

# ANTIGUA ECHO

THE LIGHTER  
SIDE OF LIFE

ISSUE 2026:09

## VICTORY FOR SIDS

The United Nations General Assembly has taken a landmark step, with 141 countries adopting a resolution endorsing the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on states' obligations on climate change. Driven by small island states and youth advocacy through the Alliance of Small Island States, Antigua and Barbuda played an active role in shaping SIDS priorities. The move affirms that countries are legally bound to address climate change, align Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the 1.5°C limit, and phase down fossil fuels. Crucially, it affirms the permanence of maritime zones despite sea-level rise, reinforcing sovereignty for Antigua and Barbuda and protecting coastal livelihoods.



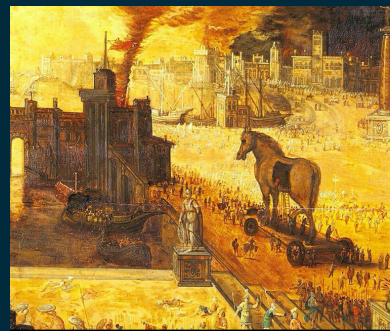
## A NEW ERA FOR AYC



At a recent Antigua Yacht Club members' meeting, Vice Commodore Richard Fear presented outline plans for an exciting new clubhouse designed by local architect Andrew Goodenough. The concept brings a fresh, modern feel while carefully preserving the relaxed Caribbean character that makes the club unique.

Building a new vision "AYC to be recognised as the premier yacht club & sailing venue in the Caribbean," the plans include updated dining facilities, members' spaces & a redesigned waterfront experience. The proposals sparked excitement & optimism among members. The redevelopment will help restore both pride and purpose to one of Antigua's most important sailing institutions.

## TROJAN HORSE



Proof, perhaps, that humanity has always struggled to throw anything away. Archaeologists in Egypt have discovered a 1,600-year-old fragment of Homer's Iliad tucked inside the abdomen of a mummy — apparently the ancient equivalent of stuffing newspapers into damp shoes.

The papyrus, containing part of the famous "Catalogue of Ships", was found at Oxyrhynchus and marks the first known case of a major Greek literary work being used in the embalming process. One imagines Homer might have preferred a library shelf, though after several thousand years, the preservation method can hardly be criticised.

## SALAD DAYS



IT's always salad season in Antigua and, with barbecue season firing up elsewhere, Chris de La Rosa arrives to the rescue with another burst of Caribbean flavour. His latest passion fruit dressing slips perfectly into lighter meals, lazy outdoor lunches and anything emerging from the grill slightly charred and optimistic. The tropical sharpness pairs beautifully with chicken, steak, fish or kabobs, adding brightness without fuss. Quick to make and full of sunshine, it is the sort of recipe that quietly upgrades everyday cooking while pretending not to make too much effort. Thanks to Chris de La Rose for this recipe.

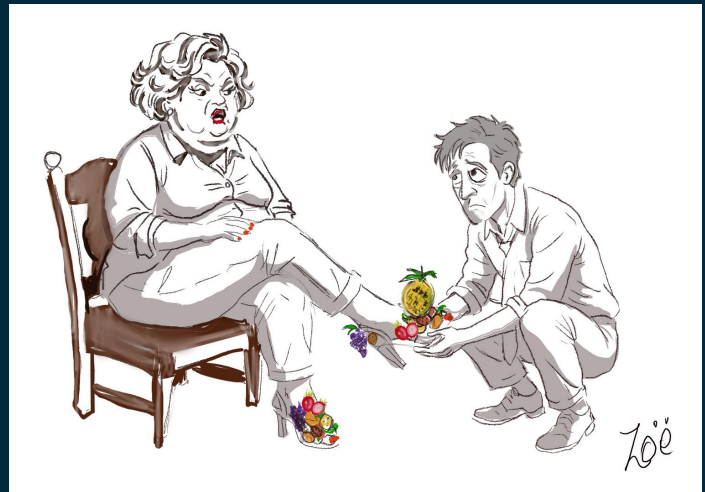
[Find this and more amazing Caribbean recipe here.](#)

# BACKPAGE GOSSIP

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## RUMOUR HAS IT

Rumours has it there may soon be no bananas, which in Antigua is the sort of news normally reserved for hurricanes, rum shortages or LIAT schedules. Panama Disease, a fungus with the charm of a tax audit, is sweeping through banana plantations worldwide, threatening the fruit that powers smoothies, banana bread and suspiciously healthy breakfasts. Scientists in Norwich now claim salvation is at hand with gene-edited “super bananas” ready by 2028. So there is hope. Though frankly, if Britain ends up saving bananas, we may finally have to forgive them for the weather.



