

P4 / DRONE DEMO
Superman would approve of a whirring drone to chart Nevis's past

P7 / TURTLE TIME
Nevis students follow in the beach-prints of Prince Harry in hunt for turtle nests

P8 / HAMILTON REVELS
Nevis was centre stage at Alexander Hamilton's birthday party in America



The Gathering

A Journal of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society

Issue No. 98, January, 2017

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

New Executive Director comes full circle

Running the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society is the perfect post for Nicole Liburd, says Cheryl Markosky

Born in St Martin to Nevisian parents, our newly appointed Executive Director spent a good chunk of her childhood on Nevis. So, taking up her new post at the helm of the Society is a homecoming of sorts.

"I grew up in the Craddock Road area and have loads of aunts and uncles on Nevis. I recall walking on the old pebble-stoned walkway from town to Pinney's Beach as a child," she explains.

Back then, Nicole thought Rest Haven – formerly on the site of Pinney's Beach Hotel – was "the most amazing place ever".

Broadening her horizons beyond our sandy shorelines, Nicole travelled to the UK to study environmental sciences in Hertfordshire – "but I didn't like the course," she admits.

Nicole switched over to tourism instead, with her first job at Hilton Hotels

where she learned all about the service industry.

In 2001 she returned to Nevis, compounding her experience working for the Nevis Tourism Authority. "I looked after the cruise and European markets, and was also the production development officer," she notes.

Because of her Nevisian associations it was easy to market Nevis to visitors when Nicole coordinated tours. "Knowing about the history of heritage sites gave me a stronger selling point to attract people to the destination."

Always willing to learn more – a trait proving fruitful already in her new NHCS role – Nicole attended Monroe College in New Rochelle in the United States to study hospitality management.

Her thesis focussed on tsunami awareness and Nicole presented her research regionally.

She then acquired a Masters Degree at Washington University in management, majoring in sustainability tourism.

Nicole's always admired the aims of the NHCS, and believes Nevisians should show more awareness and greater ownership of the island.

She has equally high hopes for the sharing of cultural memories via events like local festivals. "I was brought up here when everything was regarded as belonging to everybody. It would be terrific for everyone to know more about food that comes from St Johns, St James and other parishes, for instance."

In addition, Nicole would like to see the NHCS expand outside the museum context and record our oral history. "I like to hear stories from people who have found something. They might not be worth a million dollars, but they open your eyes to things of a very different value."

Traditions, such as airing out rooms and refreshing straw beds as part of the "Christmas clean", are the sorts of topics Nicole would be happy to document. Older generations have a great deal to impart about island life, helping fill in gaps for younger residents.

Other aims are to improve social media communication this year and encourage young people to explore subjects that will really make a difference to Nevis.

"It's not enough to go away to study tourism," she argues. "I want to see more marine biologists and archaeologists."

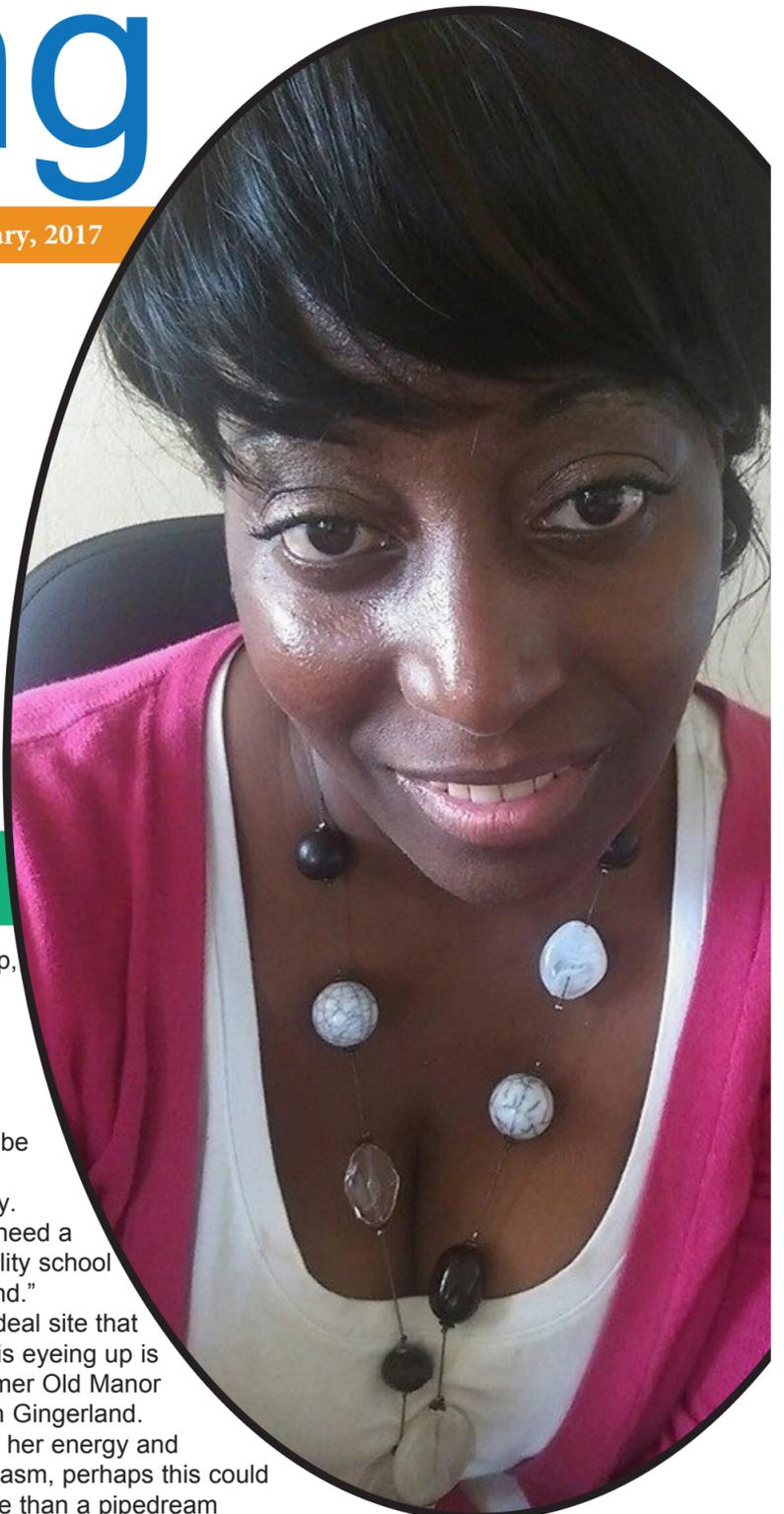
She's also keen for Nevis youth to benefit from good training. "It's a balancing game. The Four Seasons and Park Hyatt want the cream of

the crop, but people coming out of school should be trained properly.

