

ANTIGUA ECHO

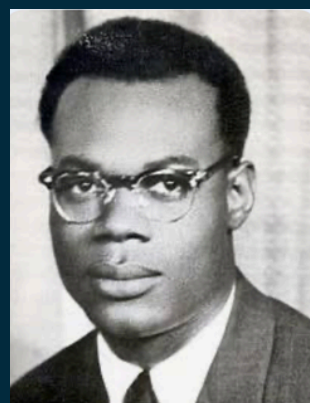
THE LIGHTER
SIDE OF LIFE

TODAY ANTIGUA, TOMORROW THE WORLD !

ISSUE 2026:14



Antigua will have a particularly fitting presence at this year's Notting Hill Carnival. The murder of Antiguan carpenter Kelso Cochrane in London on 17 May 1959 helped galvanise Britain's Caribbean community & was among the events that gave impetus to the celebrations from which today's Carnival grew. Now, beginning August 26, Antiguan soca artist Zamoni takes the island's music back to Notting Hill as part of a European tour promoting Antigua Carnival's 70th anniversary. He then heads to Switzerland for the Swiss Soca Festival in September. With What We Drinking? providing the soundtrack, it is a journey with rather more history behind it than the average carnival tour.



ON THE BEACHES



Some things in Antigua are negotiable. Access to the beach is not. The Development Control Authority reminds us all that public beach access is a right & is asking people to report gates, fences or other obstacles appearing across established routes to the sea.

Longstanding public use can establish access rights (we all know some of these), while coastal developments may also be required to provide appropriate access. With development continuing around the coastline, the DCA wants traditional routes protected before they quietly disappear. In a country where going to the beach is practically a constitutional instinct, make sure you report it.

OWL ABOARD



An exhausted barn owl clearly decided that 1,805 nautical miles around Britain was quite enough flying for anyone and hitched a lift instead. The unexpected passenger landed aboard British Army Sailing Association yacht Fujitsu British Soldier, 70 miles east of Newcastle, during the RORC Round Britain and Ireland Race. With 170 miles still to Cowes, the crew tucked her up for a well-earned sleep and arranged a wildlife rescue reception. One problem remained: race rules favour the same crew numbers at the finish. "Someone is going to have to walk the plank," joked skipper Will Naylor. When RORC heads back to Antigua for the Caribbean 600, crews might want to keep an eye out for opportunistic pelicans.



Antigua & Barbuda Falcons are now 4th in the CPL! Go Falcons.



Send anything interesting to
Zoe.topsyurvymedia@gmail.com

BACKPAGE GOSSIP

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RUMOUR HAS IT



That our favourite fruit is in trouble. The Cavendish banana, which dominates supermarket shelves worldwide, is threatened by Panama disease TR4, a soil fungus capable of destroying entire plantations. Scientists are racing to produce resistant varieties before history repeats itself: the Gros Michel banana suffered much the same fate in the 1950s. The irony for Antigua? Bananas once grew prolifically here, yet today we import well over a million kilos of bananas and plantains annually. Perhaps it's time we went bananas for growing bananas again.

RUMOUR HAS IT



That the latest fashion accessory isn't a handbag or a pair of sandals—it's a trip to Accident & Emergency. Zara's flowing wide-leg trousers have been dubbed the "death trousers" after wearers claimed they tripped over the extra fabric, suffering everything from cuts and broken ribs to ambulance rides. Perhaps there's a simpler solution. Buy the right length in the first place—or introduce your trousers to a needle and thread. Hemlines, after all, have been saving lives for generations.

RUMOUR HAS IT

That British politics has become even more of a parody of itself. Nigel Farage has retained Clacton in the by-election he triggered amid controversy over a £5 million gift from cryptocurrency billionaire Christopher Harborne. With every other major party boycotting the contest, Farage took 63 per cent of the vote. But the real triumph belonged to runner-up Count Binface — an intergalactic rubbish bin — who collected an extraordinary 9,455 votes, nearly 27 per cent. British can now boast a parliamentary election in which a man wearing a bin on his head won more than one vote in four — and was the runner-up.



British politics may finally have out-satirised itself.

AD-DED EXTRA

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THE ROAD TO CHOGM

With fewer than 75 days to go, and CHOGM 2026 is getting very close. This November, the Commonwealth comes to Antigua and Barbuda — and the world will be watching. Don't just watch from the sidelines: [register your interest in the Commonwealth People's Forum](#) and find out how to get involved. It is going to be quite a November. [Find out more here.](#)



Police Week 2026 is here. The Royal Police Force of A&B invites everyone to join a programme of worship, community outreach, fellowship & service. This year's theme is United in Duty, with Technology to Serve Our Community — a week to meet, connect with & celebrate those who help keep Antigua and Barbuda safe.

ANTIGUA POLICE WEEK



YOUTH MATTERS

Antigua's Halo Foundation, spearheaded by Lady Sandra Williams, has been doing what it does best again: quietly helping where it matters. The charity supported a three-day Youth Leadership Camp run with The Salvation Army, providing meals for around 30 young participants. Under the theme Lead Yourself. Lead Others, the youngsters tackled everything from emotional intelligence and conflict management to resilience, self-esteem and finding purpose. Halo's Cuthbert Forbes said investing in young people helps build stronger communities — and this looks like money particularly well spent.



CARIBBEAN, CAMERA, ACTION



PREVIOUS WINNER 1ST PLACE - ARACELIS JIMENEZ
"TWO WORLDS AT LOW TIDE"

There's still time to create something special; The Seas & Scenes: Love the Caribbean Photo Contest is open until August 31, with more than US\$3,000 in prizes and 12 chances to win. Entry is free; photographers of all abilities can submit up to five images. Last year attracted more than 300 entries from across the Caribbean. Time to get snapping. [See here to enter, vote, or learn more.](#)

SONGS OF PRAISE



Listen to the award-winning voice of Antigua's amazing Rashid Walker. Released September 4th [listen here](#)