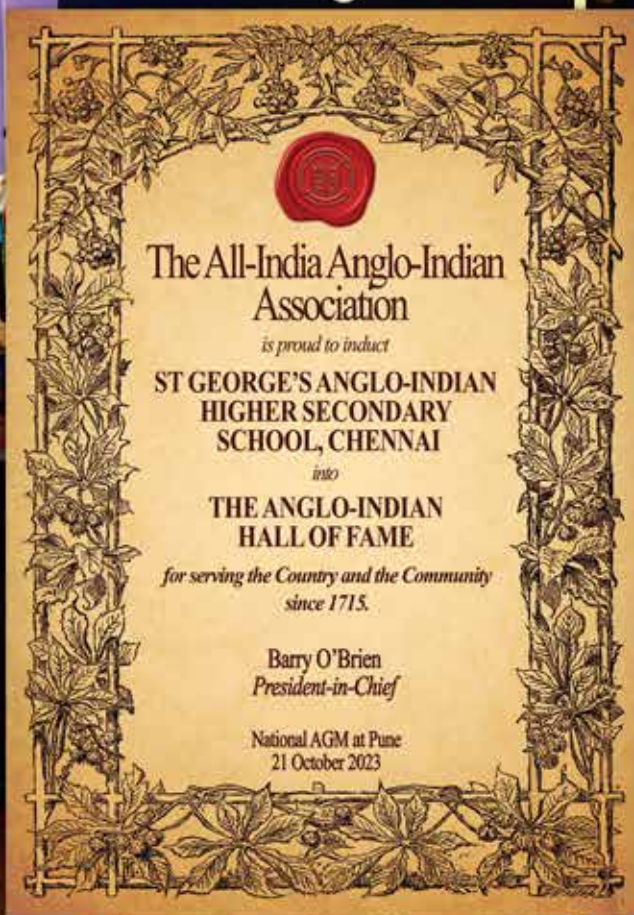


The Official Magazine of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

NATIONAL AGM 2023 AT BISHOP'S SCHOOL, PUNE



AHAISI Honours
The All-India Anglo-Indian Association
with Centennial Award

The Anglo-Indians - A Portrait of a Community
The President-in-Chief uses his book extensively
to project the Community across the country



IT'S GOT TO BE LIT!

TATA STEEL KOLKATA LITERARY MEET
January 21-26, 2023
In association with Victoria Memorial Hall

Monday, January 23 | 6.40pm
THE ANGLO-INDIANS:
Barry O'Brien discusses his new book with Ruskin Bond. In conversation with SV Raman
RUSKIN BOND WILL JOIN ONLINE

IT'S GOT TO BE LIT!

TATA STEEL BHUBANESHWAR LITERARY MEET
February 3-5, 2023
In association with ସମ୍ପାଦ

Sunday, February 5 | 2.30pm
THE ANGLO-INDIANS:
Barry O'Brien in conversation with Sashmi Nayak



OUR BRANCHES ARE OUR STRENGTH

As many as 45 Branches were represented at the AGM – some by two or three Delegates, some by 25 or more. The largest contingents were from Mumbai, Hubli and Calcutta, and of course, there was a very good turnout from the Pune Branch at the Meeting and the functions. Members feel that the best way to recharge their batteries each year to stay motivated to keep working for the Community is by attending the National AGM. That is exactly why many of them make it a point to attend it every year!

THE REVIEW

January 2023 - December 2023

The Official Magazine of
The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

Contents

This edition of *The Review* does not have a little of everything – it has, to use a *solid* Anglo-Indian term, *lots* of everything!

Make it a point to read the **Achievers' section** – it will fill you with pride! Read the **Branch News** – you will, once again, be amazed at the width of our Association, and the work our Branches are doing.

Though we have dedicated a large section of the issue to the coverage of the **148th National AGM at The Bishop's School, Pune**, we have still fallen short of communicating to readers just how marvelous it was. Simply, a class act!

If you are a member of this great Association, and you have never attended a National AGM, *you won't know what you're missing*. Actually, you will, once you start turning the pages of this magazine!

So, do your best to make it to the next AGM. It will be held at the historic **Bishop Westcott Schools in Ranchi** in October 2024. Do come!

The Editor

03	The All-India Anglo-Indian Association – National Awards' Ceremony (2023)
33	The 148th National Annual General Meeting – A Synopsis by Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan
47	The All-India Anglo-Indian Association Youth (AIAIAY) – Let Us Meet the New Committee
51	The Vote of Thanks at the National AGM 2022-2023 by Dr Melva Pope
53	National AGM 2023 – Pune – Reactions from Branches
57	National AGM 2023 – Pune – Photo Essay
61	AHAISI Honours The All-India Anglo-Indian Association with Centennial Award
63	Excerpts from the Speech Delivered by Mr Barry O'Brien, the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony of the Centennial Conference of AHAISI
67	A Christmas Panorama 2023 - A Series of Fun Christmas Performances Online - A Joint Initiative by BAIT and AIAIAY
69	The Bishop's Education Society, Pune, Institutes The Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence in Academics & Sports 2022-2023 – A Report
71	The President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, Uses His Book (<i>The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community</i>) Extensively to Project the Community on Wide Platforms across the Country, as well as in the Press and on Social Media – A Report
83	High Praise for ' <i>The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community</i> ' – Comments and Reactions
86	Our Pride
89	Achievers
95	The President-in-Chief's Anglo-Indian Day Message
96	The President-in-Chief's Christmas Message
97	Branch News
115	Remembering Blair Williams - An Anglo-Indian with a Passion for Helping his Community
116	Remembering John Mason - Teacher, Mentor, Symbol of Excellence - Excerpts from Member of Parliament Derek O' Brien's Tribute to 'a Real-life Mr Chips
117	We Salute Them – Obituaries
120	Letters to the Editor

Thank You!



Thank You, The President and Board of Governors, Bishop's Education Society, and Team Pune, for an Outstanding AGM!

Mr Shayne McPherson
Mr Christopher Gaynor
Mr Barry Barnes
Mr Glenn Raberts
Mrs Nicola Belsher
Mrs Olivia Southwell
Ms Shanaia Seymour
Mr Avinash Seymour
Mr Shelton Littlewood
Mrs Myrtle Aikin
Ms D Robison

Mr Leonard Johns and Support Staff
The Pune Branch Committee

Mr Karl Young
Mr Darryl Pounce
Mr Merwyn Rodricks
Mrs Belinda Route
Ms R Gomes
Ms Celine Littlewood
Ms Sabella Gaynor
Mr Brendon Edmonds
Mr Darren Dinger
Mr Jayesh Joshi
Mrs M Rodricks

Mr Ashley Eates
Mrs Denise Chakranarayan
Mr John D'Cruz
Mrs Genevieve Thakur
Mrs Myrtle Aikin
Mr Rees Phillips
Ms Michelle Russel
Ms Amanda Seymour
Mr Denver D'Cruz
Mr Julian Francis
Mrs G Barren

The Bands - Livewire and No Rush
The Pune Branch Youth Committee



THE ALL-INDIA ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION 149th Annual General Meeting 12th to 15th October 2024

Venue

Bishop Westcott Boys' School,
Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand

CONTACT YOUR
BRANCH COMMITTEE
IMMEDIATELY

Register Now

DATES

11 October (Friday) – Arrival of Delegates (in the afternoon/evening/night)

12 October (Saturday) – Arrival of Delegates (by 12 noon)

12 October (Saturday) – 5 p.m.
Inauguration, National Awards ceremony;
followed by Meet & Greet.

13 October (Sunday) – Business Meeting;
Grand Delegates' Ball.

14 October (Monday) – Business Meeting;
Theme Party.

15 October (Tuesday) – Check out after breakfast;
Day Out at McCluskieganj (optional)
including lunch and Jam Session at the invitation of
the deRozario family and Don Bosco Academy.



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THE ALL-INDIA ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION

THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

Stalwarts and young Anglo-Indians, each an achiever who has done the Community proud, took centre stage at the prestigious National Awards' Ceremony, held 'in person' after being held online for three consecutive years. Sharing the limelight with them, every step of the way, were our Branches and Members who serve our people selflessly through the year.

The 148th AGM of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association held in Pune on 20, 21 and 22 October 2023, marked a significant physical reunion for the community after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. This meant we could have the National Awards' Ceremony, a much-awaited event each year, in person, after three years.

It took place on the morning of 21 October in the splendid Lorna Roberts Hall of The Bishop's School, Camp. It was co-hosted by stalwarts Mr Andrew Hoffland of the Delhi Branch and Mr Graham Heiden of the Mumbai Branch, assisted by youth members Mr Vernon D'Souza of the Asansol Branch and Ms Shania Seymour of the Pune Branch. The Awards' Ceremony holds special significance within the community, serving as a moment to honour and celebrate the diverse achievements and remarkable stories of its members from public service to personal triumphs to even individual acts of courage. By showcasing these achievements, the ceremony serves as a reminder to those present, of the collective strength and resilience inherent within themselves and in their fellow community members.

The Chief Guest, Mr David Hilton, the President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution and a Life Member of our Association, and the Guest of Honour, Mrs Patricia Hilton, an eminent social worker and a Life Member of our Association, were introduced by Mr Hoffland, who elaborated on their impressive achievements in the educational and social spheres. They joined the President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, Mr Barry O'Brien, and Mrs Denise O'Brien, our First Lady, on stage to felicitate the awardees. The galaxy of award presenters included Members of the Board of Governors of The Bishop's Education Society and Governing Body Members of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, along with their spouses.



Graham Heiden



Andrew Hoffland



THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023



**THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023**

THE ANGLO-INDIAN HALL OF FAME

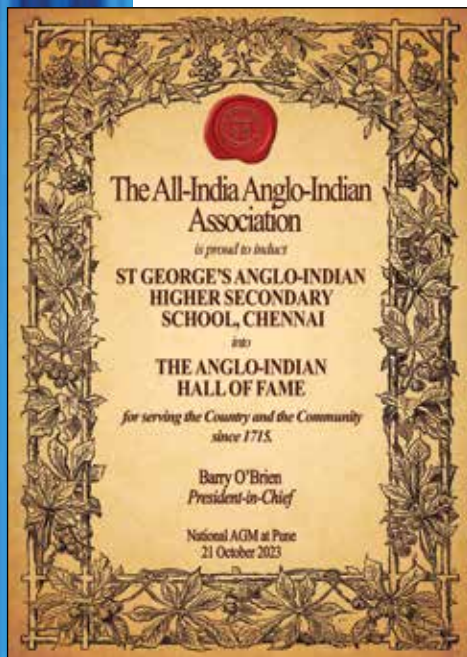
At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023 held at The Bishop's School, Pune, the President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, on behalf of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, inducted **St George's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Chennai**, into 'The Anglo-Indian Hall of Fame for serving the community and the country since 1715'. **Dr Geoffrey Francis**, ex-MLA (Tamil Nadu), Secretary and Correspondent of the school, and a highly respected leader of the community, received the citation along with the Principal of the school, **Mr Wesley Hudson**.

In his address, Dr Francis thanked our President-in-Chief and 'The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, the largest and the premier organisation of the community, with the largest number of branches, for bestowing this prestigious honour on Asia's oldest school.'

Later, in a letter to Mr O'Brien, Dr Francis

wrote, 'I was really amazed and delighted to attend the programmes held as part of the 148th Annual General Meeting. My heart was filled with joy to see so many youngsters coming out in large numbers and taking part in the proceedings. They have committed themselves to making our community better and better. I must also congratulate you for your wonderful speech. I appreciate the focus of your speech on the world, on India, on the reservations, on the Anglo-Indian community and the challenge made that with or without reservations we will go forward and we will make our contribution and be a strong and vibrant community, and the fact that so many people participated in Pune is a

barometer of the depth and the growth that is seen in our community. I fully agree with your view that our community is not a fading or dying community but a very progressive and forward-looking community that is on the right track....

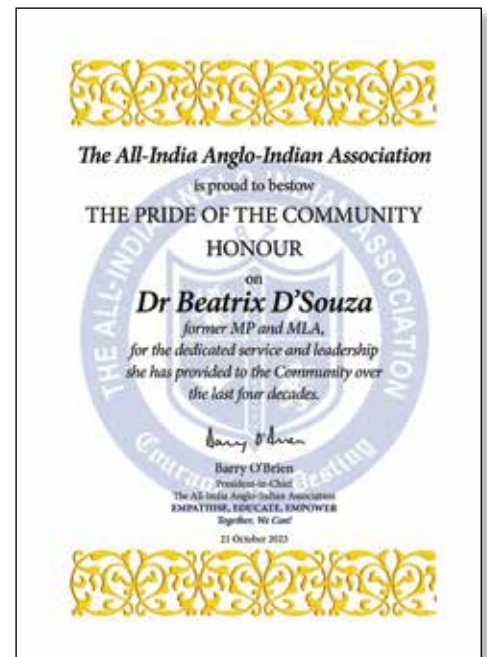


considering the fact that we have broken from the shackles of the past of always referring to our reservations, and (now) it is time to keep working hard and looking ahead."

THE PRIDE OF THE COMMUNITY HONOUR

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023 held at The Bishop's School, Pune, during the 148th Annual General Meeting of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, this honour was bestowed on **Dr Beatrix D'Souza**, former Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and former MLA (Tamil Nadu) by The All-India Anglo-Indian Association for "the dedicated service and leadership she has provided to the community over the last four decades."

Unfortunately, Dr Beatrix D'Souza could not attend the event due to health reasons. A recorded video message was played on the giant screen, in



which she thanked the Association for bestowing "this prestigious honour" on her. She went on to say, "Over the years I have watched the progress of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association under Barry O'Brien. He has made significant changes, one of them being that he has made the Association more inclusive; he has reached out



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

to Anglo-Indian leaders like myself, and to the Presidents of other Associations. Strength in unity is necessary, now especially, in the context of our loss of representation in government. A casteless community, we are not a vote bank, and have to now find relevance in a political system which is dependent on caste.”

The citation, the Association’s official scarf, and a bouquet of flowers were later presented to her at her home in Chennai on behalf of the President-in-Chief and members of our Association by office bearers of the St Thomas Mount Branch - Mr Locklyn Jeffries (President), Mrs Judy Edmonds (Treasurer) and Ms Amanda Edmonds (Branch Youth Coordinator, and now a member of the AIAIAY National Youth Committee).

In a video message on receiving the honour, Dr Beatrix D’Souza, said, “I am honoured...and I dedicate this prestigious award to all Anglo-Indian women in India and abroad – they were, are and will always be THE PRIDE OF THE COMMUNITY”.

THE TREVOR KEELOR AWARD FOR LOYAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE NATION

The award was presented to **Colonel (Retd) Jude Rocque, SM**, of the Jabalpur Branch, by the Chief Guest, Mr David Hilton, in the presence of our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O’Brien.

Col Jude Rocque joined the Indian Army where



he was commissioned in the highly decorated infantry regiment, The Grenadiers Regiment. He has commanded a Rashtriya Rifles Battalion in Jammu and Kashmir and held various staff and instructional appointments at the Brigade and Divisional Levels. He has spearheaded several anti-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir and was bestowed with a Gallantry Award SENA Medal for a daring operation in which one terrorist was killed and six key terrorists were captured along with a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

He represented India as part of the UN Mission in South Sudan. Col Roque is also an excellent sportsman and has represented Madhya Pradesh and Delhi at national meets in basketball, athletics and boxing. He was part of Mission Olympics and

two of his mentees, rowers Lekh Ram (a bronze medallist) and Bheem Singh (a silver and bronze medallist), excelled at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. He currently lives in his



hometown Jabalpur and serves ex-servicemen and widows through the Grenadiers Association.

Present in the audience at the Bishop’s School, their hearts filled with pride, were his ever-supportive wife Candida, and sons Shane and Peter, who are excelling in their careers. Two lesser-known facts worth knowing: (1) the Rocques, who rocked on the dance floor in Pune, have won several dance competitions over the years; and (2) Candida bakes ‘delicious and intoxicating’ Christmas Cakes under the brand named after her Mum, since it is her recipe – ‘ALICE’S’!

(Wing Commander Trevor Keelor, VrC, VM, was an IAF pilot who on 3 September 1965, during the Indo-Pak War, together with the pilots who accompanied him, flew over the Chhamb Valley, and intercepted five Pakistani F86 Sabre Jets and two F104 Starfighters. He is the first pilot in the IAF to have shot down an aircraft of the invincible Pakistan Air Force for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra.)

THE STRACEY REACH FOR THE STARS AWARD

The award was presented to **Mr Charles Thomson**, a member of the Visakhapatnam Branch. He could not attend the event as he is on an extended cricket coaching assignment in the United States of America. He sent in a recorded video message mentioning how honoured and humbled he was to receive such a prestigious award.

Charles Thomson served in the Indian Navy for twenty-five years and won three naval



**THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023**

commendations during his service. He played first-class cricket and represented the Services team as a middle-order batsman and off-spin bowler in the Ranji Trophy. Post his service in the Navy, he plunged into cricket coaching in Andhra Pradesh, and went on to head the State Academy and was a Chief Coach of various teams. He also began coaching first class and international cricketers and is now a BCCI Level-3 and ICC Level-3 coach, the highest coaching qualifications in BCCI and ICC respectively.

He is currently in the US on an O1A visa which is an 'extraordinary ability visa' given to a select few who can assist the country in raising the standards of sport in society. He intends to enjoy a long innings as a coach of top-level teams in India and abroad, including in the IPL.

Charles, who has over the years been an active member of the Association, besides serving on the Branch Committee as Vice President, is "a pretty good singer" and a super Master of Ceremonies. He has always had the support of his wife Effie, a

former executive secretary in a petroleum conglomerate, and his daughter, Kimberly, who has a Master's in HRM and is a double gold medallist - in her Bachelor's and Master's from Andhra University.

This is an excerpt from Charles's video message: "With deep humility and gratitude I would like to thank the President-in-Chief, the Governing Body Members and all the members for bestowing upon me this prestigious honour. I would

also like to thank my parents for the upbringing they gave me, my wife and daughter, who have helped me chase my dreams and trusted me. I am a proud member of this esteemed community and all that I have done and every step that I have taken I have ensured to uplift the image of this community in the world. To our youth I say - as you go through your journey making a living, please ensure that you work on yourself so that one day you will have a life you can be proud of."

This award has been named after the Stracey family. The width of the contribution in the field of public service in India by a single generation of the incredible Straceys, children of struggling Forest Officer Daniel Stracey and his teacher wife Ethel, will be difficult to emulate. With the premature death of Daniel, Ethel and the eldest son Patrick, through extreme sacrifice, disadvantage

and deprivation, fulfilled the dream of the family by ensuring that as many as six of the children were well educated and carved out outstanding careers for themselves - as an Ambassador; an Inspector General of Police; an IFS officer - Chief Conservator of Forests; an IAS officer - District Magistrate; a nurse; and a teacher - all serving their country, India, in their own special way, through the 20th century.

JOY MICHAEL AWARD FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

The Chief Guest, Mr David Hilton, presented the Award to **Mr Denzil Smith**, a member of the Mumbai Branch, in the presence of our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien.

Denzil Smith has acted in over fifty plays and sixty films, sharing the screen with Amitabh Bachchan, Irrfan Khan, Omar Sharif, and Peter O'Toole. Some of his well-known films are *Ek Ajnabee*,



Paap, Bombay Velvet and Badla. He has also acted in TV productions including *Delhi Crime* and *Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin*. A voice-over artist, he has dubbed for the Hindi versions of films like *Up, Bolt*, and *A Bug's Life*. He set up Stagesmith Productions in 2006 to produce English theatre



Charles Thomson



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

with Indian themes.

Joy Michael was a theatre personality who graduated from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and trained in theatre at the British Drama League. After working in professional theatre in London, she returned to India to pursue her passion. Along with Roshan Seth and other highly skilled actors, she founded Yatrik, a theatre group in Delhi, and worked with renowned theatre personalities. She collaborated in over 200 plays as writer or director. She received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2009) and the Padma Shri (2012). In 2018, the Association instituted The Joy Michael Award for the Creative Arts in her honour.

THE JOHN MAYER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC

Mr David Hilton presented the Award to **Mr Keith Dickson** of the Delhi Branch, in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.

The Bangalore-born Keith Dickson began his musical career at the age of 19, when he arrived in Delhi with nothing but heaps of potential and



hope, and a pocket full of dreams. Hard work, dedication and perseverance ensured that he would gradually be performing with some of the finest musicians, at the

Rashtrapati Bhawan for two Presidents of India, for Princess Diana in 1992, and for George Harrison, arguably the most talented Beatle. He represented India at The International Jazz Festival in Uzbekistan in 2022 and has also performed for several other festivals in India, as well. Keith also worked at The Frank Anthony Public School, New Delhi, for 12 years and his current position is with Step by Step, a school he has served for the last 19 years. As a vocalist and a musician who plays several instruments (keyboards, guitar, bass guitar and drums), he has fans across the country who wait to see him live on stage, and across the globe who wait to hear him live on social media platforms.



A Calcutta-boy, John Mayer was a musician and pioneering composer who made his mark in Indo-jazz fusion music. The boy-genius composed his first strings music piece at the age of eleven, and three years later, he started playing professionally. Mayer also began to learn Indian music and a scholarship took him to the Royal Academy of Music, London, where he studied comparative music—western and eastern. By his mid-thirties, he had created more than forty pieces of fusion music in jazz style. He worked with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. His band (Indi-Jazz Fusions) with Jamaican jazz musician Joe Harriott, comprised a jazz quintet and five Indian musicians. Together they recorded several albums. (The legendary educator George Mayer, former Principal of FAPS, New Delhi, was his brother.)

THE E. T. MCCLUSKIE AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

Mr David Hilton presented the award to **Mr Jason O'Connor** of the Mumbai Branch in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.

Jason O'Connor spent his growing up years in the railway colony of Bilaspur and, like so many other Anglo-Indians in years gone by, at St Peter's School, Mazgaon, Mumbai. His story is a business success story of a young man who 'turned up' in Mumbai, with nothing but a dream, loads of determination and street-smart intelligence in his



pocket.

O'Connor & Associates and Charlene Hospitality Services Pvt Ltd were founded on a wealth of knowledge and expertise in facility management as well as on the willingness to take calculated risks to achieve one's vision. Today, both companies offer a wide range of services and cater to the needs of various clients and boast of a strong team of 800-plus personnel, 50-plus clients, an impressive annual turnover of 30 crores and more, and consistent recognition by the Government of India as one of the top 40,000 companies. Jason continues to empower himself by undertaking certifications in various areas, including emergency management, conflict resolution, coaching, and legal risk and compliance.

The O'Connors of Wadala – Jason, his wife, Natalia, and their adult children Charlene and Joshua – live together, work together, pray



together, party together, and serve the Association together.

This award was instituted in memory of a businessman, insurance agent and philanthropist, Ernest Timothy McCluskie. McCluskie served as a Lieutenant in the Army before becoming a land and property agent in Calcutta. He was a member of the sub-committee on housing in the Calcutta Domiciled Enquiry Commission in 1918-1919. In the 1930s, he negotiated a perpetual lease on 10,000 acres of forested land in Lapra (now in Jharkhand) and convinced Anglo-Indians to settle there. In less than a decade, about 400 families had settled in Lapra, later renamed McCluskiegunj, in his honour.

THE WILSON JONES HONOUR FOR A SPORTSPERSON

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, The Wilson Jones Honour for a Sportsman was bestowed on **Mr Sheldon Jackson**. Mr Jackson could not attend the event as he was busy playing a tournament in Ranchi.

Sheldon Jackson, a wicketkeeper-batsman, from Bhavnagar, Gujarat, has been a consistent performer at the national level since 2006. He has played a significant role in Saurashtra's phenomenal progress in recent years: Ranji Trophy runners-up in 2018-2019 and winners in 2019-2020. In 76 First-Class matches, Sheldon has scored 5,634 runs at an average of 49.42, with 19 centuries and 25 fifties. He has played for RCB and KKR in the IPL.

Our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien who has interacted with him in recent months, says, "Sheldon was pleasantly surprised to receive this recognition and deeply moved. In fact, at one point he became quite silent on the telephone, choked with emotion. He finally recovered to say, "I feel truly honoured. I didn't really know that members of my community were aware of me, let alone my



cricketing achievements. I am so happy they are!" Sheldon has only two priorities – his family and his cricket. A simple, down-to-earth person, he says he will never leave Bhavnagar because his mother is happiest there, and he will never leave his mother. He looks forward to a couple of more years of cricket, followed by a second innings in a cricketing career off the field, and a happy life with his ever-supportive wife Varada, his two little boys, Noah and Jeh, and, of course, his beloved mother, Sedrene.

This honour has been named after the first Indian to become a world champion in any sport. Wilson Jones won the World Amateur Billiards title twice, in 1958 and 1964, and was the runner up in 1962, having won the national billiards and snooker titles twelve and five times respectively. He received the Arjuna Award (1963), and the Padma Shri (1965). His very successful post-retirement career as a coach won him the Dronacharya Award (1996), making him the first Anglo-Indian to win the honour.

Sheldon Jackson receives the Wilson Jones Honour for a Sportsman from Governing Body Members in Bangalore

Since the super cricketer was not present at the National Awards Ceremony in October at Pune, Mr Jackson





THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

received the citation and the official Association tie from Governing Body Members Dr Lawrence Jenkins and Mr Clive VanBuerle in Bangalore, a few weeks later.

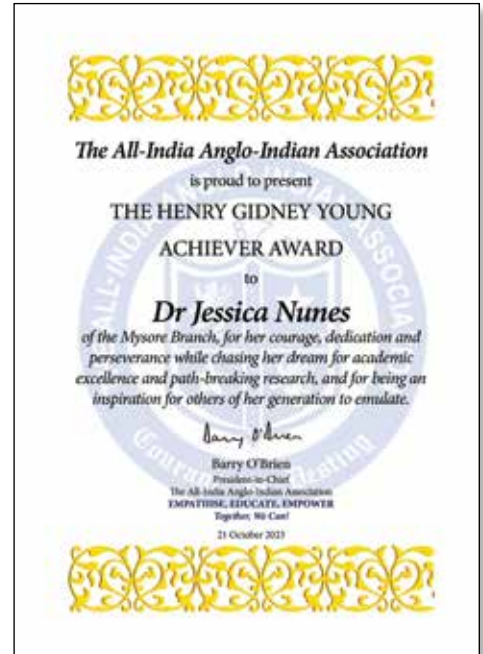
Sheldon, who was in the city for a tournament, invited Dr Jenkins and Clive to the hotel he was staying at, where they chatted, bonded and sipped a couple of cups of tea. It was a special meeting - official, but very informal and relaxed!

This is what Dr Jenkins said to me post their meeting: "He told us about his early days as a player, his family background, the challenges he has faced and his plans for the future. While Sheldon is a special and accomplished person, he is also typically Anglo-Indian. He is modest about his achievements, freely admits to shortcomings, expresses his point of view freely, and is a person of deep faith. We were delighted to meet him, and it was an honour to present the citation and tie, on behalf of our Association to him."

Clive adds, "Sheldon is a lovely guy! Soft-spoken, warm, friendly, and family-centric."

Barry O'Brien

Appeared on our National Facebook Page



THE HENRY GIDNEY YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

The Award was presented to **Dr Jessica Nunes** of the Mysore Branch. Since Jessica is currently working in Memphis, Tennessee, as a Post Doctoral Researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, one of the leading paediatric hospitals in the US, she sent a video message. Mr



David Hilton presented the Award to her proud father Dr Lester Nunes in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.

Jessica completed her B.E. in Biotechnology from M.S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, finishing second in the department. With an All-India rank of 94 in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) exam, she secured admission into IIT Kanpur and completed her M.Tech in Biological Sciences



and Bioengineering from this prestigious institution. She went on to do a PhD in 'Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology' from The Ohio State University, USA. Her thesis focused on 'studying a new therapeutic strategy for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia', a common type of blood cancer that affects elderly people. She received the Graduate Pelotonia Fellowship, which is a two-year research award given to outstanding Ohio state University PhD students.

A co-author on 5 research papers published in international scientific journals, Jessica has received multiple oral and poster awards at international conferences held in the US; she published a first author research paper in an international scientific journal named *Neoplasia* - this work was featured in an article titled 'Repurposing malaria drug to treat castrate-resistant prostate cancer' in *The Economic Times*. While busy doing all this, she still found the time to ride 90 km to raise funds for cancer research in the US.

