He returned the following year to North East Scotland, where he was to spend the rest of his life. He taught Art at various schools, spending 20 years as Principal Teacher of Art at Aberdeen Girls' High School (now the Harlaw Academy).

Andy Dewar, President of the Aberdeen Artists' Society writes:

In the last few days, in preparing for the 2010 AAS Annual Exhibition (so often graced by Bob's excellent work) the Society has been saddened by the news of his death. Bob Batchelor was a well known figure in the North East art scene, whose work featured in many exhibitions, not only in the NE but throughout the UK and in many international venues. His work is also in many public and private collections.

A charming man, an enthusiastic, gifted artist and an eloquent, inspiring communicator, Bob loved to 'talk art'. He produced many superb, vibrant and exciting works in a range of media, and was particularly well known for his sensitively printed screen-prints and rich watercolours. Bob experimented with various screen-printing techniques, and in the 1980's mastered the skills of using beautiful thin washes within his prints. Many of the print editions he produced in that period were groundbreaking in terms of what could be achieved from the medium of screen-printing. His printing skills were developed from his first days as a founder member of Peacock Printmakers (now Peacock Visual Arts) in Aberdeen.

Flowers formed Bob's main subject matter. He was a passionate gardener, and his love of the form and colour of flowers shines through his work. He latterly worked mainly in watercolours.

The richness of expression in Bob's work lays testament to a childhood spent in the tropics, and the fulness of colour within his works livened the rather cold muted colours of our northern climate.

Bob contributed greatly to the Society having been President (1989–91 and 1999–2000), and also served on Selection and Hanging Committees on many occasions through the years.

[Printed with his kind permission]

Bob, who was divorced from his wife Dorothy, is survived by their daughters Sheila and Morag, four grandchildren and partner Catherine.



Photo courtesy Sheila Batchelor

DONATIONS

Our grateful thanks go to **the family of Bob Batchelor** (*see above*). A collection was taken at his funeral in aid of Queen's College, which raised around £400 to be directed to the art department in his memory.

We also thank **Arif Ali** (Hansib Publications), **Juanita Cox** and **Jeremy Poynting** (Peepal Tree Press) for their kind donations.

WALTER RODNEY ANNIVERSARY & MEMORIAL

This month marks the 30th anniversary of the death of alumnus Walter Rodney (QC 1953-1960, see article in Newsletter No.32, December 2005). The QC Reunion which was held in Guyana in 2009 made a donation of \$100,000 to help with the refurbishing of the Walter Rodney Memorial, which is located in Hadfield St., in front of the Smith's Church School (shown below). The enhancement includes the lights, the palms & seats.

The NY QC Alumni Chapter organized a commemorative symposium in New York City on Saturday June 12th. Commemorative events were also held in Guyana and London.



Photo courtesy Vic Insanally

CONGRATULATIONS

To High Commissioner and honorary member HE **Laleshwar Singh**, CCH, on being granted the *Diplomat* foreign affairs magazine's award for "Distinguished Contribution to Diplomacy". Prior to presenting the award, which was accepted on High Commissioner's behalf by acting HC Ms Marion Herbert (HC was on vacation), the host of the magazine's annual event, Lord (Digby) Jones, noted that there was no dissension among the members of the selection panel when HC Singh was nominated. (Lord Jones is a former Director General of the Confederation of British Industry and Minister of State for Trade & Industry.)

To Bishops' High School Alumni Association Toronto on being selected to receive the Guyana Award for Community Service (granted by an organisation of that name).

To Hon. Treasurer **Praveen Hanoman** on his forthcoming marriage.

To Committee member **Rod Westmaas** on securing his MBA and on his forthcoming marriage.

HISTORY CORNER

THE FIRST ACCIDENT

(From *Railways in British Guiana. Some Historical Notes*¹

by Sydney H Bayley, Managing Director Colonial Transport Dept. 1926)

On Monday 24th January 1848 a distressing accident took place. It appears that the Directors, accompanied by some prominent citizens, were taken on an inspection tour of the newly-laid line, and as no carriages had yet arrived in the colony, chairs were placed in two goods wagons to accommodate some 40 persons. As the line had not reached a point at which a siding or loop was to be constructed, it was necessary on the return journey to push the wagons in front of the engine, a practice known to be dangerous, and for that reason the train was proceeding at an extremely slow pace, when approaching Main (High) Street level crossing [at which] crowds of people were gathered on either side of the line. From among the crowd a cow suddenly appeared, got on the line in front of the leading wagon, was knocked down and run over, derailing both the leading and following wagon. Some persons jumped and others were thrown out by the concussion, and Mr Alex Wishart², as also an employee of the Company named Butcher, fell on the line and were run over by the locomotive³, which was brought to a standstill before more than the leading wheels had passed over them. Both men were so seriously injured that death took place within a few hours.

Mr Wishart (the grandfather of the present Georgetown Municipal Officer of Health) was a member of the College of Electors or Keizers, and was described in the press as one of the most popular men in the colony; his funeral was stated to have provided the largest assembly of persons ever seen in Georgetown.

¹ The Demerara Railway was the first to be built in South America.

² The following QC alumni are descended from Alexander Wishart (a native of Kintore in Aberdeenshire): grandsons (Dr) William deW and Reginald F Wishart; great-grandsons Carl C, W Raymond, Kenneth L and Reginald M Wishart; great-great grandsons C Ian C, C Robin G, K Michael G and K A Stuart Wishart, and (Dr) Wendell A Wilson; and great-great-great granddaughter (Dr) Kibileri Williams.