“WOT, NO BANANAS?”

## RUMOUR HAS IT



That Antigua may soon need an even larger dredger. The latest floating fantasy capturing headlines is the proposed “Freedom Ship” — a colossal permanent city-at-sea so vast it would make modern cruise ships look like inflatable pool toys. At over a kilometre long, the vessel is theoretically too large for almost every port on Earth, raising uncomfortable questions about exactly where one parks a floating metropolis containing homes, schools and shopping malls. Antigua already watches cruise ships squeeze cautiously into St John’s Harbour. One suspects Freedom Ship might simply anchor somewhere near Barbuda and ask everyone to tender ashore. Doesn’t sound much like freedom!

## RUMOUR HAS IT

That Britain has reached a new economic low where even the humble pint is starting to feel like a luxury import. In parts of London, the price of beer has quietly nudged into eye-watering territory, with some rooftop bars now charging £10 (that’s over XCD30!!!) or more for a single pint—and not even a particularly exotic one. Drinkers at Mayfair’s Stanley’s, for example, can reportedly pay £11 for a Moretti or Heineken, with Guinness itself edging into “special occasion” pricing.

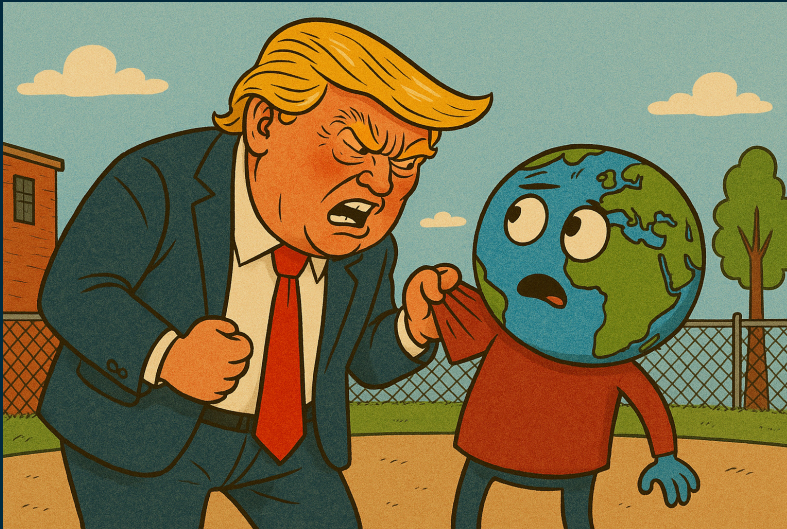


# AD-DED EXTRA

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## SAY NO TO BULLIES



Antigua has discovered the modern diplomatic equivalent of being asked to “help out” by a very large neighbour with very little sense of scale. Prime Minister Gaston Browne says the US wants the country to accept deportees under its third-country scheme — but Antigua’s idea of “manageable” appears rather smaller than Washington’s. Browne insists the federation cannot risk importing security problems without proper checks, documents or support. For a small island nation already juggling enough challenges, saying “not so fast” to the world’s biggest superpower is no small thing.



Carnival needs calm heads as well as loud music, and organisers are calling for volunteers to step forward as parade marshals for this year’s festivities. The role involves helping keep parade routes safe, managing crowd flow, assisting participants and reporting any incidents during events. Marshals will also support emergency responders when needed, helping Carnival run smoothly and safely for everyone. Anyone who enjoys the energy of Carnival and wants a front-row role in the action is encouraged to sign up.

### MUSIC DEVELOPMENT Masterclass

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**Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission Launches Free Five-Day Music Development Masterclass**