

# News Letter



Bringing History to Life

August 2007

## From The Executive Director

A warm greeting from The St. George's Foundation and we are pleased to provide this summer update.

The World Heritage Centre has been open since January and we are welcoming our visitors from the hotels and cruise ships. Local residents and student groups have also stopped by, resulting in over 6,000 persons visiting the Centre.

A delegation of 27 persons travelled to Jamestown, Virginia to participate in the 400th Anniversary Commemoration during May 11–13. Dr. George Cook, Board Member and Chair of the Educational Programmes Committee, prepared a summary report on our visit, which was provided to the Royal Gazette. RG reporter, Scott Neil, prepared a comprehensive and informative news story on the trip and the significance of the links between Bermuda and Virginia. All of this is a precursor to our 400th Anniversary in 2009. In this newsletter, you will see a page of photos depicting the visit, as well as Dr. Cook's report.

We thank you for your continuing support and interest. You are helping preserve St. George's for the future!

Kind regards,

## Q&A

Does anyone have information on the Sea Venture Society?

If so, please send reply to Leondra at [edofficertsgf@logic.bm](mailto:edofficertsgf@logic.bm).



## Bermuda and Jamestown, 1607 – 2007

*"Bermuda is very much part of Jamestown's foundations, America's birthplace."*

So says Mr. Henry Hayward, Chairman, St. George's Foundation, following the visit of a 27-member delegation to the 400th anniversary celebrations (from 11th to 13th May) of the first permanent English settlement in North America at Jamestown, Virginia.

*"Our American cousins in Virginia recognise the arrival there of three ships and 104 men and boys on 13th May, 1607, as "The Voyage that Changed the World."* That was thirteen years before the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts in 1620. The true significance of 1607 in America is gaining appropriate recognition."

Bermuda's part in those foundations is literally physical as well as historical.

One of the most telling experiences was to see at the original Jamestown site some Bermuda stone (possibly used as ballast in the *Patience* and the *Deliverance*) forming part of the foundations for the Governor's house and the settlement's church. Those simple stones, along with other finds like turtle shells, tropical fish remains, and, most poignantly, cahow bones, truly bring history alive. Bermuda's resources ensured the survival of Jamestown when the settlers were dying from starvation and disease.



When the **Patience** and the **Deliverance** arrived in May, 1610, only 60 emaciated survivors – of over 500 a year before – were found alive. According to **William Strachey** (whose account of the wreck of the **Sea Venture** and survivors' Bermuda experience is credited as the inspiration for Shakespeare's **The Tempest**, appearing in 1611), they looked "like anatomies". "**But God,**" wrote **John Smith**, perhaps the great hero of the Jamestown story, "*that would not this country should be unplanted sent Sir Thomas Gates and Sir George Somers with one hundred and fifty people, most happily preserved by the Bermudas, to preserve us.*"

Bermuda's critical role in the "preservation" of Jamestown at its most desperate time is well recognised in Virginia. Says **Mr. Hayward**, "*I'm not so sure that it is nearly as well understood here in Bermuda.*"

At the anniversary celebrations, the symbol of Bermuda's importance to the birth of America lay in the fact that **Mariea Caisey**, Mayor of the Town of St. George, was one of a select group (including: **President and Mrs. George Bush**; Governor of Virginia, **Timothy Kaine**; representatives of native people, African-Americans and other significant agencies; United States Postal Service; National Parks Service) who placed items in a time capsule to be opened 50 years from now. Bermuda contributed a cedar friendship cup.

Indeed, Bermuda's historic role was repeatedly acknowledged. The celebration's Finale on Sunday, 13th May, included a 400-strong orchestra, a choir of 1607 voices, and an audience of thousands. The programme showcased the world premier of an especially



commissioned production entitled "Journey of Destiny", which included the salvation of the settlement

by the timely arrival of the Bermuda ships. An ongoing film presentation, "Voyage to the New World", pays similar tribute, and will have been seen by thousands more during the three days of the weekend celebrations alone. The 400th anniversary has also inspired the appearance of books and other publications, which incorporate Bermuda's part in the story.

