

# Artefacts

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society | October 2018

**Museum  
Highlights**

Page 2

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society



**Well Met by  
Torchlight**

Page 3

**A Best Kept  
Secret**

Page 6

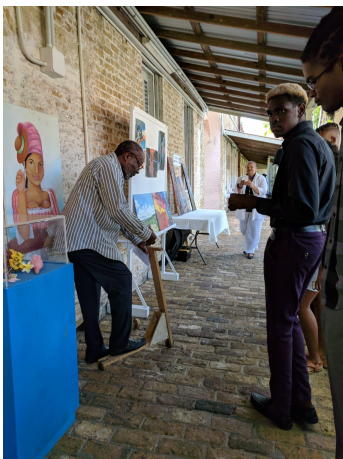
**Coming Up**

Page 7



## In This Issue

- 2 **Recently at the Museum**  
Museum highlights!
- 3 **Well Met by Torchlight**  
Making Torchlight Tours.
- 4 **8Things You Should Know About the Exchange**  
Exactly what it says on the tin.
- 5 **Championing the Champions**  
Why COB is sponsoring the Heritage Champions.
- 6 **A Best Kept Secret**  
Our Walled Garden Theatre.
- 7 **What's On In...**  
What's happening at the Museum for the next three months.
- 8 **Meet Our Team**  
Learn who does what.



Cover photograph: BMHS president Sir Trevor Carmichael relives boyhood days by testing one of the traditional wooden scooters made by the Junior Curators. Director Alissandra Cummins and two junior curators look on.

## Recently at the Museum...

In July, students enjoyed our two-week **summer art camp**.

3 - 6 August, we popped up at **Bridgetown Market** with an exhibition on **the history of Crop Over**.

6 July, 3 3D Photogrammetry students presented their work at a closing ceremony for the pilot **3D Archiving Summer Intensive**.

On 9 July, **Archbishop Abune Thaddeus Gidey** of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church spoke about the origins, rise and spread of the **Ethiopian Orthodox Church** at one of our **History Groups**.

**Barbados Most Wanted** by Kim Ramsay launched at the Museum on 9 August and immediately proved popular.

The Museum and its partner entities hosted the **launch** of the **Caribbean Biodiversity Portal** on 9 August.

14 August, the Polish Consulate **hosted** exhibition **Józef Piłsudski, A Polish and European Statesman** in Exhibition Gallery 1.



**She Sells Seashells** launched on 21 August 2018—it's up until the end of October. Many thanks to our sponsors **Ocean Fisheries Ltd**, and thanks to those of you who've come to see it!

25 August, **7 Junior Curators graduated**. Thank you: **Republic Bank** and **Bridgetown Cruise Terminals Inc**, who each sponsored a curator; anonymous major donor; **City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union Limited**; and **RLM Leasing Inc**.

**Several interns** learned from our staff members all summer: **two** came from **Martinique** and worked with the Commercial team, **two** library students learned about the **Shilstone Memorial Library**, and **one** worked with the **Curatorial team**.

On 4 September, we signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union Limited to support the **Heritage Champions** programmes, which teach heritage in fun ways. See page 5 for more.



We've been **digitising!** Find ledgers and vestry minutes in our **online archive**:

<https://barbmuse.pastperfectonline.com/archive>. Then visit the **Low Country Digital Library**, where you can find our digitised records of the **Newton Plantation**: <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/institutions>, plus other excellent resources.

# Well Met by Torchlight

It's almost time for the Torchlight Tours. These dynamic and interactive tours really bring history alive before you. Michelle Cox creates and coordinates the tours, while students of the Barbados Community College Theatre Arts programme perform. (And sometimes professional actors and graduates also perform.)

In this interview between Rhiannon Estwick and Michelle Cox, go behind the scenes and learn a little bit more about how the Torchlight Tours come to life.

## How do you research the history, folklore, and songs used to round out the stories for the tour?

It depends on the production. Last year, for *Millie gone to Brazil*, the Museum actually provided the story, but *John Belly Mama* was a lot of oral history research, cause we were looking at a lot of different folk songs. For the upcoming tour, I did a lot of archival research.