We need a hospitality school on island."

An ideal site that Nicole is eyeing up is the former Old Manor Hotel in Gingerland.

With her energy and enthusiasm, perhaps this could be more than a pipedream and prove to be the catalyst to shift Nevis in a whole new direction.



Nicole Liburd, newly appointed Executive Director, Nevis Historical and Conservation Society

10 THINGS ABOUT NICOLE LIBURD

1. Nicole loves going to the beach, even though she can't swim and is terrified of water
2. She runs a business with her partner, Reggie Douglas (who takes people walking on the island), and her mother-in-law, selling vegetable oil based soap
3. Nicole loves music, especially indigenous string and steel drum bands
4. She likes working with children
5. Nicole is a good cook, with mackerel and dumplings (traditionally served at Easter) her favourite dish
6. She sports very funky and colourful fingernails, created by a Nisbet beautician
7. Nicole adores travelling to other islands, noting that each isle has something special
8. She wants more people of her generation to return to and invest back into Nevis
9. Nicole thinks museums are a nice physical location, but that the NHCS represents all of Nevis
10. "Anything is possible," she declares

Traditions, such as airing out rooms and refreshing straw beds as part of the "Christmas clean", are the sorts of topics Nicole would be happy to document. Older generations have a great deal to impart about island life, helping fill in gaps for younger residents.

Welcome

to the first newsletter of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society for 2017 and Happy New Year to everyone in the NHCS community.

As always, the start of the year gives us a chance to reflect on recent happenings, such as my pleasure in taking up the post of Executive Director, a notable coastal clean up, timely initiatives to reduce marine pollution and president Devon Liburd's visit to New York for birthday celebrations of Alexander Hamilton.

As well as witnessing the flag-raising ceremony on Wall Street, Devon was lucky enough to attend the Broadway musical, Hamilton, that's getting rave reviews. "If they wanted anyone in the audience from Nevis to identify themselves, I would have leapt up and said yes, I'm Nevisian," he says proudly.

He's right to be full of pride for this diminutive, but alluring isle, that punches well above its weight. Nevis needs to be protected and cherished – not only for the immediate future but for generations to come.

Nicole Liburd
Executive Director



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Annual jumble sale – Saturday, February 11, 9 am – 12 noon. To contribute items or your time as a volunteer, contact coordinator Wendy Smith, 469 2261, smith.wendy999@gmail.com**
- **NHCS Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Wednesday, March 22**
- **230th anniversary of Horatio Nelson and Fanny Nisbet's wedding on March 11, 1787. The perfect day to renew enduring love on Nevis.**
- **New River public dig, March 20 to 24. For further information contact Suzanne Gordon 663 8910**



On the move: traditional house journeys to new site
Photo courtesy, Nevis Historical and Conservation Society archive



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Nicholette Walters	- Office and Financial Manager
Gail Dore	- Acting Curator of Archives & Collections
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Trisha Griffin	- Museum Attendant/Membership officer
Danielle Dore	- Outreach Coordinator, ECMAN
Lachelle Francis	- Office Assistant

NHCS Mission

The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society exists to promote effective management of the historical, cultural and natural resources of the island of Nevis for the benefit of all its people.

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Former NHCS President says Nevisians should embrace their history

By Pauline Ngunjiri

Although Harvey Hendrickson, the outgoing president of the Nevis Historical Conservation Society has recently retired, his passion for conservation will live on - a sentiment he hopes more Nevisians will take on board.

In a recent interview, he argues that local Nevisians should be more actively involved in conservation activities.

In addition, he holds the conviction that the population of Nevis, as well as the island's administration, need to underscore the significance of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society within the framework of social and economic development.

He has through his interaction with fellow Nevisians identified their resistance to becoming members of the NHCS. "Only a handful of Nevisians are part of the Historical Society. They see it as an entity that belongs to the expatriate community, rather than something for everyone."

Hendrickson appreciates the contributions the expatriate community makes to conservation efforts on the island. "Their financial contributions and voluntary services have helped sustain the organisation," he says.

However, Hendrickson is burdened by the work that must be done to help conserve and preserve Nevis's heritage.

"We have numerous historical sites which we should develop. We need to

rehabilitate the enslaved African landing sites. And what about us finding out about the history of the Market Shop? We need proper signage at the forts. We need to know the background history of all of the heritage sites and school-children need to know more about the history of Nevis," the former NHCS President laments.

His research has helped him come up with a strategy that local Nevisians could use to help protect heritage sites. He says in every Nevis parish, you have at least two historical locations. "It's important that our children who live and go to school in those areas know about them. They should not think the sites are abandoned bushes. What about community groups that can include the children? Get them involved and visiting the sites to keep them clean."

With the current success of the Alexander Hamilton musical on Broadway, Hendrickson is disappointed that Nevisians are not taking full advantage of Hamilton's success.

