



Established in 1984

News

February 2006

At BACCA's AGM on 4th February 2006

Ms Gina Williamson was elected as the new Chairperson of BACCA. 24 years old Gina, who was previously the Treasurer, started to attend BACCA's meeting as a toddler with her mum.

Her election was totally unexpected, but from her performance so far, we are confident that she will do an excellent job.

We would like to thank the outgoing Chairperson Mrs Grace Scott for her hard work and dedication in inspiring and leading the association for the past 2 years.

The New BACCA executives are as follows:

Chairperson: Ms Gina Williamson, Vice Chairperson: Mrs Grace Scott, Treasurer: Ms Pauline Bennett, Assistant Treasurer: Mr Errol Stephens, Secretary: Mr Michael Ambersley, Assistant Secretary: (Vacant), Social Secretary: Ms Paulette Tucker, Assistant Social Secretary: Mrs Olga Beresford

It was reported that the party was well attended and was very enjoyable.

JUNE'S DERBY



We had a purely social event in June when we attended the Derby. This event was, as always, excellently organised by Errol Stephens. On the coach you can get the best laugh you've ever had, on the way to and from the derby.

BOOT SALE

Last year (2005) started off with a boot sale in May, which was organised and staffed by Michael Ambersley, Paulette Tucker and Olga Beresford. We collected quite a lot of saleable items and attended a boot sale in Woolwich. The day was not as successful as we would have liked. There are still quite a few Items remaining in store, which hopefully we can get rid of in the next boot sale. We need to find another venue where hopefully we can sell more and make a better profit.



This event was well attended and there is always lots of fun.



In May a **Surprise going away and presentation party** was held for Terry and Marion Bickley (founder members of BACCA), who were retiring to Barbados. The party was held at Pauline Bennett's house.

DANSON FESTIVAL

We participated in the Danson Festival on 3rd July where the intention was to try to make the public more aware of our presence. We had a small exhibition of Caribbean and African food, traditional items, leaflets and information on our organisation.



BACCA'S STALL AT THE DANSON FESTIVAL



SPONSORED WALK

The annual sponsored walk was our main event in July and at the end of the walk (approximately 7 miles) we had a fun day event in Greenwich Park. The walkers were met with food and drinks; and although it was a little chilly (at least for the guests from Jamaica - Monica and Ivan Brown) we had a good time. This event was also well attended by friends and family of the members.

GRACE MET THE QUEEN

BACCA'S Chairperson Grace Scott had the honour of meeting the Queen at a Civic reception on 26th July 2005, held at Danson House, Bexleyheath. She had an enjoyable time and was introduced to the Queen who asked her: "how many Afro-Caribbean people live in the borough of Bexley". Grace was quite taken by a young black youngster (Dayle Barrett) who sat with the queen – he attends a local school and has aspirations of entering politics.

BCRE MULTI-FAITH FESTIVAL

BACCA took part in the **BCRE Multi-Faith Festival** in September. A group consisting of Michael and Monica Ambersley, Paulette Tucker, Grace Scott, Sylvia McLean and John(Grace's partner) represented BACCA. We dressed in semi-traditional costumes and sang two Jamaican folk songs: "Cah' me Ackee Ga Linstead Market" and "Kum Bah Ya". We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

In Celebration of Black History Month

Our last event of the year was the **Ethnic Awareness and Multi-Faith day** in November at Crayford Town Hall, which BACCA organised. It was the first event of its kind that we have organised and we must congratulate ourselves because it was very well attended and proved to be a very successful event. We have had encouraging feedback and people are looking forward to the next event.

We provided food, drink, entertainment and lots of displays. We also had some important people attending e.g. the Mayor and the local MP. We have to thank Sylvia McLean who took on the brunt of organising this event. Well Done. Same place next year!

The Bexley Extra covered the event and writes:

A SIX-hour multi-cultural showcase took place in Crayford last week. The event was organised by the Bexley Afro-Caribbean Community Association as part of black history month at Crayford Town Hall. It featured a range of musical and dance performances, spliced with contributions from community and civic leaders.

Local MPs David Evennett and John Austin were scheduled to speak along with the Mayor of Bexley, Cllr John Sheppard, and Cllr Manny Blake. Topics such as Black women in the media, and mentoring and its impact on young people were broached. Smiley Ark Kids and the Taal Dance Group were among the performers, and there was also a kick boxing demonstration and a fashion show.



Secretary of BACCA, which has been in existence since 1984, Michael Ambersley said: "The response was very good. I think that there would have been even more if it hadn't been for the poor weather.

The aim was to celebrate Black History Month, and look at the diversity and different cultures in Bexley."

Motivations

"Quite a few of the speakers were speaking to the young people about motivation and raising aspirations, the importance of unifying people". Mr Evennett attended the evening session. He observed singing and dancing, toured the craft stalls and spoke about the importance of culture and heritage within society and the vital importance played by education in improving community relations. He talked of the need to inspire young people to achieve and praised the Afro-Caribbean business community for raising the aspirations of youth today.

After his speech Mr Evennett presented the Special Awards to BACCA members who had given exceptional service to the organisation.

Articles by: Paulette Tucker and Olga Beresford

Editor: Michael Ambersley

P O Box 369, Welling, Kent DA16 3SD

We are looking for people to join up as members, Please call:

Tel: 07946 497731, email: baccaforum@yahoo.co.uk