



The Jamaican High Commission London - Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM H.E. SETH GEORGE RAMOCAN CD HIGH COMMISSIONER



This Diamond Jubilee year is full of new hopes and dreams. After two years of battling and coping with the disruption to our lives caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, we are now moving towards normality, as we learn to live with the virus.

Jamaica at 60 is indeed an important milestone; it signals that our country is approaching a new stage of maturity. It is a chance to officially take pride in all of our accomplishments and while acknowledging the demanding road still ahead of us as a people and a country.

We can rejoice in our achievements and make plans to recommit ourselves to working together so that our island home achieves its vision 2030 strategic development goal of making: "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business."

Inside this issue of the newsletter will feature our calendar of events for Jamaica60. There is also information from the Consular Department. We continue to be very busy. The demand for consular services remains very high, so I continue to ask for your patience and remind you to visit our website for information and guidelines on all of our services.

We all look forward to celebrating Jamaica60th re-igniting our nation for greatness.

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2022. As you all know, this is a very special year for Jamaica and Jamaicans around the world, as it marks 60 years since Jamaica became an independent nation.

JAMAICA60 UK CELEBRATIONS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

The celebration of Jamaica Diamond Jubilee had its official launch at a church service on April 24th at the New Testament Church of God in Birmingham. A media launch was held at White City House in London on April 25th. Both events were held in the presence of the Hon. Edmund Bartlett CD, MP, Minister of Tourism and the Hon. Olivia Grange CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

A series of activities will be staged across the UK in the next few months in celebration of Jamaica's 60th anniversary of Independence.

Many of the activities have been planned to coincide with the staging of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England at which Jamaican athletes will be among the main attractions.

The global celebration of Jamaica 60 is being held under the theme 'Re-igniting a Nation for Greatness'.

You can watch both events on the Jamaica Information Service YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WatchJIS/videos>

REGGAE MONTH

“Celebrating 60 Years of Jamaican Music”, was the theme of the High Commission’s celebration of reggae month. The event, a Virtual Reggae Dance Party on Friday, 11th February 2022, kicked off the celebration of Jamaica’s 60th anniversary of independence.

It featured Sound systems Nzinga Sounds with Lynda Patten and June Reid and DJ Wayne Smooth. Nearly one thousand people from across the UK, Jamaica, USA, Canada and France tuned in to the event. Special thanks to our sponsors Victoria Mutual, Port Royal Patties and Grace Foods UK.



RIDDIM MOVES: REGGAE/DANCEHALL EXPRESSION IN BRITAIN

The High Commission hosted Riddim Moves: Reggae/ Dancehall Expression in Britain, a presentation by Dr ‘H’ Patten, choreographer, dancer and ISRF Independent Fellow, which featured dance performances by Adrian Ashdon “CrazyLegz” Smith and Verona “Ignitiondance” Patterson, as well as an introduction to Sound System Culture by Professor Julian Henriques.

increasing popularity and use of contemporary urban reggae/dancehall culture globally, both the dance and the sound system culture it emerges from have not gained the recognition they deserve. The event was supported the launch of Dr ‘H’ Patten’s new book, Reading Religion and Spirituality in Jamaican Reggae Dancehall Dance: Spirit Bodies Moving.

Dr. H argues that Reggae/dancehall’s presentation as a vibrant cultural expression is often misunderstood and dismissed as being vulgar and violent. Despite the

The event is supported was the Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF), Goldsmiths, University of London and IRIE! dance theatre.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON
CELEBRATES
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
“BREAK THE BIAS: Post-Independence
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN JAMAICA”

Keynote Speaker
PROFESSOR DONNA P. HOPE, PHD
Professor of Culture, Gender and Society,
University of the West Indies, Mona Campus

Presentation - Women's Financial Independence
MS. MARSHA CLARKE
Operations Officer
Victoria Mutual Group

MARCH 8, 2022
6:00 PM - 8:15 PM (UK)
1:00 PM - 3:15 PM (JAMAICA)

ONLINE:
YOUTUBE
Jamaican High Commission, London

The Jamaican High Commission hosted a virtual celebration of International Women’s Day on Tuesday 8th March 2022, under the Theme: “Break the Bias: Post-Independence Advancement of Women in Jamaica”.

The Keynote Speaker was Professor Donna P. Hope PHD, Professor of Culture, Gender and Society, Institute of Caribbean Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Education, University of the West Indies, Mona.