"More than ever before, we are starting to realise he was a Nevisian. A few years ago, there was an economic down-

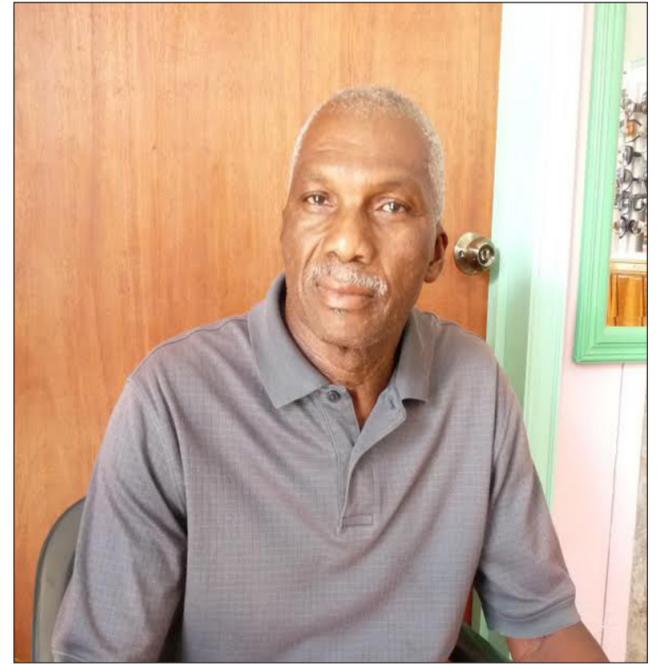
turn in the USA. Americans revisited the Federal Papers. They used the same principles Hamilton once used and the American economy was resuscitated," Hendrickson says.

Last year the NHCS submitted a letter requesting the Nevis Island Administration introduce books written about Alexander Hamilton into schools. The Society is still waiting for a response.

"We must get six-formers to study and read about Alexander Hamilton and how he dealt with the economy. Let us apply the same principles on our island and grow our economy," Hendrickson suggests.

How did Hendrickson's interest in becoming a member of the NHCS come about? He'd always had a keen interest in heritage and was encouraged to join the Society by Joan Robinson, a former Chief Curator for Museums, Fundraising and Education.

Initially, Hendrickson was unable to participate fully in NHCS activities, as his work was located on St Kitts. In the 1980s, he was able to find time to frequent the museums to carry out research. His two main areas of interest



Harvey Hendrickson Photo by Pauline Ngunjiri

are the history of enslaved Africans and the forts of Nevis. "I learnt that there are more than 140 forts on the island. And I also found out that Nevis produced more sugar than all the Caribbean islands, except Barbados," Hendrickson notes.

What is the future for the NHCS? Hendrickson's convinced that an NHCS Trust could well become a reality in the near future. He is optimistic that those charged with making this dream come true will hasten the process. Establishing a Trust, he says, will enable the NHCS to tap into international funding and help conserve a very special West Indian isle steeped in history and its own unique culture.

Hendrickson's interest in conservation activities is not only being expressed through his voluntary activities in the NHCS, but also in his writings as expressed in *Save the Earth*, one of his poems from his book, *The Voice of a Caribbean Man*.

**SAVE THE
EARTH**

**Our Common heritage – Earth,
Trees have been just as long.
Global village pays tribute
To promote outposts in Africa, Asia.
To the summit of Mount Everest.
A Monumental effort – depletion,
Depletion of substances necessary.**

**Destruction everywhere,
Environmental devastation,
Industrialized – Developing World
Least inhabitable.
Despoiled Continents**

**Air breathing – life threatening,
Destructive effect – acid rain,
Deforestation, toxic waste, oil spill.
Earth's resources threatened,
Environmental surge,
Green Peace - Wilderness Society.**



St. Thomas' Primary School students

Archaeologist swoops in for drone demo

Drones can record sites and help with research, discovers Pauline Ngunijiri

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's dynamic remotely operated navigation equipment, more commonly known as a drone.

Students from two primary schools recently in Nevis had the privilege of having first-hand experience with drone technology, thanks to visiting aerial archaeology student, Tim Rodriguez, who showcased the equipment technology.

Rodriguez was among a team of visiting archaeology and anthropology students from San Jose State University, California who were on a field trip in Nevis last June. The students were led by their Professor, an eminent archaeologist, Dr. Marco Meniketti.

Prior to Rodriguez demonstrating to students how the drones technology works, he told the students he had worked hard at school, and consequently, he is now capable of making a drone. "If you excel in your school performance, this will propel you to pursue career goals," he told the students.

Rodriguez uses the drone for scientific research and to record archaeology sites. A drone allows for low impact archeology

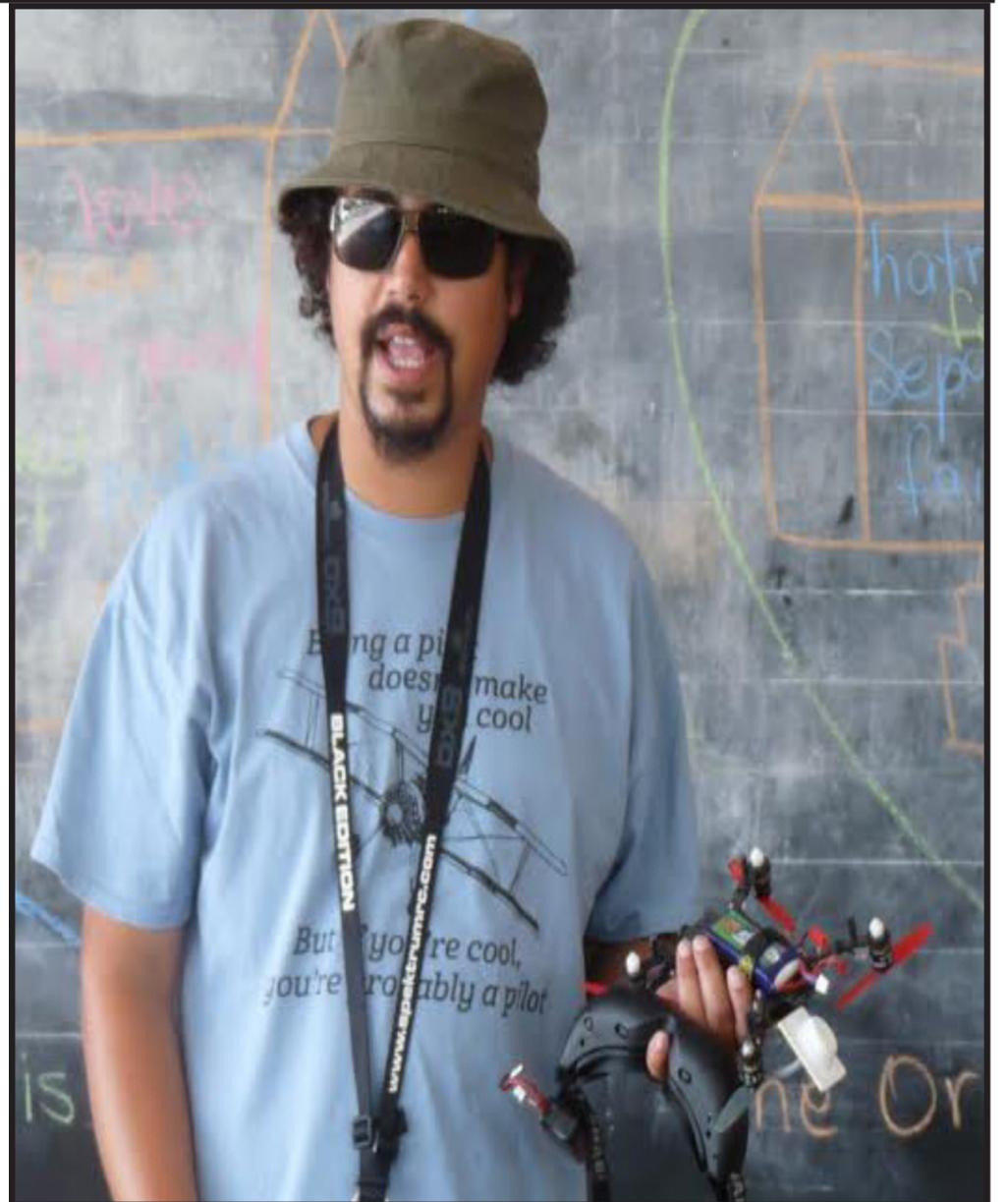
which does not disturb the environment.