It is also to be noted that the St. George's Foundation has been requested by the Jamestown Foundation to curate for opening in 2009 a section on Bermuda's role in the Permanent Exhibition of the Visitors Center at Jamestown Settlement. This complements the outdoors educational re-creation of the Jamestown fort and settlement and of the neighbouring Powhatan native Indian village (home of the legendary **Pocahontas** who reputedly saved **John Smith's** life and subsequently married **John Rolfe** who had set out

to Jamestown aboard the **Sea Venture**). These facilities were first opened at the time of the 350th anniversary celebrations (in 1957).

**Mr. Hayward** believes that the most important reflections of Bermuda's role in preserving the Jamestown settlement are those artifacts from the original site. Until archaeological digs began in 1994, it was believed that the original fort had been swallowed up by the James River. Over a million items have already been found; many more are being unearthed every day. The Jamestown "Archaearium" was opened on 13th May, 2006, so as to provide tangible insight into the life and death of the



people. The display includes a section on Bermuda's part in the story with some of those items possibly brought in the **Patience** and the **Deliverance**. "*Such a display,*" says **Mr. Hayward**, "*makes a big impression. The beauty of it is that you can see some of Bermuda's history from "the other side", so to speak. It creates understanding and, indeed, love, and that's the beginning of meaningful preservation. We need that, too, in Bermuda, on a smaller scale perhaps, but no less importantly.*"

The Bermuda visitors to the celebration weekend were accorded VIP treatment, courtesy of the Federal Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemoration Commission. Their Chairman and Vice-Chairman serve on the International Advisory Committee of the St. George's Foundation.

**Mr. Hayward** recognises that the St. George's Foundation, along with other relevant local bodies and the Government of Bermuda, will assume heavy responsibility for recognising our own origins as an Atlantic island of much greater historical significance than its remoteness and small size would suggest. "*We must ensure that Bermuda's story is presented authentically and accessibly, both for our people and for our visitors, many from Virginia, so entwined have our histories been over the past four centuries. That began in the seventeenth century with English settlement in North America. It is equally the case in other great moments in our histories, whether it be America's independence in the eighteenth century, their civil war in the nineteenth, or the world wars and the cold war of the twentieth. We have much work to do in a short time ahead of our own 400th anniversary. We will need much public support.*"



See additional photos on following pages.





Photos by David Rowntree

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## THE MEMBERSHIP *Campaign*

**Barbara Holmes Simon**, Membership Coordinator

### LITTLE MEMBERS

Our littlest member modeling one of the kiddie costumes at the WHC – **Isabella Morgan White** – Barbara's beautiful 2 year old grand-daughter.



We extend a genuine **Thank-You** to all members both Individual and Corporate for your membership subscriptions. Supporting our operations, Membership is essential to our progress, it's our lifeline. We are grateful for your continued membership support as we bring "*Bermuda's History to Life*".

### NEW MEMBERSHIPS We invite your membership!

Become involved in all that we are accomplishing in St. George's! Show your support for The St. George's Foundation by purchasing an Annual Membership! We welcome new members! Please use the form provided here and/or download a membership form from our website – [www.stgeorgesfoundation.com](http://www.stgeorgesfoundation.com).

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

For those members whose memberships expire at the end of August, **Jacque Savard**, our loyal and dedicated volunteer, has been busy preparing your membership renewal notices, which are now in the mail. Your prompt membership renewal saves us a lot of time and energy and we look forward to receiving your 2007-2008 membership donation!

### 50K APPEAL

In February we launched a 50 K Membership Appeal and although we fell short of our target, we are grateful to those of you who did support the Appeal, which generated approximately \$18,000 in revenue for the Membership Campaign.

### MEMBERSHIP/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION LUNCHEONS

In preparation for Bermuda's 400th Anniversary in 2009, we held a successful Fundraising Presentation Luncheon at Bank of Bermuda HSBC in March. Trustees **Rick Spurling**, **Paul Leseur** and **Harry Wilken** have generously agreed to sponsor two more similar presentations, one to be held this month and the other in September.

