

**Sister Cities News Bulletins****St. Patrick's Monsignor Comments on Mandela's Legacy**

Fr. Vincent Harcourt Blackett, chairman of the Bridgetown Constituency Council and liaison to Wilmington was honored in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI with the distinction of the title monsignor. This is a papal honor bestowed on priests for outstanding service to the church. Monsignor Blackett's service covers 3 continents and includes Barbados, England and Africa and he currently serves St. Patrick's, a Roman-Rite Cathedral, on Bay St. in Bridgetown.

This past December Msgr. Blackett was interviewed by *Barbados Today* on the passing of Nelson Mandela. Blackett met Mandela after his release from prison while he was teaching in Birmingham (UK). One of the events scheduled for Mandela's visit was a concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall. The monsignor was among the 1,000 member voice choir that so impressed Mandela that they were asked to perform the following week at a special luncheon. Msgr. Blackett was one of 25 that performed at the private event and he was fortunate enough to speak personally with this iconic world figure. Msgr. Blackett shared that he was from Barbados and a friend of the Dame Nita Barrow who was among one of the few people who actually visited Mandela on Robben Island. Msgr. Blackett has never forgotten how generous in spirit Mandela was after being incarcerated for nearly half his life.

Msgr. Blackett said, "I would say that he embodied what Christianity is all about. So I put him in the same position as Mahatma Ghandi, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., and a whole set of religious icons that have really made and lived what Christianity is all about. I would say his life would continue to be a challenge to Christians to truly live the Gospel because he [Mandela] lived 'what it meant'..."



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"Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished." - Nelson Mandela 7/18/1918 - 12/5/2013

#22 New York Times Top Places to Visit in 2014

According to the NY Times, Yorkshire provides a photogenic and historic ale trail. Its recent popularity is attributed to a new guide book focused on historic breweries.

One example is Samuel Smith dating back to 1758 and its gray shire horses are still delivering beer as pictured above. Most westerners are familiar with the Budweiser Clydesdale horse, which was bred in Scotland and became popular in North America because it could pull heavy weights and looked stylish doing it. The Shire horse got its name from being used in large teams to plow the expansive fields of the English Shires and like the Clydesdale has the beautiful white feathers adorning its feet. Doncaster, Wilmington's sister city, organizes an annual beer festival featuring 125 beers, ciders and foreign beers. This year it will be held April 25-26. There is a beer festival almost every season in Yorkshire for anyone interested in sampling some of the newest brews along with the ales made using the same strain of yeast since the 1800s.

Other events happening around town this spring include for the business traveler - the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organizing its annual Global Manufacturing Festival which aims to connect SME's in the UK supply chain with major international customers. The conference and trade show aims to help attendees understand the supply

chains for a broad range of high growth market sectors, how to access them and where to focus investments to grow revenue. It will be held June 23-25, 2014, at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Center – one of the world's leading manufacturing research and development facilities. For more information on this upcoming event or to register go to: www.globalmanufacturingfestival.com.

Colin Jeynes has sent us details of the program in Doncaster which coincides with their celebration of 25 years of connection with Herten in Germany. The days of that event (**June 23-26**) involve some great opportunities for business involvement and he hopes that a delegation of business people will visit from Wilmington, and join in the fun while looking for trade opportunities.

Here's the program: **Monday** (23 June) arrive in Doncaster during the day, and then visit the Mansion House (1746) where the Civic Mayor will host a Civic Reception at 6 pm.

Tuesday & Wednesday (24-25 June) meet at the Mansion House for bus transport to the Advance Manufacturing Park for the Global Manufacturing Festival for each day; be hosted to an evening meal by the Festival organisers on one day and by Doncaster College the other day.

Thursday (26 June) meet at the Mansion House for bus transport for visits to Doncaster companies during the day and then attending a Gala Joint Concert at 7 pm at CAST (www.castindoncaster.com) given by Doncaster's Youth Jazz Orchestra and the EKV School Big Band from Herten.

The best way to get to Doncaster is to fly to Manchester where there is a direct rail link from within the airport all the way to Doncaster. Couldn't be easier! Maybe you could stay on a bit to see more of Yorkshire, England's largest county, and have a beer on us?

And if you haven't experienced a Yorkshire welcome, well, you've been missing a lot, Colin tells us! Get the hotel booking details from SCAW.

Carolina Healthcare System Brings Cardiac Technology to Belize

Heart disease is a leading cause of death in Belize and the country was lacking the needed resources to help its people until help arrived courtesy of the largest healthcare system in the Carolinas.