The drone technology will further enhance archeological work done by Professor Meniketti's work on the island of Nevis since 1997. This is the first time his team has used the technology.

"We have brought along an aerial camera and a young pilot to steer the craft. We are flying over areas to create and make three-dimensional maps. This ensures non-invasive preservation. The young man we brought along piloted the aircraft," he said.

Videos of the sites documented will be handed to the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society. Todd Miller, Vice President of the NHCS and the Archaeological Committee chair, says drone technology is a great move. "San Jose University students introduced to Nevis a different perspective. The technology enables you to view things you would not be able to spot on the ground. The students did a wonderful job."

The San Jose State University Nevis team field school has a strong track record. The team received the prestigious award of the



Tim Rodriguez, aerial archeology student from San Jose State University

three Register of Professional Archaeologists Certified Outstanding Field Schools in 2011. This acknowledgement of instructional quality resulted in a scholarship for a participating student.

The recipient of the RPA Scholarship, Chris Keith, continued with his graduate studies and his thesis was named San Jose State Outstanding Thesis of the Year for 2014. His research was based on a bicultural investiga-

tion of precolonial humans and habitation on Nevis.

The field school on Nevis is currently the university's nomination to the California State University system as an example of excellence.

For more information, contact Marco Meniketti, email: marco.meniketti@sjs.edu or www.caribbeanarcheology.com.

Bin rubbish for a clean future

You wouldn't think one trashcan would make much of a difference to Nevis, but the bin recently donated to Newcastle Bay fishermen by the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society is the start of a new strategy to save the island's marine life.

This is a small, but important part, of an overall strategy to cut down on litter and pollution, which can have a devastating impact on marine life.

In recent months, the fishermen have taken time out of their busy schedules to form a group, the Newcastle Bay Foundation, creating a mechanism through which donors and agencies can channel assistance.

Apart from the state-of-the-art refuse bin donated last September, the fishermen were given 14 buoys, 14 pumps and 14 lifejackets to ensure their safety. The refuse bin and fishing gear was made possible through the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Network.

This encouragement may just be the right bait to lure the fishermen into participating in ways to protect The Narrows between St Kitts and Nevis.

The development of The Narrows' management plan focuses on empowering communities, local fishermen and stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process for The Narrows Fishing Priority Area, and promotes sustainable methods and ways to earn a living.

About two years ago, the NHCS and the Government of St Kitts and Nevis embarked on a project to establish two marine managed areas (MMAs) – The Narrows Marine Reserve and the Narrows Fishing Priority Areas.

According to NHCS Executive Director Nicole Liburd, the Nevis initiative lays out a plan for the Narrows, including examining the management of land-based trash that was going into the sea.

"We identified two major landing sites at Newcastle Bay on Nevis and a similar site in St Kitts. Under the project, we obtained two large capacity trash bins for both landing sites," she explains.

Donated equipment and lifejackets will help protect Nevis fishermen. "We also gave them life vests to make sure they're as safe as can be," Janice Hodge, ECMANN's St Kitts and Nevis coordinator says.

Hodge gave assurances that ECMANN's aim is not to kick fishermen out of The Narrows, designated as a marine managed area. "Our aim is to confirm that things are done in a sustainable way. Fishermen can continue to make their livelihoods from the ocean, but the Narrows must be properly managed."

Hodge adds that fishermen recognise the need to control the area –not only from a fishing perspective, but from an environmental one. The overall purpose is to make certain The Narrows is well replenished so there will be fish in years to come.

"The fishermen are co-operating. It all depends on how much space is set aside to protect young fish in The Narrows," Hodge comments.



The state of the art rubbish bin donated to the Newcastle Bay fishermen (Photo by Pauline Ngunjiri)

A two-mile strip of The Narrows is designated as an MMA because of the large sea-grass bend.

According to Hodge, the plan for The Narrows is designated, but not yet officially published. "Once it is gazetted, it will put the fishermen in a better position. We're looking at setting aside a conservation zone."

Newcastle Bay Fishing Foundation Vice-President Derrick Didder says, "We're very grateful for the modern fishing equipment. We're continuing to expand and hope to involve more members of the community."