This is an excerpt from Jessica's video message: "I am truly honoured...this award represents not only a personal achievement but also a recognition of the enduring contributions and culture of the Anglo-Indian community...I am committed to preserving and promoting the traditions and values we hold dear. I would like to thank my parents and friends who have guided and inspired me along the way. Special thanks to Mr Barry O'Brien for making our community stronger. Finally thank you to The All-India Anglo-Indian Association for this exceptional honour. I am truly humbled and inspired to continue working towards the betterment of our community. Thank you.

This award has been instituted in the name of the former President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, Sir Henry Gidney, the great



**THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023**

Anglo-Indian visionary and leader, who was an ophthalmologist par excellence. A brilliant student, he excelled in his field of specialisation at a very young age, and went on to perform thousands of surgeries during his years in the army as well as after that as part of a flourishing private practice in Bombay where it is estimated that his monthly earning was about Rs 20,000 soon after World War I.

THE GLORIA BERRY 'SPIRIT OF THE ANGLo-INDIAN WOMAN' AWARD

The Award was presented to **Ms Candida Louis** of the Hubli Branch by Mr David Hilton, in the presence of our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien.

Meet Candida Louis!

After quitting her job at Oracle as finance specialist, she decided to hit the road. Over the last 14 years, this has been her incredible journey!

- Rode solo covering 34,000 kms through 22 states of India for 7 months in 2015.



- In 2018, rode solo on a Bajaj Dominar 400cc motorcycle from India to Australia through 10 countries in 219 days - India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia,

Singapore, Indonesia and Australia, covering 29,277 kms.

- In 2022, rode solo on a Bajaj Dominar 400cc motorcycle across 25 European countries - UK, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Italy, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. Covered 21,200 kms.

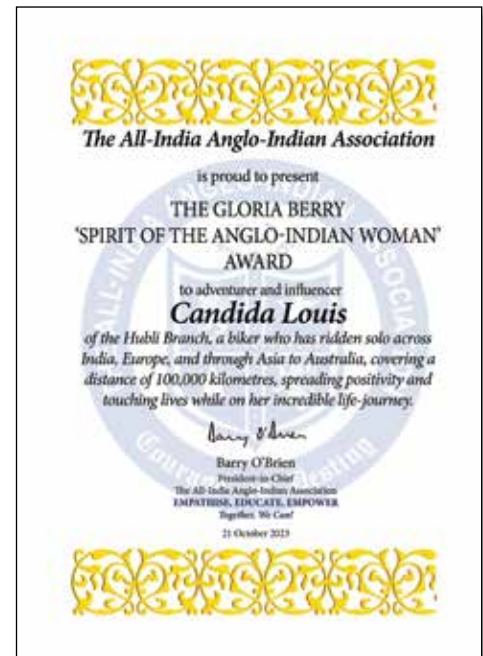
- Selected as a 'catalyst traveller' by the Mouskoka Foundation where she had the opportunity to ride in Cambodia delivering laptops to remote villages in the Cardamom Jungle and help teach children how to use the laptops. Helped build a school.

- Did a Helmet Safety Awareness ride from West to North-East India covering 7,000 kms in partnership with Ceat Tyres.

- Been a motorcycle tour guide and led 46 groups, both domestic and international tours.

- Taught 150+ women in Karnataka how to ride motorcycles - so that they can get jobs and be financially independent.

- She works with Tourism Boards of different countries and tour companies to promote tourism and tourism adventure activities, such as Zanzibar, Indonesia and Mauritius.



- She is a professional content creator - writing blog posts, making videos, creating social media content and collaborating with brands.

- She owns and runs a 5-bedroom farm-stay called 'The Boulder House', near Bangalore.

Gloria Berry, a very young airhostess, died aboard the allegedly sabotaged Air India aircraft Kashmir Princess, which exploded mid-air on 11 April 1955. A fire that started in the rear baggage compartment caused hydraulic failure followed by electrical failure and the only option left was to 'ditch' the aircraft, which in aviation terminology often means to land on water in dire circumstances. Gloria, the sole air hostess on board, kept handing out life vests to the passengers right till the very moment of the crash off Natuna Islands, Indonesia. Only three crew members survived. Gloria Berry was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra Class II by the Government of India for her 'most conspicuous bravery, daring and self-sacrifice'.

THE SONIKA CHAUHAN AWARD FOR COURAGE

The Award was presented jointly to **Master Jonathan Carvalho** of the Trivandrum Branch and **Mr Nelson D'Nancio** of the Calcutta Branch by Mr David Hilton and Nelson in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.

Born with a 95 percent hearing disability, Jonathan, loved, guided and encouraged by his parents, Hyacinth and Tony, has always strived to make the impossible possible. In March 2023, he did it again. He passed the ICSE with 67 percent. Sixteen-year-old Jonathan, looking dapper in suit-and-bowtie, strode confidently on to the stage to thunderous applause from the audience which included his mother Hyacinth and grandfather Llewellyn Watts, a former Driver on the Railways, wiping away their tears of joy and pride. He may have only heard five percent of the applause, but he sure soaked in the atmosphere that memorable



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

morning in the Lorna Roberts Hall, filled with people a generation or two older than him, showering him with the respect and admiration he deserved. (Among the photographs on this page are one of Jonathan and our President-in-Chief in Trivandrum, circa 2017, and another at Pune in 2023 - below left.)



Jonathan Carvalho



Nelson D'Nacio

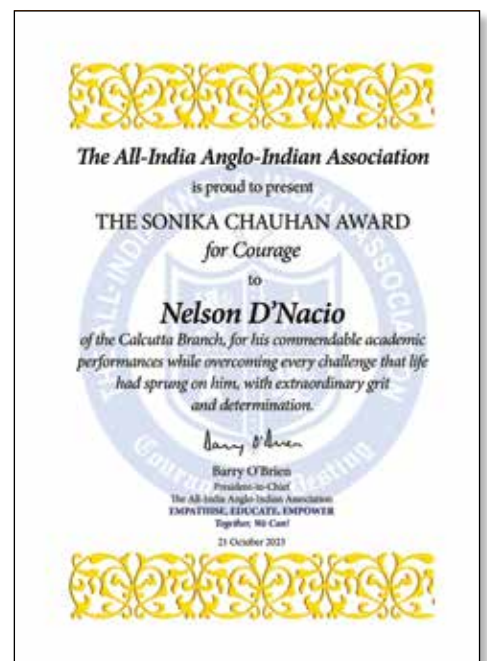
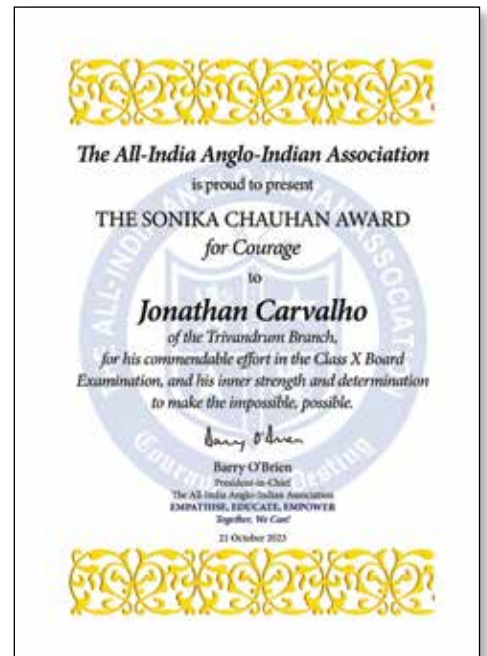


Jonathan and our President-in-Chief in Trivandrum, circa 2017, and at Pune in 2023

Right through his childhood and youth, Nelson and his brother, Jason, have stood by their dedicated and hardworking parents Mr and Mrs Richard D'Nancio, as the family battled to overcome every financial challenge and circumstantial hurdle that life threw at them. They faced it with courage and determination. More importantly, they faced it TOGETHER, AS A FAMILY.

Nelson, whose middle name could well be 'extraordinary grit, inner strength' passed out of school, and went on to do his graduation, post-graduation (in Islamic History) and B Ed Earlier this year, he started teaching in his Alma Mater, The Frank Anthony Public School, Kolkata. He remains ever grateful to his school, The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution, the Calcutta Branch of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, and CAISS, for being pillars of support and strength to his family all along.

This award was instituted in memory of Sonika Chauhan, the daughter of Sharon (née Quinn) and Vivek Singh Chauhan of the Calcutta Branch. Sonika, a hugely talented model, dancer and TV anchor, who spread love and joy wherever she went, lost her life in a road accident in 2017. She was 27.



THE GEORGE MAYER AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The Award was presented to **Ms Ericka Antonio** of the Hubli Branch by Mr David Hilton in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.

Meet Ericka Antonia, who has received the love, support and encouragement of her parents, Lloyd and Priscella, all the way!

She graduated in BSc Nursing from Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

She was conferred 'The Best Outgoing Student for Exemplary Behaviour and Academic Excellence' in 2021-2022 by St Ignatius Institute of Health



Sciences, Honavar, Karnataka, affiliated to RGUHS.

She was also the recipient of the prestigious RGUHS Research Grant, for conducting the undergraduate research project titled, 'A Study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of the Structured Teaching Program on Knowledge regarding use of Braden Scale in Assessing the Risk of "Pressure Sore" among Staff Nurses in selected hospitals at Honavar, Karnataka State', under the guidance of Dr A Sagaya Mary, Principal, St Ignatius Institute of Health Sciences, Honavar.



Ericka secured the 8th rank in the University in BSc Nutrition and Biochemistry. She was also honoured for attaining the 1st position for three consecutive years in BSc at St Ignatius Institute of Health Sciences. She secured the 8th rank in her 4th year BSc Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University level in Karnataka State. She received a Certificate of Merit for securing the 1st place in the 4th year BSc Examination 2021-22, with an impressive 84.8 percent.

She is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in nursing in the specialisation of medical and surgical at the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences. Ericka is also conducting further research for the RGUHS.

This award has been instituted in honour of

Mr George Mayer who was a Fullbright scholar twice. An outstanding and dedicated teacher of Mathematics and Physics, he was the Principal of The Frank Anthony Public School, New Delhi. He also played a key role in the creation and structuring of the syllabus in the formative years of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, the base of which is used not only by the Council's schools today, but by those affiliated to other boards too.



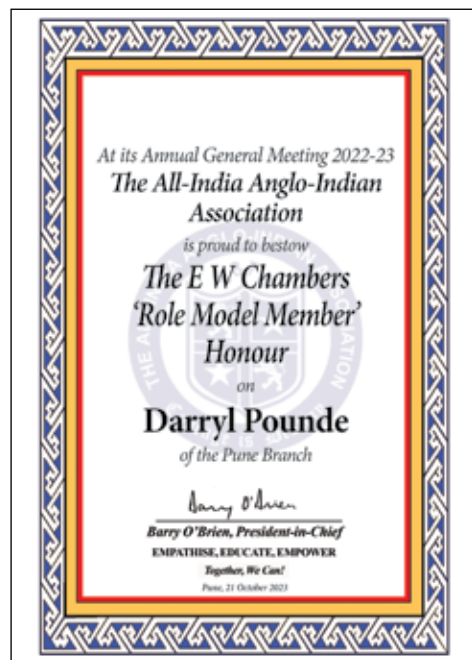
THE E W CHAMBERS 'ROLE MODEL MEMBER' HONOUR

Mr David Hilton bestowed The E W Chambers 'Role Model Member' Honour on **Mr Darryl Ponde** of the Pune Branch on behalf of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, in the presence of our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien.

Mr Ponde became a member of the Pune Branch



in 1985. He joined the Committee the following year, took over as Treasurer in 1993-1994, and has held the post ever since. He has over the last 30 years worked silently, efficiently and most effectively, ensuring that the Branch's accounts are always up to date, its finances always healthy and secure, and the processes followed always transparent and by the book. Having retired from the administration department of a paper mill after 40 years of dedicated service, Mr Ponde continues to be a 'role model member' of this great Association.





This award has been instituted in honour of Dr E W Chambers, a medical practitioner, who was the founder-President of what is today The All-India Anglo-Indian Association (founded in 1876). For him, the term 'Anglo-Indian' described both Domiciled Europeans and those of mixed descent and he strived to bring them together. He encouraged the building of schools for the education of Anglo-Indians and advocated the enlisting of Eurasians into the army.

THE SHARON BARRON PROMISING YOUNG TEACHER AWARD

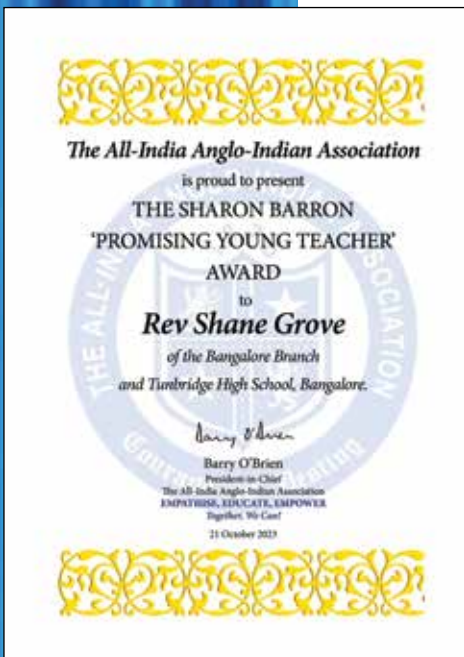
Mr David Hilton presented the Award to **Rev Shane Grove** of the Bangalore Branch in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.



An ordained Reverend with the Anglican Church in India, Rev Shane, 28, has an MBA degree with a specialization in Marketing and HR, a Masters in Sociology, a PhD (DCL - Dual program in India and USA), and has also done his B Ed, TTC, B Com and an Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management. He is a teacher at Tunbridge High School

in Bangalore, an institution affiliated to the Council for the ISCE, at which he teaches English, Social Studies, Value Education and Commerce/Management Studies from middle school up to high school. "Compassionate and caring, he always seems to have time for people, be it his students, colleagues or others", is how a peer describes him.

This award has been named after Sharon Barron (the first recipient of the award in 2018), a promising teacher, who passed away in 2018. The President of the Youth Committee of the Ayanavaram Branch in Chennai, Sharon was bright, talented and intelligent. At the age of 25, she was already a leader - confident, caring, and leading from the front.



The evergreen **Phylis** keeps increasing her energy and commitment levels as she continues to serve her Branch, day after day, year after year, besides never missing a National AGM, and never failing to keep in touch with the many friends she has made over the last few decades across the country. We salute her unputdownable spirit!

Wife, mother, caring teacher of little children, good friend, President of a very active branch,

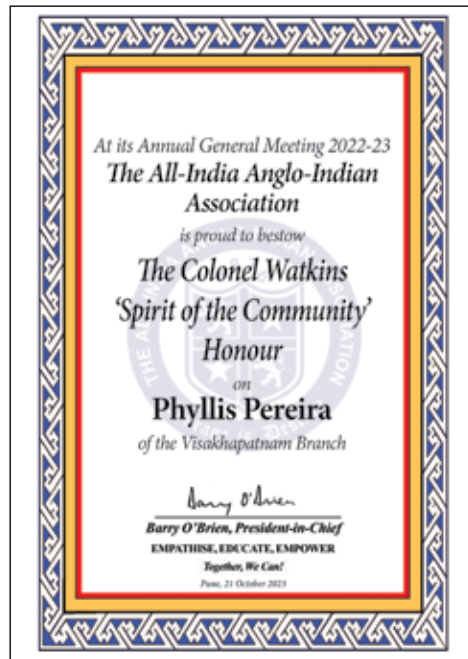


THE COLONEL WATKINS 'SPIRIT OF THE COMMUNITY' HONOUR

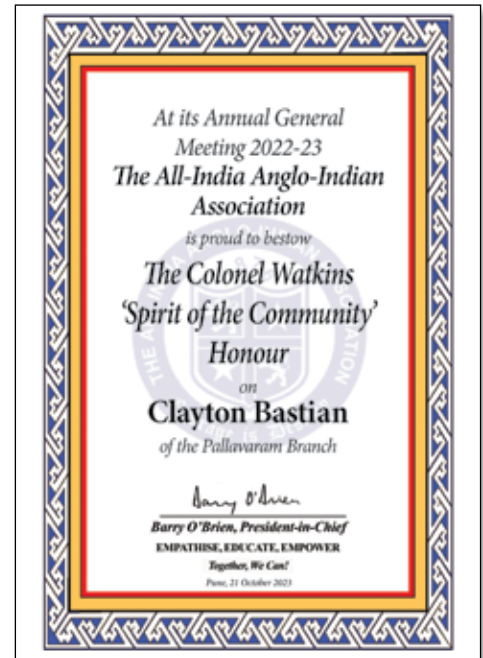
At the National Awards Ceremony 2023 held at The Bishop's School, Pune, our First Lady Mrs Denise O'Brien, presented The Colonel Watkins 'Spirit of the Community' Honour to **Mrs Phylis Pereira** of the Visakhapatnam Branch, **Mrs Patricia Tanner** of the Coimbatore Branch and **Mr Clayton Bastian** of the Pallavaram Branch (Chennai).

poet, excellent dancer, multiple medallist at veteran athletics meets at the national and international levels, **Patricia** is truly an all-rounder who has excelled. Graceful in disposition and always elegantly turned out, she continues to look ahead with a sense of optimism and positivity. We salute her unputdownable spirit!

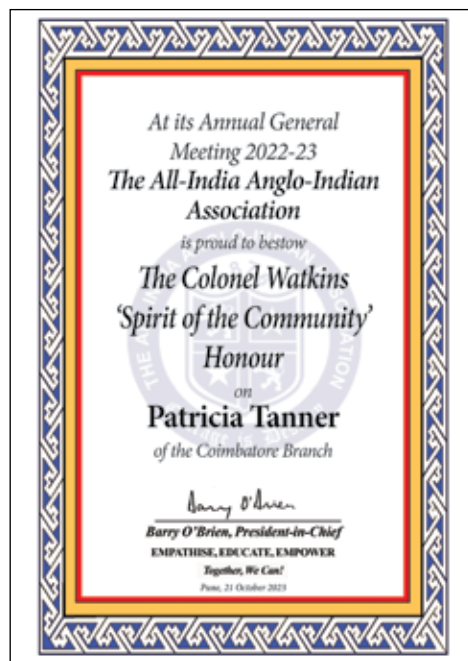




The ever-active **Clayton**, a member for over five decades, continues to motivate and assist younger members of his Branch, including members of the Branch Committee. He is generous with his time and in other ways and is always willing to reach out to those less fortunate. Having voluntarily stepped down from the post of Branch President several years ago to provide an opportunity for



service in the Middle East Expeditionary Forces (Sudan, Egypt, Mandate Palestine, etc.) during World War II, as well as while serving at the Combined Military Hospital, Campbellpore (now Attock in Pakistan), where she treated fifty-two heat stroke cases and saved each one's life. She was made an Associate of the Royal Red Cross; received the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal (1964-65) from the Royal Red Cross; retired as a colonel and went on to play a key role in the Jabalpur Branch of the Association and as the community's MLA in Madhya Pradesh.



younger leaders to lead, he is omnipresent in good times and in bad. We salute his unputdownable spirit!

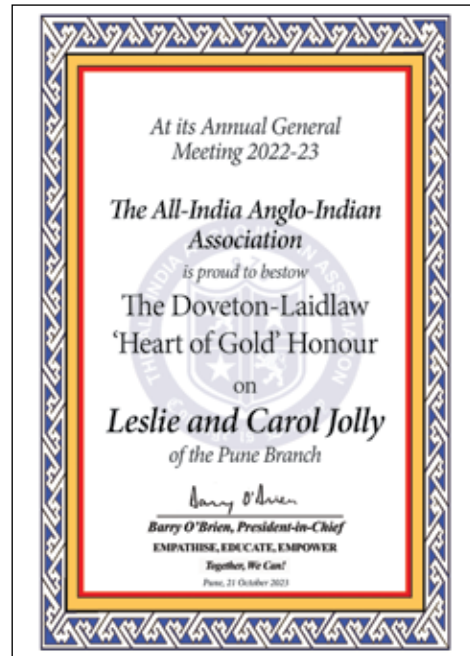
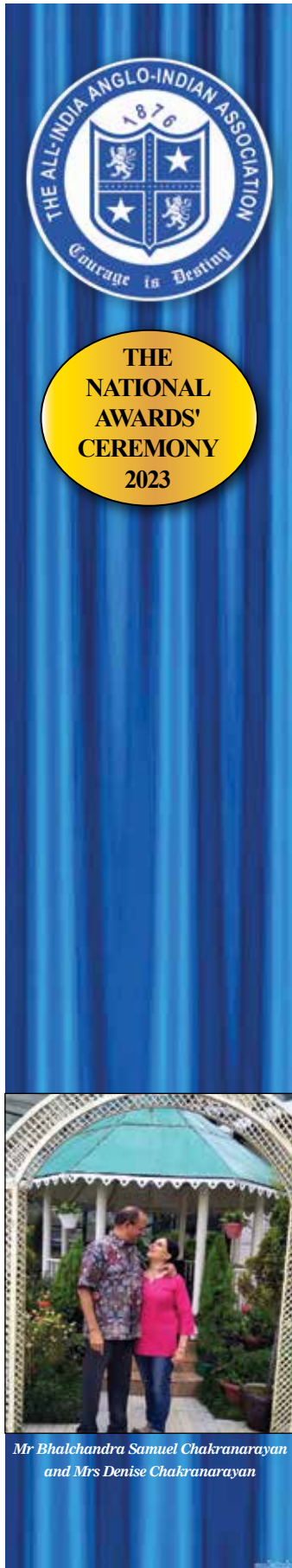
This honour has been named after Col Florence St Clair Watkins (1913-2013). As a nurse, she received several awards for her exemplary and dedicated

THE DOVETON-LAIDLAW 'HEART OF GOLD' HONOUR

Mrs Denise O'Brien presented The Doveton-Laidlaw 'Heart of Gold' Honour to **Mr Leslie Jolly** and **Mrs Carol Jolly** of the Pune Branch. This special couple has, over the years, gone the extra mile with their generous contributions, never letting their left hand know what the right hand was doing. We salute their generosity and their glowing Christian spirit.

This honour has been named after two exceptionally generous people who lived long, long ago.





John Doveton (1768–1847): an orphan who went on to become an Army officer and a philanthropist. He bequeathed a phenomenal amount of money for the education of poor Anglo-Indian children'. Sir Robert Laidlaw was a wealthy merchant. Disturbed by the large number of Anglo-Indian children not in school, he convened the Laidlaw Conference in 1910, to discuss the situation, and launched an appeal across colonies of the empire to raise money for a trust fund for the schools, assistance which would encourage school managements to admit deserving children.

THE OLIVE ANTHONY HONOUR FOR A SPOUSE FOR BEING A PILLAR OF SUPPORT

This honour was presented by Dr Oscar Nigli, ex-MLA, Vice President and Governing Body Member in charge of Tamil Nadu, his wife Mrs Rachel Nigli, and Mr Eric deRozario, Governing Body Member in charge of Bihar and Odisha, to **Mr Shivan Mullankandy Pamban**, **Mrs Maryanne Young** and to Mrs Denise Chakranarayan, who received it on behalf of her husband, much loved, admired, and respected **Mr Bhalchandra Samuel Chakranarayan**, (affectionately called 'Bhal') who had passed away two months ago. *(The decision to honour him had already been taken by then.)*



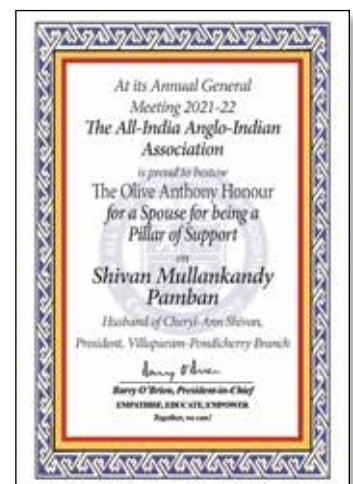
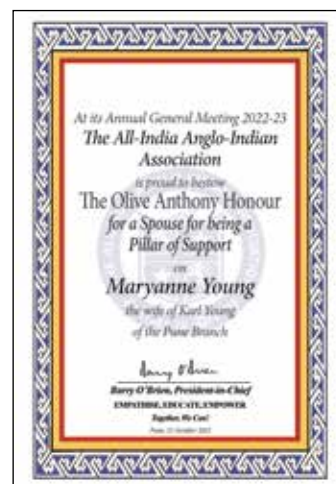
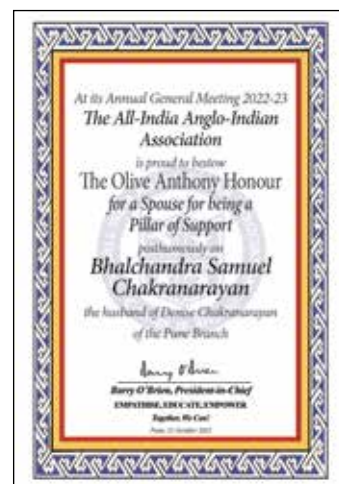
Mrs Denise Chakranarayan (left)



Mrs Maryanne Young (second from left)



Mr Shivan Mullankandy Pamban (third from left)



Mr Bhalchandra Samuel Chakranarayan and Mrs Denise Chakranarayan



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

Mr Shivan Mullankandy Pamban is the 'ever-smiling, ever-supportive and ever-singing' husband of Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan, President of the Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch, now a Governing Body Member.

Mrs Maryanne Young is the ever-supportive wife of the super-active Honorary Secretary of the Pune Branch, Mr Karl Young.

Mrs Denise Chakranarayan is the super active Vice President of the Pune Branch.

This honour has been instituted in memory of Mrs Olive Anthony, the wife of our great leader Mr Frank Anthony. She was his closest confidant, always by his side, supporting him and sharing her opinion and suggestions, some say, 'advice', and caring for the Association as much as her beloved husband did.

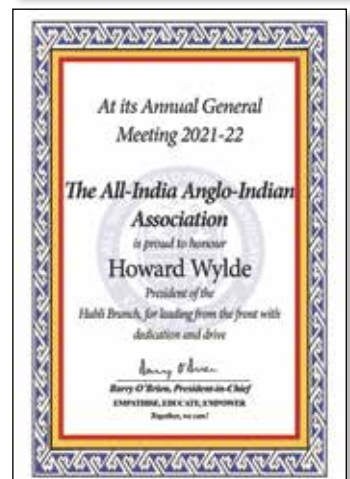
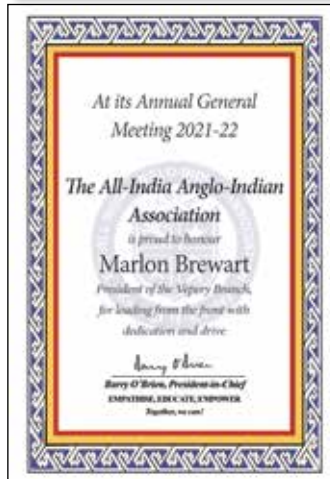
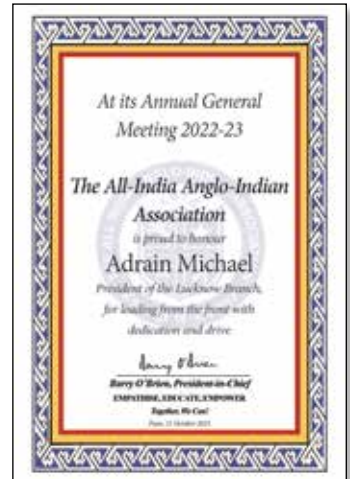
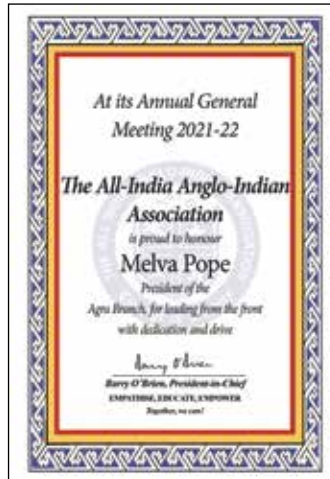
HONOUR TO A BRANCH PRESIDENT

Every year, Branch Presidents who have put in an exemplary effort and initiative are honoured. There are many who work in this way but each year a few Presidents who lead from the front are chosen. Some of them have served for long periods of time, while others have held their post for two or three years, but in that time, they have made a significant difference in the workings and progress of their Branches.

Since we did not have a 'physical' Awards' Ceremony in 2022, the honours for two years were presented by Mrs Denise O'Brien to...