### ANNUAL TAG DAY 2007

Our Annual TAG DAY was held on Friday, April 20, 2007 under the Chairmanship of The St. George's Foundation Trustee and Mayor of St. George's, **The Hon. Mariea Caisey**. Generous volunteers who tagged for us on the day raised over \$6,000. **Thank you one and all!**

## MARK YOUR *Calendar*

Save these Dates for Upcoming Events



### A SOMERS EVENING 2008

**FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008**

Based on the success of this year, our Lead Sponsor, Bank of Bermuda Foundation has pledged to sponsor the event again next year. We have set the date for A Somers Evening 2008. Please make a note on your calendar!!



### FUNDAY SUNDAY

**November 4, 2007**

**2 pm – 7 pm**

At The World Heritage Centre on Penno's Wharf. Tons of fun for the entire family!

*Stay tuned or phone us for further information*

### THE ST. GEORGE'S ROTARY

On June 25, The St. George's Rotary gave a \$1,000 donation to the St. George's Foundation as well as four other local Charities. These funds are raised during the year at several Rotary sponsored events such as a golf tournament, raffles, and donations from visiting Rotarians.

We thank The St. George's Rotary for their generous donation and their continuing support. This organisation whose motto is "Service Above Self" has consistently supported our work throughout the years. You help us enhance St. George's, and we salute you!



### DONATION TO THE SGF FROM SKAL



The St. George's Foundation received a donation from SKAL, a hospitality industry association, in the amount of \$1,000 in recognition of our work to benefit tourism. Ms. Karen Cooper Olson, Treasurer of SKAL, presented the check to Sharon Jacobs.

### HAPPY OCCASIONS!

Our heartfelt thanks to **Mr. James Winch** and **Dr. Andrew West** for asking their friends to donate to the St. George's Foundation in lieu of gift-giving for their respective birthdays.

Your generosity is sincerely appreciated – *happy belated birthday wishes to you both!*

For further information regarding any of the above, or to become a member of The St. George's Foundation, please contact Barbara Holmes Simon, Membership Coordinator, [memberships@logic.bm](mailto:memberships@logic.bm) or phone **297-3686**.

## HERE'S WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING UNDER THE MEMBERSHIP UMBRELLA DURING THE LAST QUARTER:

### A SOMERS EVENING 2007

For a few hours on Friday evening, June 29, Bermuda's general public and visitors to Bermuda enjoyed A Somers Evening, a delightful fun-filled family evening of entertainment consisting of many historical re-enactments, lively skits, and some delightful musical entertainment. In order to bring the evening to reality, The St. George's Foundation partnered with:

The Corporation of St. George

The Bermudian Heritage Association

The Bermuda National Trust

Lodge St. George

The St. George's Historical Society

St. Peter's Church

Residents of Historical Homes

JARGAN Theatre Enterprises and

The Olde Towne Railway

We're thankful to Bank of Bermuda Foundation, the Lead Sponsor and Bank of Bermuda HSBC for sponsoring costume rentals.

Entertainment was to be enjoyed at the following venues:

The World Heritage Centre

Tucker House Museum (BNT)

Pilot Darrell's Square

The Bermuda Perfumery Gardens

St. Peter's Church

BNT Museum/Globe Hotel

The Town Hall

The Deliverance Replica

Sir George Somers Statue

Bridge House

Buckingham

Thomas Moore's Garden

The State House

The St. George's Historical Society/Mitchell House

Samaritans Cottages

Ocean Sails

The Bermudian Heritage Museum

and

at the Stocks and Pillory on King's Square

The Trustees of The St. George's Foundation donated \$1,000 for a travel voucher raffle.

Hundreds of volunteers were on hand to welcome and entertain patrons.

From an organisational point of view, The St. George's Rotary Club, St. George's Sea Cadets, and The Menuhin Youth Orchestra, were actively participating.

Mr. William S. Zuill played the lead part of Sir George Somers in a playlet he wrote especially for A Somers Evening and presented at The Town Hall.

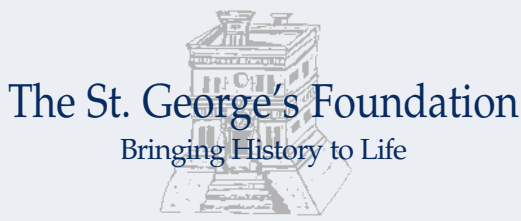
We anticipate we had about 800 people on hand in the Town celebrating our historical roots!

