



MNT UPDATE

Response to Gun Hill Demolition

The plan to develop a new port at Carr's Bay involves the removal of the Gun Hill headland, a process currently underway.

Prior to the start of demolition work the *Survey and Landscape Archaeology on Montserrat (SLAM)* team was approached by Sarita Francis, MNT Director, with an invitation to conduct a limited archaeological investigation of the historical structure on the top of Gun Hill. There had been speculation that Gun Hill was a beacon tower; the archeological investigation would help determine if this was so. The team was also asked to inspect and gather artifacts from Potato Hill given that that location will also be significantly impacted by the development of the town at little Bay.

Team members comprised Dr John F. Cherry (Brown University) and Dr Krysta Ryzewski (Wayne State University), Tom Leppard, Emanuela Bocancea. Doug Anderson, Dulcie James and Candia Williams also provided assistance.

The Gun Hill site was further investigated in July by Archaeologist Jessica Striebel Maclean and her team from Boston University who worked with MNT staff members and volunteer Doug Anderson. Their task was to remove all artifacts of historical interest and identify them.



The results of the investigations provide ample evidence that Gun Hill was not a beacon tower, but rather a well-constructed platform for use as a cannon battery similar to Bransby Point Gun Battery. Most of the stones which formed the battery platform were removed and stored at MNT using funds provided for that purpose by the Government of Montserrat. Discussions with Government have begun in order to identify a location in the new town for a replica of the Gun Hill cannon battery using the original stones.

Several reports on findings at the Potato Hill and Gun Hill sites have been submitted by the archaeologists involved and these are available electronically from the Montserrat National Trust.

Summer Archaeological Programme Obtains Another AIA Grant



MSS Fourth Formers in Summer Archeology Sessions

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) awarded a Site Preservation Grant to the Carr's Plantation Archaeological project, now directed by Jessica Striebel MacLean of Boston University.

The Project aims to protect and raise awareness of the Carr/Piper Plantation—one of the few remaining European heritage sites in the north of the island that dates back to the 17th century.

The summer education programme in archaeology, now in its fourth year, expanded from 7 to 11

fourth and fifth formers from the Secondary School.

The three-week program introduced students to the fundamentals of archaeological practice including ethics, survey, excavation, and public interpretation.

It culminated with two days of student led public tours of the archaeological site and the launch of an archaeological photographic exhibition now on display at the National Museum at Little Bay, adjacent to the site.

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MONTSERRAT NATIONAL TRUST PRESERVING THE PAST * PROTECTING THE PRESENT * ENRICHING THE FUTURE

MNT Newsletter

HIKES AND EXHIBITIONS



NATURE TRAILS HIKES (Above *Ravo* from IVJ on Nature Trail Hike)

The Trust also maintains six hiking trails and conduct tours for small groups and individuals using experienced tour guides such as Scriber, Mappie and Gervian.

The MNT Wildlife and Vegetation Committee organized two hikes last year as part of its community health and awareness programme. The first hike in May was to Killikrankie Spring passing through Waterworks, Daly's River and Molyneaux. About 120 persons participated.

A second hike in July took the route from Isles Bay Plantation to Isle Bay Hill and across to Foxes Bay, Bransby Point, Hot Water Pond, Richmond Hill, Cork Hill and back to Belham. About 60 persons took part.

*A valuable resource for those who like to explore the interior of the island is the book, **Montserrat: a Guide to the Centre Hills** by Steve H. Holliday. It describes in detail the 8 main trails of the Centre Hills and provides clear directions and information about what can be seen on each. Available from MNT Gift Shops.*

Montserrat National Trust now has two Exhibition sites, At right, are a group of students from Simon's Rock College, Mass, USA visiting the Natural History Centre in Olveston looking at the Exhibits on the impact of the Volcano on Plymouth and the people of Montserrat.



Two short videos and photographs showing Plymouth before, during and after volcanic activity can be viewed at that site. Also on display are a number of books and newspaper articles on the social impact of the volcanic crisis.

pre-Columbian era are on display in the Museum's Foyer.

Colonization, Slavery and Industry is the name of the current Exhibition in the Montserrat Museum at Little Bay. European artifacts from across the island, including the Carr's Plantation site, can be seen in the main Exhibition Room.

Displays were mounted by MNT Staff with the assistance of visiting archaeologist, Jessica MacLean and her team from Boston University, the SLAM Team, as well as volunteers from Luxembourg on the Inspirational Volunteer Journey programme.

On display is information about the life of Olaudah Equiano, a famous enslaved African, who bought his freedom on Montserrat. Information and Exhibits on production sugar, limes and cotton and their importance to the economic development of the island are also featured.



Main Exhibition Hall at the Montserrat Museum

Several artifacts of Amerindian natives who occupied the island in the



Garden Trail through the Orchid House

The **Botanic Garden Committee** has been taking steps to improve the Garden. The Trust has been fortunate to have the voluntary service of Tina Breton who has spent time managing propagation and the inventory section of the garden.