2021-2022

- Melva Pope, Agra Branch (left, top)**
- Marlon Brewart, Vepery**



- Branch (left, middle)**
- Howard Wylde, Hubli Branch (left, bottom)**
- Alistair Rodrigues, Mysore Branch (not present)**
- Elvis James, Bangalore City Branch - (not present)**
- Glen Young, Bhusawal Branch - (not present)**

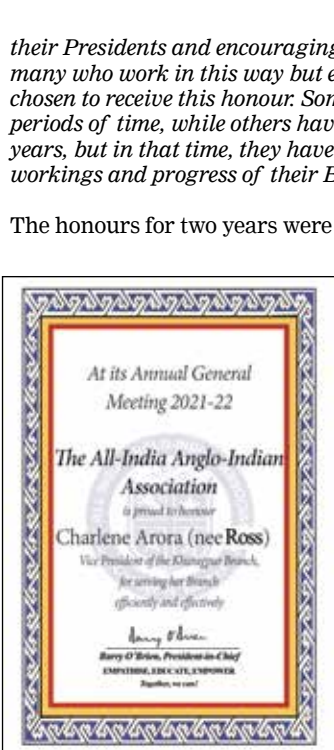
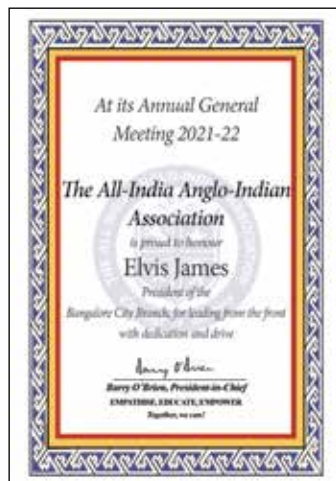
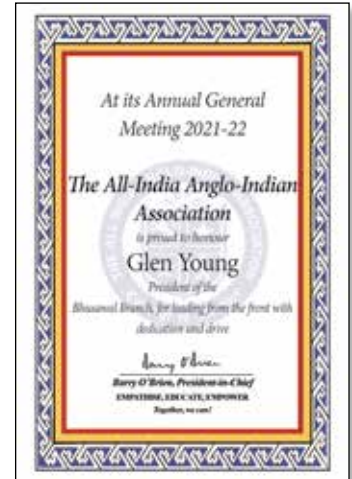
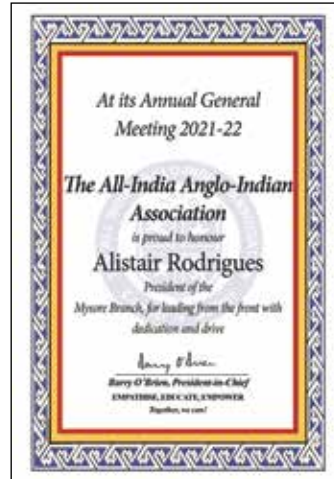
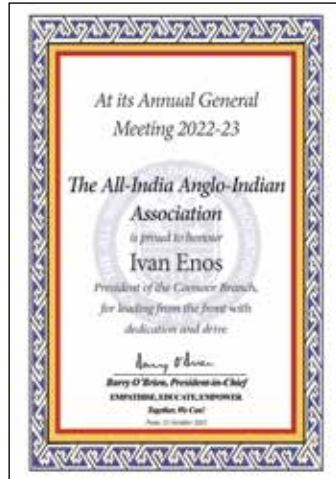
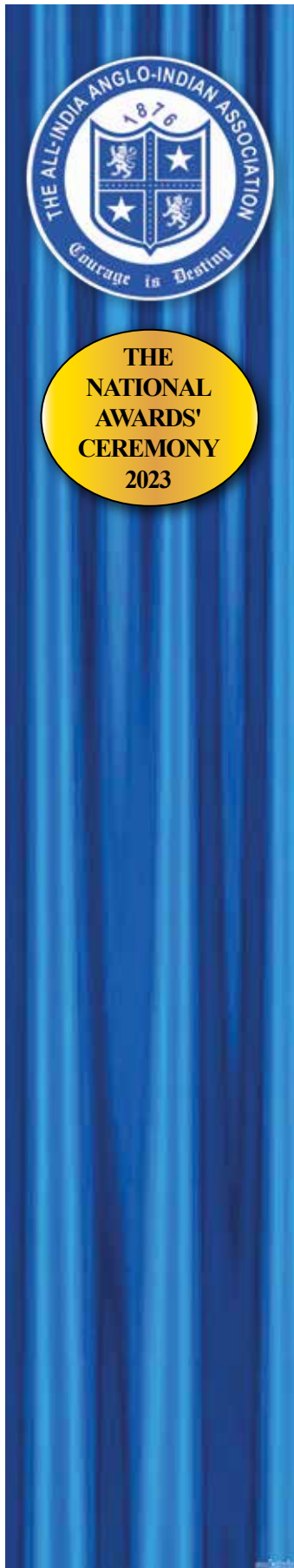
2022-2023

- Adrian Michael, Lucknow Branch (right, above)**
- Ivan Enos, Coonoor Branch (not present)**

HONOUR TO A BRANCH VICE PRESIDENT

Every year, Branch Vice Presidents who have played their roles effectively, working hard, supporting





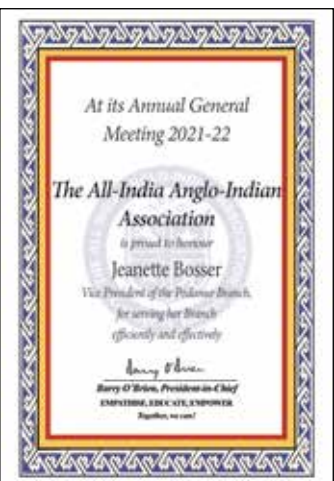
their Presidents and encouraging others, are honoured. There are many who work in this way but each year a few Vice Presidents are chosen to receive this honour. Some of them have served for long periods of time, while others have held their post for two or three years, but in that time, they have made a significant difference in the workings and progress of their Branches.

The honours for two years were presented to...

2021-2022
Sharon Singh (nee Quinn), Calcutta Branch (not present)
Charlene Arora (nee Ross), Kharagpur Branch (not present)
Jeanette Bosser, Podanur Branch (not present)

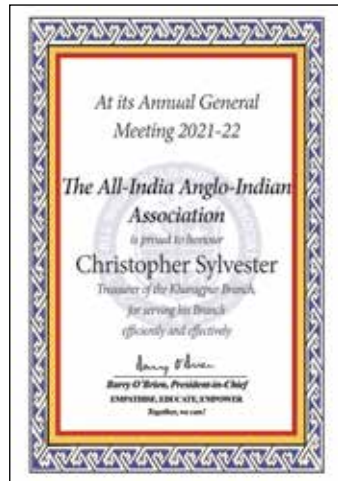
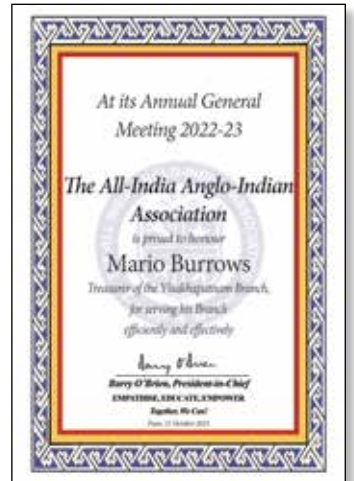
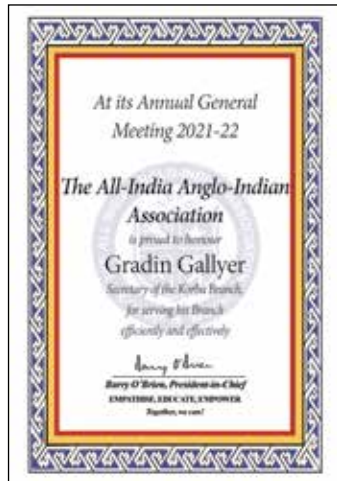
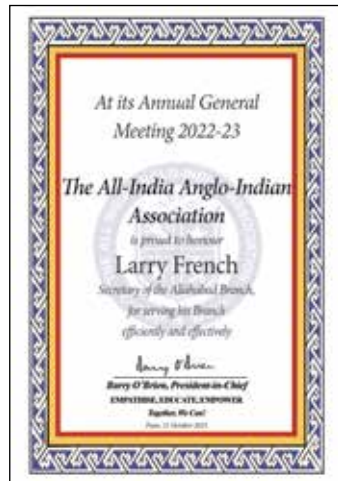
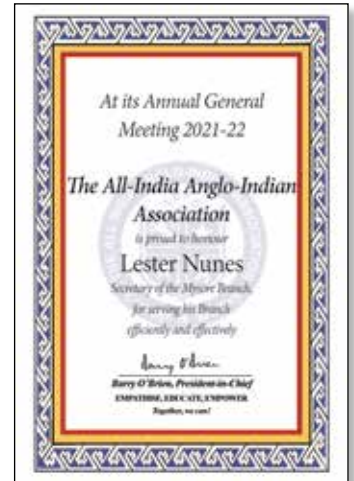
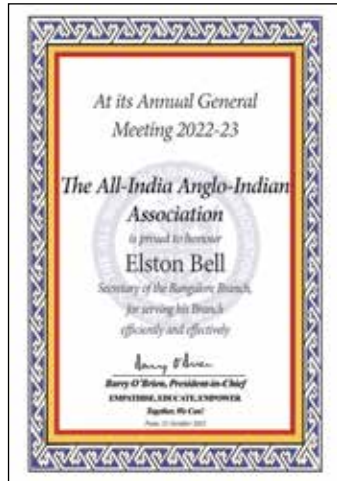
2022-2023
 (no recipients)

HONOUR TO A BRANCH SECRETARY AND TREASURER



Every year, Branch Secretaries and Treasurers who have shown exemplary effort and initiative are honoured. There are many who work in this way but each year a few Secretaries who keep the wheels of the Branches turning, and Treasurers who play their part diligently, are honoured. Some of them have served for long periods of time, while others have held their post maybe just for only two or three years, but in that time, they have made a significant difference in the workings and progress of their Branches.

The honours for two years were presented at Pune in 2023 by Mrs Glenda Galstaun, wife of Mr Glen Galstaun, MLA, and Honorary



Treasurer; and Mr Rudolf Woodman, Honorary General Secretary.

Elston Bell, Bangalore Branch (top, middle)

Honour to a Branch Secretary

Honour to a Branch Treasurer

2021-2022

2021-2022

Lester Nunes, Mysore Branch (right, above)

Christopher Sylvester, Kharagpur Branch (not present)

Gradin Gallyer, Korba Branch (left, below)

2022-2023

2022-2023

Mario Burrows, Visakhapatnam Branch (not present)

Larry French, Allahabad Branch (left, above)



SPECIAL HONOURS

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023 held at The Bishop's School, Pune, the following awards were presented:

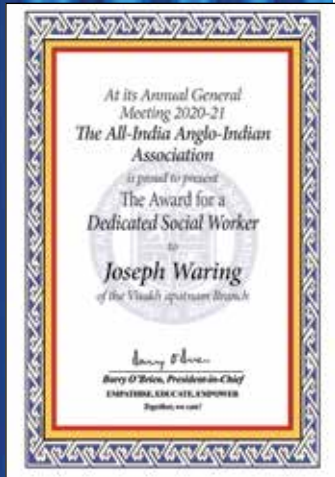
Special Honour for exemplary service to her Branch during a challenging period

Sabrina Trivett,
St Thomas Mount Branch
(not present)



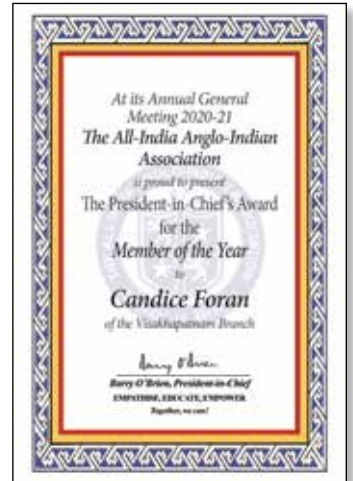
The Award for a Dedicated Social Worker

Joseph Waring, Visakhapatnam Branch
(not present)



2021-2022

Candice Foran,
Visakhapatnam Branch
(not present)



THE PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF'S AWARDS FOR OUR YOUTH

Every year, the President-in-Chief recognises young members who are either putting in a special all-round effort for their Branch or excelling in their chosen fields of specialisation.

At Pune in 2023, these awards were presented by Mrs Patricia Hilton, Guest-of-Honour, in the presence of the President-in-Chief.

THE PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF'S AWARD FOR THE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

For this Award, the President-in-Chief selects a member who is deeply involved in the community's and the Association's affairs in a special way, putting service before self. At Pune in 2023, it was presented by Mrs Patricia Hilton, Guest-of-Honour, in the presence of the President-in-Chief.



The President-in-Chief's Award for the Youth Member of the Year 2021-2022 - Vernon D'Souza of the Asansol Branch, a promising schoolteacher, guest lecturer at a college, and a passionate and talented poet, songwriter, singer, and actor.

The President-in-Chief's Award for the Young Member of the Year, 2021-2022 - Tyron D'Souza of the Agra Branch, a mature, dedicated and hardworking member of the Branch Committee, who is an entrepreneur doing very well in the field of sound engineering and events and is himself a very talented vocalist.

The President-in-Chief's Award for the Youth Member of the Year 2022-2023 - Adrian Peters of the Hyderabad-Secunderabad Branch, an outstanding student who fought the odds that were heavily stacked against his family to become an outstanding student. Last year, he resigned from



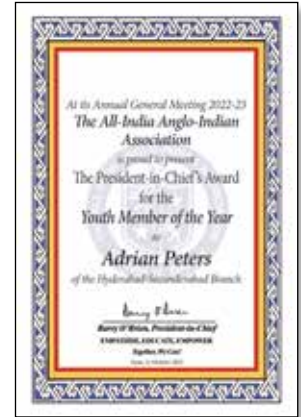
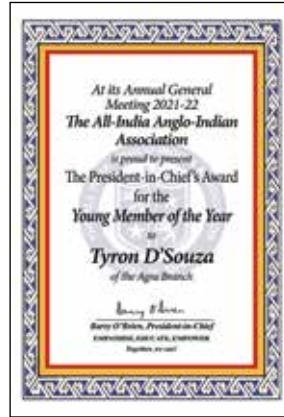
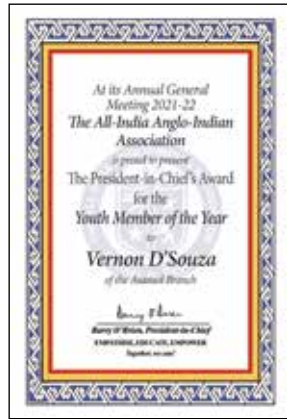
2022-2023

Gradin and Roselin Gallyer,
Korba Branch





THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



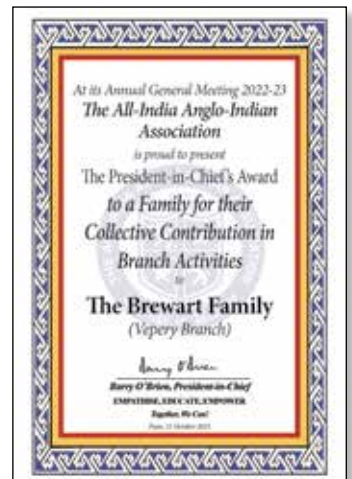
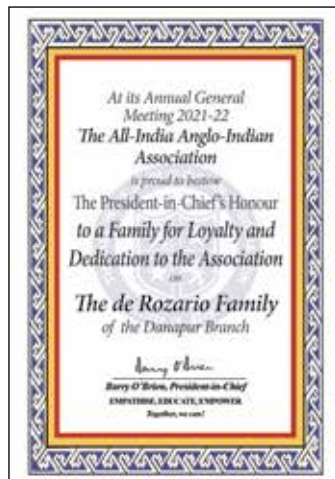
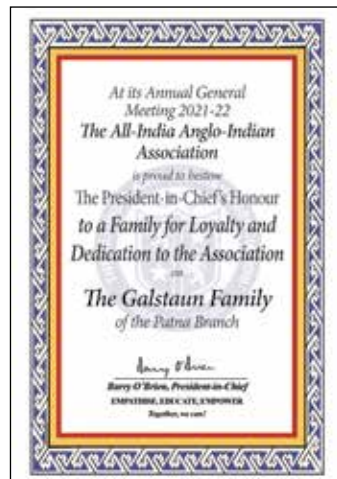
his job in Amazon to pursue an MBA on a full scholarship in the prestigious YALE University in the US. (Tyron and Adrian were not present.)



HONOURS FOR FAMILIES

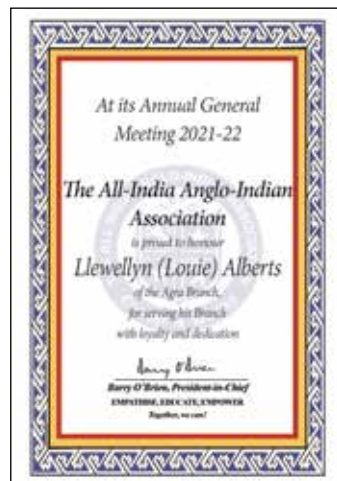
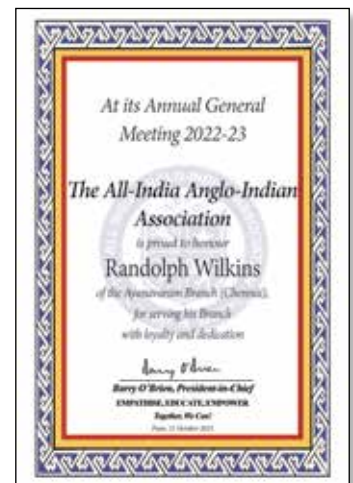
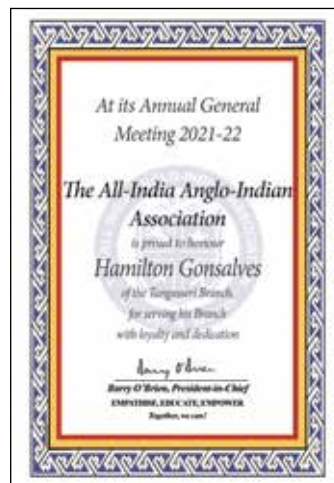
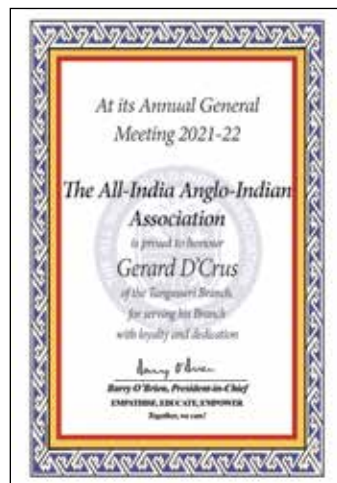
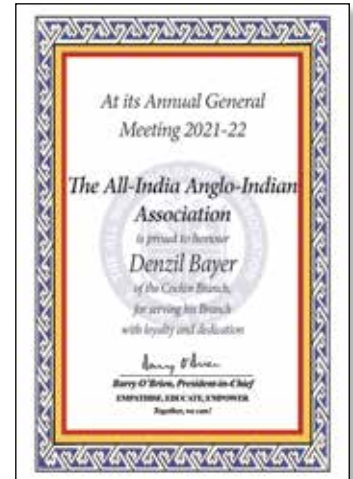
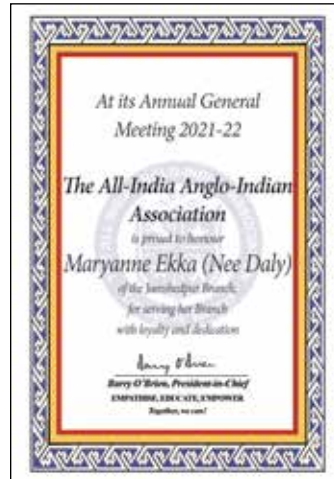
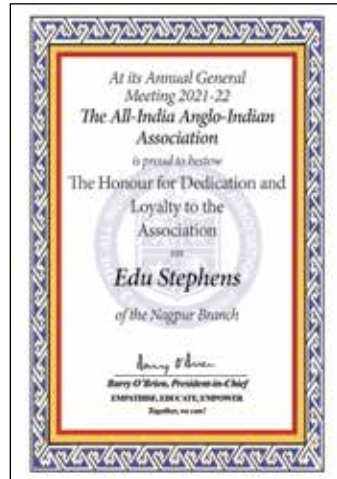
At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, in the presence of the President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, the Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Patricia Hilton, presented...

The President-in-Chief's Honour to a Family for Loyalty and Dedication to the Association over the years to the *de Rozario Family* of Danapur and the *Galstaun Family* of Patna. The President-in-Chief's Award for the Family of the Year 2022-2023 was presented to the *Brewart Family* of the *Vepery Branch*.





THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



HONOUR FOR LOYAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Dr Oscar Nigli, ex-MLA, Vice President and Governing Body Member; Mrs Rachel Nigli; and Mr Eric deRozario, Governing Body Member:

Honour for Dedication & Loyalty to the Association 2021-2022

J W E (Edu) Stephens, Nagpur Branch

Honour for Loyal and Dedicated Service to the Branch 2021-2022

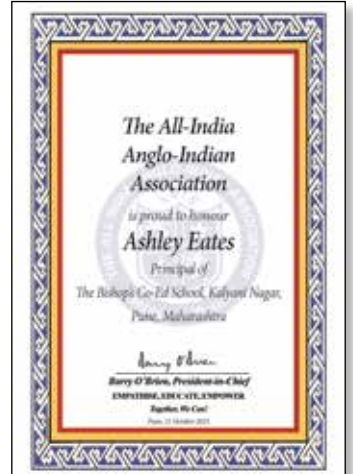
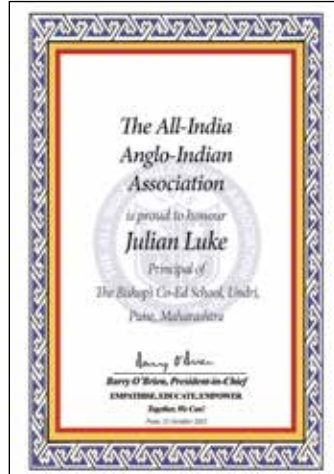
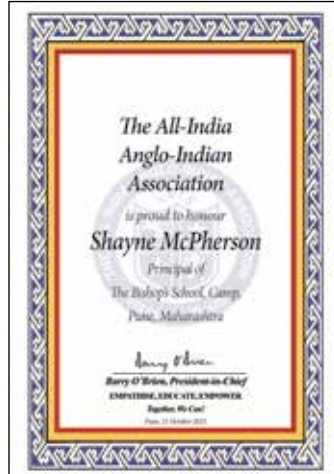
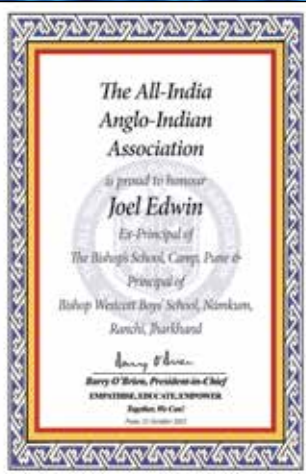
**Llewellyn (Louie) Alberts, Agra Branch (left)
Maryanne Ekka (nee Daly), Jamshedpur Branch
Denzil Bayer, Cochin Branch
Gerard D'Crus, Tangasseri Branch
Hamilton Gonsalves, Tangasseri Branch**

Honour for Loyal and Dedicated Service to the Branch 2022-2023

Randolph Wilkins, Ayanavaram Branch



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



ASSOCIATION HONOURS THE BISHOP'S SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS

At its National AGM held in 2023, The All-India Anglo-Indian Association expressed its gratitude and deep appreciation to the Principals of The Bishop's Schools, Pune, for always 'being there' for the community and the Association. In the presence of the President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, the Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Patricia Hilton, presented the honours to....

Mr Joel Edwin - Ex-Principal of The Bishop's School, Camp, Pune, who has been solid, steady, reliable and consistent all the way; currently Principal of Bishop Westcott Boys' School, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

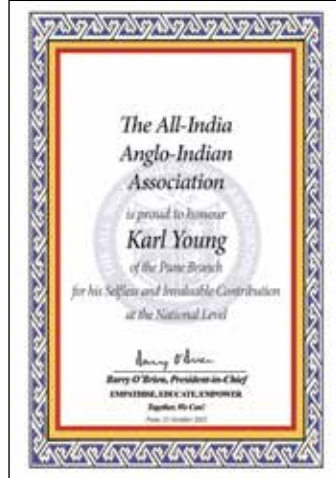
Mr Shayne McPherson - Principal of The Bishop's School, Camp, Pune, who was 'everywhere', leading from the front, covering all bases and taking care of every need of every individual delegate and ensuring it was an AGM par excellence.

Mr Julian Luke - Principal of The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Undri, Pune.

Mr Ashley Eates - Principal of The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar, Pune, always lending support, and doing an outstanding job as MC at the Delegates' Ball.



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



ASSOCIATION HONOURS KARL YOUNG

At its National AGM held in 2023, The All-India Anglo-Indian Association expressed its gratitude and deep appreciation to the super dedicated Secretary of the Pune Branch Mr Karl Young for the tireless and crucial efforts he puts in to make every AGM in Pune a grand success. Mrs Patricia Hilton presented the honour to Mr Karl Young in the presence of Mr Barry O'Brien.



NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY, PUNE – BRANCH AWARDS



THE FRANK ANTHONY AWARD FOR THE BRANCH OF THE YEAR



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



Cochin Branch



Vepery Branch



Visakhapatnam Branch



Bangalore Branch



Lucknow Branch



Pallavaram Branch



Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch



Pune Branch



Mumbai Branch



Calcutta Branch



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023

At the National Awards Ceremony 2023 held alongside the Annual General Meeting of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association at The Bishop's School, Pune, the President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, presented the Frank Anthony Award for the Branch of the Year (for the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023).

THE FRANK ANTHONY AWARD FOR THE BRANCH OF THE YEAR 2021-2022

- Bronze:** Cochin Branch, Vepery Branch
- Silver:** Bangalore Branch, Lucknow Branch, Visakhapatnam Branch,
- Gold:** Pallavaram Branch, Pune Branch, Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch

THE FRANK ANTHONY AWARD FOR THE BRANCH OF THE YEAR 2022-2023

- Bronze:** Mumbai Branch, Visakhapatnam Branch
- Silver:** Calcutta Branch, Pallavaram Branch, Vepery Branch, Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch,
- Gold:** Bangalore Branch, Pune Branch



Dehradun Branch



Allahabad Branch



Delhi Branch



Agra Branch

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Mr Bernard Rodrigues, Vice President and Governing Body Member; and Mr Justin Clarke, Governing Body Member:

DEHRADUN BRANCH

1. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Bronze

DELHI BRANCH

1. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Bronze

ALLAHABAD BRANCH

1. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Bronze

AGRA BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Bronze
2. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Silver
3. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Silver



**THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023**



Lucknow Branch



Korba Branch



Jabalpur Branch



Bhopal Branch

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Dr Lawrence Jenkins, Vice President and Governing Body Member; Mrs Maureen Jenkins, and Dr Ms Melva Pope, Governing Body Member.

LUCKNOW BRANCH

1. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 21-22 - Gold**
2. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Gold**
3. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - Gold**
4. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Gold**

KORBA BRANCH

1. **The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Bronze**
2. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - Silver**
3. **The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Gold**

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Mr Warren LaTouche, Governing Body Member; Mrs Wendy LaTouche, and Mr Adrian Michael, Governing Body Member.

DANAPUR BRANCH

1. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 21-22 - Bronze**
2. **The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Silver**

JABALPUR BRANCH

1. **The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Silver**
2. **The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Bronze**
3. **The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 22-23 - Bronze**

BHOPAL BRANCH

1. **The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Bronze**
2. **The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 22-23 - Bronze**

KANPUR BRANCH

1. **The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Bronze**

3. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - Silver**

PATNA BRANCH

1. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 21-22 - Bronze**
2. **The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Silver**
3. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - Silver**



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



Danapur Branch



Patna Branch



Ranchi Branch



Asansol Branch



Calcutta Branch

RANCHI BRANCH

1. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Silver
2. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Bronze
3. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Silver

JAMSHEDPUR BRANCH

1. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Bronze
2. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Bronze

ASANSOL BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Bronze
2. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Bronze

KHARAGPUR BRANCH

1. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Bronze
2. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Bronze

CALCUTTA BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Gold
2. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 21-22 - Bronze
3. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Silver
4. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Gold
5. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 22-23 - Gold



**THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023**



Hyderabad-Secunderabad Branch



Visakhapatnam Branch



Bangalore Branch

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Dr Mrs Cheryl Ann Shivan, Governing Body Member; Mr Shivan, and Mr Clive VanBuerle, Governing Body Member.