A heartfelt and special thank you is extended to all of the actors who spent considerable time learning lines and giving their time and energy.

**Well done everybody!** What fun it was! We've had some really nice feedback from some folks who did attend and who are already looking forward to next year's presentation.



For further information regarding any of the above, or to become a member of The St. George's Foundation, please contact Barbara Holmes Simon, Membership Coordinator, [memberships@logic.bm](mailto:memberships@logic.bm) or phone 297-3686.



P.O. Box GE 58, St George's GE BX, Bermuda

## Sign up a friend!

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: INDIVIDUAL / FAMILY

Please fill in and return with cheque enclosed to our mailing address; or fax to 297-2479 with credit card information.

#### PLEASE SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

King's Square	\$ 1,000 +
Somers Garden	\$ 500
Duke of York Street	\$ 250
Water Street	\$ 150
Printer's Alley	\$ 100
Turkey Lane* – Family (children under 18)	\$ 50
Queen Street* – Individual	\$ 25
Blockade Alley* – Students (students under 18)	\$ 10

\* Overseas surcharge for mailings: add \$10.00

In addition, my/our contribution will be matched by:

\_\_\_\_\_ a matching gift company

#### PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you wish entry to appear in the Annual Report and formal listings)

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel(H): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel(W): \_\_\_\_\_

Fax(H): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax(W): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(H): \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail(W): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names / Birth Dates (under 18 only)

\_\_\_\_\_

Call me about volunteer opportunities

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT

Cash  Cheque  (payable to The St. George's Foundation)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/Debit Card Please specify card type \_\_\_\_\_

Credit/Debit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Holder's Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_

Holder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Capital Campaign

Gayle Evans, Capital Campaign Coordinator

Our 2007 fund raising efforts continue to focus on the World Heritage Centre.

As we near completion of "Phase 2 – Lower Level" at the World Heritage Centre we are pleased to say we remain within budget and completion is set for mid to late August.

Thank you to all our very generous donors for their continued help and support towards making the World Heritage Centre a first class visitor centre for all to enjoy.

Our visitors are continually impressed with the quality of our Orientation & Exhibit Gallery within the World Heritage Centre. Without you we could not make this a reality. **Thank you!**

Phase 3 will see completion of the World Heritage Centre in time for our 400th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009. Planning on this phase of work has begun. To date, our goals have been met, thanks to you.

As we move towards Phase 3 we continue to solicit support for "The World Heritage Centre – Phase 3 – Upper Level Completion". In addition to raising funds for "The World Heritage Centre Endowment Fund" the income from which will help fund the Centre's operations. Your donation is greatly appreciated and is critical to our future plans.

## Event Planning

The World Heritage Centre is well suited for functions, and many of you have already experienced this from attending one of our events over the last year. The building is available, and if you have an event or know someone who may have a special event planned, the World Heritage Centre is the perfect venue. Please call me at 297-3370 and I will be pleased to discuss in detail and show you some of the possibilities that can be created.

Thank you for your continued support in "Bringing History to Life".

## We're continuing to partner with other organisations

Please support our friends at The Bermudian Heritage Association as they stage their Tag Days on Friday, August 24 and Saturday, August 25. We'll be tagging for them. **Please call Mrs. Marion Hayward on 236-8745 or Mrs. Violet C. Brangman on 292-6675** if you can tag on either the Friday or Saturday.

Just prior to Cup Match we helped The Family Centre to distribute their Cup Match Ribbons throughout St. George's and St. David's.

## 2008 FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

The successful launch of the 2008 Fundraising Calendar was held on April 24 at the Bermuda Society of Artists Gallery, City Hall. This calendar is special for several reasons. It is our first 13-month calendar, which we believe is a positive selling point. We also worked in partnership with the Bermuda Society of Artists (BSOA) to create this beautiful calendar with the help of 13 artists.

The BSOA hosted a competition inviting their artists to submit artwork showing the historic Town of St. George's. Numerous entries were received, the judges reviewed the submissions and the artworks of thirteen artists were selected to showcase the beauty of St. George's. Our special thanks to BSOA Executive Director Vikki Evans and the 13 artists who have provided such beautiful artwork reflecting the Town of St. George's in its image and Bermuda overall in its colours. This 2008 Calendar is a wonderful opportunity to keep history and art alive!!