Fisherman Ronell Cozier notes that the new kit guarantees future safety. "The Coast Guard wants us to have adequate gear and what has been donated will help us meet its standards."

ECMMAN Outreach Coordinator Danielle Moore believes the fishermen can now fish with ease. "They were using gas tanks to bring their boats to the beach, which was damaging their vessels." In addition, she's

optimistic that one day a modern landing dock will be constructed at Newcastle Bay.

Earlier this year, Dr Georgina Bustamante, coordinator of the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management small grant programme visited St Kitts and Nevis. She works as an advisor on implementing ECMANN activities.

Dr Bustamante is optimistic that marine protected areas would soon be legalized, as the political will exists. Recently, the St Kitts and Nevis Federal Parliament passed the Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Resources Act, so Bustamante is hopeful that The Narrows Marine Reserve will be marked as a marine protected area.

"We're very happy with this progress, as St Kitts and Nevis is the only participating country that does not have designated marine protected areas." Other nations, including Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada, have already established marine protection zones.

Studies conducted six years ago by The

Nature Conservancy scientists and local stakeholder consultations resulted in a marine zoning plan to help identify a two-mile radius around St Kitts and Nevis. A marine zoning plan delineates an area in The Narrows as a home for juvenile fish, conch and lobsters.

"To the west of Booby Island, a general area will be identified for a marine reserve; while the eastern side will offer a priority fishing area," Dr Bustamante remarked, adding that persons whose livelihoods might be affected will be helped to seek alternative livelihoods.

Dr. Bustamante said Protected Areas Management been piloted elsewhere in the Caribbean. She cited Jamaica, where fishermen are co-managers of marine protected areas, operating with funding from various sources.

She also believes countries must accelerate their efforts, as climate change is impacting on coral reefs. "We cannot wait until temperatures are lowered globally. If we do, our resources will be depleted."

Clean and tidy Nevis youth

Scores of Nevis youth were at their best last September when they turned up at the early hour of 6 am at various beaches to join over 200 volunteers participating in the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society's 24th Annual Nevis Coastal Clean Up. The Clean Up exercise ended at noon when participants were treated to a delicious picnic held at Coconut Grove Restaurant.

Data collected from approximately 11 miles of the island's coastline suggests that more than 4,000 pounds of trash was collected, surpassing the 2015 total. Areas where the largest amounts of trash were recorded are Samuel Hunkins Drive, Herbert's Beach, the Windward-side beaches and Coconut Walk. In some sections of the Windward beaches, trash included many items washed ashore from neighbouring islands. Plastic bottles and bottle caps, foam and paper take-away containers; plastic bags, forks, plates and cups were among the items collected.

NHCS Executive Director Nicole Liburd thanked volunteers and said she was especially impressed by the large turnout of young adults. "We thank all who helped on the day. I hope the efforts from this morning will have left an indelible mark as to why we did what we did. All in all, I hope everyone on Nevis has made an impact globally."

Volunteers collected trash at over 17 land and coastal sites, while divers from the Four Seasons Resort Watersports department undertook cleaning of the sea in front of the hotel.

Volunteer efforts seemingly had a ripple effect on various institutions. Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority's trucks made extra trips to ensure all the trash collected was removed. Businesses and other hotels were also on board through their sponsorship.

Liburd thanked the Four Seasons Resort Nevis, ValuMart, St Kitts Bottling Company and Carib Breweries St Kitts and Nevis Ltd for their contributions. She also voiced gratitude to NHCS staff for their hard work - not just on the day, but for preparations leading up to the event. She further commended Society members and friends for donating their time, resources, cash and other in kind donations, all of which added to the success of the tidy up. Liburd also thanked various media houses in the Federation for spreading the word.

Devon Liburd, president of the NHCS, described the Coastal Clean Up as a gratifying exercise. "At Coconut Walk, we collected close to 20 bags of garbage. It was a rewarding experience to go out and clean up. It also shows how irresponsible we are as people, not Nevisians only - but globally. Once someone else's garbage ends up on the steps of your house all of us are impacted adversely. If we dispose of our garbage irresponsibly, our friends in St Martin, St Kitts and St Baths will be forced to clean up after us. Likewise, those persons who ply their trade in the sea need to be more responsible."

The president added that it has been a privilege for the NHCS to coordinate this Clean Up exercise over the past 24 years. "I remember long ago, as a member of St George's AYP, participating in the Coastal Clean Up campaign at Indian Castle. As a church group, we participated every year."

Andrew Hendrickson, general manager of the Nevis Solid Waste Management

Authority, said the NHCS Coastal Clean Up was very timely. "It's a wonderful event and continues to grow from strength to strength. Our job is to collect garbage, which is already prepared by households, while Coastal Clean Up gives us an opportunity to interact with and coordinate members of the public to tidy coastal areas and bring trash to a place where our trucks can load it. It complements our efforts to keep Nevis clean," Hendrickson noted.

Rudy Browne, operations manager at the Nevis Solid Waste Management Authority, also shared his views that the volunteer effort complimented the authority's task of gathering garbage. "The overall goal of the Authority is to collect garbage and place it in one central place. A day like this when volunteers clean up the beaches is really a plus for us. I hope members of the public will appreciate this volunteer effort - and stop littering."

Participating in the clean up was the reigning Culturama Mr Talented Youth 2016, Armadi Hendrickson, son of Isabel Byron, an NHCS Board member. Armadi said that young people need to be more active in cleaning up. "Our community needs to be kept tidy. We found a cooler, a bunch of bottles and a dead bird."

His cousin, Robelto Byron, who was taught by his mother not to litter, added that the island has to be kept clean. "C'mon, we're on Nevis. Play your part. Play your role."

Spearheading participation of the Nevis Boys Choir was Alphonso Henry, 2014 Mr Kool, and an employee of the Nevis Island Administration's Youth and Sports Department. Henry said: "The boys found it exciting, as they were given an opportunity to clean the beach. It is water and they enjoyed going in the water. He commended the boys for the effort they put in, adding that "Nevis is known for its beaches. They should be kept well."