HYDERABAD- SECUNDERABAD BRANCH

1. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Gold
2. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Silver
3. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Silver
4. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Gold

VISAKHAPATNAM BRANCH

1. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Silver
2. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Gold
3. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Gold
4. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Silver

BANGALORE BRANCH

1. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Silver
2. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Gold
3. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Silver
4. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Gold

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Mr Adrian D'Cruz, former Governing Body Member; Mr Llewellyn de Rozario, Governing Body Member; and Mrs Blossom Lillywhite, Member of the Board of Governors, The Bishop's Education Society.

MYSORE BRANCH

1. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 21-22 - Gold
2. The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - Bronze
3. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural

BANGALORE CITY BRANCH

1. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 21-22 - Silver
2. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Gold
3. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Bronze
4. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Silver

4. Events 22-23 - Bronze
4. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Bronze

HUBLI BRANCH

1. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 21-22 - Bronze
2. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Gold
3. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 22-23 - Gold



THE NATIONAL AWARDS' CEREMONY 2023



Mysore Branch



Hubli Branch



Cochin Branch

1. The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 21-22 - *Silver*
2. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - *Gold*
3. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 21-22 - *Gold*
4. The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - *Gold*
5. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - *Gold*
6. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 22-23 - *Silver*

KOLAR GOLDFIELDS BRANCH

1. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - *Bronze*

GOA BRANCH

1. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - *Gold*
2. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - *Gold*

COCHIN BRANCH

VYPEEN BRANCH

1. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 21-22 - *Gold*
2. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - *Silver*
3. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - *Gold*
4. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - *Silver*



Tangasseri Branch



Trivandrum Branch

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Mrs June Chaudhari, Member of the Board of Governors, The Bishop's Education Society.

TANGASSERI BRANCH

1. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - *Gold*
2. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - *Silver*

3. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - *Bronze*

TRIVANDRUM BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - *Silver*
2. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - *Gold*
3. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - *Bronze*
4. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - *Bronze*



THE
NATIONAL
AWARDS'
CEREMONY
2023



Ayanavaram Branch

AYANAVARAM BRANCH

1. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 21-22 - Bronze



George Town Branch

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Mrs Laurina D'Cruz and Mr Joel Edwin, Members of the Board of Governors, The Bishop's Education Society, along with Mrs Jacqueline Edwin.

GEORGE TOWN BRANCH

1. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Silver
2. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Gold
3. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Bronze



Madhavaram Branch

MADHAVARAM BRANCH

1. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Bronze
2. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 22-23 - Bronze



Vepery Branch

VEPERY BRANCH

1. The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 21-22 - Gold
2. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Silver
3. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 21-22 - Silver
4. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - Gold
5. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Silver
6. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 22-23 - Bronze



Pallavaram Branch

PALLAVARAM BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Gold
2. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Gold
3. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 21-22 - Silver
4. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Silver
5. The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Gold



- 6. **The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 22-23 - Silver**
- 7. **The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 22-23 - Gold**



St Thomas Mount Branch

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI BRANCH

- 1. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 -Silver**
- 2. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Silver**

GOLDEN ROCK BRANCH

- 1. **The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 21-22 - Bronze**
- 2. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Bronze**

ST THOMAS MOUNT BRANCH

- 1. **The Sheila Irani Award for the Most Promising/Improved Branch 22-23 - Bronze**



Madurai Branch

At the National Awards' Ceremony 2023, the following awards were presented by Mr Rudolf Woodman, Honorary General Secretary, The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, and Chairman, The Bishop's Education Society.

MADURAI BRANCH

- 1. **The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Gold**
- 2. **The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - Silver**
- 3. **The Derozio Award for Projecting the Community 22-23 - Silver**
- 4. **The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - Silver**



Podanur Branch

PODANUR BRANCH

- 1. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Gold**
- 2. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Gold**



Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch

VILLUPURAM- PONDICHERRY BRANCH

- 1. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 21-22 - Gold**
- 2. **The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - Bronze**
- 3. **The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - Gold**
- 4. **The Henry Gidney Review and Social Media Award 22-23 - Silver**



Nagpur Branch

NAGPUR BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - *Bronze*
2. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - *Bronze*
3. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - *Bronze*

MUMBAI BRANCH

1. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 21-22 - *Gold*
2. The Albert Barrow Award for Best Secretariat 22-23 - *Bronze*
3. The Tony Brent Award for Cultural Events 22-23 - *Silver*
4. The Joyce O'Brien True Spirit of the Community Award 22-23 - *Gold*

PUNE BRANCH

1. The Major General Williams Award for Projects & Events 21-22 - *Gold*
2. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 21-22 - *Silver*
3. The Major General Williams Award for Projects 22-23 - *Silver*
4. The Neil O'Brien Youth Award 22-23 - *Gold*



Mumbai Branch



Pune Branch



EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can

The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

The 148th National AGM (2022-2023) at Pune

A Detailed Summary

By Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan

The 148th
National AGM
2023



Mr Rudolf Woodman, Honorary General Secretary; Mr Barry O'Brien, ex-MLA, President-in-Chief, Chairman of the Meeting; Mr Glen Galstaun, MLA, Honorary Treasurer

The 148th AGM of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association held in Pune on 20, 21 and 22 October 2023, marked a significant physical reunion for the community after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The lingering effects of the crisis on people's health, livelihoods, and finances saw a slight drop in the numbers attending when compared to the years past but the committed participation of those who attended bestowed on the events a profound sense of purpose and significance.

20 October, The Bishop's Co-ed School, Kalyani Nagar

On the evening of the 20th, the Inauguration and Meet & Greet commenced with a parade of the Branches, a representative from each holding its placard. Forty-five Branches proudly showcased their presence. For the regular attendees, the evening was an opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances, while newcomers eagerly embraced the chance to forge new friendships and acquaint themselves with the dynamics of an AGM.

Following the formal introduction of the Branches, the atmosphere transformed into one

of camaraderie as members mingled and filled one another in on three years of events on the personal and other fronts. The President-in-Chief and the Governing Body Members in charge of the various States circulated among the members, ensuring that everyone felt welcomed and at ease.

The gracious hosts, the Pune Branch and the Bishop's Schools, laid out a lavish dinner that night, and to those present, it was an indication of what the next few days were going to be, food wise! 'The Groove Machine', a three-piece band, provided an eclectic mix of music, enticing people to return to the dance floor between servings. Overall, the evening, with Mr Merwyn Rodricks as the MC, set the tone for the AGM with a spirit of purpose and celebration, uniting members in a shared sense of community and anticipation for the next two days.

21 October, Lorna Roberts Hall, The Bishop's School, Camp

On the morning of the 21st, the atmosphere of the hall was sedate, signalling the commencement of the Business Sessions of the AGM. The Master of Ceremonies for the introductory session, Mr Merwyn Rodricks, on behalf of the Pune Branch, briefly welcomed the

attendees and announced that the proceedings would start with a Praise and Worship Session and invited Mrs Denise Chakranarayanan to lead the assembly in prayer. This was followed by a Bible reading by Ms Celine Littlewood, after which the Bishop's school staff choir sang the hymn, *The House of the Lord*.

Post the 'Praise and Worship Session', Mr Shayne McPherson, the Principal of The Bishop's School, Camp, and the Honorary Secretary of the Bishop's Education Society (BES), greeted the gathering and in his address underscored the 'Anglo-Indianness' of The Bishop's School and its deep-rooted connect with the Association. He also extended the wholehearted support of the Branch and the School's team to all attendees and wished everyone a productive meeting.

The National Awards' Ceremony

Before delving into the Business Meeting, the day began with the prestigious National Awards' Ceremony co-hosted by stalwarts Mr Andrew Hoffland and Mr Graham Heiden, assisted by youth members Mr Vernon D'Souza and Ms Shania Seymour. The Awards' Ceremony holds special significance within the community, serving as a moment to honour and celebrate the diverse achievements and remarkable stories of its members from public service to personal triumphs to even individual acts of courage. By showcasing these achievements, the ceremony serves as a reminder to those present, of the collective strength and resilience inherent within themselves and in their fellow community members.

The Chief Guest, Mr David Hilton, the President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution and a Life Member of our Association, and the Guest of Honour, Mrs Patricia Hilton, an eminent social worker and a Life Member of our Association, were introduced by Mr Hoffland, who elaborated on their impressive achievements in the educational and social spheres. They joined the President-in-Chief of The All-India

Anglo-Indian Association, Mr Barry O'Brien, and Mrs Denise O'Brien, our First Lady, on stage to felicitate the awardees.

The ceremony began with two very prestigious honours being bestowed. St George's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Chennai, founded in 1715, was inducted into 'The Anglo-Indian Hall of Fame'. This was followed by Dr Beatrix D'Souza receiving 'The Pride of the Community Honour', in absentia. There was no dearth of awards as The Association continued to recognise individuals and couples for service to the nation, excellence in the creative arts, music, academics and sports, for enterprise, for possessing 'hearts of gold', for showing promise as educators, for courage, for being role model members and for embodying the very 'spirit of the community'. Each award presented was met with applause and admiration, as attendees paused to reflect on the remarkable stories and accomplishments being recognized.

The Special Awards were followed by the Branch Awards where the Office Bearers of Branches across the country were honoured for the work that they do at the grass root levels and other individual members and families felicitated for outstanding contributions to the community. Branches were also recognised for being outstanding examples in various relevant spheres of activity, not forgetting the honours bestowed on supportive spouses for assisting their partners to go out into the community and serve it to the best of their abilities. One particular award underwent a slight tweak this year. The General Williams Award that had for many years been given for Projects and Events would, henceforth, be known as The General Williams Award for Projects, and the award for events would go under the title of The Tony Brent Award for Events. This was based on the reasoning that projects had a social service angle to it while events had more to do with culture. Our Governing Body Members and Members of the Board of Governors of the Bishop's Education Society took turns in bestowing these awards on the proud and happy recipients.



At the Inauguration, preceding the Meet & Greet at The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar

The 148th National AGM 2023



Mr Rudolf Woodman
Honorary General Secretary



Mr Glen Galstaun, MLA
Honorary Treasurer



Mr Shayne McPherson
Principal, The Bishop's School, Camp
(Pune Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can



EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can



Mr Desmond Yates, ex-MLA
(Mumbai Branch)



Mr Adrian Michael
Governing Body Member
President, Lucknow Branch



Mr Llewellyn de Rozario
Governing Body Member
(Cochin Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM

The 148th
National AGM
2023



At the Inauguration, representatives carried their Branch placards

Mr David Hilton's Address

Post the Awards Ceremony, Mr David Hilton, addressed the gathering. He began his speech with a heartfelt invocation tailored to the Anglo-Indian community. He extended thanks to the Divine for blessings of familial ties, peace, optimism, well-being, and meaningful endeavours. He asked for the capacity to release lingering resentments and embrace forgiveness, while also seeking fortitude to persevere through trials. He implored courage to greet adversaries and for the presence of joy in our lives and the abundance of genuine friendships. He concluded with a plea for temperance in wrath and an emphasis on loyalty and affection towards others.

Mr Hilton then conveyed his warm greetings to the assembly and expressed his and his wife Patricia's profound delight and honour at having been invited to attend the Awards' Ceremony in the salubrious environment of The Bishop's School. He acknowledged the journey many had undertaken from both nearby and distant locales to reconvene after the pandemic and the effect that it had had on people's lives. In his opening remarks, he extended heartfelt congratulations to the deserving awardees and commended the Branches for their outstanding contributions to the community, thereby, bringing honour not only to themselves but also to their respective Branches.

Mr Hilton's Praise for our Association and President-in-Chief

Mr Barry O'Brien and his dedicated team, including the youth, were congratulated for their unwavering commitment to keeping the community connected and engaged through myriad activities, initiatives, and programmes throughout the year. Their efforts, he said, have been instrumental in helping the community to come together and in keeping the wheels of

service turning progressively. He then added, "The Anglo-Indian community boasts an enviable and historic reputation for excellence and service across diverse domains of human endeavour, a legacy that rightfully fills the members with pride. Despite the community's modest numerical presence, its collective contributions to the nation have consistently exceeded expectations. Since, its establishment in 1876, The Association has blossomed into a network of 63 Branches, serving as the lifeline, the bulwark, and the unifying force that sustains and nurtures the prosperity and well-being of the community. The presence of the members at this AGM adds to the strength and legacy of The Association."

The Chief Guest's Tribute to our Leaders, Past and Present

Mr Hilton continued by saying that "the community should count itself fortunate that its destiny has been entrusted to the capable stewardship of its illustrious and visionary leaders, from Sir Henry Gidney and Mr Frank Anthony to Major General Robert Williams, Mr Neil O'Brien, and the present incumbent, Mr Barry O'Brien. It is through the guidance and resilience of these exceptional individuals that the community has weathered storms and navigated troubled waters, ultimately attaining a position of respect, security, and pride that we hold dear today. It is imperative to recognize and honour the invaluable contributions of the spouses of the leaders—individuals, such as Mrs Olive Anthony, Mrs Joyce O'Brien, Mrs Bernice Williams, and esteemed figures like Mrs Sheila Irani, among many others. Their unwavering support and tireless efforts have been instrumental in fostering community growth and unity."

The Chief Guest praised The Association further by saying, "It has remained steadfast in its commitment to nurturing community bonds, ensuring the welfare of children and youth by supporting their educational needs from



As many as 45 Branches were represented at the AGM

schooling to tertiary education, and reaching out to senior citizens and others in their twilight years. Moreover, The Association diligently endeavours to safeguard the minority interests of the community, including the preservation of its language, English, and its distinct identity and way of life."

Mr Hilton regretted the withdrawal of nominated seats reserved for Anglo-Indians, and said, it was certainly a cause for concern. However, he added that everyone in the community hopes and prays for their eventual restoration.

Close Collaboration - The All-India Anglo-Indian Association and The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution

He then went on to speak about how The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, in collaboration with The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution, continues to provide crucial support and substantial scholarships to Anglo-Indian students at both school and college levels, facilitating their access to professional studies and courses. This vital role underscores The Association and The Institution's ongoing efforts and initiatives for the betterment of Anglo-Indian children and youth. By working together, The Association and The Institution have also forged a template for other institutions and have left an indelible footprint in society, way beyond the Anglo-Indian community. While elaborating on the scholarships, the President of The Institution highlighted that as on 31 March 2023, Rs 30,88,000 had been awarded for scholarships, and Rs 10,43,000 for Awards, making it a total of Rs 41,31,000. Further, up to 30 September 2023, Rs 20,63,000 as scholarships and Rs 7,92,000 as Awards, had been distributed. He reiterated that The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution continues to enhance the amount disbursed as scholarships and awards to support the children of the community, and

this will certainly continue. At this juncture, he extended his heartfelt thanks to the office bearers of the Branches for their dedicated efforts in coordinating the mammoth exercise of distributing scholarships and supporting those in need. He appreciated their selfless work.

Mr Hilton then expressed his disappointment at the closure of many Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) due to the latest accreditation policy, though he felt there was some hope, as he referred to a recent court judgement in Rajasthan. It ruled that the primary qualification for teachers does not need to be a B.Ed. He highlighted the fact that while on one hand The Frank Anthony Public Schools continued to offer free education for the children of the community, it also provided employment for the community's teachers.

The Chief Guest also praised the vital role played by The All-India Anglo-Indian Association in supporting Anglo-Indian schools, which is why The Association was honoured with the Centennial Institution Award by The Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India at the Centennial Conference held in Bangalore on 4 January 2023. He encouraged the gathering to join him in giving the Association a big round of applause.

Together, We Can and We Will

Mr Hilton then recounted an anecdote, the essence of which, he said, "could well be applied to Anglo-Indians." There was a village at the foot of a hill with a crystal-clear, invigorating stream flowing by. The villagers drank this pure water, which had therapeutic and curative powers, and thus fulfilled their needs. Every day, the village elder climbed a narrow and difficult path to the summit, where a pool formed the source of the gushing springs. He laboured every day, removing dirt, grime, decaying vegetation, and any impediments to ensure that the water flowing

The 148th National AGM 2023



*Dr Lawrence Jenkins
Governing Body Member
(Bangalore Branch)*



*Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan
Governing Body Member
President, Villupuram-Pondicherry
Branch*



*Mr Warren LaTouche
Governing Body Member
President, Hyderabad-Secunderabad
Branch*

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



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Dr Lester Nunes
Secretary, Mysore Branch



Mr Aldo Michael
Coordinator,
National Facebook Page
(Mumbai Branch)



Mr Gradin Gallyer
Secretary, Korba Branch

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



down was clean and clear for the villagers to enjoy. All the villagers gave praise to the keeper of the spring. Addressing the President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, Mr Hilton stated that he and the other illustrious leaders who have gone before him have kept the spirit of The Association and the Community clean, refreshed, wholesome and active through their work in The Association. They have provided the community with the tonic to refresh and renew their commitment to service. By educating and empowering the youth, they have invested in their future and have developed their leadership skills by making them collaborators and decision makers. Mr Hilton made the gathering aware that the President-in-Chief should not have to shoulder this responsibility alone. He exhorted each and every member of the community to be keepers of the springs of The Association and the Community. *Together we can and we WILL!*

Mr Hilton then spoke about the Roll Call of Honour and Achievement of the extraordinary men and women, whose accomplishments have been documented extensively and are etched in letters of gold. At the Awards Ceremony, awards were given in the names of eminent leaders of the community to individuals who have excelled in various fields, such as the armed forces, public services, arts, sports, drama, acting, education, entrepreneurship, leadership, and philanthropy, as well as those who have made significant contributions to community service. These awards honour the memory of the outstanding leaders who came before us, ensuring their legacy lives on through the recognition of our members.

Praise for Frank Anthony and Barry O'Brien's Books

Mr Hilton went on to praise Mr Barry O'Brien's book on the community and congratulated him on the excellent reviews it had received, and the fact that this published work had substantially added to the work of the legendary Mr Frank Anthony whose book *Britain's Betrayal in India*

continues to be a classic containing a very comprehensive account of the community.

Looking Back, Giving Back

Mr Hilton then spoke briefly about himself by way of introducing himself to the audience. It was, in a way a tribute to The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, the Institution and his alma mater, La Martinière. He stated that he came from a very modest family. He was born in Santragachi, just outside Calcutta, but later grew up in the railway colony of Kharagpur where his father was a Chief Instructor in the Railway Training School. He started his education in the Railway School there and later transitioned to La Martinière College, Kolkata, which is a great institution that has produced so many outstanding leaders for the nation. After schooling, Mr Hilton went to Mt Hermon College of Education, Darjeeling, for his Teacher Training Course which he did with a Frank Anthony Scholarship. He expressed his gratitude to The Association and The Institution for the support they gave him in becoming a teacher and an educator. When he was awarded the National Award for Teachers, it was with great love, affection and regard that he donated the entire prize money to The Association to help members of the youth. Through this act, he wished to emphasise that members should 'give back' to society, 'give back' to our community. The amount did not matter, the act of 'giving back' was more important. He commented that the President-in-Chief had rightly stated that the greatest gift that one can give is one's time, work and service for the welfare of the community. If he could see further today, it was because he had stood on the shoulders of giants. He acknowledged the immense contribution of a brilliant and iconic teacher that he had in school – Mr John Mason, who had passed away recently, as well as several other teachers. His first job was in 1975 in The Frank Anthony Public School, New Delhi, and that was when he had the honour and privilege of sitting at the feet of the giants and legends of The Association – Frank Anthony,



The Chief Guest Mr David Hilton and Guest of Honour Mrs Patricia Hilton being welcomed at the National Awards' Ceremony

the great Albert Barrow, Major General Robert Williams, Neil O'Brien and other leaders and teachers who provided him with special insight and who taught him to appreciate his position, the education system and the community's special way of life.

Anglo-Indian Schools in the Vanguard of Education

Mr Hilton also dwelt on the education imparted in Anglo-Indian schools which is often thought of as the way ahead for the community. He said, "Anglo-Indian schools are indeed in the vanguard of education. The Centennial Celebration of the Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India (AHAISI) held earlier in the year marked a legacy of service of Anglo-Indian schools not only to Indian education but also for its role in nation building. Since its inception, The Association has benefitted from the exceptional contribution and talent of all its members representing a wide spectrum of interests from around the country. In pre-independent India and in the early years after Independence, the Inter-provisional Council for Education was set up for Anglo-Indian schools. Then, in 1944, a commission was appointed under the leadership of Bishop Barnes, the Bishop of Lahore. Among other pertinent findings, the commission stated that the Anglo-Indian community is bound together; to a large extent, by the existence of Anglo-Indian schools, which was its future, and the way forward. Mr Hilton explained that "in the lead up to Independence, and thereafter, the community had visionary leaders like Sir Henry Gidney and Frank Anthony who played a pivotal role in defining the future of the community and the education propagated by Anglo-Indian schools. Frank Anthony made a persuasive argument for evolving an education system in tune with a resurgent and independent India. Moreover, as he rightly pointed out, in the New India, waiting in the wings, the preservation of a supercilious European identity

was untenable. The examining board at that time was the Overseas School Certificate Examination conducted by Cambridge. The Inter-provisional Council for Education gave way to the Inter-State Board for Anglo-Indian Education through which the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations was formed, and in 1973, by an Act of Parliament, it was recognised as a body conducting public examinations. Anglo-Indian schools owe a large debt of measure to the Inter-State Board and to the Council for upholding standards through a dynamic curriculum that we are famous for. In Anglo-Indian schools, both English and regional languages have been encouraged for an essential bi-lingual capability. The exceptional standard of English evident in our Anglo-Indian schools has given the nation an advantage globally in all fields and walks of life to compete on the world stage in every field. And we, as Anglo-Indian schools, can justly claim, and proudly, that it our contribution for the propagation of English through which India enjoys a competitive edge in the world today, in the field of technology, commerce and science.

The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution

The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution founded on 23 May 1958, under the dynamic and inspiring leadership of Mr Frank Anthony, aims to fulfil the educational ambitions and aspirations of the community with an exclusively educational purpose of founding and administering a series of schools and providing scholarships and financial assistance to the children and youth of the community. The Frank Anthony Public Schools in Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore provide accessible and free education to the children of our community and are indeed at the forefront and vanguard of school education in India. The Institution proposes to have a new school in Lucknow.

The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution



The venue for the Business Meetings, The Lorna Roberts Hall at The Bishop's School, Camp, looked as elegant as ever – its walls echoing the rich heritage of a great institution



Mr Elvis Paul
President, Jabalpur Branch



Mr Lester Fernandez
President, Tangasseri Branch



Mr Bruce Robert
President, Hubli Branch

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



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Mrs Coral Godinho
President, Cochin Branch



Ms Genieve Pereira
Secretary, Bhopal Branch



Mr Clayton Bastian
(Pallavaram Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



The spacious hall at The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar, was the perfect venue for the Meet & Greet get-together

Mr Rudolf Woodman introduced the President-in-Chief with these words before inviting him to deliver the Presidential Address

Our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, is one of the most successful authors of schoolbooks of all time in India. He has now forayed into the realm of non-fiction with his recently published magnum opus on the Anglo-Indian community, *The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community*, which in the words of Ruskin Bond is “a stupendous work”. I have read that book personally. It is an excellently researched work in which Mr O'Brien has covered a wide range of topics, and our people – their achievements and the challenges they have overcome. Read it, you will find that so many of you feature in this book.

Mr O'Brien, Barry as I call him, has conducted over three thousand five hundred live quizzes over the last 42 years. He is one of the most sought-after motivational speakers in India. He became a member of this great Association in 1978 at the age of 15, and now 45 years on, he leads it with sincerity, an open mind, and vision. A former member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, he knows the community better than most, often each one by name. It has been my privilege working with him and watching him from close quarters leading this Association with passion... immense passion, compassion... wisdom and dynamism.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Mr Barry O'Brien, the President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, to deliver the Presidential Address.

has, since its inception, disbursed substantial scholarships for schooling, tertiary education and professional courses. The Heads of Anglo-Indian schools, at their annual meet, take a pledge to ensure that their schools are places where all Anglo-Indian students are welcome as they are, challenged to grow and prepared to take

their rightful place in Indian society. Mr Hilton stated that he was aware that many Anglo-Indian schools had lost sight of this essential provision and promise. Steeped in tradition, Anglo-Indian schools have shown a remarkable capacity to adapt to rapidly changing times and fearlessly address the challenges in our society, and given their capacity for integration, it could be proudly stated that every Anglo-Indian school is a microcosm of society. Mr Hilton then concluded with the words of Glaucus in Homer's *Iliad*: “Ever to excel, to do better than others and to bring glory to your forebearers ... This is my ancestry this is my blood, I am proud to inherit.” *Ever to excel* – these three words are both an instruction and a challenge to every Anglo-Indian, who yearns for greatness as a community in all realms of endeavour.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr Hilton took the opportunity to wish the President-in-Chief and all the attending delegates fruitful and positive outcomes, deliberations, discussions, for the welfare and the good of the community under the inspiring motto, *Courage is Destiny*. He wished that the community continues to grow, do well and do good in the world.

After Mr Hilton's address, which was well received by the audience, it fell on to Mr Rudolf Woodman to honour the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour with a token of appreciation from The Bishop's Education Society.

Special Honours

The Bishop's Education Society (BES) then honoured two members for their long and dedicated service to the Pune Branch and to the community. They were Mr Karl Young and Mr Darryl Pounce, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Pune Branch, respectively, for 'for always being there for the Branch as well as The Association at



The Glitter & Glam theme party at the Quadrangle of The Bishop's, Camp, was some party!

AGMs'. The BES Chairman, Mr Rudolf Woodman, also handed over a token of appreciation to Mr Somnath Dasgupta for his selfless service to the Head Office of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association.

This was followed by the Pune Youth Committee organising the traditional 'guess the duration of the President-in-Chief's speech' contest, each 'guess' costing Rs 50, with the winner pocketing the entire amount. It was finally won by Dr Rosalind Gonzaga, the Treasurer of the Cochin Branch.

The Presidential Address

Thereafter, Mr Rudolf Woodman, Honorary General Secretary of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, called the meeting to order, with Mr Barry O'Brien, the President-in-Chief, in the Chair. Mr O'Brien and Mr Woodman were joined on stage by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Glen Galstaun, MLA. The meeting proceeded with the three gentlemen at the helm. Mr Woodman informed the House that of the 16 items on the Agenda, the Presidential Address would be the first item that would be taken up. As has been the tradition, he went on to officially introduce Mr Barry O'Brien. (See box on page 39)

Before commencing on his speech, the President-in-Chief requested the audience to stand in silent remembrance of our members, other Anglo-Indians, and the family members of those present who had passed away in the past year. He then outlined the structure of his speech, explaining that he would begin with his views on the world, followed by insights on the country, the community, The Association, and finally, a focus on 'you' and 'me'.

The Wars We Are Fighting

Mr O'Brien began his speech by expressing concern about the environment, urging each one to become more environmentally

conscious and to incorporate this awareness into the upbringing of our children. He went on to emphasize 'the other war' at hand, which was tearing people and nations apart causing devastation and widespread suffering. He briefly touched on the situations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, and the conflicts in Ukraine and Russia, as well as Israel, Palestine, and the Gaza Strip. To illustrate the grave consequences of war, he quoted Ernest Hemingway: "There is no hunting like the hunting of man, and those who have hunted armed men long enough and liked it, never care for anything else thereafter," and Albert Einstein: "...if World War III is fought with nuclear weapons, then World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." He elaborated on the wisdom behind what the great American writer and the genius scientist had said while focussing on the dire and inevitable consequences of any war.

The Presidential Address then shifted to highlight a different kind of war – the one between human intelligence and artificial intelligence. Mr O'Brien began by explaining the concept of 'artificial intelligence' for those who might be unfamiliar with the term. While acknowledging the benefits of AI, he also referenced prominent figures like Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk, who have warned about its potential dangers, likening it to the threat posed by a dictator. He pointed out that Bill Gates too expressed caution but noted that the positive aspects of AI could outweigh the negatives, if managed correctly. With superintelligent machines now available, unforeseen risks may arise, making it crucial for everyone, especially young people, to use these technologies and the data they provide wisely. Mr O'Brien advised harnessing the power of AI, verifying information thoroughly, and integrating it with one's own intelligence to create original work, while avoiding plagiarism at all costs.

As an Indian, ... my cup of joy and pride overflows ...and that same cup is empty and dry...

