

THE BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS

June 2010

Construction of New Community Health Centre Completed

Buxtonians home and abroad would welcome the news that the expansion of the community Health Centre has been finally completed. It is only awaiting connection of electricity before it is put into full use. Thanks to a subvention of GYM\$10 (US\$50,000) from the Government of Guyana, the project, started in 2004 by Jaybees Medical Services International, Inc., (JBMSI), a nonprofit group based in Washington DC, has been completed.

This disclosure was made by Dr. Leslie Carter, the former Regional Health Officer (RHO) for the Plaisance-Cane Grove district and Medical Officer for the clinics at Buxton and Melanie Damishana. The Buxton-born physician,

who went into mandatory retirement from the Public Service last month, explained that while the old structure was left as the base of the facility, a storey was added above and a new two-storey wing constructed on its northern side. The facility provides for multiple medical and dental examination rooms, urgent care services, a doctor's teaching room, a large storage area, washrooms and other services. He, however, bemoaned the fact that since January 2009, efforts to have the Guyana Power & Light Company connect electricity to the newly constructed areas have been unsuccessful, and this is the main cause of delay in opening up the facility to provide more services to the community.

In addition to the lack of electricity in the new sections, Mr. George Abrams, a member of JBMSI who went the distance to see this project through to fruition, intimated that water supply and security details were also yet to be fully established. He also shared that JBMSI had ploughed US\$70,000 into the new structure before the group experienced a drought in available funds. He then approached both the Regional Executive Officer and Chairman of Region 4 for assistance to complete the project. Through two successive budget requisitions submitted by Dr. Carter, and some support from Mr. Clyde Roopchand, the additional funds to finish the project were ob-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Visit with Dr. Leslie Carter	2
Healthcare & Life Expectancy	3
Ayanna London	4
Erva Cockfield	5
Obituaries	6
Buxton Magazine Review	7
Events & general Information	8-10

Top Stories:

- *Dr. Leslie Carter outlines the major conditions affecting the health of villagers*
- *Saluting two young law graduates*
- *Mourning the loss of popular villagers Wayne Reuben and Desiree Barnwell-London*
- *A look inside the just-released Souvenir Magazine for our 170th Anniversary*

Visit with Dr. Carter

(Continued from page 1)

tained from the government.

Mr. Abrams further disclosed that JBMSI was ready to hand over a number of essential supplies and medical equipment for use at the clinic as soon as the building was adequately secured. There are also plans for a formal ceremony to open the new facility very soon.

After serving as a government medical officer for almost 27 years, Dr. Carter retired from the Public Service on May 1, 2010. He has been succeeded by Dr. Hazeline Smith-Lowe as Regional Health Officer, and Dr. Heather Morris as the Health Officer with responsibility for the clinics at Buxton and Melanie Damishana. He, however, plans to continue providing medical services to the community through his private practice. While vacationing in the US last month, he sat down for an interview with this writer and discussed the major issues affecting the health of residents in the Lusignan-Strathspey service area, which, of course, in-

cludes Buxton-Friendship.

The most prevalent conditions among the Adult population are: Hypertension, Diabetes, Arthritis, Gastritis, Respiratory Infections and Cardiovascular Disease.

Hypertension

Also known as high blood pressure, it is the number one cause for consultation among adults of African descent. This condition shows up in patients as young as 25 years old and is on the increase in the number of patients aged 30 and over. The major risk factors include:

- Family history (the disease tends to run in families)
- Obesity
- Insufficient physical activity
- Diet

Diabetes

While this condition ranks second in the Afro-Guyanese population, it is the leading cause for consultation by people of Indian descent. Starch, a staple in the Guyanese diet, has been identified as a major contributing factor to this epidemic. In supporting

this conclusion, Dr. Carter observes: “For Guyanese, as a whole, the diet is mainly starch. Due to the economic situation, people are not eating as much protein [fish and meat] as they may need.”