The Trust has initiated an **Adopt a Corner Project** where a person or group can assist in maintaining a small section of the Garden. Tasks involved in this commitment include weeding, watering and planting under the supervision of

the garden staff. Alternatively, you may prefer to make a monetary contribution to the area of your choice.

Areas adopted so far are: Herbal Garden, the Orchid House and the Desert Rose Garden. Other areas that are available are the Bougainvillea Slope, Rose garden, Hibiscus Alley, Pink Acacia Circle.

Please contact the Montserrat National Trust to join the ADOPT A CORNER PROJECT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE TRUST

FLOWER SHOW, PLANT SALE, GARDEN TOUR AND TEA PARTY



The first ever MNT Flower Show was held the weekend December 6-8, 2013 with the theme of *Still Blooming....* This much anticipated event was planned and run collaboratively by four MNT sub-committees—Botanic Garden, Flower Show, Tea Party and Fund Raising—under the patronage of Mrs Sujue Davis, wife of HE , the Governor.



Tony Tangkai, President of T and T Orchid Society; Mrs Sujue Davis, and MNT President, Mrs Dulcie James

The Flower Show brought together local horticulturalists and garden lovers with two visiting experts from the Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society. Over 50 Exhibitors entered the competition and displayed plants in a number of categories including cut flowers, potted plants, fruits, vegetables and herbs, and arrangements both fresh and dried. The school children category produced an especially creative collection of plants and flowers depicting creatures such as sharks, sheep and crab.

Over 300 persons visited the stunning display of flowers including many varieties of orchids inside and out at the Botanic Garden. Tea, including popular bush tea from the MNT Herbal Garden was served throughout the afternoon on the Saturday to the largest crowd of the weekend. Adults and children were treated to a range of delicious savories and cakes and enjoyed seeing the interesting hats worn by several guests.



Gloria Margetson won the prize for the most creative hat

A commemorative booklet was published and provided to all visitors. It included this comment from the Hon. Easton Taylor-Farrell, Minister of Agriculture, on the appropriateness of the theme, *Still Blooming....* “The message today is that this ‘Paradise Isle,’ which was once prolific with all of nature’s bounty, is once more decked with rich flora and fauna which signal the process of rebirth and regeneration.”

The organizers express sincere thanks to the sponsors and to all those who worked over a period of 8 months to make the event a huge success. Special thanks to the Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society for its generous contributions and stellar support.



Winning Entry in the Children's Creative Category. Sheep made from cauliflower and raisins

Lady Eudora Recognised at the MNT Annual General Meeting

The MNT, at its 2013 Annual General Meeting held at MNT Headquarters in Olveston in March, said goodbye to outgoing Director, Lady Eudora Fergus, who retired from that position after some 11 years of service. Lady Fergus was responsible for a number of developments at the Trust which include the upgrading of the Botanic Garden, the construction of the Amerindian Hut and the renovation of the Woodlands Pavilion.

Lady Fergus had a passion for the promotion of Montserrat's history and heritage and mounted a number of exhibitions at the Natural History Centre including: a Walk Down Parliament Street, Famous Montserratians. She also supervised the Exhibition marking the opening of the Montserrat Museum.

Mrs Sarita Francis was appointed Director of the MNT from March 2013.



Lady Eudora receiving a bouquet at the AGM from Jean White, MNT Administrative Officer

THE MNT GIFT SHOPS

The MNT now has two gift shops: the main one in the Replica Trust Building at the Olveston Headquarters and the other in the National Trust Museum at Little Bay. The Shops are being upgraded through the efforts of Nancy Reynolds who is being ably assisted by volunteers, Diane Kready, Erica Gibbs, Sian Winn, and the MNT staff. They offer a wide variety of souvenirs and gifts, exclusive items at affordable prices that are mostly locally made.



Donations to the MNT Roofing Project

A BIG THANK YOU to:

Government of Montserrat	Wall and Company
Montserrat Building Society	Bank of Montserrat
Social Security Fund	Georgia Frink
Adrian and Sujue Davis	Dulcie James
John Maher-Loughnan	Margaret Sreibel
John Skerritt	Nancy Reynolds
Jim & Beverley Allen	Duleep Cheddie
Manu & Renu Chandiramani	Roberta Kanak
Trevor Stephenson	Erica Gibbs
Candace and Peter Whitmer	Gloria Gleason
Gordon and Carey Anderson	Tim Orton
Gail and William Payne	Denise Lutz
Jean White	Osmond Webster
Miriam and John Kerr	Sarita Francis

10 reasons why YOU should join or continue to support the Montserrat National Trust

1. To support the country's natural, historical and cultural heritage
2. To encourage pride and awareness of our communities
3. To partner in developing and maintaining important heritage sites
4. To encourage future generations to participate in preservation and promotion of our heritage
5. To promote sustainable livelihoods
6. To ensure that local crafts are promoted
7. To support the promotion of a healthy tourism industry
8. To ensure that important wildlife habitat remain in the hands of the Trust for the people of Montserrat
9. To ensure that the history and archaeology of the island is researched and available for all
10. To provide wholesome environmental activities for the enjoyment of friends and visitors of the Trust

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