Ralph Liburd Powell, a member of the St George's Community Disaster Preparedness Response Team, said that if not collected, debris can lead to disasters. He added that the most common items collected by his group were plastic cups and bottles.

Teacher and VON Radio newscaster Tashroan Tyson said: "When children and young adults are involved in clearing up the island, it gives them the opportunity to work as a group. When they go home, they tell their parents what they did, which can motivate them to come on board next year."

Martha Isbister, coordinator of the Latitude Seventeen Clean Up Group, indicated that they have been involved in the annual NHCS Nevis Coastal Clean Up for the past 17 years. "We normally have about seven to eight people, but this year 17 turned up. We collected trash at Windward Beach's Indian Castle. We collected about 50 bags, lots of plastic cups, water bottles, shoe soles and fish netting."

The NHCS Executive Director encourages all residents and visitors to practise proper trash disposal and implores them to stop littering. "We can each do our part to keep our island clean and beautiful."

The NHCS Coastal Clean Up's 25th anniversary will be celebrated this year. Enthusiasm displayed by the island's youth shows there's great potential for this upcoming event.



Charlestown Secondary School students display the litter they collected (Photos by Pauline Ngunjiri)



ABOVE: Devon Liburd, NHCS president gathers litter at Coconut Walk beach



RIGHT: Nevis Boys Choir zealous about keeping their island clean



More than 200 volunteers participated in 2016 Coastal Clean Up

Students track turtles in royal manner

Inspired by HRH Prince Harry of Wales's recent visit to Lovers Beach, where he helped steer baby turtles into the sea, pupils from St James and Violet O. Jeffers-Nicholls Primary Schools went to the same spot to hunt for turtle nests.

Danielle Moore, outreach coordinator of Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (a project hosted by the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society), believes that the Prince's presence will underline the importance of protecting turtles for the schoolchildren.

To ensure that the young Nevisians had an exceedingly regal experience, Danielle invited Lemuel 'Lemmy' Pemberton, president of the Nevis Turtle Monitoring Group, who a few days earlier hosted the Prince's stopover.

The aim of the event was to increase awareness of sea turtles nesting on St Kitts and Nevis. Lemmy explained that there are several turtle nesting beaches on Nevis, and why it's important to treasure and care for Lover's Beach, in particular, as it has the largest turtle nesting beach on the island.

"You cannot go wrong when you hunt for nests at Lovers Beach, where nests can hold up to 110 eggs," Lemmy explained.

During the session, students also learnt that the most common sea turtles at Lover's Beach are Hawksbill and Green Sea Turtles. This is because the body of water before the beach, The Narrows, contains the largest seagrass bed in the Federation. Seagrass is the main food source for a sea turtle.

Mature female turtles lay eggs in nesting burrows on the land. They cover their eggs up with sand, and then return to the sea, leaving the eggs to incubate for an average two to three months before hatching.

One child asked why sea turtles never see their children. Miss Moore replied, "Sea turtles have to get to the shore quickly to lay their eggs and then return to the water. After laying their eggs, the mother turtle's work is done. She swims out to sea, leaving her eggs to develop on their own."

Lemmy revealed how changing heat levels might affect the gender of sea turtles. "When temperatures are hot, more female turtles are hatched; and when temperatures are cool, more male turtles emerge.

We say girls are hot and guys are cool."

Turtle nesting periods are from March to the middle of December. October and November are the heaviest nesting periods. Turtles don't nest in January or February.

Sea turtle eggs hatch in unison, overwhelming predators with their large numbers. Once hatched, they head straight for the water, using the natural downward slope of the beach and reflection of the moon and stars against the sea to guide them.

Like all migratory animals, sea turtles return to their nesting beaches, guided by the earth's magnetic field.



HRH Prince Harry of Wales at Lover's Beach in Nevis, where he helped steer baby turtles into the sea. Photo by Nevis Government Information Service (GIS).



Lemuel Pemberton, President, Nevis Sea Turtle Monitoring Group, tells students why it's important to protect turtles

Every beach has its own magnetic signature. When a sea turtle hatches it remembers this signature and later uses it as an internal compass.

Once in the water, baby sea turtles feed on seaweed, algae and small marine animals, and live in hiding until they are large enough to defend themselves. After 15 to 25 years, female and male sea turtles are fully-grown and mature enough to mate, thus repeating the nesting process.

Lemmy told the children that it's important that they, and other members of society, avoid human activities that contribute to climate change, because if only females hatch there will be no males to mate with them. Climate change can also lead to beach erosion

and weather disasters such as hurricanes.

In addition, Lemmy hopes that Lovers Beach will be listed as a protected area. In addition, he wants existing laws that protect sea turtles to be enforced to save the species for future generations.

"Conserving sea turtles is important. Tourists love to participate in turtle nesting hunts and even swim alongside these fascinating reptiles," he said.

And who can argue with sea turtle education and conservation activities that have been given the royal stamp of approval? A sea turtle-friendly Nevis means a healthy population of majestic creatures much-loved by Harry and the children alike.

"Conserving sea turtles is important. Tourists love to participate in turtle nesting hunts and even swim alongside these fascinating reptiles"

Nevis is icing on the cake at American Hamilton festivities

Nevis was the main focus of Alexander Hamilton's 260th birthday celebrations in New Jersey where the Premier of Nevis, the Hon Vance Amory, was a featured speaker, reports Pauline Ngunjiri.

The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society battles with limited resources to sustain the legacy of Nevisian-born American statesman and founding father, Alexander Hamilton. As well as being the custodian of the Alexander Hamilton Museum, housed on the grounds where Hamilton was born, the Society also organizes various activities that keep Hamilton's birthright alive.

Each year, the NHCS – in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development – commemorates Hamilton's birthday by offering four scholarships to deserving high school students. On January 11, when the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society hosted a birthday event for Hamilton in New Jersey, the city that Hamilton founded, Abigail Swanston and Levonski Jeffers of Charlestown Secondary School, and Shelliqua Carmichael and Hallie Yankey of Gingerland Secondary School were the recipients of the coveted scholarships.