## How do you transform your research into an immersive theatrical/touring experience?

It's magic. I never understand how it happens. I start writing and once I'm writing and I get ideas, it flows. I can't say what makes it come alive necessarily, but I think, "Can I write this and my children watch?" and "Is it immersive?" The students also add things—they'll do something and say, "Can I do this ma'am?" and I'll say "yes!"

...I hated history growing up. So as soon as I had the opportunity to drop it, I said, "YIP done with that". I'm writing for people who for whatever reason weren't exposed to history. I want that when people engage with the history, they'll see it's such a dynamic thing.

## How long does it take to rehearse a Torchlight Tour?

That depends heavily on the students and the production that I'm working with. Last year, both of those productions were written in a week and then rehearsed in two weeks, week and a half.



## What do the performers learn from the Torchlight Tours, both historical and about their own craft?

They learn quite a lot about whatever the topic is. My philosophy is that if you're going to perform it you have to understand it first. One of the things they've learned about history is that it has several perspectives and they've learned to question it more instead of just what

they've been told. And they've learned they can do it. It is not impossible to put a production together in less than two weeks. It wasn't without challenges. But it can be done. It gives them confidence.



## What is your personal favourite thing about the Torchlight Tours?

Ah boy. [She laughs]... I hope one day I can publish the different plays that I have written for the Museum. I don't think we have enough published Barbadian plays. Producing it is definitely a bonus. But none of it would be possible without the Museum, BCC [Barbados Community College], and the NCF [National Cultural Foundation].

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*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

Catch the next Torchlight Tours: 26 October 2018 **Shiver Me Timbers**

29 November 2018 **TBD** Call 538-0201 to book your ticket.



## 8 Things You Should Know about The Exchange

Welcome to a place of Mystery and Discovery. The Exchange is one of the best places to learn about trade and commerce in Bridgetown. You can also learn about early education and business. Plus, you can find out more about the historical development of Freemasonry on the island. So read on for 8 things to know...

### 1 It's in a Historic Building.

The Exchange, place of Mystery and Discovery, is located in a 1700s historic building. In 1738, this building was the first home for Harrison's College. Until 2005, it was a Masonic Temple.

### 2 It Has Lots to Do.

There are two exciting galleries. All exhibitions feature interactive screens, audio story experiences, and activities for all ages.



### 3 You can see art.

The Art Gallery floor is free to all visitors. Until 31 October, you can see the **Changing Face of Barbadian Landscapes**.

### 4 You can also see all sorts of currency...

When you visit, you can see a Barbados Penny. It's one of the first currencies produced in Barbados.



### 5 Some that you don't know about...

Did you know that there is a gold \$100 proof coin for the \$100 BDS Bill? See it in the Exchange.

### 6 And some that you do.

The currency wall also features currencies of Commonwealth nations.



### 7 You Can Learn about Free Masonry

This is the only museum in the Caribbean that provides exhibits about Free Masonry (with a focus on Barbados.)



### 8 You Can Take a Tour.

There are guided tours to take you through the wonders of the Exchange.

So go on down and visit the Exchange—this place of Mystery and Discovery.

**Where:** Spry Street, Bridgetown, next to the Central Bank of Barbados

**When:** Tuesday – Sunday, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$20 BBD adults/ \$10 BBD children under 12

All Exchange facts provided by Klebere Perry, Senior Tour Guide. All Exchange photographs by William Cummins.

# Championing the Champions

In 2017, 11 students graduated from the Heritage Champions pilot programme. They learned about heritage in fun and exciting ways. The City of Bridgetown Co-Operative Credit Union Limited (COB) was intrigued. So they teamed up with the Museum to help expand the programme.

Rhiannon Estwick chats with Creig Jones, Senior Member Care Executive of COB and main champion for the programme, to learn about COB and find out why they support the Heritage Champions.



## So, tell me about the City of Bridgetown Co-Operative Credit Union Ltd.

Well, City of Bridgetown Credit Union, there's so much I can tell you. We are a very vibrant credit union and we are passionate about our members. We are celebrating our 35th year and unlike any other credit union in Barbados, any member of CARICOM can join.

## What does the Senior Member Care Executive do?

Well, the Member Relations Executive is really responsible for educating the members of our credit union on everything about COB.

Photograph by Jamal Maynard,  
Digital Media Coordinator at C.O.B.