The calendar is available in local retail shops throughout Bermuda. Pick up your copy soon and consider the calendar as a gift for overseas friends and relatives. If you require further information, contact us at 297-8043.



# Young Diplomats of Bermuda

The Executive School of Protocol are offering one-week "Young Diplomats of Bermuda" classes this Fall, beginning mid-September in Somerset and at the World Heritage Centre at Penno's Wharf in St. George's.

Girls and boys enrolled in these classes will learn social and dining skills which will help to prepare them for all that the world has to offer.

Classes taking place at the World Heritage Centre will include "Museum Etiquette" and The St. George's Foundation will extend complimentary one-year student memberships to participants.

**Spaces are limited and early registration is recommended.**

For further information please contact **Trudy Snaith** at [tsnaith@ibl.bm](mailto:tsnaith@ibl.bm) - phone 505-8358 or fax 234-0160.

## World Heritage Centre

Plans are still on schedule to finish the ground floor of the World Heritage Centre this summer. In addition to our Welcome Desk, the custom retail sales desk for merchandise sales has been installed. The St. George's "Time Tree" showing key moments in the Town's history has been installed in the stairwell leading to the second floor.

All painting of the ground floor has been done, and lighting installations have begun. We are awaiting wall cabinets for photos, and expect that to be accomplished this month.

Meanwhile, some 6000 visitors have come to the Centre to see the "Stoll through St. George's" film and view the Orientation and Exhibit Gallery. About 15 school groups have visited the Centre, enjoying the exhibits, Town Model, and real life dioramas.

Debra Loader did a sterling job for us in manning the Centre this winter. She greeted all visitors with a welcoming smile, and many times, had the kettle ready for that cup of tea! Debbie has returned to Pennsylvania and is planning to return to Bermuda in mid November. We look forward to seeing her again.

Mr. George Outerbridge has assumed the manning of the Centre. George is very knowledgeable about Bermuda and its history, and enjoys meeting and conversing with our visitors. He will, as time allows, do a personal tour of the Orientation Gallery with visitors, commenting on the exhibits and discussing the shared history between Bermuda and the USA, especially regarding the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown, Virginia.



## WEDDING EVENTS TRANSFORM the World Heritage Centre

Two wedding receptions were held at the World Heritage Centre in June and July with over 800 persons enjoying the premises. It is amazing to watch the World Heritage Centre transform into a gala ballroom. Ms. Corinne Parris, owner of firm, "Surprise", was responsible for the beautiful decorations shown below.

**Do you have a special event planned?** Call us at 297-8043 to discuss hosting your event at the World Heritage Centre. It will capture your imagination!!



Photos by Larry Jacobs



## THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

The World Heritage Centre is located on Penno's Wharf in historic St. George's. Right on the waterfront, it is an 1860's building, beautifully restored. Perfect for wedding receptions and special events.

The rooms can be decorated to any wedding theme. Kitchen facilities are available and there is ample guest parking at Tiger Bay.

Come and see the World Heritage Centre. It will capture your imagination!

For information, phone The St. George's Foundation at 297-8043 or 297-3676.

BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE



The St. George's Foundation





# Foundations

July 2007



## The 2007 SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

**"The Smithsonian Folklife Festival acts as a cultural democracy, a vehicle for cultural conversation and a means of cultural conservation."**

This year, the Festival provided an important forum for expression, demonstration and the performance of cultural traditions from the Mekong River Region, Northern Ireland, and Virginia's Native American, English and African-American cultures.

This summer, the descendants of Virginia's three 'roots' joined delegations from Kent County, England (one of the counties from which the original settlers came and the burial place of Pocahontas) and West Africa (an area from which many enslaved Africans came to Virginia) in recognition of Jamestown's 400th anniversary.



By demonstrating and performing many parallel cultural traditions side by side, craftspeople, musicians, cooks, agriculturalists, and maritime experts proved that different cultures can have much in common and can borrow from each other to forge a nation.

For more information visit [www.folklife.si.edu/festival/2007](http://www.folklife.si.edu/festival/2007)

Source: 2007 Smithsonian Folklife Festival Program Book  
Photos: Leondra Burchall