The President-in-Chief then shifted his focus to

The 148th National AGM 2023



*Mr Dennis Rozario
Committee Member, Calcutta Branch*



*Mr Keith Davids
Vice President, Bangalore Branch*



*Mrs Denise O'Brien
President, Calcutta Branch*

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



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Mr Jason O'Connor
Vice President, Mumbai Branch



Mrs Patricia Tanner
President, Coimbatore Branch



Mr Justin D'Sylva
President, Pallavaram Branch

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM

The 148th
National AGM
2023

India. He chose to express his sentiments about the current state of affairs through non-rhymed verse which went like this:

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows whenIndia wins 107 medals at the Asian Games!

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... I see champion women Wrestlers who have brought glory to India being beaten and humiliated on the streets as if THEY were the guilty!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... my country hosts a prestigious G20 meet and is given the honour of leading the G20!

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... my country, to impress visiting leaders of other nations, uses tarpaulin and external cover ups to hide the poor, their poverty and their struggles - a truth it has lived with ever since it was born!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... a song from a Telugu film wins an Oscar!

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... people call for a boycott of a film simply because they don't approve of the lead female actor wearing a saffron coloured bikini!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... when our brave soldiers return successful from a dangerous mission and are honoured!

And that same cup is empty and dry when... 40 soldiers' lives are lost in Pulwama in a terrorist attack for which the powers that be apparently ignored several intelligence inputs that such an attack was being planned!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... journalists and influencers speak out fearlessly on issues they feel strongly about!

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... they are harassed, even arrested, on trivial, often trumped up or long forgotten charges - some even silenced forever!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... my country is hailed to have one of the fastest growing economies in the world!

And that same cup is empty and dry when... I get to know that India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index of 2023!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... a simple Muslim man devotes his life to preserving ancient Hindu temples in West Bengal, and when a simple Hindu man in Gujarat rides 400 kilometres on his bike to donate blood to a little Muslim girl who is dying because no one in her town has the same rare blood group as her!

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... when not-so-simple leaders spread their poisonous fumes in hate speeches from their high political pulpits!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... the brilliance and tenacity of my country's scientists ensure that Chandrayaan-3 is launched, the spacecraft enters lunar orbit, and the lander touches down, making it only the fourth country to successfully land on the moon, and the first to do so near the lunar south pole.

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... ethnic violence reaches a new high, two women are paraded naked on camera, lives are lost, people are left homeless, a small state burns, and no one seems interested enough, determined enough or capable enough to douse the fire. Someone whispers in my ear, "It's too small a state, not big enough to make a difference when the ballot is counted!"

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... the Bombay High Court dismisses a plea to ban the engagement of Pakistani artists in India, saying, "Patriotism is in devotion to country, not enmity towards another."

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... those with a skewed notion of patriotism decide to bring gods into their slogan-chanting and boo a cricket team that has been graceful enough to come over as our guests to play in a World Cup in our country!

As an Indian, my cup of joy and pride overflows when ... a woman from a Santhal family in a village in Odisha becomes the President of my country!

And that same cup is empty and dry when ... gangs of the moral police force think it is their right to decide who can marry who and who needs to be eliminated if they marry someone of another community!

Mr O'Brien then commented: "Friends, I hope you listened carefully, I hope we are on the same page. If we aren't, let's chat this evening, because one of us will have to change our opinion, and by golly, it's not going to be me."

Where the Mind is WITH Fear

He then quoted Rabindranath Tagore's famous poem, 'Where the mind is without fear', and shared that he had written 'an antonym in verse' a few years ago. Through this work, he conveyed his anguish and grave concern as a citizen in contemporary India:

Where the mind is WITH fear and the head hangs in shame

Where you are NOT free

Where caste and creed have broken us into fragments

And we are separated by religious walls

Where words fear to come out from the depth of truth

Where intolerance breaks the arms of love and compassion

Where the clear stream of reason has completely lost its way

Into the dreary desert sand of desolation

Where the mind is led into the depths of despair

*By thought and action that denigrate the spirit of India,
In that hell of hatred, my Father, let not my country burn.*

The Members of the House spontaneously broke into a loud applause, as they did several times during the Presidential Address. Mr O'Brien then went on to tell the House that he has always referred to our nation as 'India' just as so many people have always called it 'Bharat'. He emphasized the point that "it doesn't make you less Indian or more Indian, less patriotic or more patriotic, depending on which name you call your country by. What matters more is to have an India 'where the mind is without fear'; an India for all; an India for you, but an India for us too, who are fewer in number; an India that lives by the Constitution, and the Constitution alone. And, incidentally, I love saying, 'Mera Bharat Mahaan', just as much as I love saying, 'I Love My India'. Just leave it to me to decide what I want to say, and how I want to express my love for my country. Please don't keep telling me what to say, and keep proving to you how patriotic I am. It's time now for me to end this part of my speech, the section on my country, and I shall do so with the words I love saying so often and will keep saying – *Jai Hind!*"

Our Community's Roller-coaster Ride

The President-in-Chief then focussed on our community. He quoted from his recently published, critically acclaimed book, urging every Anglo-Indian, particularly our youth, to dig deeper and know more about the community and its history. Those who do, he said, will find that "fact is stranger than fiction. As the oldest and largest community of mixed descent in the world, Anglo-Indians have endured many labels. They have endured the cold betrayal of an old empire and been comforted by the warm embrace of a new nation, living an adventure where the only certainty was uncertainty, constantly grappling with the question of 'to belong or not to belong.' Some chose to leave for distant shores, a decision that finally turned out right for them, while others, like us, chose to remain right here – at home – in India. We too made the right decision! Some of us are living well, some better than ever before, and some to fight another day."

Mr O'Brien then mentioned that the loss of Anglo-Indian reserved seats in Parliament might lead some to believe these are the community's worst days. However, he reminded everyone of the community's history, recalling the severe poverty of the 1920s, the significant unemployment of the 1930s, and the desperate step to implement a mid-day meal in a city like Calcutta in the 1940s to feed the unemployed after the War. He was clearly of the opinion that the economic situation had significantly improved for many in our community. He said, "Though there are still many families in need of financial and other assistance, there were also numerous projects and efforts to stand by them – by our Association, other organisations, schools, as well as by generous

Anglo-Indians living in other countries. These outreach initiatives primarily focus on supporting the education of our youth and care for the elderly. The majority of our community now belongs to the middle-class, and is, without a doubt, upwardly mobile."

Community's Focus on Education and Careers

He emphasized that the community is moving ahead primarily due to our focus and emphasis on the education of our children, and the desire and determination of our people to work hard, compete and succeed in their careers. He urged the audience to read the latest issues of *The Review*, which highlight the remarkable achievements of our youth. He noted that today's parents give education the highest priority and plan more effectively; the youth are more focused on their futures; and most of our Branches are very active in providing support in this regard. He then emphatically thanked "generous individuals and our Branches for standing by and assisting those in need, while reiterating that "our Branches are our roots and strength."

Collaboration Over Confrontation

Mr O'Brien then emphasized that the need of the hour for our community was 'collaboration', not 'confrontation', just as it held good for our country, and the world we live in today: "Be it the Russia-Ukraine or Israel-Palestine situation, or political rivals in India, or our Association and others working for the welfare of our community, the only way ahead is collaboration. Confrontation will only lead to bloodshed, and rarely, if ever, to solutions.

'Thank you' - The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution

The President-in-Chief went on to record his deep gratitude to The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution for the generous financial assistance it continues to provide towards the education of our children in our Branches across India. He thanked the President Mr David Hilton, Vice Presidents Ms Charmaine Fanthome and Mrs Patricia Hilton, other members of the Institution, and the CEO Mr Ashok Chadha, for collaborating closely with The All-India Anglo-Indian Association in our common mission to help educate our children across the country, and at the three Frank Anthony Public Schools that provide a freeship to every Anglo-Indian student.

Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award

The Association, Mr O'Brien stated is always looking for a way to collaborate with schools and other organisations in this regard. He specifically mentioned The Bishop's Education Society's wonderful new initiative – The Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence in Academics and Sports that has encouraged as many as 100 high achievers by presenting each of them Rs 10,000. Appreciation for the collaborative

The 148th
National AGM
2023



Mr Clive VanBuerle
Governing Body Member
(Bangalore Branch)



Dr Melva Pope
Governing Body Member
President, Agra Branch



Mr Malcolm Lavocah
President, The AIALAY
(Mumbai Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



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Ms Erica Antonio
(Hubli Branch)



Mr Nelson D'Nacio
(Calcutta Branch)



Mr Vernon D'Souza
Vice President, The AIALAY
(Asansol Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



efforts of our Association and the family of our dear friend the late Mr Eddie Jones through the Diana Jones Foundation, in an attempt to provide financial assistance for the education of children from disadvantaged families, post the pandemic.

Branches should be More Open and Welcoming of New Members

The Presidential Address then touched on the subject of 'welcoming members into the fold.' Mr O'Brien urged Branches to be more open and welcoming of new members, putting the past behind us. He said he was aware that a few Branches try to make it as difficult as possible and make it a point to block some people from becoming members even though they are quite sure that they *are* Anglo-Indians. This, he felt, was sad and something that certainly did not have his support. He specifically referred to "people who claim to be the ones who know it all, sometimes even the sole authority on the subject of who *is* an Anglo-Indian and who *is not*. Someone even told me that back in the day there were several people who questioned whether our great leader Frank Anthony was an Anglo-Indian. My response to that person, with my tongue firmly in my cheek, was, "Thank goodness he pretended to be one or passed off as an Anglo-Indian!" Imagine what would have happened to this community if he wasn't accepted to be part of the community! Why, only recently I got this unending WhatsApp message from a stalwart of our community about why I was not objecting to the claims that some people were making that Monsignor Emmanuel Lopez of Kerala, who had just been declared a 'Servant of God', was an Anglo-Indian, and if he goes on to become a Saint, would be the first Anglo-Indian to be canonized. The 'stalwart and expert' on 'who is an Anglo-Indian' went on to send me a long email with links on how with a name like 'Lopez' there is no way he could have been an Anglo-Indian. Of course, I didn't click on those links or read all of his 'logical conclusions' about whether a great man who lived a hundred years ago was an Anglo-Indian or not. Instead, I chose to carry on with something far more important - my daily work as

the President-in-Chief, that of concerning myself with ways and means of being of assistance to our people!"

His final comment on this was that if the Branch Committee Members who know the person, all things considered, and know that he or she is an Anglo-Indian, they should try and make it as easy as possible to become members of the Branch, not as difficult as possible.

Our is NOT a 'Backward Community'

The President-in-Chief went on to strongly emphasize that members of the Association should not be among those who support the claim that ours is a 'backward community', perennially seeking 'backward status'. Mr Frank Anthony and his successors, and more recently during the debate in the Rajya Sabha on whether the reservation of seats should continue, Mr Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament, have categorically rejected this claim. The seats, the President-in-Chief explained, were granted to the Anglo-Indian community not because we were backward, but because we were few in number, widely dispersed, and faced unique problems of our own, for which we needed our own representatives.

The President-in-Chief then spoke at length on the loss of our reserved seats in Parliament and the State Assemblies. He urged every Anglo-Indian to make it a point to read *The Review* (January 2021-December 2021) which covers this "betrayal of the community by the Government of India" in great detail, which is also highlighted in an entire chapter in his book, *The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community*. Another Anglo-Indian organization has taken the matter to court and the case is currently pending in the Delhi High Court. He concluded, "Many in the community feel that by simply sitting on our hands and waiting for the reinstatement of the seats may be a futile exercise, and, irrespective of the outcome, the community needs to focus on standing on its own feet. And, to this end, I can assure you that even without the seats, our Association will continue to do all that



Our youth from across the country made their presence felt at the Meeting as well as on the dance floor



The Delegates' Ball was truly grand - an elegant and enjoyable evening at The Corinthians Resort and Club

it can - to be there for its members as 'constant as the Northern Star', to borrow a phrase from Shakespeare. We shall continue to reach out those in need, we shall continue to encourage and empower our youth, we shall continue to do all that we can to keep the community united and strong, we shall continue to wear our culture and our 'Anglo-Indianness' on our sleeve, and we shall continue to serve our nation as best we can."

CLING

And finally, it would not have been the President-in-Chief's address if there was no message encapsulated within an acronym. This year's acronym was CLING. He implored each one of us "to cling to everything that was dear to us, starting with our way of life. The 'C' is for 'culture' - our lifestyle, the way we live, the way we carry ourselves, our Anglo-Indian spirit, our sense of humour. Let's not lose any of it. 'L' is for our language - English, our mother tongue. Mr Anthony kept stressing on this right through the fifty years that he led the community - 'if our language is taken away from us, we will cease to exist as a community.' Today, thankfully, no one is going to be foolish enough to sideline English in India. In fact, state governments in the Hindi heartland of India - like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh - have opened many new English-medium schools of their own in recent years and have even converted some of their schools from Hindi to English-medium, and the reason they give for this was 'the need to compete with convent schools'. So, be rest assured, no government is going to risk putting up roadblocks in this regard. The masses in India today want their children to at least speak, read and write English, and admit their children in English-medium schools, if possible."

"But what we *should* be concerned about," said the President-in-Chief, "is whether we ourselves are giving our language the importance it deserves? It is important, in fact imperative, for the youth of the community to speak their mother tongue correctly and fluently, and preferably, exceptionally well - unfortunately, many do not!

This ability has always been one of our greatest strengths. Long may this continue, long may we cling to our language!"

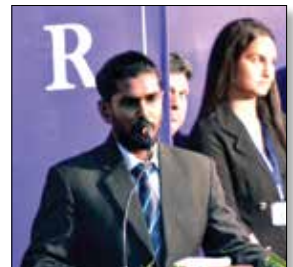
He continued with, "The 'I' stands for our 'institutions'. There is an understandable sense of disquiet about the future of our institutions, those owned and administered by minorities; but constitutionally no sensible government will look for ways to interfere with how such institutions are run or in their very existence. Should an attempt be made, the courts will be prevailed upon for justice. In the event of any such threat, our Association will certainly stand strongly by Anglo-Indian institutions as they seek recourse from the law. 'N' stands for our 'Nation', our beloved India. Several recent developments give cause for concern, and the best way to counter them is through the power of the ballot, the ultimate power in a democracy. Therefore, I urge each and every one of you, and every member, every Anglo-Indian, to not fail in your duty to vote. Make sure you go out and cast your vote in the 2024 General Elections. It serves no purpose to lament the state of affairs and then desist from voting for frivolous reasons. The people of India have used the ballot several times in the past to have their say against those who take them for granted and deviate from or ignore the Constitution, and they will do it again and again.

Mr O'Brien then reminded his audience that it was 'G' - 'God', who guides, blesses and helps us put it all together. He is watching over us. His hand is on us, as a community, and ours is a prayerful community - always has been! Our faith is at the centre of our existence; we should continue to cling to it with every fibre of our being. And as we cling to God, let us ask for the wisdom, strength and graces for us to be able to cling, and cling tenaciously to everything that is dear to us - our culture, our language, our institutions, our nation, our community, our Association, our friends, and our families.

The 148th National AGM 2023



Mr Craig Parker
Vice President, The ALAIAY
(Mysore Branch)



Mr Edwin Vanderputt
Vice President, The ALAIAY
(George Town Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can



EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can



Ms Amanda Edmonds
Committee Member, The ALAIAY
(St Thomas Mount Branch)



Ms Shanaia Seymour
Additional Secretary, The ALAIAY
(Pune Branch)

SPEAKERS AT THE AGM



All Governing Body Members made it a point to attend the AGM. They are seen here with their ever-supportive spouses at the Delegates' Ball

Conclusion

The President-in-Chief also urged Branches to involve the youth in their activities, and even as Committee Members. He said, "All Branches have my 'full support' but Branches that encourage their youth in a special way, proactively, have 'even more than my full support.' Of course, there are instances of them acting irresponsibly, some even being rude or discourteous, but that should not be an excuse to write them off or write all of them off. They are our future, but they can be our greatest assets in our Branches even today, helping us in so many ways."

He concluded by commenting on the future of the community: "Some wonder how long the community will last. Do not be concerned about the answer. What matters much more is to give off one's best, to enjoy the life we have been given, to help ourselves, to touch the lives of others, and to believe that 'the force is with our youth' and 'the sun will come out tomorrow'. Thank you for all that you do for the Association and the community. I always remember you in mine, do remember my family and me in your prayers. You, members of the Association, fellow Anglo-Indians, and how you serve our people, are my motivation, the force that drives me to go on, for a little while longer."

Other Points on the Agenda and the Q & A Session

Post the Presidential Address, the Business Meeting, over the next day-and-a-half, proceeded to deal with matters related to the passing of the minutes of the previous AGM, the Accounts and Annual Report presented by Mr Rudolf Woodman and Mr Glen Galstaun respectively, amendments, our Branches, and other official business. The Chairman Mr Barry O'Brien then broke away from tradition and replaced 'the formal presentations' section with Governing Body Members and Branch leaders with a more personalised interaction with them through a 'Question-Answer Session'. This created a greater sense of involvement and made Delegates feel more comfortable while speaking, and also

proved to be far more interesting to Members of the House. This interactive session, apart from establishing that every voice matters, also proved that each of the speakers had something valuable to contribute and that the community could discuss matters as varied as outreach initiatives, rules and regulations of our Association, politics, governance, education, as well as matters concerning religious and linguistic minorities. It also brought forth a potpourri of interesting anecdotes that had the audience intrigued and emotional, and sometimes, even amused.

With Mr O'Brien in the Chair, besides Mr Woodman and Mr Galstaun, the other Governing Body Members who participated in the session were Mr Llewellyn de Rozario (Kerala); Mr Adrian Michael (Uttar Pradesh; BAIT); Dr Lawrence Jenkins (Karnataka); Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan (Governing Body Member in charge of content development, editing, and research); and Mr Warren LaTouche (Telengana and Andhra Pradesh). The members and Branch leaders who participated were Mr Lester Nunes (Secretary, Mysore Branch), Mr Gradin Gallyer (Secretary, Korba Branch) Mr Elvis Paul (President, Jabalpur Branch), Mr Lester Fernandez (President, Tangaserry Branch), Mr Bruce Robert (President, Hubli Branch), Mrs Coral Godinho (President, Cochin Branch), Ms Genieve Pereira (Vice President, Bhopal Branch), Mr Clayton Bastian (Pallavaram Branch), Mr Denis Derorazio (Committee Member and Youth Coordinator, Calcutta Branch), Mr Keith Davids (Vice President, Bangalore Branch), Mrs Denise O'Brien (President, Calcutta Branch), and Mrs Patricia Tanner (President, Coimbatore Branch). The Chairman then invited the individual award recipients who had not had the opportunity of addressing the audience at the Awards' Ceremony to speak. They were Mr Jason O'Connor (Mumbai Branch), Mr Nelson D'Nacio (Calcutta Branch), and Ms Erica Antonio (Hubli Branch).

Exclusive Session for the Youth

An entire session was devoted to The All-India Anglo-Indian Youth mentored by Mr Clive

VanBuerle, the Governing Body Member in charge of The AIAIAY. For the next ninety minutes, the stage belonged to the National Youth Committee. All members of the Committee were invited on stage and were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and address the House. (See page 47)

Vote of Thanks

The Business Session ended with a heartfelt and detailed Vote of Thanks given by Dr Melva Pope, Governing Body Member, and President of the Agra Branch (see page 51). This was followed by the traditional reciting of Our Pledge, while holding the raised hands of the persons beside on your left and right (see below), and the singing of our National Anthem with gusto and pride.

Thoroughly Enjoyable Evenings

If the Business Sessions were fodder for the Anglo-Indian mind, the evenings were fuel for the Anglo-Indian spirit. The *Glitter and Glam* Night held open-air in The Quadrangle of The Bishop's School, Camp, saw a large majority of the attendees in a salmagundi of sparkling styles. No one was too old, too young, or too tired

to join in the music and dancing, and the MC Ms Celine Littlewood, and the band 'No Rush' were only too willing to keep everyone on the floor. The Delegates' Ball held on the final night at The Corinthians was another spectacular affair. The elegantly dressed ladies and the smartly attired gentlemen, the decor, the MC Mr Ashley Eates, the band 'Livewire', the attractive prizes, the incredible buffet-spread, and the well-laden tables worked together to make it a memorable evening and a fitting conclusion to the events of the last three days.

Deliberations, decisions, dining and dancing with a recommitment to return to serve the community encapsulated the events of the three wonderful days of the 148th Annual General Meeting of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association. One hundred and forty-eight is a formidable age and few organisations of any kind in India and around the world have withstood the tests of time and change. As we eagerly anticipate The Association's sesquicentennial celebrations in twenty-four months, let us remember that *Courage is Destiny* has brought us this far, and *Together We Can* will ensure our continued success and unity, as we strive to *Empathise, Educate, Empower*.

OUR PLEDGE

I HAVE A DREAM...

When every one of our children will be given the right to education.

When every one of our brothers and sisters has the ability and the opportunity to earn their daily bread through honest work.

When every one of our grandmothers and grandfathers will be comforted with love and care, as they go into the twilight of their lives.

When every orphan's and widow's tears will be wiped away by caring uncles and aunties.

When everyone will contribute in whatever small way to the progress of the Community and the good of the country.

And may God Almighty, the giver of all good things, the protector of all human beings, bless our small tribe and guard and guide our footsteps now and always.

We, the members of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association renew our pledge to dedicate ourselves to striving for the welfare of the Community through our educational, charitable, and cultural activities as a community. We also renew our pledge to the service of our country as we work together towards a new dawn.



Our beloved President-in-Chief Mr Neil O'Brien concluded one of his brilliant Presidential Addresses at an AGM at the turn of the century by requesting all delegates present to hold the hand of the person on either side and take this Pledge.

Since then, we have taken the Pledge just before we sing the National Anthem on the concluding day of every AGM. I urge you to take the Pledge at your Branch AGM too – maybe even at the end of a Branch Committee Meeting.

*Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief*



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THE ALL-INDIA ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION YOUTH (AIAIAY)

On the concluding day of the National AGM 2023 at Pune, the Chairman of the Meeting Mr Barry O'Brien set aside about 90 minutes for The AIAIAY. The President-in-Chief began by introducing the incoming Youth Committee. He inducted **Mr Malcolm Lavocah**, a 28-year-old teacher from Mumbai – 'a Nagpur boy' - as the President of AIAIAY. Mr Lavocah was joined on stage by his wife, **Ms Valerie Moraes**, who is also a teacher. Also on stage were **Mr Rudolf Woodman**, Honorary General Secretary; **Mr Glen Galstaun**, Honorary Treasurer; **Mr Clive VanBuerle**, Governing Body Member and Chief Mentor, AIAIAY; **Mrs Toolika VanBuerle**; **Mr Eric de Rozario**, Governing Body Member and Founder President, AIAIAY; and **Mr Graham Heiden**, Convenor, National Events and a strong pillar of our youth movement.

Mr Clive VanBuerle elaborated on the selection process that was followed to select the Committee Members for the year of AIAIAY:

- Began with an online engagement - 50 young members came forward to participate in this from across Branches
- Evaluation done by the Chief Mentor AIAIAY and the President-in-Chief
- The top 20 were asked to prepare and send in video introductions of themselves and their respective vision statements about AIAIAY
- Out of which the top 13 were selected
- Being inducted today is a 13-member team from diverse backgrounds,

each an achiever

- They represent various Branches pan India
- The team comprises 8 young ladies and 5 young men

Let us meet the future of this wonderful Association!

President – Malcolm Lavocah (Mumbai Branch)

Vice Presidents - Vernon D'Souza (Asansol Branch), Craig Parker (Mysore Branch), Edwin Vanderputt (George Town Branch, Chennai)

Secretary - Rachel Rhine (Vepery Branch)

Additional Secretary - Shania Seymour (Pune Branch)

AIAIAY Portfolio Coordinators (Social Media, Events, Enrolments, Skill Development, Culture etc.) - Shane Grove (Bangalore Branch), Erica Antonio (Hubli Branch), Melania Sparrow (Bangalore City Branch), Jennifer D'Moss (Visakhapatnam Branch) Jessica Morris (Trivandrum Branch), Amanda Edmonds (St Thomas Mount Branch, Chennai), Sabrina Cross (Bangalore City Branch)

As many as nine AIAIAY Committee Members were present at the AGM.

All nine of them were invited to introduce themselves and speak about their vision for the youth of the community. Each one of them did that with confidence, clarity of thought and speech, and passion, that was clearly visible.



Malcolm Lavocah, President (Mumbai Branch)

He is the charming, softspoken and the most enthusiastic of the team. He has completed his Master's in Business with a specialization in Marketing and H.R., a Bachelors in Commerce and Education and is presently working as a teacher at Christ Church School, Mumbai. He has represented India at the SAARC Games held in Sri Lanka and walked Rajpath at the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi, representing Maharashtra. He loves travelling and usually finds himself trekking the Konkan route. He loves to dance - you may recognize him as 'the tall chap' on the dance floor! He is currently an active Committee Member of the Mumbai Branch.

**Vernon D'Souza, Vice President (Asansol Branch)**

He is talented and passionate about performing arts, and has completed his MA in English Literature from St Xavier's College, Kolkata. He currently teaches at Bombay Scottish School and is a guest lecturer at Wilson College, Mumbai. He has lent his voice to numerous ad-jingles. He was also part of the Acapella that sang for the ICC World Cup 2023. He has just made his Netflix debut, singing the title track for the show Bharat Hai Hum. He also writes and teaches poetry.

**Craig Parker, Vice President (Mysore Branch)**

He is the quintessential Anglo-Indian young man - good looking and eager. He is eager to make a difference! A B Com graduate with a Diploma in Electronic and telecommunications, he is currently working as General Manager for Honda Motorcycles, Mysore. When he is not managing his team at Honda Motorcycles, he is pursuing his hobby as a DJ.

**Edwin Vanderputt, Vice President (George Town Branch, Chennai)**

He is known to be a wonderful friend and a calm and down-to-earth doer. He is a B Com graduate and currently working with HCL Technologys as an Analyst. Edwin is a part-time tattoo artist and loves playing football.

**Rachel Rhine, Secretary (Vepery Branch, Chennai)**

She is the team's firecracker! A post-graduate in Advertising and Public Relations, she is currently a Public Relations professional with an international PR firm in Chennai. She is also a freelance arts and culture journalist with The Hindu. She is pursuing her second Master's in Foklore and Culture Studies alongside language studies in Chinese and Latin. She paints, sings, writes and plays the piano and guitar. Rachel is the Youth President of the Vepery Branch.



Shanaia Seymour, Additional Secretary (Pune Branch)

One of the first to respond to our call earlier this year, Shanaia is the Secretary of the Youth Committee of the Pune Branch. She completed her Bachelor's in Advertising and worked in Social Media Marketing for two years. Now, making an almost 360° turn, she has moved into the field of education and is a pre-school teacher.

**Erica Antonio, Committee Member (Hubli Branch)**

The team's super achiever! She completed her Bachelor's in Nursing (B Sc (N)) through Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru, Karnataka. Erica was conferred "The Best Outgoing Student for Exemplary Behaviour and Academic Excellence in 2021-22" by St Ignatius Institute of Health Sciences. She is a top-ranking student and winner of numerous awards. Erica is now on the cusp of commencing her journey again to attain a Master's in Nursing, after which she plans to procure/earn her Doctorate (Ph D) as well, in the field of Nursing. Presently she is working as a nurse in the Accident and Emergency Department at Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune.

Amanda Edmonds, Committee Member (St Thomas Mount Branch, Chennai)

The unstoppable of the team, she is a Certified Montessori Teacher with a Bachelor's in English. She is a Madras University Topper and is currently pursuing her Masters in HRM. She was the first female President of the Student Union at Patrician College, Chennai, and the Immediate Past President of The Rotaract Alandur Incredibles. She knows French and is a beginner in Japanese and Spanish.

**Jessica Morris, Committee Member (Trivandrum Branch)**

She is confident, focused and fun. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Animation and is currently engaged in an internship with an NGO as a graphic designer. She is also pursuing freelance design projects. With a strong passion for arts and design, she is dedicated to forging a career in the fields of design and media. She is also a Committee Member of the Trivandrum Branch.

Sabrina Crosse, Committee Member (Bangalore City Branch)

She is fashionable, has her own unique style, is ambitious and super fun! She is currently pursuing an undergraduate program in Journalism and English Literature. Sabrina has recently written a book, and is in the process of getting it published.



Melania Sparrow, Committee Member (Bangalore City Branch)

Melania is very focused and ambitious. She has completed her Bachelor of Arts degree from St Joseph's College, Bangalore, and is currently pursuing her MA in Economics at Kristu Jayanti College, Bangalore. She has also done a course in event management.