There was also a Presentation on Women’s Financial Independence by Miss Marsha Clarke – Operations Officer Victoria Mutual Group.

You can view the event on the High Commission’s YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL9xf4xRfn164FIbYQHJKag>

JAMAICA60 UK LAUNCH PHOTOS



REFLECTIONS ON JAMAICA'S INDEPENDENCE: 1962

BY CAROLE FRANCIS-MCGANN

CHAIR ST ANN SOCIETY GLOUCESTER

In 1961 as a student at the Kingston technical High school in Kingston, Jamaica, I can't recall paying very much attention to National plans proposed for the following year: namely that of Jamaica becoming an independent nation within the then British commonwealth .

It was not until my activities as a girl guide led me to inclusion in, and preparations for, a variety of functions at my school as well as in the newly built National Stadium where a grand Independence pageant to be held in the presence of HRH the Princess Margaret (representing HM the Queen) was to mark the official opening of the Independence celebrations, and lastly as part of a guard of honour for HRH Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon at an independence banquet held at Kings House, that I became increasingly aware of the momentous event that would take place in August 1962.

Now 60 years later, my memories of that week of celebrations and the changes which would follow in my beloved island, are very mixed. There is certainly pride in the way Jamaica achieved its Independence particularly in the fact that our Nation was born not as a result of bloody warfare or a military coup but as a result of a carefully thought out and well-planned programme of democratic progression agreed on by both political parties who then

governed Jamaica as a Colony of Great Britain. I feel great pride in the way Jamaica as a new Nation, conducted itself in the first decade after Independence. That was an era in which the world noted how well we did in so many areas of art, music, sport emerging academic achievement and political leadership.

Carole Francis-McGann - adapted from a talk in Gloucester, 2022



NURSING STUDENT SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

Jamaican Jody Ann Gordon has been shortlisted for a National award by the Student Nursing Times UK, in the category Student Nurse of the Year: Children.

Jody Ann is currently a final year Child Nursing Student at the Anglia Ruskin University in Chelmsford, where she is also a class representative and a Student Ambassador. She is now completing her final management placement before qualifying in September.

“This is an exciting opportunity for me and I am truly grateful and proud of myself,” said Jody Ann Gordon. “I wasn’t expecting to be recognised in such a manner, but my lecturer who nominated me felt that I deserve to be awarded for my determination, resilience and achievements to date.”

Born at Victoria Jubilee Hospital in 1996, Jody Ann’s parents migrated to the UK when she was a toddler, and she was nurtured by her paternal grandmother in Arcadia, St. Thomas, where she attended the Arcadia Basic School, Arcadia Primary School and then the St. Thomas Technical High School.



“JAMAICANS IN BRITAIN: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP” LAUNCHED



The long-awaited book *Jamaicans in Britain: A Legacy of Leadership*, published by Editions Media on behalf of the Jamaican High Commission was launched on 31st March 2022.

The book profiles some 500 Jamaicans, their resilience in the face of adversity. The High Commissioner Seth George Ramocan announced the project in 2017 and said that it was his goal to produce a book

outlining the wonderful achievements of the Jamaican Diaspora in the UK.

You can view the launch at the High Commission's YouTube Channel : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy09DQ_MP9E&t=291s

The publication can be purchased using this link :

<https://buy.stripe.com/3cs15ua8nemZ1uocMO>

HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS DEXTER MCLEAN EXHIBITION

High Commissioner Seth George Ramocan and Deputy High Commissioner Mrs. Patrice Laird-Grant visited the first solo show of Royal Photographic Society (RPS) award-winning photographer, Dexter McLean, MA. Dexter who is disabled, was born in Jamaica and is a graduate of the University of Middlesex.



The exhibition titled *Tower Avenue* at Orleans House Gallery in Richmond focuses on representation of both the black and disabled communities in Tower Avenue, in Kingston, Jamaica,



where Dexter and his family originate. For his next project he plans to return to Jamaica to photograph people living with disability, to increase awareness, and change the narrative in the mainstream media.



Brian Mitchell, General Manager, Grace Foods UK Limited presents High Commissioner Seth George Ramocan with the 100th anniversary special-edition Gold Grace Foods Jamaican Jerk Seasoning and Jamaican Jerk BBQ Sauce gift package. Grace's 100th anniversary year-long celebrations started on Valentine's Day.