## What first caught your attention about the Heritage Champions Programme?

As an organisation, we are very very passionate about our young ones, our young members. We were looking for strategic partners that we could add to our CARES [Children Are Really Enthusiastic Savers] programme to bring additional value to it so that we could help CARES members appreciate significant things not only about the credit union but about Barbados. And we found that the Heritage Champions programme was absolutely ideal. It was a perfect fit.

## Why are you and COB supporting this programme?

We think that it is important that young persons understand that

**"a Museum is not just about history and antiquities. But it is also about culture. It is about identity."**

It's about knowledge and that's critical to any civilisation: knowledge, culture and identity.

So we thought that well, here, you're doing the same thing, in schools. It's the same thing that we want for young Barbadians so we felt that a partnership between COB and the Museum, particularly your Heritage Champions programme, would work so

well for our members. And that's why we are here.

## Where do you hope to see the Heritage Champions programme grow in the future?

I want to see it move throughout the primary and the secondary schools. I would love to see it being embraced as part of a school curriculum. Understanding culture, heritage, and the value of it. We see the Heritage [Champions] programme as also importing life skills to young persons, helping them to see how they can become more productive citizens, how they can be financially independent and responsible, and we're just happy to partner with them.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

### Heritage Champions at a Glance

**Pilot Year:** 2017

**Pilot School:** Graydon Sealy Secondary School

**Showcase Activities:** Heritage Treasure Hunt of UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bridgetown and its Garrison

**Primary school Programme:** Lil Heritage Champs

**Pilot Year:** 2018

**Pilot School:** Wesley Hall Junior

Want to get your school involved?  
Email [educate@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:educate@barbmuse.org.bb) or call **538-0201**.

Supporters:

City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union Ltd

National Museum of African American Art and Culture (D.C.)

# A Best Kept Secret

A blissfully cool breeze ruffles a jacket as the stars twinkle in the sky. Soft strings lilt all around, rising to a stirring climax. A beautiful view of Lake Michigan appears on the screen.

This is the **Walled Garden Theatre**.

## Creating The Walled Garden

In 2016, we officially opened the Walled Garden Theatre with the *Borusan Concert*. But it started before that. A group of concerned donors—James and Caroline Gardiner, Keith and Catherine Morris, Sir Trevor and Lady Carmichael, and more—wanted the Museum to create a community space that could be used for arts development. One long fundraising campaign later, here we are.

## Where to Find the Walled Garden

A year after official dedication, the Walled Garden Theatre is still one of the Museum's best-kept secrets. It is securely tucked between the north wall and the Warmington and Jubilee galleries, out of the way of the regular tour. But its secret location houses a number of vibrant events: concerts, movie nights, picnics, and more.

## Using the Walled Garden Space

The Walled Garden Theatre holds 300 people theatre-style (a.k.a. chairs packed in rows.) On more casual occasions, patrons enjoy sitting on blankets to have impromptu picnics. Right now, work continues on a brand new-cover, designed by Undercover Canvas and Awnings, so that you can enjoy shows in fair weather and foul.

## What Can You Do with It?

The Walled Garden Space is best suited for theatres, concerts, shows, school graduations, corporate events, and live bands. It has two small dressing rooms, full audio visual equipment, and lighting for night use. For more information on how to use the space, contact Leshay or Andrina.

## What's next at the Walled Garden Theatre

In November, we host a spoken word fundraising event called **Resist: You Got Me Excellent!** In December, the **1688 Collective** and the Museum host **Handel's Caribbean Messiah**. In this work, Caribbean rhythms like tuk, zouk, calypso, and reggae lilt their way through Handel's famed oratorio. The show first debuted at the Frank Collymore Hall in 2017. Now it comes to the Walled Garden Theatre.

Want to book the Walled Garden Theatre? Call **538-0201** and ask for Leshay or Andrina.

## Take a Peek!

### By Day



Right now, we're building a permanent cover. So the grass isn't so lush.

### Testing...



Testing the rear projector and audio-visual equipment before a show.

## Movie Time!



This was the Barbados Independent Film Festival.

## Coming up!



Handel's Caribbean Messiah!



A young patron enjoys a Torchlight Tour.