**Shane Grove, Committee Member (Bangalore Branch)**

He is the thoughtful and spiritual one. He has completed his M B A with a specialization in Marketing and H R, and M A (Soc) B B A Hon, PhD (DCL - Dual program in India and The United States of America), B Ed, TTC, B Com and ADHRM. Rev Shane is an Ordained Reverend with The Anglican Church of India and a Guest Speaker and Visiting Pastor with the Churches of South Indian, KCD. He is also a Committee Member of the Bangalore Branch.

**Jennifer D'Moss, Committee Member (Visakhapatnam Branch)**

She may be among the team's youngest, but we are all super proud of her as she is well on her way to becoming a doctor. She currently working towards her MBBS degree at Gitam Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Visakhapatnam. Beyond medicine, Jennifer loves to bake and spend time with her family.



Clive VanBuerle, Governing Body Member; Mentor AIAIAY (Bangalore Branch)



Graham Heiden, Convenor, National Events, and a strong pillar of our youth movement (Mumbai Branch)

The Vote of Thanks at the National AGM 2022-2023

*These are the highlights of the heartwarming Vote of Thanks
by Dr Melva Pope, Governing Body Member,
and President of the Agra Branch*



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Team Pune!

I would like to thank our Almighty whose power and presence, not just over these three days, but over all these years, have guided us to reach where we stand today. And one of the most beautiful things I witnessed over these three days was that most of the people present here who talked about anything all mentioned that where they stand today could not have been so without His protection.

I would like to especially thank Mr Rudolf Woodman, the Chairman of the Bishop's Education Society. From the word go he has been so confident that he could pull this off, and he has – we have all witness it! Without his encouragement, guidance and appreciation, the team would not have moved ahead the way it has. So, thank you, Sir we are extremely grateful for all that you and your

marvellous team have done to make this AGM a grand success.

We also would like to thank our President in Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, who has been thanked over and over again by several people through this AGM. I would just like to mention a few very important facts that Mr O'Brien has brought to the table and administered through this AGM. One is his vision for collaboration. The collaborative effort that

he has made, to use institutions, to bring people together, to build bridges, is what I think we will all admire and what we are all going to benefit from for years to come. Thank you, Mr O'Brien, for being the torch bearer, for making such a prominent, pronounced effort to bring everybody together with such warmth and ease. I'm sure all of you would agree with me that this AGM has tried to bring people on all sides closer together, not make anyone feel lesser or greater in any way, and that is all thanks to Mr O'Brien, making us feel that we are all one. Thank you, Sir. Thank you so much.

Also, Mr David Hilton, our chief guest at the Awards Ceremony, and his wife, Mrs Patricia Hilton, the guest of honour. We thank you both for your presence here, over not just the initial day, but we are so grateful that you have shown your concern and interest in The All-India Anglo-Indian Association by being here for all three days and being with us throughout the time.

We also thank you for all your inputs about education in general and The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution in particular, that you have shared with us. We are extremely honoured that you accepted this invitation and that you have been part of Mr O'Brien's vision to build those bridges and to collaborate. We also must thank Mr Chadha - thank you, Mr Chadha, for all that you have done over so many years, and that you continue to do and be such a strong pillar



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This one's for The Album! The President of the Board of Governors of The Bishop's Education Society, Mr Rudolf Woodman, with the Principals of the three Bishop's schools – Mr Shayne McPherson, Mr Julian Luke and Mr Ashley Eates

of support to our community.

We would like to put on record our thanks to Dr G K Francis, the Secretary and Correspondent of St George's Anglo-Indian School, Chennai, and also to other stalwarts and members, all busy people, but who took out the time to travel long distances to be with us to receive the honours in person. We also thank those who were honoured but could not be with us in physical presence, but were definitely with us in spirit.

I would now like to thank the people who have worked so hard behind the scenes. I would like to start with a special thanks to Mr Christopher Gaynor and Mr Mervyn Rodericks, the Headmasters of the institution; Mr Leonard Johns, Estate Manager, and his team for all the sound and light technicalities that they handled; Mr Barry Barnes and Mr John D'Cruz for taking charge of our travel in Pune. And, of course, we would like say a very big 'thank you' to the entire Bishop's family for the huge contribution you have made – from making our stay so comfortable and for looking after all the major and minor details; the beautiful singing, which we heard on the first day; the decorations and entertainment at the get-togethers. Also, all the people who have cooked the lovely and simply delicious food, and those who have taken care of the food arrangements, we thank each one of you!

This team has been superbly led by the three principals, Mr Shayne McPherson, Mr Julian Luke, and Mr Ashley Eates. To them, we say, "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!" We thank Mr Eates and his team at Kalyani Nagar – we thoroughly enjoyed the Meet & Greet and the manner in which he held the Delegates' Ball together as the MC. As for 'man who was everywhere' - we have all witnessed the effort and the constant movement of the energetic and dynamic Mr Shayne McPherson – he was here, there and everywhere, helping people, organising

things, finding solutions! I hope he gets enough rest now - though I don't think he's a person who ever likes resting! A standing ovation is what everybody would like to give him and the team. Thank you, all at Bishop's - the President, Mr Rudolf Woodman, the ever-generous Board of Governors and the hardworking staff.

We would like to put on record our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Pune Branch of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, who have done such an excellent job on all fronts. Mr Karl Young, the Secretary, Mr Daryl Pounce, the Treasurer, Mrs Denise Chakranarayan, Vice President, and the entire Committee, and the youth of the Pune Branch. Thank you for making it happen!

To Mr Somnath Dasgupta, we owe our gratitude - the most important person behind the scenes! We all know how hard he works, and he deserves a loud round of applause. Without him, we would not have been able to conduct such a successful AGM. Thank you, Somnath!

And, finally, I would like to thank each one of you, dear delegates who have travelled from all over the country - without your presence, this event would not have been worth anything. So, that is why I believe that Mr O'Brien insists that everybody is treated equally and that we all share in the camaraderie and all the fun that we need to enjoy as a group, an Association, together.

I would like to just quote a few lines of Robert Frost in one of his poems where he says that "only when love and need are one...is the work, is the deed ever truly done, for Heaven and the future's sakes." I find in our Association most people work not with the intention of being someone special – it is their love along with the need for taking this Association forward that actually influences the spirit of the Association and drives us and move us forward. Thank you all! We wish everyone success in your Branches and all the work you do.



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NATIONAL AGM 2023 - PUNE - REACTIONS FROM BRANCHES



**LOCKLYN JEFFRIES, PRESIDENT,
ST THOMAS MOUNT BRANCH (CHENNAI)**

The AGM AT Pune in 2023 was my first ever National AGM. In fact, this was the first ever for my Branch Committee Members who had attended too. The organisers were very well equipped to handle the whole scenario.



Right from the first day when we entered till the last day, the hospitality of the Pune Branch Members and the principal and staff of The Bishop's School was excellent. I thank everyone for their efforts and time for making us feel so happy and comfortable. God bless each one of you!

**CORAL GODINHO, PRESIDENT,
COCHIN BRANCH**

The All-India Anglo-Indian Association AGM held in Pune was a refreshing departure from the typical meeting-heavy agendas. The sessions were engaging and innovative, encouraging active participation rather than passive



listening. Delegates stayed in immaculate dormitories, and the food was exceptional, with each day featuring a different themed menu. However, it was disheartening to see food being wasted by some delegates despite the impressive buffet spread. Overall, the National AGM was very well organized and a memorable event for all attendees.

**DUNSTAN GAMBLE, VICE PRESIDENT,
JABALPUR BRANCH**

The National AGM held at Pune was a remarkable one. All the arrangements were superb. The food, lodging and entertainment was really fantastic. This AGM was memorable for the our Branch as Col Jude Rocque, 'a Jabalpur boy', received The Trevor Keelor Award for Long and Dedicated Service to the Nation



Congratulations Pune, you have done it again! God bless!

LEONARD LOBO, BHOPAL BRANCH

It all started with the arrival of the Bhopal Branch delegates at The Bishop's School, Pune. There were 11 of us present. We were given a warm welcome by the Pune Branch youth, who then escorted us to the hostel, our home for the next few days. After freshening up, we had a lovely breakfast. We were



then handed over our Delegate's Files. We listened attentively and enjoyed the business meeting at the Bishop's School hall. It was very informative, and we learnt a lot about the Association and its working. The lunch, and all the meals, thereafter, were delicious. In fact, all the arrangements were superb.

Another highlight for us was getting autographed copies of the book written by our President-in-Chief on our community.

The music and entertainment on all three evenings were lovely, and we were all in high spirits. Our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien, ex-MLA, and our GB member Mr Bernard Rodrigues, ex MLA, were very appreciative that the delegates from the Bhopal Branch were present in a large number, especially the youth. The Branch was excited and overjoyed to receive the two bronze-level certificates for community service, especially considering that the Branch is a new one and has just come out of rough waters.

Over all, I was delighted that our members attended the Pune AGM 2023 and we enjoyed every moment, every hour and every day of it, and are grateful to Mr Rudolf Woodman and the Board of

for his long and outstanding service in the Indian Army.

Governors of The Bishop's School, Pune, the Pune Branch Committee and youth, and all our Governing Body Members, headed by our dynamic and energetic President-in-Chief, for organizing the AGM 2023 so well. We had such a wonderful time!

**DENNIS ANDREWS, PRESIDENT,
GEORGE TOWN BRANCH**

We would like to express our gratitude to our beloved Association for organising the AGM every year, and each year so well and with a slight difference and bringing our community together. Our batteries get charged at an AGM and we



return home with the feel-good factor of being who we are - -proud to be an Anglo Indian!

I take this opportunity to thank our President-in-

Chief Mr Barry O'Brien for all the support that he renders to our small Branch - he is always responsive and ready to help us. Apart from our Branch, our P-in-C is always seeing how we can grow and do better things in our Branches, states and country.

As we all know, our Anglo-Indians love to eat, dance and be merry, and of-course it goes without saying, the Pune AGM is always a big success as they never compromise on the quality of the music and the sumptuous food, and most of all, our friends in Pune make us feel like it's a big family event.

**GRADIN GALLYER, SECRETARY, KORBA
BRANCH**

It was my fourth National AGM, and once again, it was a wonderful AGM.

During the AGM my aunty was in need



of immediate medical assistance. Mr Shayne McPherson, the Pune Branch Committee and the Bishop's School staff were so



helpful. They rushed her to the hospital and took care of all the expenses. That was really like family – even closer! We are really blessed to be born into this community, such a caring community!

I feel proud that I have so many parents, brothers, sisters and relatives across the country. God bless our great Association abundantly!

**CAMILLEE DANIELS, SECRETARY,
PALLAVARAM BRANCH (CHENNAI)**



The Pallavaram Branch would like to thank the President-in-Chief, Governing Body Members, The Bishop's School management, and the Pune

Branch Committee for hosting the National AGM which was a grand success. Our Branch was represented by ten delegates, including four youth. The Pune AGM was very well organised - the hospitality and food were simply wonderful.

The business meetings were very good, and the Presidential Address by Mr Barry O'Brien was excellent. It was a good experience for all of us, especially our youth.

A 'Big Thank You' once again to the organizing committee for all the efforts taken to make the National AGM a grand success.

**RUTH BREWART, SECRETARY,
VEPERY BRANCH**

The 148th Annual General Meeting of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association was held from 20th to 22nd October 2023 at The Bishop's School, Camp, and The Bishop's Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar, Pune.



The first event was held on the 22nd evening at The Bishop's Co-Ed School,

Kalyani Nagar. It was the Opening Ceremony and Meet & Greet Get-Together. This was a platform for all the Branch Presidents, secretaries, Committee Members and members of the different Branches to come together and get to know each other. The event started with a representative from each Branch holding a placard and walking to the stage, accompanied by a catchy number. As many as 47 Branches were represented. After delivering the welcome address, the President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien made it a point to visit every table and sit with the members of each Branch for a few minutes to have a brief tête-à-tête.

Day two, 21st October, started off with Devotion and the National Awards Ceremony followed by the Business Meeting. The awards given to the Branches and members based on the various activities and criteria were very thoughtful and encouraging. It motivated many members and Branches to put in more efforts and to strive for an award the following year. Ample scope and encouragement were given to individuals and Branches to achieve more. In the evening, the theme party with the theme 'Glitter & Glamour', was organised in the Quadrangle at The Bishop's School, Camp. Here the band kept the crowd rocking on the floor. It was an open-air ground and was lit up and decorated to suit the occasion. It was all glitter and glamorous. The Anglo-Indian Spirit filled the air, and we could breathe in the air of frolic and laughter. There was enough and more for everyone, be it the music, the food or the fun! All of us were lost in the enchanting atmosphere that was created in the ambience.

Day three, 22nd October, was marked by the church service. Catholics attended Mass and Anglicans took part in a Sunday Service in two heritage churches of Pune. This was followed by a grand breakfast and the business meeting. New schemes and innovative ideas for the upliftment of the Anglo-Indian community were discussed. Tales of great Anglo-Indian achievers were narrated. This was an eye-opener for the youth of what we are capable of! I am sure they will not leave any stone unturned to achieve their goals! This was followed by the Delegates' Ball at The Corinthians club, NIBM, Pune. This was a blast from the past. All delegates enjoyed the food and drinks. A pic with Mr. Barry O'Brien and our First Lady Mrs Denise O'Brien was very welcomed by the Branches.

A well-deserved applause was heard for the Bishop's School Principal, staff, non-

teaching staff, Pune Branch Committee Members and the youth, who strived for many days to ensure the success of each and every day with the meticulous planning and execution of the three days programme. It was 'awesome!'

TANIS GOMEZ, SECRETARY, COCHIN BRANCH

I applaud and thank the Pune Branch for organizing such a fantastic and well-coordinated AGM. This experience was truly unforgettable for me, being the first National AGM I attended. Apart from the informative business meetings, the evening events were packed with entertainment, excitement, and delicious food. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to connect with our fellow Anglo-Indians from various parts of our motherland, India.



It would be remiss of me if I didn't mention the youth of the Pune Branch, who were very helpful and concerned about our welfare.

AUSTIN FERNANDEZ, PODANUR BRANCH

A letter to:
The President-In-Chief
The All-India
Anglo-Indian
Association

Dear Sir,

I place on record my gratitude to you and all concerned for my blissful experience at the National Annual General Meeting held in Pune. Sir, it was an awesome, splendid and educative experience. It was wonderful to see so many of our community together under one roof.



I would like to record my appreciation for The Bishop's School Chairman Mr Rudolf Woodman, the staff, and Pune Branch's unstinted efforts. The organising committee has done a fantabulous job,



NATIONAL AGM 2023 - PUNE - REACTIONS FROM BRANCHES



under your leadership and guidance, Sir, with every minute detail taken care of to perfection. The business and the interactive sessions, the entertainment, the hospitality - it was such a marvellous experience!

What will also remain with me forever as a matter of pride and reminiscence will be the sharing of knowledge, meeting our wonderful community from around the country, their achievements and contributions, and building lasting relationships.

I greatly appreciate every effort of your leadership, Sir, together with the support of all the Governing Body Members, and

specifically that of our very own Dr Oscar Nigli, who is a pillar of support and the driving force for many Branches like ours in Tamil Nadu, as well as that of our Branch President Mr Philip Fowler.

Under this wonderful umbrella of togetherness and leadership, I am sure we will live up to a maxim we have embraced in recent years, Together We Can.

In appreciation,
Austin Fernandez
Former Secretary & Vice President
Podanur Branch

The 148th National AGM at Pune was truly an exhilarating experience!

Having attended the National AGM a few times, during the tenure of Mr Frank Anthony, Maj Gen Williams, Mr Neil O'Brien and Mr Barry O'Brien, I must congratulate Mr Barry O'Brien and the Pune Branch for a wonderfully conducted AGM.

The members of the Branch Committee, volunteers, the Principals, Headmasters and staff of the Bishop's Schools left no stone unturned to make sure all the delegates were comfortable and taken care of in every respect. They must be congratulated and thanked for their generosity, hospitality and the smooth conduct of all the events held.

It was heartwarming and encouraging to see Mr Barry O'Brien and his team continue to recognize and honour the achievements and hard work performed by various Branches and individuals.

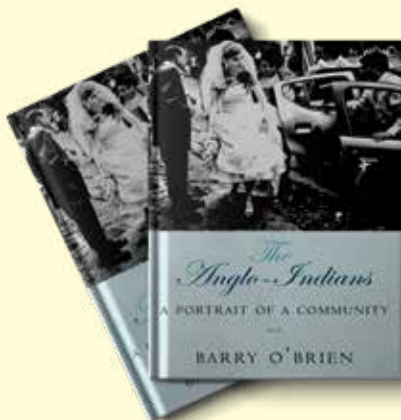
The social events were exhilarating. The 'Ole Anglo-Indian Spirits' overflowed on the dance floor, meeting old acquaintances and making new friends.

The business meetings were very educative especially for our youth members who take an active part in the proceedings. Mr Barry O'Brien, Mr Rudolf Woodman and the Governing Body Members have shown us that the Anglo-Indian community though microscopic has a large heart.

I personally found it empowering and educative. Looking forward to the next AGM.

God Bless each one of you!

LARRY FRENCH, PRESIDENT, ALLAHABAD BRANCH



The All-India Anglo-Indian Association would like to thank the publisher ALEPH BOOK COMPANY and the author Barry O'Brien, of The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community, for permission to use the book extensively for research and publish extracts from the book in The Review as well as on its social media platforms.

As a gesture of our appreciation, here are the Amazon links for those interested in purchasing a copy of the work that has been described by eminent scholar and professor Dolores Chew as "a doorstopper of a book, a rollicking paean to Anglo-Indians".

Amazon.com <https://amzn.to/3ScX8zz>
Amazon.co.uk <https://amzn.to/3If6wyc>
Amazon.ca <https://amzn.to/3YZ2Mrq>
Amazon.com.au <https://amzn.to/3xESi4G>



NATIONAL AGM 2023 - PUNE - REACTIONS FROM BRANCHES



A National AGM to Behold

Bravissimo! The Pune Branch took the National AGM held in October 2023 at The Bishop's School to the next level!



Though a few months have gone by, the retentiveness of this AGM stays afresh, as if it happened just yesterday. Such was the impact and impression stamped on all the delegates in attendance! It is hence the desire of the Hubli Branch delegates who attended this AGM to place our feelings on this grand event on record.

There wasn't anything on the agenda of this AGM covering all three days in succession that stands to be depreciated. The meticulous and precise planning, professional approach, the courtesy, attitude, and dedication of every person in every segment and subsegment to execute their assigned roles with due diligence and dedication were perfectly executed. This is testimony itself to their highest commitment and passion to give it their best which is commendable. Be it the support staff, those who shouldered their responsibilities of proper and timely hygiene/sanitation, laundry services, early morning bed coffee, safety and so on, right up to the Commander in Chief Mr Rudolf Woodman, heading and leading this cluster of professionals and task forces in all segments of hospitality, they were all exceptional to say the least. (A special word of acknowledgment to the chefs - the dishes they created were irresistible! Every was extra special with assorted menus to suit every palate.!) Transportation facilities and personnel were undoubtedly top notch. This was 'event management at its zenith' with regard to punctuality, demeanour, and decorum, of each and every member of the organising committee.

That is our ethos, I believe. The way the whole program was conducted, including that of the business meeting segments, carried that professional element which made every session, business and pleasure/celebration and fellowship, more meaningful, informative, and enjoyable. We were delighted and grateful that the Hubli Branch's efforts were recognised by the President-in-Chief and the Governing Body, and our hearts were filled with pride when two of our youth

members and one of our senior members were honoured.

At the Meet & Greet it was such a pleasure meeting old friends and enquiring about their wellbeing and making new friends in an atmosphere of warmth and concern. Getting to know members of other Branches signified a sense of belonging to one another as one unified big family. So reflective of our traits and culture! So many of us proudly singing our National Anthem helped to strengthen our bond with one another as one committed community belonging to our motherland, India. The National Awards' Ceremony was appreciated by all while it left the awardees glowing. Our President in Chief's address was informative, eloquent and inspiring, and gave us plenty of food-for-thought, going forward as a vibrant community in modern India. (Thanks to our vibrant youth membership from across our nation for this, for they will carry the mantle forward in the interest of the community in the near future in India!)

The Glitter & Glamour theme party had Anglo-Indians flaunting their glittering and glammers outfits. It was nothing short of tinsel land or fairy land. While the music was superb, it was so wonderful to witness the camaraderie of our Anglo-Indian tribe from all corners of India, shedding their inhibitions, coming together as a cohesive unit, and exchanging pleasantries with one another. A night to remember indeed!

The Delegates' Ball was the crowning glory before the curtains were drawn down on this mega event, the National AGM. To see all our delegates spruced up and in their best attire, gents in their tux and suits, and ladies in their flowing gowns on stilettoes, living our culture and traditions, and our heritage in the manner in which we were brought up, grew up and positioned ourselves over the ages in this world of change, is indeed a sign of our commitment towards keeping our 'Anglo-Indian-ness' alive, irrespective of whichever strata we belong to in society, recognizing and accepting our fellow Anglo-Indian brothers and sisters. This has been the hallmark of our culture. In keeping with our motto, 'Courage is Destiny' and our mission statement, 'Empathize, Educate, Empower', we shall endeavour to lift the marginalized members of our community to a level of self-respect and recognition. Long live our tribe! As we parted, it was heartwarming to see so many of us exchanging contact numbers to enable us stay in touch. I am sure that the next National AGM will also leave no stone unturned to organise another classic AGM.

PRISCELLA ANTONIO, SECRETARY, HUBLI BRANCH



NATIONAL AGM 2023 - PUNE - PHOTO ESSAY



IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

The Hand of God rests firmly on this great Association, and it has been that way since 1876. This is why we always remember to thank Him, every step of the way – before every meeting, every get-together, and every meal. At our AGM in Pune, we worshipped and thanked Him through spontaneous prayer, song, scripture readings, at the Holy Mass and Sunday Service. Thanks be to God!





NATIONAL AGM 2023 - PUNE - PHOTO ESSAY



THE MEET & GREET GET-TOGETHER

It was a 'catch-up-with-old-friends and make-new-ones' evening where the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. Some chatted, some danced, some sang, some captured memories on their phones, while others were still recovering from their long journeys. It was a relaxed, lovely evening!





NATIONAL AGM 2023 – PUNE – PHOTO ESSAY



GLITTER AND GLAM

With the Youth Committee of the Pune Branch taking the lead, the Theme Party was a glittering and glamorous evening, full of razzmatazz, colour, costumes, fun and laughter. It was also a dance-away success! Though some of us these days have two left feet, we still don't hesitate to dance. Thank goodness there are many who are keeping the Anglo-Indian flag flying high on the dance floor. The Waltz, Twist, Jive, Hip-hop, Breakdance and House – there were experts in each of these who were burning the dance floor...and the heat was well and truly on! Especially during the Birdie Dance!





NATIONAL AGM 2023 - PUNE - PHOTO ESSAY



TALK ABOUT LETTING OUR HAIR DOWN!

After long discussions and interesting debates through the day, we Anglo-Indians know how to switch off – perhaps, better than others. So, take a look at our wild side, when we first let our guard down, then our hair down – before we raise our spirits, and that of others around us. Here's to our sense of humour, our joie de vivre, and our love for life! May that never die!



The All-India Anglo-Indian Association receives prestigious honour at the Centennial Conference of The Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India

An overview of this historic conference that was held in Bengaluru

The Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India (AHAISI), established in 1925, held its historic Centennial Conference at the Sacred Heart Girls' High School, Bengaluru, Karnataka, from 4 to 7 January 2023.

At this milestone event, the Hon'ble Thawar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, was the Chief Guest at the Opening Ceremony, and Mr Barry O'Brien, President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, and Mr Shekhar Mehta, Rotary International President (2021-22), were the Guests of Honour. The President of the Association, Mr T Ireland and Mr David J Hilton, the Hon Secretary and Treasurer, welcomed the honoured guests to the historic Conference.

At the Awards ceremony, presided by Mr Shekhar Mehta, The All-India Anglo-Indian Association was conferred the prestigious Centennial Award for its support to the Anglo-Indian community and the Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India. (see citation)

Mr Barry O' Brien, the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony of the conference, expressed deep gratitude on behalf of Anglo-Indian community to the Anglo-Indian Schools for their continued support and outstanding contribution to Indian education, and for being in the vanguard of education.

Referring to his newly released book, *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*, Mr O' Brien highlighted the widespread acclaim for Anglo Indian schools for their exceptional standards and ethos that has done the community proud.

Mr Ruskin Bond, who has praised his book, emphasized that the focus on character development and discipline were the hallmarks of Anglo-Indian education. Mr O'Brien went on to add, "Students who attend Anglo-Indian schools are not only academically prepared



The Chief Guest Mr Barry O'Brien, in the presence of Mr David Hilton, released the Centennial Book, Celebrating 100 years of Building Citizens with Courage, Faith & Integrity, and the booklet, A History of Anglo-Indian Education in India.

but also equipped to lead exemplary lives, showing compassion, communicating effectively, and competing confidently on the world stage. The schools have also contributed significantly to nation building."

Mr O' Brien structured his address around the vowels A, E, I, O, U. **A – Anglo-Indian; E – English; I – India; O – On-the ball; U – Unity.**
(See excerpts from his speech on page 63)

Mr O' Brien urged the principals to heed their pledge by taking in more Anglo-Indian children and providing full support for their education and well-being.

He thanked the Association (AHAISI) and Mr David Hilton for honouring the Association (AIAIA) and inviting Mrs O'Brien and him to be a part of the historic Centennial Conference.

Mr O'Brien released the Centennial Book, Celebrating 100 years of Building Citizens with Courage, Faith & Integrity, curated by Mrs Sangeetha Macaden, and the booklet, A History of Anglo-Indian Education in India compiled by Mr Stephen DaCosta, Hon Secretary of the Inter-State Board for Anglo-Indian Education in India, at the event.

The function came to close with the singing of the Anthem 100 years and a 100 more. (See box.)

It signifies a century of dedication, sacrifice and service to the country by Anglo-Indian institutions in contributing to nation building and the highest standards of education. The anthem is composed as a march which symbolizes the untiring beat to which our Anglo-Indian Schools must soldier on to a new century of challenges and choices.



For its support to the Anglo-Indian community and the AHAISI, the Centennial Award was conferred on The All-India Anglo-Indian Association. It was handed over to the President-in-Chief by Mr Shekhar Mehta, the Chief Guest at the Awards' Ceremony.

David J Hilton
Hon Secretary & Treasurer
Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India

PRINCIPALS' PLEDGE

Principals of Anglo-Indian Schools take this Pledge every year at the Annual Conference of The Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India

We, the Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools, pledge ourselves to ensure that our schools become places where all Anglo-Indian children are welcome as they are, challenged to grow and prepared to take their rightful place in Indian Society.

Our Association Receives a Prestigious Award

The All-India Anglo-Indian Association was conferred with the 'Centennial Award' by the Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools (AHAIS) in Bengaluru on 4 January 2023, at its Centennial Conference.

