

Re-cap of the Quarter



On **LABOUR DAY** the Member of Parliament participated in projects in all four (4) divisions.

Knockpatrick Division – Wendy Freckleton (Councillor Caretaker):

- Green Street- Jeep 3 project (road)
- Hillside Basic School- Beautification exercise in collaboration with the Digicel Foundation
- Painting of six class room at the Richmond Primary School

Mandeville Division – Councillor Jones Oliphant

- Mandeville Police Station
- Cedar Grove- Jeep 3 project (road)

Bellefield Division- Mayor Brenda Ramsay

- Porus
- Banana ground (drains and road)

Royal Flat Division - Councillor Donovan Mitchell

- Broadleaf- road patching
- Georges Valley- Jeep 3 (road)

FOR TEACHER'S DAY

- The MP treated educators in schools across the constituency with cakes.

Children's Day Treat

- MP's Office participated in a Children's Day Treat at Albion Bellefield Division Cook Out & 4-a-side Football Competition at Bellefield High School

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Conferences for Councillor Candidate selection 2014

- Royal Flat Division- July 6, 2014 Heartease Community Center
- Bellefield Division- July 12, 2014 Bellefield High School
- Mandeville Division- July 13, 2014 Manchester High School
- Knockpatrick Division- July 20, 2014 May Day High School

MP's REPORT

to Constituents of
Central Manchester

Newsletter - June 2014

*Peter
Bunting
M.P.*



EDITORIAL

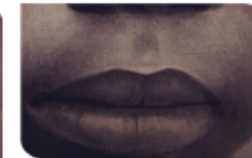
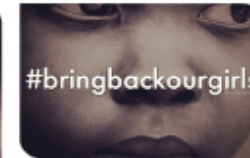
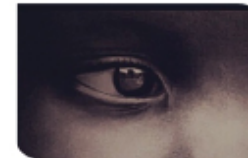
OUR WOMEN ARE AT RISK TOO #bringbackourgirls

The plight of 300 teenage girls, kidnapped April 14th from a boarding school in the remote village of Chibok in North East Nigeria, has rightly captured the world's attention. Despite global outrage and a vibrant social media campaign, spearheaded by international celebrities, little has been achieved, and most of the victims are still being held in captivity.

In this particular case, there is not much we can do but lend our voice to the social media protest, continuing to raise awareness with the hope that the girls are returned safely to their families. While we lend our support to our Nigerian brothers and sisters, however, it is important to note that similar incidents occur right here in the Caribbean, which require the same fervency. Our women and children continue to be targets of abuse and sexual exploitation and the incident in Nigeria should force us to confront the under-publicized issue of human trafficking, a major problem in the Caribbean, including Jamaica.

In 2012, the United States Department of State placed Jamaica on the Tier 2 Watchlist in its annual report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), declaring that "Jamaica is a source, transit, and destination country for adults and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour." Recognizing the extent of this problem, the Jamaican Government, through the Ministry of National Security, embarked on an extensive programme in 2013 to raise awareness on the issue and to get the public involved in reducing incidents of human trafficking. To support the Government's effort, there was also an amendment of the Trafficking in Persons Act, in May 2013, which among other things, increased the penalty for committing human trafficking from a possible 10 years to life imprisonment. Additionally, a Government-run shelter for victims of trafficking was established in 2013. These efforts have yielded some results, as between April 2012 and May 2013, the authorities reported that over 24 victims were rescued from trafficking rings; reports also suggest that two of those cases were being prosecuted. Consequently, Jamaica's ranking improved to Tier 2 in the 2013 US TIP Report.

Notwithstanding the work of the authorities, the country was again downgraded to Tier 2 Watchlist in the 2014 report. This means that much remains to be done to ensure that our women and children are adequately protected from the perpetrators of these crimes. The issue requires greater support from the public to end exploitation of all kinds, including weeding out the sexual predators in our communities and lobbying and raising awareness of this and other issues with the same energy and involvement which we gave to the #Bring Back Our Girls campaign of Chibok, Nigeria. Surely, this engagement in global activism is welcomed and it may be well suited in fact, to adopt the popular hashtag #bringbackourgirls to the Jamaican context, and possibly expand it into a #BringBackOurNation campaign.



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MANCHESTER CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

Manchester, the youngest parish in Jamaica, and arguably one of the most developed parishes of the country, will celebrate 200 years on December 13, 2014. The parish came into being on December 13, 1814 by way of an Act of the House of Assembly, and was named after the then ruling Governor, William Montague, Duke of Manchester. The pristine capital of Mandeville was subsequently named after the Governor's eldest son, who carried the title, Viscount of Mandeville.

Despite its status as the youngest parish in Jamaica, Manchester has an impressive history, which makes a visit to the parish seem almost magical. Notwithstanding the tremendous modernization which has taken place in the town overtime, remnants of the colonial past create a harmonious mix of modern life with historical charm. Its hilly landscape lends to a salubrious environment, which appears almost untouched by the effects of global warming. The welcoming climate, which is characterized by sunny, but windy days and cool nights, is envied by persons in other parishes, and favoured by many Jamaicans returning home. This climate creates the perfect environment for both tropical and temperate plants to thrive; making Mandeville home to a wide array of exotic ornamental plants, which can be viewed in open public spaces or in private gardens throughout the parish. It is therefore, not surprising that the Manchester Horticultural Society, formed in 1865, is one of the oldest of its kind in the world, and possibly the oldest within the Caribbean.