To ensure integrity of the scholarship, speakers at the scholarship award ceremony reminded the students of the story of Alexander Hamilton. He was a young Nevisian immigrant who rose from humble beginnings, facing poverty, deprivation and other struggles. He overcame these obstacles and attained a position of prominence.

"Today, his story should serve as a source of encouragement, and I encourage you to become more familiar with his story and learn about his enduring legacy," the NHCS Executive Director Nicole Liburd told the pupils.

Ways are being sought to empower Hamilton Scholarship students to properly reflect the principles that Hamilton upheld. The NHCS has officially approached the Nevis Minister of Education to introduce more books as secondary level course books.

Tracy Paris, who delivered the 2016 report, commended the students, but she also admonished those who have not properly understood that the privilege of attaining a scholarship comes with responsibility.

"Your school reports have shown that some of you have not worked hard to upholding the integrity of this scholarship. There have been instances of poor performance throughout the year," she admonished.

One of the requirements of being an awardee is to engage in community service. "There have been instances where 50 hours community service to be completed within the year have been neglected – even though placements have been assigned for those hours to be completed."

Some awardees have benefitted greatly from the prize, however. Past scholarship recipient, Aneka Serguson, was only 12 when her mother passed away, barely halfway through her first term of first form. "People who I thought of as friends



(L-R) Jersey City Councilman Richard Boggiano, AHA President Rand Schoel, Nevis Premier Vance Amory, AHA Chair Mariana Oller, Wechawken Mayor Richard Turner



First row (L-R) Shelliqua Carmichael form one student Gingerland Secondary school(GSS), Levonski Jeffers and Abigail Swanston form one students Charlestown Secondary School(CSS). Back row (L-R) Tracy Paris community officer, Nicole Liburd executive director NHCS and Keith Glasgow permanent secretary Ministry of Social Development

were whispering behind my back and some of my classmates were saying horrible things about me. Everyone expected my grades to drop now that my mother was not here to help me with my homework."

Aneka's sad circumstances changed when she received a Hamilton scholarship. On an island where children purchase uniforms and books, the ECS600 per year subsidy comes in handy.

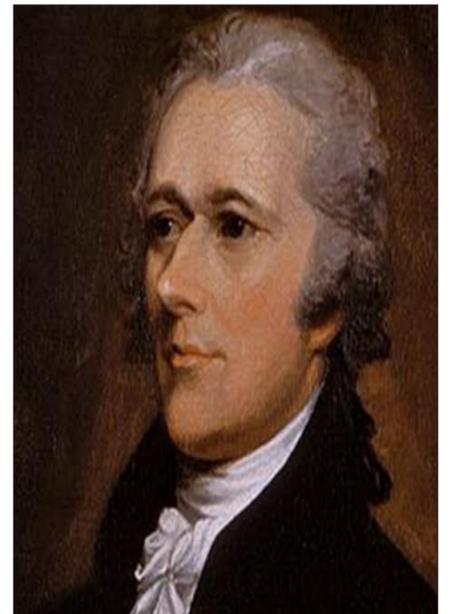
The scholarship was established in 1966 by

the Trott family, and is supported by members of the NHCS and the wider community. The Ministry of Social Development administers the fund.

Nevis Premier Vance Amory led a number of Nevisian officials in a 260th anniversary tribute to the island's most famous son at the gravesite of Hamilton in Trinity Church yard in Lower Manhattan.

Amory last attended the event in 2014. This year, he was accompanied by His Excellency

Everson Hull, St Kitts and Nevis ambassador to the Organization of American States; Evelyn Henville, a Hamilton scholar and former director of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society; and Devon Liburd of the Nevis Tourism Authority and the Hamilton Museum. They joined members of the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society and the Bowling Green Association, sponsors of the event.



Alexander Hamilton

About Alexander Hamilton

Hamilton was born on January 11, 1757 in Charlestown, the capital of the island of Nevis in the Leeward Islands. He went on to become an American statesman and one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He was an influential interpreter and promoter of the US Constitution, as well as the creator of the nation's financial system, the Federalist Party, the United States Coast Guard and The New York Post newspaper.

As first secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton was the main author of the economic policies of the George Washington administration. He took the lead in funding the states' debts by the Federal government, as well as the establishment of a national bank, a system of tariffs and friendly trade relations with Britain. His vision included a strong central government led by a vigorous executive branch, a rigorous commercial economy with a national bank and support for manufacturing, and a stalwart military.

Hamilton was also active in ending the international slave trade. He crusaded against Vice President Aaron Burr, a rival that was running for governor of New York State in 1804. Burr took offense and challenged him to a duel. He mortally wounded Hamilton, who died on July 12, 1804.

His full life is celebrated today in the hit Broadway musical, Hamilton, featuring music, lyrics and a book by Puerto Rican artist, Lin-Manuel Miranda. The musical's based on a Hamilton biography by Ron Chernow. In 2016, Hamilton received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a record 16 Tony nominations – winning 11 of them, including Best Musical.



Nicole Liburd, executive director, Nevis Historical and Conservation Society and Nicholette Walters, NHCS office manager (Photo by Pauline Ngunjiri)

School celebrates heritage quiz win with pizza party

By Pauline Ngunjiri

Everyone loves a party, and schoolchildren on the island of Nevis are no exception to this festive rule.

Eight Grade Six students from St James's Primary School were treated to an Italian-style pizza feast last June by the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society after the school emerged as champion in this year's History and Heritage quiz.

Nicole Liburd, Executive Director of the NHCS, personally served pizza to the victorious St James Primary School children. Nicholette Walters, NHCS's office manager, assisted her.

The annual History and Heritage quiz tests the knowledge of grade five and six students who are aged between 10 and 12 years old. Also tested are first and second form 14 to 15 year old secondary school students. Danielle Moore, Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network outreach coordinator, who is attached to the NHCS, supervised the quiz.

Shona Jeffers, a grade six teacher who worked closely with her class that made St James's Primary

School proud, said the students obtained a high score due to their enthusiasm for regularly reading ECO News, which is published monthly by the NHCS, with production coordinated by Gennifer Broadbelt, NHCS Shops Manager.