He went on to state that given their genetic traits, certain persons are at risk of inheriting the disease. Due to the fact that he has been serving the community for such a long time, he has come to know many of the families and their health history. He has therefore been able to counsel many of them on their related habits.

A balanced diet also plays an important role in the management of this disease. But, over the years, the doctor has noticed a marked decrease in the consumption of greens, and this, he opined, might be due to the affordability factor. “The fact is that starch, which includes rice, provision, bread and roti, fills up one more; fish and beef have become too expensive.”

He also cited the decrease in physical activity such as walking, as a result of easier

(Continued on page 3)

MAJOR HEALTH ISSUES

ADULTS

1. Hypertension
2. Diabetes
3. Arthritis
4. Gastritis
5. Respiratory Infections
6. Cardiovascular Disease

CHILDREN

- Respiratory Infections
- Skin Infections
- Fungal
- Bacterial
- Diarrhoea-related diseases
- Worm Infestation
- Anaemia

We tried to include a picture of the new Buxton-Friendship health centre that was sent to us, but we experienced a serious problem trying to upload it

It shows a magnificent and modern design. We're extremely sorry that we are unable to share it with you at this time.

Healthcare & Life Expectancy

(Continued from page 2)

access to mobile transport.

Though data suggest that there is a growing number of cases being diagnosed in the community, the doctor asserted that this trend mirrors the statistics obtained countrywide. He also pointed out that Cholesterol awareness and efforts to access tests for the condition were increasing in the community.

Arthritis

This condition is commonly described as inflammation of one or more joints in the body. According to Dr. Carter, the country is experiencing an increase in this disease, and it is making a significant impact on the population.

Gastritis

This is mainly a consequence of the type of drugs used for the treatment of arthritis. Prolonged use of analgesic and non-steroid tablets, he said, are known to irritate the stomach and cause gastric conditions.

Respiratory Infection

According to Dr. Carter, this condition is

most prevalent during extreme weather conditions. During the rainy season, the clinic is presented with a significant number of Influenza cases, while in periods of extremely dry weather, Diarrhoea and Vomiting surface as the predominant health issues in the community. Inaccessibility to potable water and contamination in its supply are cited as the chief factors.

Cardio-vascular Diseases

Incidences of this class of diseases, which includes angina, stroke and heart failure, are not necessarily high among the population, but they are known to pose severe consequences in the control of hypertension.

Treatment

Dr. Carter lamented the inadequacy in the supply of drugs that are needed to help manage the care of patients in the community. "The Health Centre provides free services, hence it is dependent on government supplies of drugs, and these are not always available," says he. What happens when supplies run out? "Patients are given prescriptions to buy [their

medication]." But the doctor worries that many of them may not always be able to afford the cost of their medication and are therefore forced to go without it. This puts them at greater risk which could result in death.

As a consequence to not having the medication, many of these patients would return to the clinic with sky-high blood pressure and sugar levels. The doctor also expressed serious concern about those patients who choose to take their medication up to a time they believe they are feeling well enough. He stressed that control of these conditions depends on both accessibility to the drugs and compliance by patients.

Life Expectancy

Though Guyana's economic situation may sometimes cause undue stress to citizens, life expectancy in the country has been on the rise and, according to Dr. Carter, this conclusion is strongly supported by evidence.

More on our interview with Dr. Carter will appear in next month's issue.

"Patients are given prescriptions to buy [their medication], but they may not always be able to afford the cost; hence, they put themselves at risk for the consequences, and could even die."

Congratulations!