Located strategically in the centre of both Manchester and Jamaica, Mandeville has long been a Centre of Excellence and a trendsetter both in Jamaica and the Caribbean. The capital is home to the Mandeville Hotel, the oldest hotel in the Caribbean and the Americas; the Manchester Club, the oldest golf course in the Caribbean; and Jamaica's oldest free library, the Manchester Parish Library. The Oranique, a unique citrus fruit resulting from the cross of the orange and the tangerine, was also first developed in Mandeville.

As Manchesterians, we not only have our history to be proud of, but the continued tradition of excellence should be celebrated. We boast several secondary schools and educational institutions, which have gained distinction both at the national and international levels. For instance, the Northern Caribbean University (NCU) has been a top contender at the Microsoft Imagine Cup, copping top prizes in 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2010. The entrepreneurial spirit of our people, evidenced by numerous homegrown businesses within the parish is also commendable.

As we approach the 200-year mark, let us renew our commitment to ensuring that Manchester remains a model parish for social and economic development in Jamaica. In doing so, we must work as a community to get rid of the criminal elements which have tried to take hold in our parish.

In celebration of the Bicentennial anniversary there will be numerous activities being held across the division, we ask that you support these activities.

FACTS on Manchester



MDRVPA Launches Farming Initiative

In a continuing bid to find innovative ways to stem domestic violence in the parish, the Manchester Dispute Resolution and Violence Prevention Association (MDRVPA) launched a farming initiative on February 28, 2014. The link between unemployment and domestic violence has long been proven through research, which shows a positive correlation between high levels of unemployment and an increase in cases of domestic violence. The fallout of the bauxite sector, which contributed extensively to the economy of Manchester, coupled with the country's slow recovery from the global economic crisis, has resulted in higher levels of unemployment. There has been a high number of reported cases of domestic violence in the parish, over 2000 reports as indicated by the JCF.

The farming initiative aims to create meaningful employment options for residents who will be better able to provide for themselves and their families. The initiative is envisioned to also positively impact the social landscape of Manchester in a broader sense through the community tourism programme - 'Villages as Businesses' - being spearheaded by the Countrystyle Community Tourism Network (CCTN) and the Parish Council. The hope is that the produce from this programme will increase offerings at farmers markets, expand 'farm dining' options for tourists and locals and help the parish to realize the goal of ultimately offering 'farm tours' as part of the community tourism package.

The communities of Grey Ground, Albion, Pear Tree, Greenvale and George's Valley were selected to participate in the initiative, with two persons from each community receiving financial and resource-oriented input for their farming projects. Each beneficiary received JMD\$ 20,000 in grant funding and significant technical support from some of the best in the field to institutionalize modern agricultural practices. The Northern Caribbean University (NCU) was also instrumental in offering their resources and lending expertise to assist in training the farmers.

While a relatively small group was chosen to participate in this initiative, the potential benefit will be significant. One key outcome of this programme is less incidents of domestic violence in the communities of the participants.

The MDRVPA continues to be an agent of positive social change within the parish, even though it was established only two years ago. Despite the relative infancy of the Association, the Police have demonstrated confidence in its ability to carry out its mandate of reducing domestic violence. Senior Superintendent of Police with responsibility for Manchester, Marlon Nesbeth, disclosed at the launch event that 80 of the 2,000 reported cases of domestic violence in the parish last year were referred to the MDRVPA, while the police addressed the remainder.

So far, the MDRVPA has provided training to over 150 persons to act as first responders to domestic violence situations. The scope of training has been expanded to include dispute resolution and parenting. The organization continues to pursue its mandate of proactively finding ways of reducing domestic violence within the parish.

Outstanding Educator, Mr. Paul Grant, Leading by Example at Bellefield Primary



Despite the harsh economic times, which among other things, have resulted in financial cuts for the public school system, Mr. Paul Grant, principal of Bellefield Primary, is determined to make his school a model institution, known for its quality education and the well-rounded students.

Recognizing the need to create globally competitive individuals from an early age, the school ensures that students are equipped with a broad knowledge base from an intense academic programme, but also focuses on engendering positive social behaviours, such as orderly conduct.

In terms of academics, the school, under the leadership of Mr. Grant, has improved its literacy rate to 92% in the 2014 school year, up from 68% in 2010. The numeracy rate at the institution is also encouraging, recording an increase from 44% in 2010 to 79% in 2014. Failing to become victims of complacency, the principal and staff, while acknowledging this achievement, remain committed to ensuring that they achieve a 100% rate in both literacy and numeracy.

Principal, Mr. Paul Grant

In the face of a reduction of funds from the public coffers, the institution demonstrates its determination to being a model of excellence. As in the case of any private business in harsh financial times, the school has sought innovative ways to market themselves to the private sector, and to charitable organizations for support. Their efforts have not been futile as the United States Peace Corp and the Courts for Kids organizations contributed to the construction of a multi-sports court and donated sporting gears for the student athletes.

Mr. Grant cited 'team work' as the main contributor to the school's growing accomplishments. The staff and students of Bellefield Primary must be commended for their hard work and dedication.