MINISTER TUFTON INTRODUCES CODE CARE

Minister of Health Wellness, Dr. Christopher Tufton visited a number of health sectors groups among the Jamaican Diaspora in May, where he introduced them to a new project, CODE CARE, which is expected to further improve wait times for elective surgeries, including for cataracts as well as oral and sinus cancers.

The introduction of CODE CARE will seek to do an additional 1,000 surgeries over the next 10 months to clear up most, if not all backlogs caused by the Covid pandemic. To reach that goal, the Ministry of Health

Wellness will work with the Diaspora of healthcare professionals who visit Jamaica for special surgery sessions



to provide more efficient arrangements and access to hospital facilities and target elective surgeries with the longest wait.

Those surgeries include for arthroplasty, undescended testis and pterygium. To this end, the Ministry of Health Wellness will work in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, overseas missions, and through the National Healthcare Enhancement Foundation.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

CARICOM CAUCUS OF HEADS OF MISSION ENGAGEMENTS

After two years of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CARICOM Caucus of Heads of Mission have resumed face-to-face meetings and activities under the Chairmanship of Her Excellency Therese Rath, High Commissioner for Belize. The Caucus comprises the thirteen (13) CARICOM High Commissioners and Ambassadors who are based in London and accredited to the Court of St. James's. The Caucus meets on a monthly basis, working closely together to collectively advance the Caribbean agenda in the United Kingdom and other countries of interest.



LAUNCH OF IRELAND STRATEGY FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

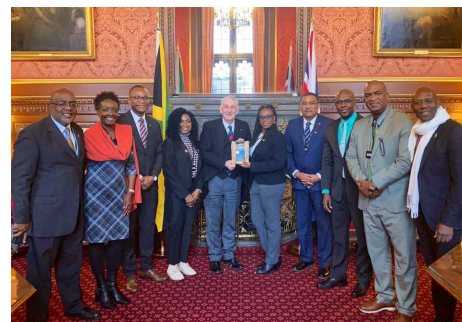
On 22nd February 2022, His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, CD, Jamaican High Commissioner, attended the virtual launch of the Government of Ireland's Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Strategy is the first ever whole-of-government Strategy for the LAC region, and seeks to strengthen relations in five strategic areas: Enhanced Political Partnership; Stronger, Mutually Beneficial Economic Partnerships; a Collaborative Team-Ireland Approach; Deeper Cultural Links and Ties with the Diaspora; and Deeper Engagement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Launch was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Simon Coveney T.D., and featured a testimonial from Ms. Yanika Rhule, a Jamaican student studying on scholarship at University College Dublin (UCD) under the Ireland Fellows Programme for SIDS.



More information on the Ireland Fellows Programme for SIDS can be found here: <https://www.irishaidfellowships.ie/strands/ireland-fellows-programme-sids>

JAMAICAN PARLIMENTARIANS VISIT

A cross-party delegation of Jamaican parliamentarians visited the UK over the period 22nd to 25th February 2022, to participate in a bilateral Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) programme. The visit built on the previous successful visit of a cross-party CPA UK delegation visit to Jamaica in 2017, and an earlier visit of Jamaican Parliamentarians to Westminster in 2016. The parliamentarians engaged in a four-day programme of interactive sessions, observation of the operations of the UK Parliament, discussions with UK colleagues on issues affecting their respective legislatures (including trade and COVID-19 recovery), and a constituency visit, with the aim of strengthening relations between the Parliaments of Jamaica and the UK.



POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

COMMONWEALTH DAY 2022

His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, CD, Jamaican High Commissioner, attended the annual Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey on 14th March 2022. The Service was the first in-person gathering of the Commonwealth since the start of the pandemic and reflected on Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee Year with a special focus on the role that service plays in the lives of people and communities across the Commonwealth.

The Queen, who is Head of the Commonwealth, was represented at the multi-faith service by The Princess of Wales. Also in attendance were The Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Alexandra. Jamaica's flag-bearer for the Service was Ms. Kathryn Williams, an attorney and student at the London School of Economics (LSE).



LAUNCH OF JAMAICA'S CANDIDATURE FOR COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 1st April 2022, Jamaica nominated Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, for the position of Commonwealth Secretary-General. Within this context, Senator Johnson Smith visited London, the seat of the Commonwealth, to launch and lobby for the candidature over the period 19th to 22nd April 2022.