Ayanna London



Ayanna London with her proud parents and siblings

On May 7, 2010, Ayanna London graduated from the UCLA School of Law with a *juris doctor* degree. Ayanna hails from Georgetown, Guyana. At the age of eight, she moved to East Orange, New Jersey with her parents, Remington and Berneta London, and her sib-

lings. After graduating from Oak Knoll School *cum laude*, she attended the University of Pennsylvania and concentrated in Comparative Political Science and Spanish. After spending a few years working as a paralegal in New York City, she

joined the UCLA Law community to pursue a specialization in Critical Race Studies. Ayanna spent her law school summers working at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. She has served as the Black Law Students Association's (BLSA) Cultural Awareness co-chair and represented UCLA on the National BLSA service trip to Haiti in 2009. Ayanna has also served as a staff editor for the Journal of International and Foreign Affairs, programs coordinator for the International Law Society, student coordinator for the 2010 CRS Symposium, co-chair of the Women of Color Collective, and volunteer at the Mira Loma Detention Center. She looks forward to returning to the New York area to pursue her legal career.

Congratulations!

Buxton Magazine Available Soon

The magazine to mark the 170th Anniversary of the Purchase of Buxton is scheduled to be released by the end of June. This 60-page special publication is chock-full of information relating to the history of the village movement scholastic achievements, inspiring family stories and poems, various religious sects, tributes to some

unsung heroes, artistic renditions of landmarks and legends, and much more. Read Dr. Owen Ifill's review on page 7.

It will be on sale for US\$10 or its equivalent in other currencies. Additional cost for mailing will apply.

All ticket patrons of our May 2, 2010 Variety Show in Brooklyn, NY are advised to contact

the Committee member from whom you purchased your tickets, in order to receive a complimentary copy of this magazine.

Copies will also be available in Buxton during the celebration.

Souvenir Polo and T-shirts also will go on sale soon.

Polo Shirt US\$15 GY\$3,000
T-shirt US\$10 GY\$2,000
Magazine US\$10 GY\$2,000

To order, call: 718-342-0040 (US)
5 9 2 - 2 2 0 - 3 4 1 1
(Guyana)

E-mail: lorna@buxtonguyana.net

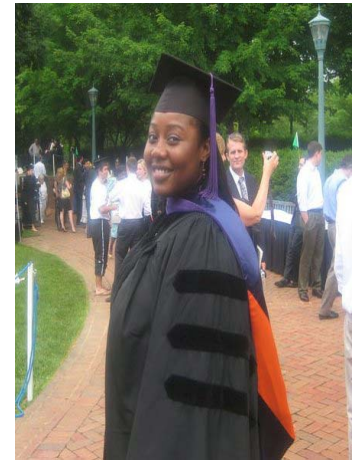


Erva Alicia Cockfield

Erva Cockfield graduated from the University of Virginia's School of Law with the degree of Juris Doctor on May 23, 2010. While in law school Erva was an active member of the law school community, serving as President of the Black Graduate & Professional Student Organization; Admissions Chairperson of the Black Law Students Association; Senior Editorial Board Member of the Virginia Journal of Law & Technology; and as an Advocate on the Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team,

among other things. In addition to these activities, Erva spent time conducting pro bono legal work for indigent and underrepresented clients through her work with the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.; the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the American Bookseller's Foundation for Free Expression, to name a few. Erva has had the honor of receiving awards for her academic and extracurricular contributions to the University of Virginia School of

Law community, including the Virginia Law Lacy Withers Armour Scholarship, the Oliver White Hill Scholar Fellowship, the Black Law Students Association Outstanding 3L Award, and the Virginia Law Pro Bono Challenge Award. In Fall, Erva begins her legal career as an Honors Attorney for the U.S. Department of Transportation, fulfilling her desire to use her legal education in the public interest and for the public good.



Erva Cockfield

Daughter of
Errol & Vashti Cockfield

Congratulations!

Happy Fathers' Day



The Committee for the

Wilfred Vernon Clarke Memorial Fund, Inc.

DJ PAT-THE-B

Complimentary Dinner

Cool Atmosphere

Tight Security

Ticket Donation: \$25

Vashti Cockfield: 718-843-3690

Janet Clarke: 631-673-0133

invites you to its

Fundraising Dance

To benefit its Scholarship Program

On Friday, June 25, 2010

9:00 p.m. — 4:00 a.m.