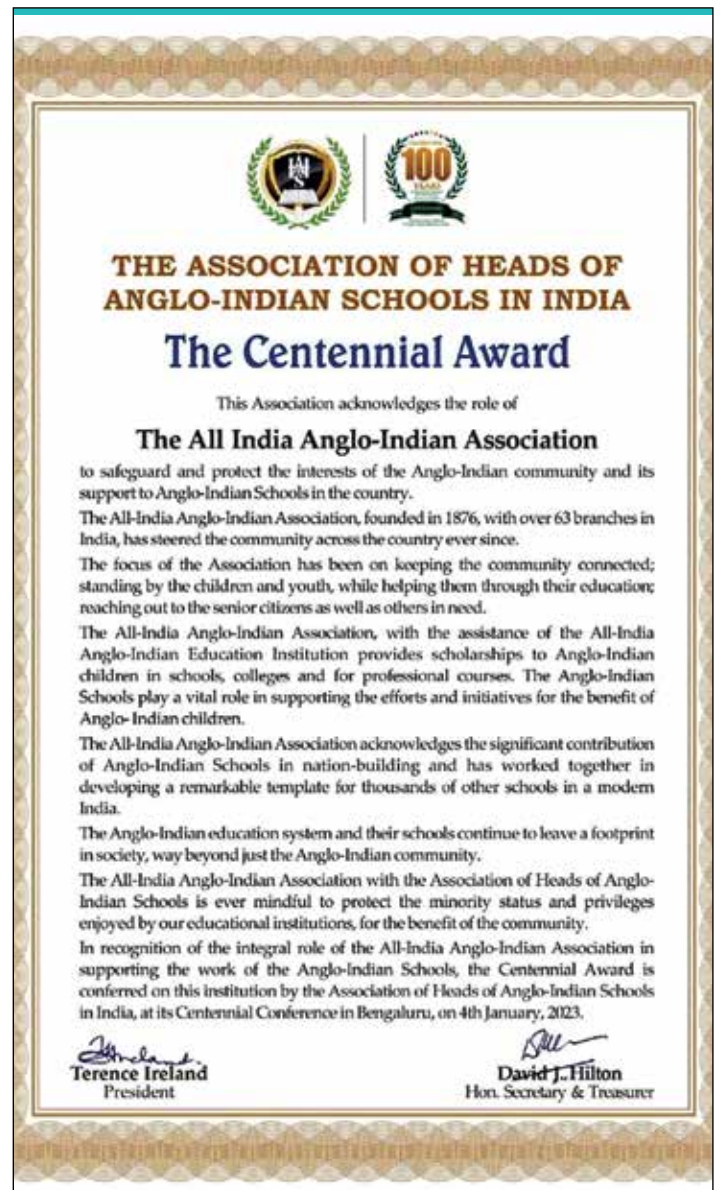
This prestigious national award was handed over by the Chief Guest Mr Shekhar Mehta, former Rotary International President, to our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, in the presence of Mrs Denise O'Brien, Dr Terence Ireland (President, AHAIS) and Mr David Hilton (Secretary-Treasurer, AHAIS). Mr Elston Bell, the Secretary of the Bangalore Branch, and I, were also present, in our capacity as Board Members of Anglo-Indian schools in Bengaluru.

The citation of the award highlighted the contribution of our Association towards Nation Building through its support of Anglo-Indian Schools along with its outreach programmes and initiatives for the welfare and unity of the Anglo-Indian community through its 63 Branches across the country.

Being conferred with this award by one of the country's most prestigious educational bodies in the presence of heads of Anglo-Indian schools from across the country is a wonderful public recognition of our Association's commitment to education and to the community.



Clive VanBuerle
Governing Body Member
(Youth Initiatives)
The All-India Anglo-Indian Association
(Posted on our National Facebook page on 10 January 2023)





‘Minority institutions have a special position and protection guaranteed by the Constitution of India – but, with it, come duties and responsibilities’ –

Barry O'Brien

Here are excerpts from the impactful and thought-provoking speech delivered by Mr Barry O'Brien, the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony of the Centennial Conference of The Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India, on 7 January 2023 at Sacred Heart Girls' High School, Bengaluru.

Why do parents want to put their children into our schools?

Some of them pretend that they don't, especially those belonging to the political class in various states who feel, often under political compulsion, to make audible rumblings against our schools; but if you speak to them privately, they whisper a different tune. I experienced this up-close when I was the nominated Anglo-Indian MLA in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. Once politicians step out of the political arena, they are all friends. Left, Right, Centre, no matter what, they are all having coffee together. So, there was I, right at the centre of the Centre, at a time when the Left Front was in government. They are nice people – but their thinking was a bit clouded back in the day. They had done away with teaching English in government primary schools. It was only part of the school curriculum from class 6 onwards – a decision for which an entire generation of children in West Bengal were left feeling handicapped, especially in the job market. Many hardcore Leftists repeatedly defended and praised this deplorable step, in the Assembly and at public forums. Take the case of the two ministers who had just asked me to help them get their “grandchildren into Anglo-Indian schools”, and barely half-an-hour later, went hammer and tongs in their speeches, saying, “It was about time we did away with this leftover of the Raj - Anglo-Indian schools” - because, said one of them, “the British don't live here anymore”.

So, when it was my turn to speak, just before the Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya spoke, I looked straight in the direction of where the ministers sat, and I said what I had to say, in English, and then switched to Bengali, with: “You know, friends, there are two amongst us, who have just asked me for admissions into our schools and then come here and spoken against them.” It was rather silly of them to have walked out a little while later. I'm sure many fellow legislators figured out exactly who they were.

If you read my book, you will read about people from the political class, extreme Left, extreme Right, those right in the Middle, they all went to our schools. And every one of them sing the praises of their alma mater. So, why do they praise our schools? It's simply because so many principals, the management and the teachers continue to take forward the ethos of an Anglo-Indian school. Allow me to sum it up in the words of Ruskin Bond who wrote me this very special letter after reading my book. Besides mentioning that he was

reading every sentence of it and that he felt it was “a stupendous work and a labour of love”, he went on to say, “At Anglo-Indian schools the stress was always on character-building. That has come through in your book, Barry.” (applause)

Thank you for the applause; but it's our schools that deserve the applause! The people who have gone before us, over the last 100-200 years, and those who are taking the legacy forward, they deserve the applause. ‘Character building’ – which basically means, when the boys and girls pass out from our schools, they are ready to lead good lives, care for people, touch people's lives, communicate effectively, compete, and hold their own.

I was wondering what I'd make the theme of my speech.

I have decided to go with one of the first things we learn in school – the vowels A E I O U. I have based the choice of the five words I will share with you, on your pledge. It is a wonderful pledge, and it should be read by the principal of every Anglo-Indian school over and over again. I think it may be a good idea to keep it on your desk. It says, “We the heads of Anglo-Indian schools pledge ourselves to ensure that our schools become places where all children, particularly Anglo-Indian children, are welcome as they are, challenged to grow and prepared to take their rightful place in Indian society”. I'd like to emphasize the words, “as they are.”

Keeping this pledge in mind, let me give you my A E I O U.

A - ANGLO-INDIAN

We have to wear the Anglo-Indian tag or the minority tag of our school on our sleeves, and not feel shy about it. I am sorry to tell you that many school websites don't even mention ‘Anglo-Indian’ anywhere. I also know some schools proudly display it on a board near the gate, as they should: “This is a minority institution; this is an Anglo-Indian school.” Either you are or you are not. So, if you are, then people should know about it.

All minority institutions have a special position and protection

as per the Constitution of India – but with it come duties and responsibilities. These are mandatory and not optional. You, as a principal, may realise this but it is possible that your management may not, in which case I urge you to remind them that yours is an Anglo-Indian school. I have noticed, as principals change, often the attitude of the incumbent principal to the Anglo-Indian child also changes. It shouldn't – it's a template, it's a system. It is mandatory, an obligation, a duty, a commitment, irrespective of one's personal opinion. Some Anglo-Indian schools have Anglo-Indian principals, some don't. But irrespective of who the principal is, he or she is duty-bound to carry out your pledge and be aware of why the school was founded in the first place, all those years ago.

Yes, there are schools that take care, very good care of our children; and there are others that are simply hiding under the umbrella of being 'a minority institution' – they want the protection and their rights but look the other way when it comes to carrying out their duty and responsibility towards our children.

In the book I have written recently on my community, *The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of the Community*, I have put Anglo-Indian schools into four categories. Each of you will have to wear the hat that fits you and figure out which category your school fits into.

1. The Anglo-Indian school that is proactively Anglo-Indian, bending over backwards, accepting children "as they are". Yes, we know how difficult some parents can be...but we have to admit the children sometimes in spite of and despite their parents. We cannot turn them away. The schools in this first category which I am referring to are wholeheartedly welcoming our children and taking care of them - down to their bus fare and their tiffin, if it's a day school, and, if it is a boarding school, everything, down to their shoelaces. If your school is one of these schools, feel really proud that you are a part of it. I think this first category of schools deserves a huge round of applause for doing all they can for our children. (applause)

I've known Anglo-Indian school principals taking risks - really going out of their way. Let me tell you about an Anglo-Indian school principal sitting here – his is a day-school. A former student of his school – a young Anglo-Indian in college – had no place to stay since the uncle he was staying with had been asked by his landlord to vacate. There was just a month to go for the boy's final exams and he desperately needed a place to 'spend the nights' till then. This principal of an Anglo-Indian day-school took the risk of allowing the boy to "come in after sunset every day and use a tiny spare room and a toilet on the campus." Not just that, he even made arrangements for the boy's dinner every evening.

I am not saying you should all take such risks; but what I am saying is that we have 'life-changing' principals like the one I have just told you about. There are principals who will give a parent or a negligent student 'a good firing' if that's what's needed, but at the end of the day, empathise, dig deep, and find a solution. That should be the

I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Mr David Hilton, Dr Terence Ireland and all the principals at AHASI, for conferring the prestigious Centennial Award on The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, and for inviting Denise and me to be a part of this historic Centennial Conference. I thank Mrs Monica Anthony, St Germain's High School, and Sr Alpana, Sophia High School, for felicitating us at the Closing Ceremony, and the principals of the schools in Bengaluru who organised this excellent and truly memorable four-day event. Thank you very much Dr Jerry George Mathew of Clarence High School, Mr Kevin Pope of The Frank Anthony Public School, Mrs Margaret Eastwood of The Eastwood High School, Mrs Leena Daniel of Baldwin Boys' High School, Mrs Asha Margaret Das of Baldwin Girls' High School, Mr Kim Noble of Tunbridge High School, Mr Robert Khin of Bethany Institutions, Sr Janet of Cluny Convent High School, Sr Clita Lobo of St Charles High School, Mrs Shanta Susheela of St John's High School and Mrs Christy Glory Shanthi of Cathedral High School. A special 'thank you' to Sr Mary Margaret and the teachers at Sacred Heart Girls' High School for their hospitality, as well as for their valuable assistance with my book.

A heartfelt 'thank you' to AHASI and all the principals present, especially to those who joined Denise and me after lunch in an impromptu dance, right near the buffet. It was so spontaneous and heartwarming!

Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief
The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can!

attitude. I know you are going to tell me, "You know, Barry, so many of them come late, they are too demanding, some are even rude, some want to decide which class their child should be in even if he or she is not ready for that class." That is your prerogative as the principal, to do as you think fit – which class the child should be in, if they have come late, if there's a disciplinary problem, or if the parents need to be 'spoken to' about their attitude and behaviour. Of course, you should. But at the end of the day, no Anglo-Indian student should be turned away. You and I have no right to do it. We are only custodians, running the school on behalf of the founders and the management. No Anglo-Indian child, for financial reasons, should be disallowed from being admitted into an Anglo-Indian school. No Anglo-Indian child should be deprived of a complete school education for financial reasons. We have to look closely into each case since one situation is not the same as another, if there is problem of discipline, attendance, attitude. We need to ask ourselves,

"Is there something that doesn't meet the eye?" We need to read between the lines with an open mind, and give 'a challenging case' more of our time, and dig even deeper to empathise, find out more about what could be the cause of the problem, how things are at home, is the child coming to school on an empty stomach - and try and find a solution.

There are schools that are doing it, they belong to that category, and I, as an Anglo-Indian, not as a leader or a chief guest, just as an Anglo-Indian, I salute you. We are so proud of you!

2. Then there are other schools that are conscious of their responsibility but are waiting to be asked. Not proactively 'Anglo-Indian'! They try and do just enough, the bare minimum. If a principal is appointed who understands the ethos of the school and why it was founded in the first place, it carries out one of its primary aims. The day he or she goes, it moves two steps back.

3. Then there's a third category of schools – hiding under the umbrella of being 'a minority institution', hiding under the umbrella of being an Anglo-Indian school, and that's it! These institutions must realise that with protection, with benefits, come responsibilities. I even tell our people, as individuals, as Anglo-Indians, as a 'minority community', along with our rights come duties and responsibilities, towards our people and our country.

4. Unfortunately, there's even a fourth category of schools, and Mr Frank Anthony referred to them way back in the 1950s and 60s. He even mentions them in his book, *Britain's Betrayal in India*, in which he says that some people called him 'a nutcase' for wanting to start schools directly founded, owned and administered by the community. Well, thank goodness for 'the nut case' who spotted it way back then that more and more schools were shying away from carrying out their responsibility towards our children – including some 'very well-known ones'. He clearly states that this was the reason why he set up The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution and The Frank Anthony Public Schools. In fact, he writes about some Anglo-Indian schools not even claiming to be 'Anglo-

Indian institutions any longer.' These schools need to urgently and immediately go back to their 'constitution' and the primary reason they were originally founded.

It's time, friends, to do some soul searching. Please, when you go back, ask yourself which of these categories your school belongs to. And it's never too late to course-correct! We have to admit our children, and we have to see them through. I know many school managing committees discuss every Anglo-Indian child and his or her progress at their meetings. Those who, for some reason, shy away from academics, must be encouraged to be technically trained, and to find their calling. Not just Anglo-Indian children but all our children - we have to ensure that they take "their rightful place in society". That's the pledge!

Now I know some of you may be thinking, "In this day and age, why is a progressive person like Barry going on and on about Anglo-Indians? What about the others?" Of course, friends, the progress of the others is as much our concern and duty. Who is saying that we need to deprive 'others' in order to accommodate an Anglo-Indian child? Certainly not! Not at all!

In the build-up to becoming the community's MLA, I was addressing a press conference at which I was asked about The Telegraph Education Foundation which I am a part of. There was an Anglo-Indian gentleman seated at the back. (I knew why he had come!) He said, "I want to ask you, Mr O'Brien, all these people you are helping, labourers, rickshaw pullers, are they Anglo-Indians?" I said, "No, they are human beings."

I am sure many of you are helping many children. I know so many Anglo-Indian schools that are providing financial assistance to children who are not Anglo-Indians, children belonging to families in which the breadwinner suddenly died or lost a job or whose business collapsed. If you are, that's wonderful! Our schools should certainly stand by all their students who need the assistance. But this has to be in addition to what you are doing for the Anglo-Indian child, for whom the school was founded all those years ago.

People often approach us, 'complaining' about schools, 'You know, that school is not admitting an Anglo-Indian child.' Basically, asking us, asking me, what I am doing about it. Once I get all the details and I believe the facts are indeed 'facts', I get in touch with the school and request the principal to 'please, look into it.' If nothing happens, there will be a follow up. But what more can we do? Friends, be rest assured, The All-India Anglo-Indian Association's policy is very simple today, as it should be with people across the world - the days of confrontation are over! You can't get into a Ukraine-Russia situation in which every side loses. There can be no confrontation! If there is, that's the end of it - others will be prying into our affairs, waiting, willing, and wanting to interfere,



The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community by Mr Barry O'Brien was very well received, with several principals purchasing copies for themselves and their school libraries. Seen here is Mrs Denise O'Brien with senior educationists Mr Greg Mann, Mr Terence Ireland, and Mr David Hilton.



At the Awards' Ceremony – Ms Charmaine Fanthome, Mrs Denise O'Brien, Mr Elston Bell, Mr Barry O'Brien, and Mr Ashok Chadha

intrude, even infringe on our rights. So, the big C today should not be Confrontation; it ought to be Collaboration, and Coordination.

As the President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, I open my arms and say, 'Please, if you need our help in any way, whatsoever – we have 63 Branches across India, we have people working at the grassroots level – if you want to check on something, if you want to clarify something, we are there. Come, let us coordinate better, let us collaborate. Let us work more closely together. Working hand-in-hand will strengthen the team of minority institutions and the family of Anglo-Indian schools. We cannot and should not take things for granted, and we certainly cannot afford internal confrontation. It will prove to be too costly. We can and should confront external issues and problems, but when it comes to matters that concern us, let us avoid confrontation and address them together, always looking for solutions.

E - ENGLISH

English is the mother tongue of the Anglo-Indian community, and the language is now an integral part of education in India, and any attempt to obstruct or remove it would prove to be extremely detrimental. In fact, there is no doubt in my mind that there will be waves of opposition across modern India against any such move, especially from parents – the masses. Besides being an important link language for people living in different regions, its widespread acceptance is important for the growth and development of India as a leader in technology, science and innovation.

Take away English from our schools, and we will have no schools! It was thanks to the legal acumen of Mr Frank Anthony and the wisdom and strength of our judiciary that the English language, and therefore, our schools, came through the toughest of times in the 1950s and 1960s, winning three landmark judgements in the Bombay Schools case, the Kerala State case and the Gujarat University case. So, it is a debt of gratitude that all English-medium institutions in India owe Mr Anthony and the Anglo-Indian community. It was then a matter of survival of the English language. Had it not survived there would not have been a single English-medium school in this country today, let alone an Anglo-Indian school.

Today, thankfully, the times they are a-changing, at least with regard to 'English-medium education in India.' Since I write schoolbooks, I often travel to introduce my books to teachers and conduct workshops. Twenty years ago, my travel was mostly restricted to the six metros, and cities like Patna, Lucknow, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Jamshedpur, and the like, since that's where a large majority of English-medium schools are located. But over the last decade, I have also been visiting smaller towns in the heart of the Hindi heartland, like Azamgarh, Mau, Faizabad, Bhadohi and Rampur, where many English-medium schools have cropped up.

As long as they exist, people will want to send their children to our



Mr Barry O'Brien sings at one of the get-togethers at the Heads' Conference. He is backed by Principals of Rock, a band comprising school principals - Mr David Hilton, Mr Ferdinand Bunyan, Mr Kim Noble and Mr Gary Everett.

schools. Besides, the south, northeast, the east and the west, the recent trend has been that even in states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh so many parents want their children educated in an English-medium school. In fact, an entire generation of school-going children in India are conversing more and more in English – and this is wonderful news for Anglo-Indian schools as well as for the Anglo-Indian community.

I-INDIA

The community, and our schools, have adapted incredibly well into evolving and emerging India, while keeping our identity and culture very much intact. A transformed syllabi post-Independence was developed by the Anglo-Indian leadership through the 1950s and 60s – the founders of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations and the Inter-State Board for Anglo-Indian Education. It became a wonderful blend of what needed to remain with what needed to be injected for students in the New India that was born. Wordsworth wasn't shown the door, but Sarojini Naidu and Tagore were welcomed in. Mohenjo Daro and Harappa came in too. The credit for that must once again be given to the Anglo-Indian community, and to all of you. How beautifully our schools are Indian and Anglo-Indian - because there is no contradiction there. A heritage Anglo-Indian institution in Kolkata which continues to put together excellent English musicals, recently organised an inter-school fest in Bengali. Wonderful! Our 'Indian-ness' is deeply ingrained in the DNA of Anglo-Indian institutions in India today.

O-ON-THE-BALL

This is a message for you. As the principal of an Anglo-Indian and a minority institution, you have to be on-the-ball – alert, and organised, as a team, a unit. You have to keep track of what is happening, especially in the domain of education – be it an arbitrary decision by a government, a court order; political developments, and especially anything concerning minorities and our institutions.

U-UNITY

The day you stop having this conference, each one will go this or her own way. The day you stop exchanging notes and communicating with each other and building a strong bond between one school and another, we will have a grave problem on our hands. Continue to be united; continue to show you are united. Perception is very important – often, as important as the truth! We need to tell the powers that be that there are many Anglo-Indian schools – very much around, and they are united. We may have different approaches and ideas, but unity is key.

As the President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, I appeal to you, - if you are an Anglo-Indian and the principal of a school, please become a member of the Association. It is not my Association or any individuals. It was founded way back in 1876. Sure, individuals matter, but only institutions survive. Some go on for centuries.

If you ask me, 'But what purpose will it serve – my becoming a member?' My answer to that will be, 'If nothing else, you being a member will motivate all of us who are investing our time and energy and doing what we can for the community. Just the fact that you are a member will add equity and strength to the movement, and if you can occasionally be present in a demonstration of solidarity and support, the motivation level will double.'

BARRY O'BRIEN DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT NATIONAL EDUCATION CONCLAVE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

On 21 January 2023 at Aurangabad, 300 delegates (principals and teachers from across the country) were informed, enlightened and entertained while listening to the Keynote Speaker Mr Barry O'Brien's address at the 'National Education Conclave for a Sustainable Future' hosted by Stepping Stones High School. The conclave, the brainchild of Stepping Stones' dynamic principal Dr Angelo Michael D'cruize,



provided the perfect platform for educationists to interact on the concerns, challenges and opportunities they have to pave the way for a better future for students in a more positive and solution-centric environment.



A CHRISTMAS PANORAMA 2023

A SERIES OF FUN CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES ONLINE

A JOINT INITIATIVE BY BAIT AND AIAIAY

A Christmas Panorama, 2023, held online, marked another successful year of festive celebrations and cultural showcase. This event, a brainchild of the President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien, began during the lockdown in 2021 and has since gained immense popularity, particularly among the Anglo-Indian community, known for their love for the performing arts.

The inception of *A Christmas Panorama* can be traced back to the challenging times of 2021 when lockdown restrictions dampened the spirits of many. Mr O'Brien envisioned an event that would bring joy, entertainment, camaraderie, a sense of bonding within the community as well as an opportunity to showcase our talent and spread the Christmas message with our friends and well-wishers. His initiative proved to be a resounding success, fostering a tradition that has continued to flourish.

The 2023 edition of *A Christmas Panorama* was conducted by BAIT in collaboration with All-India Anglo-Indian Association Youth (AIAIAY) and was hosted by the Committee Members of the AIAIAY.

The event spanned four days, each filled with captivating performances and heartwarming moments.

Days 1 and 2: To rekindle fond memories, the first two days featured the best moments from the 2021 and 2022 Christmas Panorama events. This nostalgic journey reminded viewers of the talent

and passion displayed in previous years.

Days 3 and 4: During the final two days, the event featured a variety of categories, allowing participants of all ages to display their talents. The categories included:

Solo Singing: Individual vocal performances spanning various genres and styles.

Choir: Group singing performances that brought harmonious melodies to life.

Couple Dancing: Duet dance performances that showcased rhythm, coordination, and creativity.

Elocution: Speech and oratory presentations that captivated the audience with their eloquence.

Inspirational Messages: Heartwarming and motivational speeches that resonated with the spirit of Christmas.

Fancy Dress: A category where participants donned creative and festive costumes, proving that age is just a number when it comes to celebrating Christmas.

The participants on Day 3 included members from the following Branches:

The Trivandrum Branch Choir comprising Robin Mendez, Jude Rozario, John Rodricks, Pearl Rodricks, Jean Fernandez, Sunandha Morris, Maureen D'cruz, Jessica Morris, Natasha Suresh and Deanne Rodricks; Liam D'sylva - Madurai, Rachel Philip - Mumbai, Abigail Norman- Patna, Novena Rigley - Madurai, Mireya Bentick - Madurai, Amanda White - Jamshedpur, Jadyn Lazarus - Asansol, Kevin

THE ALL-INDIA ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS
A Christmas Panorama
A SERIES OF FUN CHRISTMAS
PERFORMANCES
19TH DECEMBER - 22ND DECEMBER 2023
6PM-8PM (EVERYDAY)
PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF'S
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
TO THE COMMUNITY ON
22ND DECEMBER 2023 AT 8 PM.
AN INITIATIVE BY
B.A.I.T & THE ALL-INDIA
ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION
YOUTH
SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES AT THE EARLIEST VIA EMAIL BY 16TH DECEMBER
aiaiatalent@gmail.com



Treck - Bangalore City, Carissa Sandy - Madhavaram, Trinity Bentick - Madurai, Chris Norman - Patna, Kevin Phillips - Patna, Svetlana Brown- George Town, Carol Kirk - George Town, Rachel Rhine - Vepery, Chael Furtado - Mumbai, Nevada Dalby - Jamshedpur, Loretta Moses - Madhavaram, Louie Alberts - Agra; and a Special Performance by Keith Dickson of the Delhi Branch.

The participants on Day 4 included members from the following Branches:

Corryl Furtado - Mumbai, Keith Poncono - Mysore, Sophia Atkinson - Bangalore City, Carol Kirk - George Town, Ricky Hibba & Carissa Sandy - Madhavaram, Elisha Moses and Nicholas Moses - Madhavaram, Ricardo Baxter - St Thomas Mount, Laurent Francis - Madhavaram, Ralf Baxter - St Thomas Mount, The Asansol Branch Choir comprising - Daphne Lazarus, Yvette Beale, Maria Bacon, Rachel Bacon, Philomena Bacon, Stephen Lazarus (guitarist), Christopher Anderson and MaryAnn Manion; Serena Phillips - Patna, Yvette Beale - Asansol, Shania Morrison - Lucknow, Kyle Gerson - Vepery, Corina & Darryl Furtado - Mumbai, Abigail Norman - Patna, Lyshelle Almeida - Mumbai, Leticia Gomez - Madhavaram, Darius Bastian - St Thomas Mount, Aaron Dcruz - Madhavaram, Rianna Daniels - Pallavaram, Nigel Dcruz - Madhavaram, Hazel Martin - Patna, the Madhavaram Branch Choir comprising - Nigel Dcruz, Aaron Dcruz, Laurent Francis, Carissa Sandy, Pinky West, Carrie Jefferies, Annie Jefferies and Angelina Francis, and a Special Performance by Pastor Smokey James and the Judah Clan of Pune.

The event began with a special prayer by Dr Melva Pope, Governing Body Member and President of the Agra Branch. It concluded with a heartfelt Christmas Message from Mr Barry O'Brien. He shared a poignant story written by him for children. It emphasized the magic, joy and true spirit of Christmas. His message centred on the theme of "doing something Christmassy, not just *feeling* Christmassy," encouraging everyone to "do" Christmas by contributing



in some way to make the Season special for those less fortunate.

The success of *A Christmas Panorama 2023* would not have been possible without the dedication and support of several key individuals:

Mr Barry O'Brien: for his visionary leadership, constant guidance, and unwavering encouragement.

Mr Warren Hopkins and Mr Adrian Michael: the Convenors of BAIT, whose enthusiasm and organizational skills set the tone for an exciting event.

Mr Clive VanBuerle: the Governing Body Member and Chief Mentor of our youth, who served as a mentor, friend, and guiding light, inspiring participants to give their best.

Mr Somnath Dasgupta: whose efforts were instrumental in making the event a grand success.

The Committee Members of AIAIAY: my champions who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, ensuring the smooth functioning of the event. Their silent dedication and hard work were crucial to the event's success.

A Christmas Panorama 2023 was more than just an event; it was a celebration of talent, community, and the enduring spirit of Christmas. It brought people together, spread joy, and created lasting memories, all thanks to the combined efforts of the organizers, participants, and the unwavering support of the audience.

Malcolm Lavocah
President

The All-India Anglo-Indian Association Youth (AIAIAY)



The Bishop's Education Society, Pune, institutes



THE REV DR BRIAN CHARLES WINTLE AWARD for Excellence in Academics & Sports 2022-2023



... to award deserving Anglo-Indian students across the country who have achieved academic excellence. An annual amount of Rs 10 lakhs will be disbursed to 100 Anglo-Indian students who apply for these academic awards.

Mr Rudolf Woodman, President of the BES, along with the three Principals of The Bishop's Schools would be the panel to review all applications and disburse the funds after all approvals.

Each candidate will be awarded a maximum of Rs 10,000 for the academic year.

- Anglo-Indian students who have appeared for their class 12 examination from recognized boards for the academic year 2022-23 and have secured 90% and above are eligible to apply. Attested Marksheet and Pass Certificate need to be uploaded.
- Anglo-Indian students who have appeared for their Graduate or Post-Graduate degrees from a recognized university and have secured 70% and above are eligible to apply. Attested Marksheet and Pass Certificate need to be uploaded.
- Anglo-Indian students who have received a medal in any National or State Sporting Events are also eligible to apply. Relevant documents to be uploaded.
- All applications must be verified by the Branch President/Governing Body Members for approvals.



DR BRIAN CHARLES WINTLE

Rev (Dr) Brian Charles Wintle served on the Governing Body of The Bishop's Education Society (BES), Pune, for over three decades, with the majority of his tenure as Chairman, since the late 1980s. Under his visionary leadership, The Bishop's Schools thrived and achieved remarkable success. Rev Wintle was a leader of exceptional calibre, significantly contributing to the esteemed reputation our schools hold today.

His academic journey shaped him into a lifelong scholar. Whether he was teaching at Stanes School, Coimbatore, preaching 'The Word' at church, serving as Dean and later Principal of UBS Seminary or leading as Chairman of BES, Dr Wintle earned the enduring love and respect of those he encountered, leaving a lasting impression through his simplicity and sincerity.

Rev Wintle's calm demeanour, even in the most challenging times, helped us navigate and overcome difficult situations. He was described as calm, intellectual, observant, humble, sincere, full of integrity, compassionate, affectionate, modest, understanding, and forgiving. He was diligent in his work and never procrastinated. Deeply rooted in his Anglo-Indian heritage, he cared strongly for the community.

Dr Wintle passed away on 25 December 2022 after a prolonged illness. The Bishop's Education Society will continue to uphold the values he instilled in our institutions through his years of dedicated and sincere service.