ROYAL VISIT OF THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE TO JAMAICA

Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited Jamaica from 22nd to 24th March 2022 as a part of their wider Caribbean tour to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Royals' schedule took them across the island, including stops at Shortwood Teachers' College in Kingston, the Spanish Town Hospital and the National Police College in St. Catherine, and the Caribbean Infantry Training Centre in St. James. Their Royal Highnesses also met and engaged with Jamaican football stars Leon Bailey and Raheem Sterling during a visit to Trench Town. This aspect of the visit was in recognition of the legacy of Reggae music icon Bob Marley, and involved a visit to Culture Yard, Bob Marley's former home which is now an artistic and educational centre and museum. The Duke and Duchess also paid courtesy calls on His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, PC, MP, Prime Minister, and Rear Admiral



Antoinette Wemyss-Gorman, Chief of Defence Staff. The Duke and Duchess were hosted by Governor General and Lady Allen at a State Dinner at King's House, and held engagements with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) at Up Park Camp prior to leaving the island.

JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS UK SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

On 29th March 2022, His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, CD, Jamaican High Commissioner, paid a courtesy call on Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. During their meeting, they discussed Jamaica's road to becoming "the Singapore of the Caribbean" – an important centre for international trade and a logistics hub for sea-faring traffic from Europe, Africa, and Asia to North and South America. High Commissioner Ramocan also spoke to the opportunities which the expanded Panama Canal presented for Jamaica and Kingston in particular, home to the seventh-largest natural harbour in the world.



QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH RELAY BATON ARRIVES IN JAMAICA

The Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA) welcomed the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay in anticipation of this year's staging of the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham, UK. The Baton arrived in the

Over the course of the Baton's 3-day sojourn on the island, it was taken to: the UWI Mona, where it was received with a musical performance by students and carried around the



island on 15th April 2022, as a part of its journey through 72 Commonwealth nations and territories, prior to the official start of the Games in July 2022. Jamaica was the 51st stop since the relay started on 7th October 2021, with Her Majesty the Queen placing her Message to the Commonwealth into the Baton. In addressing the presentation ceremony held at the UWI Mona Regional Headquarters on 16th April 2022, Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said that Jamaicans in the diaspora and otherwise are looking forward to the great achievements of the country's athletes throughout the games. The ceremony was attended also by Mr. Christopher Samuda, President of the JOA, and legendary Jamaican track and field athlete Mr. Donald Quarrie.

Usain Bolt Track by athletes; Emancipation Park where members of the community were able to interact with it; Netball House, the official base of Jamaica's netball teams; Spanish Town Cathedral, where the Baton attended a church service; and Donald Quarrie High School, where namesake Donald Quarrie carried the Baton and delivered an inspiring speech to staff and students. The Commonwealth Games is held every four years, with approximately 6600 sportsmen and women participating. Jamaica hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1966, becoming the first and only Caribbean country to have staged the event.



CARIBBEAN NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION (UK) RECEIVED AWARD

The Caribbean Nurses and Midwives Association (UK) received an award for Most Outstanding Pastoral Care in recognition of its work and support of Caribbean heritage nurses in the UK from the Florence Nightingale Foundation and NHS England on the 28th April in London.

The Association was formed in January 2021 to create an environment which will provide support to All Caribbean Nurses and Midwives.

President Ms Paulette Lewis MBE (right with vice president Maurina Baron) said: "Our Vision is to be the Voice of Caribbean Nurses and midwives in driving change towards the improvement of Health & Social Care, Education, workforce and policy development. We have been supporting Caribbean Nurses and Midwives through our Pastoral Care programme".

NEW MAYORS OF JAMAICAN ORIGIN INSTALLED



Three new mayors of Jamaican origin were installed this year. They include Councillors Sandra Samuels, George Cole and Joan Henry.

The 163rd Mayor of Wolverhampton is Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, who is the city's first Mayor of African-Caribbean heritage in almost 200 years of history, and only its 11th female Mayor.

Cllr Samuels has given more than 40 years of public service as a nurse, NHS manager, trade union official, school governor, community activist, volunteer and city councillor since 2004. She is a former member of the council's cabinet and currently represents the Ettingshall ward of the city.

Cllr Samuels was awarded the OBE by Her Majesty the Queen in 2015 for services to local government and politics. She will be raising money for Wolverhampton's Sickle Cell Care and Activity Centre, Compton Care and The African Caribbean Community Initiative during her time in office.