AFRIKA HOUSE

2265 Bedford Avenue

(corner of Snyder Ave)

Brooklyn, NY 11226

Tight Security

Cool Atmosphere



Desiree Barnwell-London

We wish to offer our sincere sympathy to the loved ones of the late Desiree Barnwell-London, who passed away on 13 June, 2010, in Guyana.

She was the wife of Philbert London; daughter of the late Felix

(Kano) and Cynthia Barnwell; sister of Sandra, Faye, Ivor, Colin, Claire and the late Raymond Barnwell; niece of Pauline Barnwell-Thomas; cousin of Bernadette Easton, Karis and Vesta Trim, Charles French,

Robert Bailey, Kim Grant, Linda Thomas, Lorraine Butts, Barbara Thomas-Holder and others.

May her soul rest in Peace!

Wayne Whitney Reuben 8 September, 1956 — 1 June, 2010

He was born 8 September, 1956 to the late Princess Hinds and Frank Reuben. On 1st June, 2010, Wayne succumbed to a long illness, in New York, USA.

He was a former member of the Guyana Defence Force and a former employee of Guyana Mining Enterprises, Linden. Subsequently, he became a business operator and taxi service provider.

Wayne was a cherished husband to his wife, Audrey, and a devoted fa-

ther to his more than ten loving children—Petal, Candy, Johnny, Frank, Shem, Sheldon, Wayne, Jr., Dwayne, Leon, Abina, Shonette and other.

He was also the brother of Joy, Denver, Sherwin, Dominique, Kay and the late Lorna Reuben; nephew of Louis, Marcella and the late Clara, Brenda and Averil Hinds, and Evadne Forde; great-nephew of Felix and Basil London; uncle of Onai, Yahoo, Oswyn, Denvy and others; brother-in-law of Sylvia London-Henry and Colette Jackson.

Wayne will be fondly remembered as a well-mannered and handsome young man with a charming smile and a dapper appearance.

Before his body was flown home to Guyana for interment at Buxton, a large gathering of relatives and friends, from across the US and Canada, met for a memorial service in Brooklyn, NY.

May his dear soul rest in peace!

Harold Blair

28 December, 1924 — 20 May, 2010

Harold Blair was born and raised in Buxton to Ethel and Simon (Emperor) Blair. He was the last boy of eight children and the last one to depart this Earth. He always spoke of his great childhood and how loving his parents were, and this transcended his life to a loving, caring and peaceful person.

As Harold became an adult, he found

his calling as a shoemaker, and for many years, he worked arduously to support his family. Harold was not just any shoe maker. He was a remarkable one. It was not the many years he worked that made him remarkable, it was how he lived in his life for 85 years.

Harold had two children in his early childhood, then he met and fell in

love with Elaine Bettencourt. They married June 1958. Their union produced eleven children, two now deceased. Elaine always said that Harold was a loving husband and a great father to his children.

He was the uncle of Sandra and James Blair.

Magazine Review

by Dr. Owen Ifill

The Buxton 170th Anniversary Magazine is essentially a review of Buxton's history, culture, politics, education and religious life.

It in essence, reviews the heart of Buxton; what made it tick. What made Buxton what it was, and that what makes it what it still is. Some will argue that Buxton is not what it used to be, and that Buxton can never again be the Buxton that we knew and loved. But change is a law of life. Change is unavoidable. Change is what grants us the privilege to continue to challenge ourselves. The current situation is the challenge of our generation. It is a gift, not a curse as many seem to perceive it. For those of us, Buxtonians, who have given up on Buxton; who have lost faith; who say "Bux'n gaan to dih daags", let us ask ourselves if our forebears had adopted that attitude, would we even have a Buxton to bemoan? It is from the tension created by extremes in consciousness that greatness is born. Buxton has seen those extremes. The ground is ripe for Buxton's rebirth.