# What's on in...

## OCTOBER

- 6** Flashback Movie Night  
*Rush Hour*  
7:00 p.m.
- 13** Shilstone Memorial Library Open  
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
- 26** Torchlight Tour  
*Shiver Me Timbers*  
7.00 p.m.
- 27** Shilstone Memorial Library Open  
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
- 27** Flashback Movie Night  
*Cool Runnings*  
7:00 p.m.

## NOVEMBER

- 6** Heritage Treasures Hunt
- 7-10** International Museums Conference  
This will not be held at the Museum, but will involve several Museum staff members.
- 10** Shilstone Memorial Library Open  
9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
- 15** Open Genealogy Group Meeting
- 19** *Resist: You Got Me Excellent!* Spoken Word Fundraiser  
5.00 p.m.

- 24** Shilstone Memorial Library Open
- 24** Flashback Movie Night  
*Jumanji*  
7.00 p.m.
- 29** Torchlight Tour  
TBD  
6.00 p.m.

## DECEMBER

- 7** *Handel's Caribbean Messiah*  
Gala Opening Night  
7.00 p.m.
- 8-9** *Handel's Caribbean Messiah*  
7.00 p.m.
- 13** Museum Mingle  
6.00 – 8.00 p.m.
- 22** Flashback Movie Night  
*Home Alone*  
7:00 p.m.
- Art Camp  
Date TBA

Our schedule is **subject to change**. We frequently add new items. Sometimes scheduling, weather, or acts of God cause us to reschedule or cancel.

Call **538-0201**, check our **Facebook page**, or **check your weekly email** so you don't miss anything!

# Meet our Team

## **COUNCIL**

Sir Trevor Carmichael  
President

Dr Justin Robinson  
Senior Vice President

Ms Maureen Davis  
Junior Vice President

### **Ordinary Members**

Dr Henderson Carter

Mr Charles Holder

Ms Denese Nichols

Mr Justin Oran

Mr Lloyd Powlett

Mr Geoffrey Ramsay

### **Government Appointees**

Ms Nicole Alleyne  
Ministry of Tourism and  
International Transport

Ms Andrea Wells  
National Cultural Foundation

Dr Tara Inniss  
University of West Indies

## **MUSEUM STAFF**

Ms Alissandra Cummins  
Director

Mr Kevin Farmer  
Deputy Director

### **Curatorial**

Ms Allison Callender  
Curator - Art/Art History

Mr Kerron Hamblin  
Assistant Curator - Natural  
History

Ms Natalie McGuire  
Assistant Curator - Social History  
and Engagement

Ms Angela Boyce  
Registrar

Mr Dario Forte  
Assistant Researcher

Ms Zuwena Perry  
Project Assistant - Global  
Biodiversity Information for  
Development (GBID) Project

### **Development**

Ms Rhiannon Estwick  
Administrative Assistant -  
Development

### **Education**

Ms Kaye Hall  
Education and Community  
Outreach Officer and Executive  
Assistant

### **Facilities**

Ms Marcia Griffith  
Administrative Officer - Facilities  
and Security

### **Finance**

Mr Errol Clarke  
Finance Officer

Ms Jacqueline Cumberbatch  
Administrative Assistant -  
Accounts

### **Library**

Ms Harriet Pierce  
Librarian

### **Commercial & Marketing**

Ms Leshay Drayton  
Marketing Officer (Acting) and  
Events Coordinator

Ms Andrina Cadogan  
Administrative Assistant -  
Marketing

Ms Kandacey Rollock  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant

Ms Myka Payne  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant  
(Part-Time)

Ms Aliah Rose-Taitt  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant  
(Part-Time)

Ms Klebere Perry  
Senior Tour Guide

Ms Elizabeth Hinds  
Tour Guide (Part-Time) and  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant (Part  
Time)

Ms Melanie Bynoe  
Tour Guide (Part-Time)

### **Technical & Maintenance**

Ms Movita Baptiste  
Support Staff

Ms Merna Bryan  
Support Staff

Ms Sandra Brathwaite  
Support Staff

Mr Leon "Junior" Walters  
Support Staff

Mr Charles Wiggins  
Support Staff

Mr Stephen Layne  
Artisan

Mr Shaquan Inniss  
Apprentice Artisan

Mr Prince Leonce  
Museum Ranger

### **At The Exchange**

Mr Bryan Batson  
Receptionist/Shop Assistant

Ms LeJade Alleyne  
Tour Guide