The newsletter's distributed to 14 primary schools in Nevis. The Joan Robinson Fund donated the computer ink used to produce the newsletter.

Information in ECO News helps students learn about, and engage with, Nevis's past and present, as well as the island's environment. St James's Primary School has captured the secret of triumphing in NHCS quizzes. Jeffers confirmed this winning streak. "We used the publication when we were practising for the quiz. ECO News also helps students understand and discuss social studies questions and equips pupils to discover more about their environment."

Children who persevered to get as many answers right as possible were quite rightly rewarded by the la dolce vita knees-up, as well as the more permanent prize of gaining valuable knowledge about the island where they live.

Below are a few questions from the History and Heritage Hunt 2016 quiz
Do you know the answers?

1. What is the St Kitts & Nevis Narrows?

2. How wide is the St Kitts & Nevis Narrows?

3. The Narrows has a large Seagrass bed in St Kitts & Nevis. The seagrass beds are important because it act as a nursery for young marine species. Name two marine species that would use the seagrass beds as a nursery?
A) _____
B) _____

1. This is the closest/channel/strait point between St Kitts and Nevis (1 mark)
- 2: 2 miles/3.5 km/2.5 Miles (1 mark)
- 3: Sea Turtles / shell fish/ crustaceans/ juvenile fish/molluscs/urchins/ Etc (1 mark)

ANSWERS

Public invited to join second New River archaeology dig

by Suzanne Gordon

Amateur archaeologists are invited to join in the second public archaeology dig at New River Estate March 20-24, in hopes that more treasures will be found.

Last year, during the first dig, the team unearthed the rum still at New River, proving without a doubt that rum was indeed one of the products that came from the last-ever estate to run on Nevis.

Again this year, former resident and industrial archaeologist David Rollinson, will run the dig. The week-long project will be held daily from 9 am to 4 pm.

Rollinson will instruct the volunteer archaeologists in the process of digging for artifacts, sifting through the dirt, possibly identifying them and labeling the items. A former Nevis resident, Rollinson now lives in Canada and will be returning to St Kitts and Nevis to work on several research projects.

New River, the last functioning sugar plantation on Nevis, dates back to the 1700s. The Nevis Island Administration and the Nevis Historical

and Conservation Society (NHCS) will be opening a visitor's center at New River and provide information for visitors about the site and sugar production on the island. Many improvements have been made to the site over the past months, including a new roof over the cane crushing equipment.

This year, volunteers from Caribbean Volunteer Expeditions, founded two decades ago by Nevis architect Anne Hersh, CVE volunteers assist local historical groups and national trusts throughout the Caribbean.

Volunteer archaeologists should come prepared to work in sunny conditions and wear hats, sunscreen, sunglasses, and bring water, lunch and snacks for the day. Extra water and rest rooms will be available at the visitors' center at the site.

All items unearthed will become the property of the NHCS to be used in historic displays at the visitors' center.

Interested participants should call the NHCS to register at 469-5786. Some transportation will be available if needed to the site for volunteers.

For more information call Suzanne Gordon on 663 8910.



Public dig last year. David Rollinson, industrial archaeologist(R) with volunteers.

SHOP TALK

*Museum employee
Gennifer Broadbelt
solves all your gift-giving woes*

Stuck for an idea for a present for a friend or loved one?

Then, why not visit the gift shops at the Alexander Hamilton and Nelson Museums – ideal places to pick up an array of books. Anything from history, environment, poetry, cookery and volumes penned by locals, to storybooks for children, the shelves offer plenty of choice.

Along with various publications, there's also a wide range of local crafts, soaps and other items bound to please everyone.

For those with a sweet tooth – which means most of us – brightly-coloured jars of locally-made jams, jellies and honey are available. And you can jazz up any dish by generously shaking out dollops of indigenous hot sauce and green seasoning.

Nevisians understand the health benefits of island-grown herbs, plants and oils. In particular, coconut oil's especially nourishing.

FUN FACTS ABOUT COCONUT OIL

Populations that eat a lot of coconut are among the healthiest on the planet.

* Coconut oil can increase energy

expenditure - in other words it helps you burn more fat.

* Lauric acid in coconut oil can kill bacteria, viruses and fungi.

* Coconut oil can subdue hunger, which means you can eat less without even trying.

* Fatty acids in coconut oil are turned into ketones, which can reduce seizures.

* Coconut oil lowers cholesterol levels and may lower the risk of heart disease.

* Coconut oil can protect hair from damage, moisturise skin and function as sunscreen.

* Fatty acids in coconut oil can boost brain function in Alzheimer's patients.

* Coconut oil helps you lose fat, especially dangerous fat in the abdominal cavity.

OPENING HOURS AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR MUSEUM SHOPS.
8.30 am to 3.30 pm

Alexander Hamilton Museum
1 869 469 5786
Email: tgriffins@nevisheritage.org
1 869 469 0408
Email: gbroadbelt@nevisheritage.org





Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

	EC	US
Single Member	60.00	23.00
Family Member	85.00	35.00
Corporate Member	600.00	225.00
5 year (1 year free)	240.00	90.00
Postage	27.00	10.00
Youth under 18 years	5.00	2.00

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____
Phone: _____
Signature _____

Send the application form to **Nevis Historical and Conservation Society P.O BOX 563, Charlestown, Nevis, West Indies. Tel: 869-469-5786. Fax: 869-469-0274.**

If you are an American Taxpayer, you can pay your membership fees and make a donation to the NHCS through The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society, a United States 501(c) 3 charitable organization established to preserve the legacy of Alexander, native son of Nevis. Please make your check payable to The AHA Society and note in the memo line 'AHA for Nevis'. You may mail your check to the AHA Society, P.O BOX 15704, Clearwater, FL.33766-5704, USA, or if you are on island, you may drop it off at the Museum or mail it to the NHCS address above.

As well, you may choose to send your donation online at the AHA Society's website (PayPal or credit card can be used at www.the-aha-society.com). The donate button is on the left side of the home page, near the bottom of the page. After entering your information and before clicking 'Donate' you will see a box in which you can type a memo note. Here you will indicate you want your donation to go to AHA for Nevis.