The magazine's first article is actually a welcoming letter from the Buxton Response Committee that essentially welcomes home all Buxtonians in the Diaspora to the 170th Anniversary

celebrations. It asks that we come with ideas, commitment and enthusiasm to further the cause. There are articles by Tommy Payne and Eusi Kwayana on the Village movement. Payne contrasts the period of "Talibanization" with Buxton's history and achievements, and makes the point that tenets of socialism were being practised in the newly formed villages in Guyana post-Emancipation, three years before the publication of the communist manifesto by Karl Marx. Kwayana traces the history of the Village movement post-Emancipation and highlights its challenges and successes.

The articles on the Zephyr, Younge and Fox's family trees help to demonstrate the deep interconnectedness of the Buxton "family". All Buxtonians are related in one way or another. If we look deep enough, it is there. Our generation has chosen not to, and I suspect it is, because of what we do not want to find: "Cousin an' cousin mek dozen".

The piece by Nandi Tyrrell-Kellman, based on a research done by her late mother and for-

mer teacher, Sheila King-Tyrrell, looks at the history of the education/school system in the village and the conception of the Buxton Scholarship. It is a comprehensive piece that includes all the schools, past and present, and carries a list of the awardees of the Buxton Scholarship. A testimonial by Charis (Bridget) Newton-Thompson, a Buxton Scholarship recipient, abuts this article. It traces her educational progress and demonstrates how this scholarship was instrumental in helping to mould her future development and success.

There are profiles of four women; Oleta Williams, Abena Hinds, Candace Austin and the inimitable June Griffith-Collison. These are women who have achieved academically at home and in the US. June Griffith, as every Buxtonian knows, had already distinguished herself in Athletics both nationally and internationally, back in the day. One of the issues that

(Continued on page 8)

Garfield Peters

5 February, 1969—20 May, 2010

Garfield Peters, also known as Gary Peters, departed this life on 20th May, 2010 in London, England.

A son of Pat Peters and Norma Peters, nee Butts, he was born on 5th February, 1969. He also left behind two siblings-Colin Peters of England and Patricia Peters-Flash of the US.

Gary was a nephew of Ruby Telford, Monica Ogle, Olive Answick, Arthur "Breeze" Butts, Mikey Butts Waveney Rover and the late Elma Herod, Valda (Babsy) Butts-Smith and Inez Peters.

He was also a grandson of the late Mary Butts and Dina Peters; and cousin of the Moses, Hope, Rover,

Butts, Herod, Telford, Ogle and Answick families, Faith Seaforth-Smith, Joan and Percy Miller

Garfield Peters was laid to rest in London, England 28th May, 2010. May he Rest In Peace!

CIMBUX, Inc.

Souse Party**Saturday, July 10, 2010***4:00 p.m. — 11:00 p.m.***Greene's Residence**

917 Sheridan Street NW

(off Georgia Ave NW)

Washington, DC 20011

Ticket Donation: \$10

Tasty homestyled cuisine

Guyanese Pastries & Snacks

Blackpudding & Souse

Cook-up Rice, Roti & Curry

(One Complimentary Bowl of Souse with Ticket Purchase)

George Hinds: 240-381-5190 Keith Easton: 240-601-3892 **Gladstone Marcus: 240-486-6341****Horace Azore: 240-508-6388****Jude Greene: 240-988-1941**

Buxton Magazine Review

(Continued from page 7)

I have noted is the fact that there are no profiles or mention of young men who have achieved. This I believe is a significant oversight, since the major problem in Buxton, as seems to be the problem the world over, is with young men-Young Black men. College and university admissions and graduations in young men in general, and young Black men in particular, are close to half that of women's. I believe that highlighting the achievements of one or two males would have been a worthwhile thing.

There are also profiles of Eusi Kwayana who needs no introduction, and Buxtonian artists Lyndon Barton and Jonathan Azore. Samples of their work are included in the respective pieces.