Councillor George Cole, who represents the city's Western Ward, has become Leicester's new Lord Mayor, and in doing so has also become the city's first Black African Caribbean Lord Mayor.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Councillor Cole came to England in 1964, settling in the UK and becoming a British Citizen. He left school aged 15 with no academic qualifications, but relied on his self-belief to improve himself, eventually going on to study for a degree and becoming a principal computer design engineer.

He later progressed to a principal systems design engineer, gaining chartered engineer status, followed by nearly 30 years as a senior university lecturer. During this time, he has also been a radio presenter and producer, has run his own businesses and became a magistrate.

In addition to his role as a city councillor, he has also contributed to the community in many ways as a volunteer, with roles including chair of the African Heritage Alliance, an organisation established to address the inequalities experienced by the African heritage community due to racism.

The new Mayor of Merton is Councillor Joan Henry, who was elected as Mayor for the 2022/23 municipal year by the Council on 25 May.

Councillor Henry was first elected to the council in 2014 and represents Pollards Hill Ward in Mitcham. She will be assisted in her role as Mayor by her consort, Floyd Blake, and her chaplain will be the Reverend Kenneth Scott from the New Testament Church of God Dayspring in Pollards Hill.



WINDRUSH MEMORIAL UNVEILED



Members of the Windrush generation witnessed the unveiling of the National Windrush Monument at London Waterloo Station on Windrush Day, 22 June 2022.

Designed by renowned Jamaican artist Basil Watson, 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.

WINDRUSH PILLAR UNVEILED AT MILTON KEYNES

High Commissioner Seth George Ramocan was a special guest at the ceremony at Campbell Park for the unveiling of a pillar to celebrate the contribution of the Windrush Generation in Milton Keynes on Windrush Day, June 22nd. The Friends of the Caribbean organised the event with the Milton Keynes Rose Trust.

Created by internationally renowned artist Gordon Young in 2014, the Milton Keynes Rose is an open-air circle with markings based on the mathematical beauty of a flower. It was developed in partnership by The Parks Trust and the Milton Keynes Cenotaph Trust, with support from Milton Keynes Council.

A Windrush Cricket Family Fun Day took place earlier in the month to raise funds for the pillar. Other special guests at

the event included Jamaican representatives from the Home Office, the Mayor of Milton Keynes and the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.





JAMAICAN HIGH COMMISSION LONDON

SAVE THE DATE

Diamond Jubilee
Service of Praise and Thanksgiving

On Independence Day

Saturday, 6th August 2022, starting at 11 o'clock

Bethel Convention Centre
Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, Birmingham B70 7JW



JAMAICA60 AND OTHER EVENTS

Jamaican High Commission	Jamaica 60 Elegant Summer Garden Party (in collaboration with the Jamaica 60 Planning Group)	17th July
Steve Higgins Productions	Celebrating Jamaica60 with Love & Nostalgia	16th July
Association of Jamaican Nationals Birmingham	Jamaica 60th Cultural Extravaganza with a Salute to the Commonwealth Games	23rd July
Bristol Afro Caribbean Expo	Jamaica 60th Independence Fundraising Gala Dinner & Dance	30th July
Jamaica Society Leeds	Out of Many Festival August Mawnin	1st August
Cook the Commonwealth	Cook the Commonwealth- Focus on Jamaica – Birmingham	3rd August
Jamaican High Commission	Independence Service of Praise and Thanksgiving Bethel Convention Centre West Bromwich, Birmingham	6th August
Association of Jamaican Nationals- Birmingham	Flag Raising Ceremony, In Victoria Square, Birmingham,	6th August
Association of Jamaicans UK Trust (London)	Independence Day Gala Dinner 60th Anniversary	6th August
Association of Jamaican Nationals	Independence Gala Dinner (Birmingham)	6th August
Hackney Reggae Festival	Hackney Reggae Festival	6th and 7th August.

Jamaica Society Manchester	Independence Dinner	6th August
Mount Pleasant Jamaica Association Royal Mail	Jamaica Day	6th August
The Esther Appeal/ Burton-on Trent	Independence Church Service	7th August
Jamaica Society Leeds	Independence Service will be at St Aidan's Church, Leeds.	7th August
Jamaica Basic School Foundation	Jamaica Family Day	7th August
Association of Jamaican Nationals (Birmingham)	Service of Praise and Thanksgiving, celebrating Jamaica 60th	14th August
Fairweather Production	Jerk Cook-The Horniman Museum and Gardens	21st August