³ According to the testimony of Hon. Peter Rose and others at the inquest, the wheels of the engine's tender had to be jacked up in order to release Wishart.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S FILE

"I very much fear that I shall not manage to make the [inaugural] meeting on 3 June [1988], as I am now a great age(!) & only travel short distances from my home near Banbury.

"But please give my very best wishes to all who attend and tell them that I heartily approve of the formation of the Q.C. Association & wish it the best of luck.

[sgd] "Joe Sanger-Davies."

(Mr Sanger-Davies was subsequently elected a Vice-President of the Association.)

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).

TUTORIAL STAFF 1953-54



Sitting (L to R): J. J. Niles, J. A. Ramsarran, E. O. Pilgrim, H.A. M. Beckles (Deputy Principal), V. J. Sanger-Davies (Principal), N.E. Cameron, K. N. Maudsley, C. E. Barker, L. De. W. Dolphin.

Standing (L to R): J. A. D'Oliveira, J. N. Chung, C. A. Yansen, G. E. T. Moore, R. M. Jonas, S. E. Wilson, B. A. Eyre, R. D. Rock, H. S. Irwin, E. W. London, M. J. Pedersen, C. I. Drayton, G. H. Narayan, H. R. Persaud, E. A. Wason, E. R. Burrowes, E. L. Archer

DUMBING DOWN, OR THE EVOLUTION OF MATHEMATICS AS TAUGHT IN THE US (AND POSSIBLY THE UK)

Test paper 1960s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price. What is his profit?

Test paper 1970s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price or \$80. What is his profit?

Test paper 1980s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80. Did he make a profit?

Test paper 1990s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: underline the number 20.

Test paper 2000s:

A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and inconsiderate and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or the preservation of our woodland. He does this so he can make a profit of \$20. What do you think of his way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: how did the birds and the squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers, and if you feel like crying it's ok.)

[Once again, our thanks to alumnus Allan Lee for the above contribution].

POINTS TO PONDER

“No tribe, however primitive in its social arrangements, lacks a distinct and distinguishable language of great complexity and subtlety.” — Robert Burchfield in *The English Language* [OUP].

“He who would put security before liberty deserves neither.” — Benjamin Franklin.

“He who has not endured the stress of study will not taste the joy of knowledge.” — Abd al-Latif (Baghdad scholar 1162/3–1231, quoted in *A History of the Arab Peoples* by Albert Hourani [Folio]).

USEFUL WEBSITES

UK Association:	qcoga.org.uk
Guyana Association:	www.qcosa.org.gy
Florida Association:	www.qcalumnifl.org
New York Association:	www.qcguyanaalumny.org
Toronto Association:	www.qcalumnitoronto.com
ICQC:	www.icqconline.com
QC magazines archive:	www.geocities.com/qcmagazine/index.html
High Commission (London):	www.guyanahc.com
QC Guyana Facebook:	www.facebook.com/pages/Queens-College-Old-Students-Association/107462024045?ref=ts
Guyanese Association of Barbados Inc (G.A.B.I.)	http://gabibarbados.wordpress.com/
Recipes from Guyana and the Caribbean	http://www.guyanaoutpost.com/recipes/recipes.shtml

BRUNCH (AGAIN)

The photo on the front page showed some of the guests at our Brunch. Below we see organiser Rod Westmaas (in beret) and an assistant getting the food ready earlier in the day.



Brunch photos courtesy Christopher Chunnillall

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

<http://qcoga.org.uk/> Here you can find information about our Association and its events, links to other alumni association websites, archives of news items about QC and alumni, newsletters and obituaries, and links to websites of interest to the Guyanese community.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

<i>Chairman:</i>	(Dr) Christopher J Chunnillall (chris.chunnillall@npl.co.uk) (W) 020 8943 6872, (M) 07952 188799, (H) 020 8943 3119
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>	C Ian C Wishart (wishartian1@yahoo.co.uk) 2 Prince Consort Drive, CHISLEHURST, Kent BR7 5SB; (H) 020 8467 4028
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>	Praveen D Hanoman (pdhanoman@yahoo.com) (M) 07866 635 918 (Mrs) E Claire Carballo (eccarballo@aol.com) (H) 020 8883 2157 S Mark D Dalgety (mark@dalgety.net) (M) 07956 451135 Bruce M Nóbrega (brucybaby75@hotmail.com) (M) 07906 042160 Leila D Persaud (leila.persaud@which.net) (M) 07932 951706
<i>Co-opted:</i>	J Mark Adamson (H) 020 7274 8380 (Dr) Peter D Fraser (pd_fraser@yahoo.com) (H) 020 8743 7370, (M) 07956 245254 John W Jones-Alleyne, jonjonesalleyne@aol.com, (M) 07946 878597 Roderick Westmaas (rawestmaas@googlemail.com) (M) 07949 305962

DIARY DATES 2010

17 JULY	BHSA day trip to Lincoln, £25, contact Claire Carballo, 020 8883 2157
18 JULY	SUMMER REUNION , usual venue
29 AUG	QCA–BHSA CARNIVAL FÊTE at the Bernie Grant Centre, Tottenham (provisional)
4 SEPT	St Rose's Alumni annual lunch, Vincent House, W2, £20 (contact Ian Wishart)
23 OCT	CULTURAL EVENING (to be confirmed)
13 NOV	AGM (date to be confirmed)
28 NOV	ANNUAL DINNER , Bunga Raya Restaurant, Thornton Heath
5 DEC	BHSA ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING, Wesley's Chapel, City Road, EC1, 3pm