Belize was one of several Central American countries that became a beneficiary of the Carolinas Healthcare

System International Medical Outreach Program through its Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute in 2011 when a mobile cardiac catheterization laboratory was donated. Since then physicians have been traveling to Belize regularly and in 2013 Belizeans received stents for the first time in their own country. The most recent initiative involves using technology to aid physicians treating patients with heart disease. In addition to viewing echo-cardiograms and radiology scans in real time, using a visual portal will provide opportunities for training and educational conferences improving care to all Belizeans. Dr. Geoffrey Rose, Chief of Cardiology for Sanger, said in an interview with the Charlotte Bizjournal, "For most of the population, if this technology doesn't exist, these conditions don't get treated."

In Other News

Belizean Student Reflects on his Time in Wilmington - *Eric Alexander Wade*

"Cherish the moments; before you know it, it will be over." Those were the words that I was constantly told by my friends before coming to Wilmington. Those words have never been more truthful; it seems like only yesterday that I arrived in Wilmington not knowing where I was and now my journey has come to an end; my goal has been accomplished. I have earned my degree. During my time in Wilmington, I have had moments that I will cherish for a lifetime, from the many new friends to the food, to the kindness of the community; Wilmington has forever become my second home. I have learnt life lessons that I will take away from this experience and never forget. I am forever grateful to everyone who had a part in my accomplishing this goal, especially my parents and family who have supported me from the beginning without whom none of this would have been possible. Special thanks to the SCAW Board of Directors for allowing me to be a part of such an amazing organization. I have no doubt that this organization will continue to grow. As I move forward to the next stop of my journey, I recall the words of George Whitefield, "Press forward. Do not stop; do not linger in your journey, but strive for the mark set before you."

Muchas gracias atodos, ha sido un placer.



SCAW Elects Officers and Directors at its Annual Meeting

During the SCAW Annual Meeting Harry Tuchmayer and current board member Fenton Maxwell were elected to the class of 2017. Harry is director of the New Hanover Public Library where he has been employed for the last 18 years serving in many different capacities, and was a longtime writer and editor for the NC Libraries Magazine. He holds a Masters in history and science from UCLA and has served on the boards of many professional and community organizations. It was noted that there are two vacancies on the board at the present time and nominations to fill the slots for the class of 2016 are being accepted by email – membership@scawilmington.org.

Also elected for a one-year term were officers: Darrell Irwin, who will lead the organization as president; Fenton Maxwell, who will serve as treasurer; and Li Tan Nichols, who will serve as corporate secretary.

Dale Smith recognized outgoing board member, Dick Airey, for his contributions to the 2012 symposium and fundraising efforts during his term on the board. Darrell Irwin recognized outgoing board member and officer, Dale Smith, for his leadership over the years.

Commission Updates

The City has invited Senator the Honorable Maxine Mc Clean, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Barbados, to send a delegation to Wilmington in honor of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the twinning agreement which will be celebrated June 5-7.

There has been an inquiry on behalf of Liverpool, England, in the possibility of a twinning with Wilmington. An application has been forwarded to begin the review process.

Marilyn Cantarella, SCC member and liaison to the association board, attended the first US-China Conference in March. Over 150 Chinese delegates attended the event. The PRC Embassy hosted a reception at the opening of the conference and the following day, panel discussions included mayors, governors, and corporate leaders who spoke about strategy and best practices within the context of sister city relationships.

Citizen to Citizen Diplomacy Honor Roll

SCAW attempts to involve as many people and institutions as possible to achieve its mission in Wilmington and the international community. We want to recognize the individuals and groups that have made a contribution in the past calendar quarter

through their active participation or support of a Sister City program activity.

Chad Fan	Szechuan 132
Marilyn Cantarella	Dale Smith
Maria Goudiss	Eric Alexander Wade
Dr. Diane Levy	Darrell Irwin

Upcoming Events

April 12-13 (Sat/Sun) – Azalea Festival Multicultural Stage will be located at Front & Walnut Streets both days from 1:15 – 5:00. The Chinese-American Cultural Association will perform Sunday at 4:30 PM.

June 9 (Monday) – SCAW board meeting at the Northeast Regional Library, Military Cut-off Rd. at 5:30 PM. Public is welcome.

June (TBA) – In honor of the 10th anniversary of the twinning agreement with Bridgetown there will be a special program at Front St. Brewery at 6:00 PM. “A Day in a Bajan Life” directed by Pelle Hybbinette and produced by Penelope Hynam includes 10 vignettes of Barbadian personalities that will provide a glimpse into modern day Bajan culture. Please check the web calendar in May for the date and complete details for this program.

**“Gong (kung) Hei Fat Choi
(choy)” Cantonese**

“Gong Xi (shee) Fa Cai” Mandarin

Sister City board members and friends celebrate the Year of the Horse at Szechuan 132 on February 5
(photo credit SCAW member Pam Walton)

