

Para-athletes feted in London by John Golding Trustees

THE SIR John Golding Trust UK Trustees recently hosted a reception for Jamaica's Para-athletics team members who were in London for the World Para-athletics Champion-ships. It was an afternoon for the Para-athletes and the Support Team to relax after a grueling two weeks of competition.

The team, including Shane Hudson who won silver in the men's T47 400 metres, were treated to a two-hours driving sightseeing tour and enjoyed some of London's most iconic locations before the afternoon reception at the home of Professor Kennedy Cruickshank in Camden, north London.

The primary purpose of the UK trustees is to support the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre at Mona, the only specialist Centre in the English-speaking Caribbean dedicated to the treatment and long-term care of severely physically disabled people.

These activities include the workshops which provide work for disabled people and also income for the Centre. The Prosthetics Workshop employs disabled workers who produce artificial limbs for a multiplicity of needs, thereby generating income for the Centre. There is also a Wheelchair Shop, which carries out repairs on wheelchairs, and a Woodwork shop which supplies artefacts for the open market.

In addition, support is needed for the Athlone Wing, where disabled children stay while attending the local Primary School; without this facility they would have no access to education.

In March 2013, Professor Kennedy



Jamaica's Para-athletes and the support team at the reception hosted by the Sir John Golding Trust UK Trustees in London. Trustee members pictured are Kamala Dickson (left), Ann-Marie Pinkney (centre, cream jacket) and Eric Smellie (seated foreground).

Cruickshank became Chairman of the UK Trustees. He is a diabetes and cardiovascular medicine specialist at King's College London, with an interest in sports medicine. He was born in Jamaica and has long and continuing work connections with the UWI.

The other Trustees are Mark Golding, Jane Reid (Hon. Secretary), Kamala Dickson, Cécile Gooney, Sarah Halford, Miles Halford, Camille McFarlane, Ann-Marie Pinkney, Eric Smellie and Collin Smith (Hon Treasurer).

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utters the profound magnificent. Close inspection of Shaun Reid's "The Nature of Christ's Lessons" convinced the astute viewer that Golgotha, Jerusalem had been transmitted to Blue Mountain, Jamaica and the trepidatious path to 'Calvary' a reminder of the Shepherd's Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my Shepherd É") emerging into Psalm 121 ("I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help!É") as the sweep of the eyes settled atop the mountain in the painting.

Greg Bailey's masterpiece, "The Sacrifice of Isaac", emphasised the overlooked obedience of Isaac, often ascribed entirely to his father Abraham; and it was not difficult for the Jamaican viewer to imagine a ram goat caught in a nearby thicket, discovered in the moment the angel held back the cutlass, saving the future patriarch.

Sireita Mullings added the important contribution of the Rastafarian culture to an uplifted life in Jamaica with her digital prints on paper. The worshipful subjects in both her works are oblivious to the photographer, rendering their expressions of devotion wholly authentic. Philip Thomas explored

past and present idolatry provocatively in his mixed media and Alicia Lisa Brown gave the viewers delightfully refreshing priests and saints in the personages of cherubic young females. Young girls, this time school students, also featured in Carl Abraham's oil on canvas and the prophet present on the far left appeared to validate the girl who is all but cut out of the painting on the far right, seemingly restoring her personhood.

Mabusha Dennis celebrated the ritual of the camaraderie of the journey to and from church in his acrylics on canvas and a photograph of Edna Manley's "Orpheus", the legendary musician of Greek myth with the ability to charm even stones, brought to mind the Jamaican spirit of promoting social change by the force of personality undergirded by a deep sense of spirituality. Laura Facey Cooper's "Prayer" echoed the posture of thanksgiving and praise and seemed an ideal emoji for the remarkable contribution of Jamaican culture to global civilisation.

Britain has been left a better place as a result of the influence of this wonderful exhibition, Jamaican Spiritual, in the same way the society of the United Kingdom has benefited immeasurably from Jamaicans and the Jamaican Diaspora.