"Reflections", an article written by Noelle (Dolly) Burgan-Edgehill, chronicles her growing up in Buxton. This is a nostalgic piece that, I think, most of us can relate to. Randal Butisingh, the supposedly oldest blogger, and a former schoolteacher from Buxton did a fascinating coverage of Creolese-its history and evolution.

"Buxton People Stop Train" and "Legacy of Our Forefathers" are two of the other significant articles in addition to one on the history of Tipperary Hall. "Buxton People Stop Train" article was written by Ovid Abrams and details the circumstances and climate within which this incident transpired. This is a must read especially for the younger generation of Buxtonians who only know the phrase and have no idea of the context.

"Legacy of Our Forefathers" is a delightfully written piece by Mosa Telford who is a promising young writer from Buxton. She shares her perspective on Buxton; what it meant and what it currently means. She is undoubtedly one of the new leaders/thinkers in our illustrious village tradition.

The only light article in the magazine is a piece called "Buxton Slice" by yours truly. Yuh guh laaf till yuh belly buss. There are poems by Quintyn Bacchus sprinkled here and there in the magazine that gives it a unique flair. All in all, a commendable job!

...Dr. Owen Ifill

BESAC, Inc.

presents its Annual Fundraising Events to benefit
Scholarship, School Support & Social Development
Programmes for the Buxtonian community

Fingerlickin' Treats
Homemade Drinks
for friendly donations
Gaff & Laff
Dance to Great Music

Fish Fry Lime

Saturday, July 10, 2010

From 5:00 p.m.

**Come Meet, Greet
& Enjoy!**

The Cockfields' Residence
123-11 150th Avenue
S. Ozone Park, NY 11420
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Delightful Atmosphere!

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Committee Member
Monica Sandiford 718-284-0911

Labor-Day Weekend

Friday Night Splendor

Friday, September 3, 2010

9:00 p.m. — 4:00 a.m.

Nazareth Hall

475 East 57th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203

(between Avenue D & Clarendon Road)

De Untouchables Band & DJ Cracker Jack

Ticket Donation: \$25

More at Door

Ca\$h Bar

THE BUXTON-FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS **JUNE 2010**

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**Www.
buxtonguyana.net**

Sign up by 30 June to attend these events Tickets will not be sold on the day of these events.

Admission by tickets only!

Day Trip to Baganara Island Resort, Essequibo

Meals, T-shirt & Cap included

US\$90 / GY\$18,000

Bus Excursion to East Berbice

with stop at West Coast Berbice Village

Meals included

US\$40 / GY\$8,000

Buxton Ball at The Georgetown Club

3-course meal International Bar Yoruba Singers

US\$50 / GY\$10,000

Celebrating Our Rich Heritage!

Charting A New Development Path!

Buxton Calendar of Activities

Saturday	July 24, 2010	COCKTAIL RECEPTION * OPENING CEREMONY * NIGHT DANCE
Sunday	July 25, 2010	CHURCH SERVICES * ROAD RACE * SPORTS * FAMILY FUN DAY
Monday	July 26, 2010	GUIDED VILLAGE TOURS * CULTURAL EVENING SHOW
Tuesday	July 27, 2010	DAY TRIP: EXOTIC BAGANARA ISLAND RESORT, ESSEQUIBO HOUSE CALLS ON SENIOR CITIZENS
Wednesday	July 28, 2010	CHILDREN'S LITERARY CAMP VILLAGE SYMPOSIUM (EVENING)
Thursday	July 29, 2010	BUS EXCURSION TO BERBICE
Friday	July 30, 2010	SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUMMIT * DINNER DANCE & CULTURAL FASHION SHOWCASE
Saturday	July 31, 2010	HEALTH, ARTS & CAREER FAIR * MARKET DAY CAMP FIRE * LIBATION CEREMONY * MIDNIGHT JAMBOREE
Sunday	August 1, 2010	INTERFAITH SERVICE * DRUMMING & FOOD FEST * HEALTH FAIR