Sent in by The Bishop's Education Society



Date: 06 July 2023

To Members of the Governing Body, Branch President, Secretary and Committee Members for online transmission to all members of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

Dear Members,

**Sub: The Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence in Academics & Sports 2022-2023 - instituted by The Bishop's Education Society, Pune.
100 Anglo-Indian students to be awarded a maximum of Rs 10,000 each, every year**

I am delighted to share some very good news with you.

Please read the letter and attachments I have received from the President of the Bishop's Education Society, Mr Rudolf Woodman.

I place on record our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the President and all Members of the Board of Governors of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief

**EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can!**

Date: 30 August 2023

To Members of the Governing Body, Branch President, Secretary and Committee Members for online transmission to all members of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

Dear Members,

**Sub: The Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence in Academics & Sports 2022-2023 - instituted by The Bishop's Education Society, Pune.
100 Anglo-Indian students to be awarded a maximum of Rs 10,000 each, every year.**

Please refer to my earlier letter to you, dated 6 July 2023, in this regard.

I am now delighted to inform you that the President of The Bishop's Education Society, Mr Rudolf Woodman, has sent me the following message:

*"Dear Barry,
You will be happy to know in just 45 days we have received 85 applications for the Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence in Academics & Sports 2022-2023. We have some brilliant Anglo-Indian youth, and I am glad this scheme has brought into focus how many are excelling in academics."*

Since 15 more students can still be considered for this award, I urge you to encourage our youth to send in their applications at the earliest. Deserving applicants (for 2022-2023 only) will be considered on a first-come-first-served basis. (I am once again attaching the 'salient features' listed by The Bishop's Education Society for these awards.)

We record our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the President and all Members of the Board of Governors of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief

**EMPATHISE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER
Together, We Can!**



THE PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF USES HIS BOOK EXTENSIVELY TO PROJECT THE COMMUNITY ON WIDE PLATFORMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS IN THE PRESS AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Ever since his book The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community was published in October 2022, its author Barry O'Brien has used every opportunity to speak about the Community and the incredible contribution it has made in pre-independent India and towards nation-building, post-independence. Highlighted here are a few instances.

A Most Memorable Evening in Lucknow



I am delighted to inform you that the Lucknow Branch Committee utilised the opportunity of a private visit to Lucknow by our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien, ex-MLA, to felicitate him on the release of his book titled *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*, published by Aleph Book Company.

He interacted with around 100 people at a dinner hosted by the Lucknow Branch on 21 November. The special guests included former office bearers of the Lucknow Branch of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association; Dr Peter Fanthome, ex-MLA and chairman of the FAPS schools; and eminent personalities of the city.

His book received wide coverage in the English and Hindi print and electronic media. The Branch Committee ensured that autographed copies of his book were made available at a subsidized price of Rs 690 including postage and handling. I am happy to inform you that we sold 56 books duly autographed by him. This idea we picked up from what Mr Rudolf Woodman had said with regard to ensuring that the book needs to be read by every Anglo-Indian, as well as those who are not aware of the contribution made by our community. Thank you, Mr Woodman, Sir, for the idea!

We are sure other Branches will also take this forward.

**Adrian Michael,
President
Lucknow Branch**

(Posted on our National Facebook page on 10 December 2022)

The President-in-Chief Thanks the Lucknow Branch

My heartfelt thanks to Adrian Michael, Charmaine Fanthome, Allen Morrisson, Warren Hopkins and all other members of the Lucknow Branch for taking the trouble of organising this memorable event. Besides the interaction on my book, it was wonderful meeting so many stalwarts. Denise and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment – getting to know each one of you better, finally and tucking in to the khaana and peena at the Branch President's residence. I also thank the Lucknow Branch for organising a Press Conference. The coverage in the local media the following day was extensive, for our community, the matter regarding 'the discontinuation of our seats', and the book. All this helped to project the community – something we should always be conscious of doing.

An Anglo-Indian Get-together

Members of the Anglo-Indian community came together for a meet and greet bash in the city, recently. Addressing the meet, chief guest for the day, Barry O'Brien, former MLA and the President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, said, "Ours is the oldest and largest association of Anglo-Indians. It was established in 1876. Today, it has 63 Branches spread over all over the country. Such meetings and gatherings give us an opportunity to share our thoughts and stay connected."

The get-together was attended by city's who's who including Peter Fanthome, the chairman of the Frank Anthony Schools, amongst others.

O'Brien, who has been an author of several successful curriculum schoolbooks for over four decades, has now written a book titled *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*, which took him five years to complete. He was in Lucknow for the state launch of the book. Speaking about the book, Adrian Michael, the President of the Lucknow Branch, added, "The book is the most comprehensive collection ever published about Anglo-Indians. We want the book content to reach far and wide."

Speaking to the attendees over a light chit-chat before dinner, O'Brien shared a few anecdotes and urged the youth to come forward to do their bit for the community as well as the nation as a whole.

S Farah Rizvi, Hindustan Times, Lucknow, 22 November 2022

'ANGLO-INDIAN COMMUNITY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO NATION-BUILDING'

Author Barry O' Brien was speaking at an event held in Lucknow to mark the launch of his new book, The Anglo Indians, A Portrait of a Community.

LUCKNOW: The Anglo-Indian community has contributed beyond measure to the nation's school education system; Army, sports and other key areas, said Barry O'Brien, the president of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association. He was speaking at an event held in Lucknow on Tuesday to mark the launch of his new book, *The Anglo Indians - A Portrait of a Community*.

"Today, after five centuries of ups and downs, twists of fate, and turns of destiny, the Anglo-Indian community is firmly established in its chosen homeland - India," said O'Brien.

In his recently published book, the author recounts the fascinating stories of "those who left and those who stayed". The author also spoke about heritage, culture, way of life, literature, social mores, and the dynamism of the Anglo-Indian community. "The love of Anglo-Indians for yellow rice and ball curry, five-tier wedding cakes, and single-minded faith, rock 'n roll, and railway institutes is well known – while my book also covers all this, it goes way beyond the surface, much deeper," he added. It also dwells on the "identity and integration" and the story of the Anglo-Indian community through the lens of 20th and 21st century India.

htlive.com on 22 November 2022

A Marvellous Evening in Mumbai

The Branch organised a Book Reading and Q & A session on Barry O'Brien's latest book The Anglo-Indians - A Portrait of a Community published by Aleph Book Company on 19 January 2023 at Christ Church School, Byculla, at which the author himself was present.



Literary enthusiasts and eminent personalities, like Amin Patel (MLA, Byculla), Rudolf Woodman (Honorary General Secretary - The All-India Anglo-Indian Association), Rev Nigel Barrette, Shayne McPherson (Principal, Bishop's School, Kalyani Nagar, Pune), Sr Arina (Principal, St Agnes School), Leo Salins (General Secretary, YMCA, Mumbai), Dr Fabien Almeida (motivational speaker and psychiatrist) and Denzil Smith (Anglo-Indian actor and producer), attended the event. Mr Smith added a significant contribution during the Q & A session by reading excerpts from the book. Ferdinand Bunyan (Principal), Graham Heiden (Vice Principal), senior coordinators, and teachers of Christ Church School also attended the event. Dr Michelle Philip (Head of the Department - English, Wilson College) steered the book reading session in a splendid manner.

Mr O'Brien, in his signature style, gave convincing answers to all the queries, supporting all his statements with historical facts and figures. He enumerated the contributions of the Anglo-Indian community to the upliftment of society, the empowerment of women and the greatest service of all - the building of a quality education system.

The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community is a beautiful



compilation of Anglo-Indian culture, its tradition and political history in India. The author, while expanding on the virtues of the community, also challenged the stereotypes associated with it. He stated, "We carried the social baggage of being stereotyped by the colonisers for a couple of centuries. Even after the British left, a significant chunk of Indian society viewed the community's people through a haze of preconceived notions and generalisations". Focusing on 'identity' and other challenges faced by the community, Mr O'Brien gave in-depth details about the range of socio-political issues that existed right from the time of the arrival of the Europeans in India and the intermarriages, to the gradual transition of identity from 'Eurasian' to 'Anglo-Indian' through the relentless efforts of Sir W C Madge, Sir John Abbott, and Sir Henry Gidney in the early twentieth century along with the efforts of Frank Anthony (the youngest ever President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association) in post-independent India. The brilliant contribution to sports by the likes of Elizabeth Davenport and Leslie Claudius; to entertainment and fashion circles by Violet Peters, Diana Hayden, and myriad others; in parliament, by Major General Robert Williams, Neil O'Brien, and others; in literature, by authors like Ruskin Bond and Irwin Allan Sealy; and to the music field by the likes of Engelbert Humperdinck, Peter Sarstedt and Cliff Richard. These are testimonies of this miniscule community's rich cultural heritage.

The book has also beautifully presented, in italics, some common Anglo-Indian phrases and usages which are a constant reminder of the influence the Anglo-Indians had on how we speak English, today. English, today, is just as natural to us, as any other vernacular, and this was made possible by Mr Frank Anthony who went to court and won his case, proving that the English language, post-Independence, is very much an Indian language too, since it is the mother tongue of an Indian community - the Anglo-Indian community!

Many pages in the book are also devoted to Anglo-Indian education, highlighting the contributions made by the European missionaries towards laying the foundations of the Indian educational system. Anglo-Indian schools have made a huge contribution towards nation-building. With its focus on providing a well-rounded education and shaping the personalities of students, the Anglo-Indian schools have always been in great demand by parents belonging to all sections of society to fulfil the desire for their children to get the best of knowledge and to be vocal in their opinions, in English. The author aptly remarked, "We may be a David in size, but we have always been a Goliath in our contribution to society, particularly in the field of education".

Keeping in mind that a book reading is unique and can impact everyone, Mr O'Brien's message of, "the call of the hour is to come out of the colonial mindset and move into a global mindset" must certainly have reverberated in the minds of everyone present. The book ends with a marvellous epilogue highlighting the need to

literally hand over the baton of the Anglo-Indian community to the vibrant youth willing to take on the challenges.

The Anglo-Indians - A Portrait of a Community is an account of Anglo-Indian history woven with nostalgia, a 'must read', especially for all Anglo-Indians, and a valuable reference book for the shelf of every library.

Blossom Lillywhite, President of the Branch, and Mr Graham Heiden, delivered the Vote of Thanks with a resolve to conduct more book reading events in the future to stimulate and enrich the literary-oriented minds of Mumbai.

Camelia Mukherjee

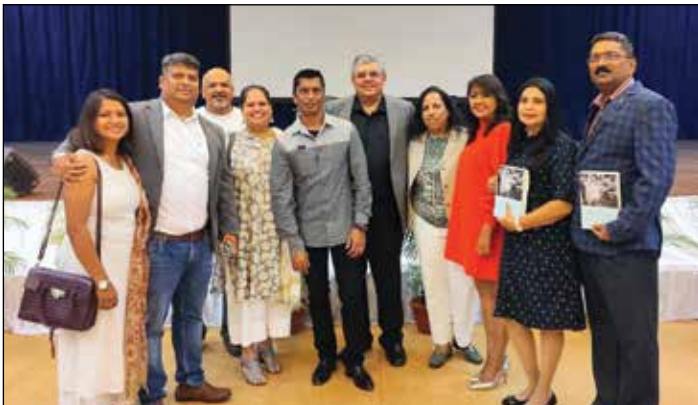
Times NIE, 2 February 2023

The President-in-Chief Thanks the Mumbai Branch

My heartfelt thanks to Blossom Lillywhite, Graham Heiden and all other members of the Mumbai Branch for organising this extraordinary event. Besides the marvellous interview superbly anchored by Dr Michelle Philip, there were several other highlights that will stay with Denise and me for years to come – the deep baritone of Denzil Smith raising the quality of my writing by a couple of notches with every line he read; the presence of so many Anglo-Indians and eminent people belonging to other communities from so many diverse backgrounds, including the media who covered the event extensively; the fact that a bus-load of our people drove all the way from Pune for the event – 'thank you, the Pune Branch and The Bishop's School! Sincere apologies for not being able to meet each one of you individually, since you had to leave as soon as the event was over.' My sincere thanks to the Principal, staff and students of Christ Church School – the meticulous planning and close coordination with the Mumbai Branch team was clearly visible. And finally, the 'after party' at Graham's home – what a party! The best I've been to in years! And, finally-finally, the gifts you gave Denise and myself – terrific towels with our names on them! It ensures that I think of the Mumbai Branch every time I take a bath – which is every day!

A Literary Gem of an Evening

Barry O'Brien's *The Anglo-Indians - A Portrait of a Community* is in my view the best contemporary literary work on our amazing micro community. Besides being a fascinating journey of who we are, it's full of interesting people that both consent and contradicts



the stereotypes. It dwells on the community's history, the definition of the Anglo-Indian, introduces us to people and places synonymous with these "shiny, happy people" and calls out the dual "betrayals" handed to the community since India's independence, among many other narratives.

In an event held at The Frank Anthony Public School yesterday, the author Barry O'Brien enthralled a small, cozy audience with snippets from his book while answering a slew of deeply eloquent questions by the Executive Director of India Foundation for the Arts, Ms Arundhati Ghosh.

What turned out to be a literary gem of an evening in Bangalore began with the author autographing books that flew off the shelf at the venue. Barry also interacted with booklovers, other authors, members of the Anglo-Indian community, friends, and family.

If you have not yet picked this gem up and gobbled up this "literary vindaloo" then just go ahead right away 'men'!

**Posted by Clive VanBuerle
on his Facebook page on 5 January, 2023**

Barry O'Brien speaks in Bengali about the Community on All India Radio

In an enthralling interview in Bengali, the President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association Mr Barry O'Brien spoke for about 45 minutes to Mr S. V. Raman about the Anglo-Indian community, its remarkable contribution and Barry Sir's highly acclaimed new book, *The Anglo-Indians - A Portrait of a Community*, published by Aleph Book Company.

The interview was recorded at the AIR studio in Kolkata and was broadcast on Sunday 31 December 2023 at 9.45 am. Channel: Maitree, Programme: *Sholoana Bangali*.

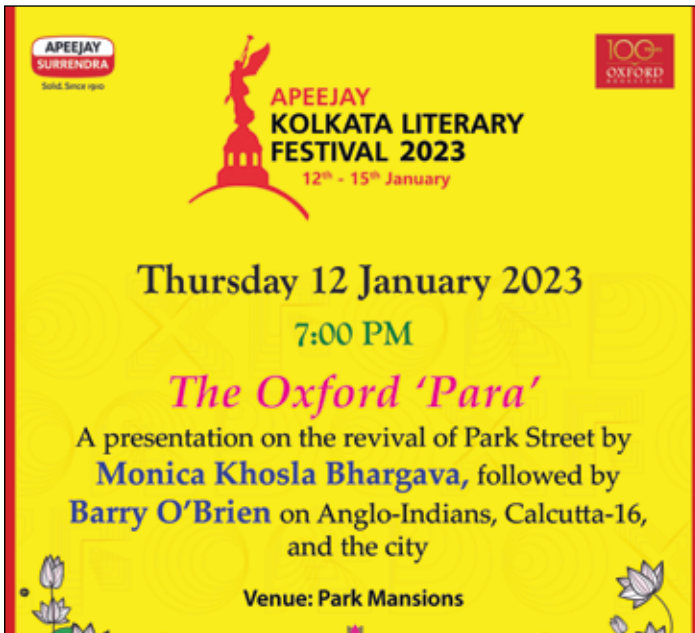
Besides the fact that the interview was very enlightening especially for people like me who know very little about this community, what fascinated me most was the fluency with which both the interviewer and the interviewee spoke in a language which is not their mother-tongue – Mr O'Brien's is English and Mr Raman's is Tamil! They were superb! Another aspect that struck a chord with me was the way in which Mr O'Brien cleared misconceptions that some people have about the community. He addressed these matters directly and boldly but without hurting anyone else's sentiments, while speaking at length about his community, with humility and honesty on one hand, and pride and conviction on the other.

**Raktim Sinha, a regular radio-listener,
posted this on social media**

OUR PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF MAKES THE COMMUNITY'S PRESENCE FELT AT PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY FESTIVALS

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival

It was a historic occasion! On 12 January 2023, the iconic Oxford Bookstore, on Park Street, Kolkata, was celebrating its 100th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the store organised a star-studded panel discussion to kick-off the 2023 Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival on the grounds of Park Mansions, a marvellous heritage mansion. The panellists included eminent historian and former Member of Parliament Professor Sugato Bose; veteran actor Dhritiman Chatterjee; former CEO of Prasar Bharati and Secretary to the Government of India (Cultural Affairs), and Member of



Parliament, Jawhar Sircar; and author-educationist-quizmaster Barry O'Brien.

This was followed by presentations on the topic, The Oxford 'Para': The revival of Park Street. It was presented by Monica Khosla Bhargava, followed by Barry O'Brien, author of *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*, who traced the deep connect between Anglo-Indians and 'Calcutta 16', and the community's contribution to the life of the city.

Priyanka Dutta, The Kolkata Mail, 12 January 2023

The TATA Steel Kolkata Literary Meet

Ruskin Bond in Conversation with Barry O'Brien

Barry O'Brien was joined by Raju Raman to discuss his book *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*. As Raman mentioned at the commencement of the session, the book might look to be thick, but it is an easy read with a conversational style of prose and is full of anecdotes. Ruskin Bond, the renowned Anglo-Indian author, also joined the session virtually, making the festival fulfilling.

At the session, O'Brien revealed that he had received a handwritten note from Bond, who had sent it after reading the book. O'Brien said it was a "personal Pulitzer" for him. The engaging session saw Ruskin Bond share many of his experiences growing up as an Anglo-Indian, especially at the time of India's Independence and Partition.

Anglo-Indian Community and Its Evolution in India

Barry O'Brien's book tells the social, cultural, and political history of the Anglo-Indians in India

In 1932, at the Olympics, there was a substitute goalkeeper in the Indian hockey team, an Anglo-Indian called Arthur Hind. Since he

refused to wear a turban at the opening ceremony, which was part of the official clothing, he was to be sent home immediately. But after an apology, he was allowed to participate. Cut to 16 years later, Olympic Games 1948. Leslie Claudius, another Anglo-Indian, writes how emotional he was when the Tricolour went up, and the new Indian national anthem was being played.

The two stories sum up the evolution of the Anglo-Indian community in India.

Barry O'Brien, ace quizmaster, educationist and one of India's most sought-after master of ceremonies, discussed his new book, *The Anglo Indians: A Portrait of a Community*, at Day Three of Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet on 23 January.

The book tells the social, cultural, and political history of the Anglo-Indians in India. O'Brien was in conversation with S V Raman, a cultural curator and programme consultant at the Victoria Memorial Hall. Ruskin Bond, described by O'Brien as the "greatest living Anglo-Indian", joined in virtually from Landour, Mussoorie, for a while.

*Excerpts from the Conversation***Evolving identity**

The time of Independence was fraught with uncertainties for the community. Many Anglo-Indians chose to leave India. But many stayed back and, in a decade, or two, “the community had completely, voluntarily, changed...and said, ‘Hang on, we are Indians,’” said O’Brien. It was then that he shared the hockey anecdotes.

“It is not a big deal now. But imagine, a hundred years ago - it was big, back then! Take for instance the fact that they were in the police - on the streets, handling law and order. The British were very clever. For all things that required ‘the danda’, they gave the responsibility to Anglo-Indians. So, understandably, when the British were leaving, the Anglo-Indians were wondering if the Indians were now going to come after them with ‘the danda,’” he said.

With Love, from Bond

Barry O’Brien dedicated the book as a gurudakshina to the greatest living Anglo-Indian and one of the greatest Anglo-Indians of all time, Ruskin Bond.

“I grew up in an Anglo-Indian family which actually represented many parts of the country. My father was born in Shahjahanpur in UP, his brothers were born in Barrackpore, Chittagong, and Jabalpur. It shows how the Anglo-Indian community was an all-Indian community...,” said Bond.

Of the book, Bond had this to say: “For history, it is a very readable book. Sometimes, histories of communities or countries can be very dull. I have enjoyed reading the book. It is full of anecdotes”.

He sent O’Brien a handwritten note of praise after reading the book. More than once on Monday, O’Brien said he wished to carry it to his grave.

Everest Moment

The community was known for shining in the services and sports. But many did not place the required emphasis on a solid education, said O’Brien. The change started in the 80s.

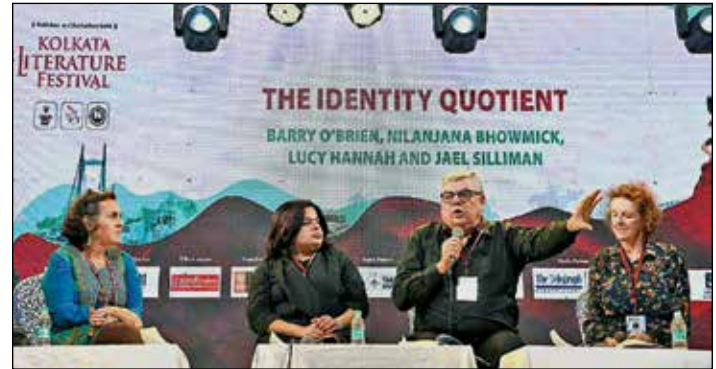
“Post the 80s, the sole focus of the community has been the education of our children. That has transformed the community. In this context, I am saying - not as just the writer of this book but as the President-in-chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association - that the Everest moment of our community is around the corner. The dropout rate is really low. Our boys and girls are finishing school, going to college, and many, way beyond that. This sharp shift in focus began 30 or 40 years ago,” said O’Brien.

Debraj Mitra, The Telegraph, 29 January 2023

‘Sweetening India’ – The Contribution Made by the Parsees, Jews and Anglo-Indians

On 24 January 2023, at the hugely popular Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet held at the Victoria Memorial grounds, a goodly crowd witnessed an interesting three-way discussion on ‘the contribution that micro communities have made to India’. While the

Parsees were represented by journalist and author Bachi Karkaria, the Jewish community had scholar and women’s rights activist Jael Silliman on stage. The Anglo-Indian voice was that of educationist and writer Barry O’Brien. The feisty trio put forward their stories, facts, and points of view to an audience who listened in rapt attention.



Moderating the discussion with his usual flair was veteran quizzard Atri Bhattacharya, Secretary, Government of West Bengal. He spoke highly of the contribution that each of the panellists were making in their respective fields - Karkaria’s incredible insights over six decades, Silliman’s excellent research as a historian, and O’Brien’s brilliant book, *The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community*.

The TelegraphOnline, 7 February 2023
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk0zsrBAk8c>

**Tata Steel Bhubaneswar Literary Meet 2023**

The seventh edition of the Tata Steel Bhubaneswar Literary Meet came to a close after three days of engaging discussions and cultural performances spread across a gamut of topics ranging from

literature to technology, films to music, and much more.

A discussion between Barry O' Brien and Sashmi Nayak on the history of Anglo-Indians and the journey of the community in India, made for an interesting session. Sahitya Akademi award winner Mona Lisa Jena and Odia literary critic Paramita Satpathy discussed the rich cultural heritage of the Odia language and how in present days it is spreading across various regions of the world. Sumanyu Satpathy kept the audience enthralled in a session titled 'The Utter Magic of Utter Nonsense'. Noted columnist Bachi Karkaria, Jatindra Kumar Nayak, Khushwant Singh and Sashmi Nayak discussed whether biographies can be considered objective.

Bhubaneswar (AO Bureau), 5 February 2023

Tata Steel Bhubaneswar Literary Meet

The seventh edition of the Tata Steel Bhubaneswar Literary Meet came to a close with Chitrita Banerji and Roshni Bajaj Sanghvi, both with immense knowledge on the food habits of India, discussing Chitrita's latest book.

Works of prolific Odia writer of the mid twentieth century and first National Sahitya Akademi Award winner Gopinath Mohanty were discussed in detail by translators Sudeshna Mohanty and Sudhansu Mohanty.

A fascinating discussion between Barry O' Brien and Sashmi Nayak on the history of Anglo-Indians and the journey of the community in India, made for an interesting session.

Festival Director Malavika Banerjee said, "We are really happy to see the intense participation of the culturally rich people of Bhubaneswar and their love for arts and culture. We hope to come back next year with even more vigour and a promise to entertain and enthral the vibrant audience of this city."

Statesman News Service, Bhubaneswar, 5 February 2023
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EIBXR5w_QI

Barry Lauds Anglo-Indians

Bhubaneswar: Eminent author Barry O'Brien said on Sunday that Anglo-Indian women should get the Bharat Ratna for their contribution to nation-building. He also lauded the role of the Anglo-Indian community and talked about how it quickly adapted and became a part of its growth process.

Sharing his thoughts on the concluding day of the seventh edition of the Tata Steel Bhubaneswar Literary Meet, Barry said: "A century ago, while women in most other communities were playing the role of 'mother and wife' and only busy with household chores, Anglo-Indian women were doing that and much more – stepping out to work and earn. They were the pioneers – the first matrons, the first nurses, the first to serve in the armed forces and in government services, the first teachers, secretaries, air stewardesses, athletes, actors, and more, as well as the finest mentors and trainers of career women in each of these fields. Women of other communities followed suit several decades later in Independent India. Today, women in India are making a significant contribution to commerce, industry and the commercial world in various fields. The nation needs to acknowledge this game-changing contribution that."

He went to add, "Today, after five centuries of ups and downs, twists of fate, and turns of destiny, the Anglo-Indian community is firmly established in its chosen homeland, India."

Subhashish Mohanty, The Telegraph OnLine

The President-in-Chief and Mrs O'Brien in Bhubaneswar

On 5 February 2023, a delegation of 15 members went to meet our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, who was a speaker at the prestigious Lit Fest at Bhubaneswar. At this function, the Anglo-



Indian community got a lot of attention thanks to Mr. Barry O'Brien who came to create an awareness about his book *The Anglo-Indians - A Portrait of a Community* at the Lit Fest.

Post the event, we had an opportunity to interact with our President-



in-Chief. This was very fruitful as he discussed and explained many new things for our Khurda Road-Bhubaneswar Branch, which would help us move forward. He also mentioned that he would love to spend an evening with all the members.

We thank Mr Barry O'Brien and our First Lady Mrs Denise O'Brien for being so patient and understanding and giving us a such a patient hearing during their interaction with our members and Branch President Shawn Rodrigues who led our delegation.

Collin Carrison
(Posted on our National Facebook page on 6 February 2023)

A Candid Interview in Bengali with Barry O'Brien on Boimela 23

The and much-loved quizmaster and highly successful author of school textbooks who has recently written a critically acclaimed book on the Anglo-Indian community, speaks about Anglo-Indians and his start-to-finish book on the community at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair 2023.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUxkPEeTRQk>

Barry O'Brien on the Rich Culture of the Anglo-Indian Community

In an interview in the *The Telegraph* Authors' Lounge at the Kolkata Literature Festival, Barry O'Brien reiterated what he had said moments earlier on stage at a panel discussion, highlighting the richness of Anglo-Indian culture. He also spoke about how this unique community has sustained itself in independent India, contributing to it in so many ways. He commented on the liminality of the Anglo-Indians' identity in colonial India and how it has evolved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XISgGj74pM>

Book Event Marks 10 Years of 'Derozio Anglo-Indian Collection' at Calcutta University

On 3 August 2023, an event was organised to mark the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Derozio Anglo-Indian Collection at the Central Library of the historic Calcutta University. Mr Barry O'Brien, President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, donated a copy of his recent book *The Anglo-Indians. A Portrait of a Community* (Aleph) to the Derozio Anglo-Indian Research Collection which is housed there. He made a brief presentation which was followed by a Q&A session.

The Derozio Anglo-Indian Research Collection is an important part of the emerging academic discipline, Anglo-Indian Studies, which engages scholars and academics in India and abroad. The collection, the only one of its kind in the world, was inaugurated a decade ago in 2013. The core was gifted from his personal collection by late non-resident Indian, Mr Blair Williams, of the US and formerly of Kolkata. The collection was welcomed with enthusiasm and support by the then Vice-Chancellor, Dr Suranjan Das, as well as the Chief Librarian, Dr. Soumitra Sarkar, and his colleagues and staff. The Derozio Collection has provided a focal point for India-resident and transnational individuals with an interest in Anglo-Indian Studies.

The Collection is open to all and caters to those who may have a general or a scholarly interest in Anglo-Indians. It is fitting that the collection is housed here, Kolkata being home to the largest Anglo-Indian population in colonial times, as well as today. It is also the city of Derozio, who was Anglo-Indian and who many know as a pioneer of the Bengal Renaissance. Less known is that early in the nineteenth century he delivered the first recorded Indian nationalist speech. "...I am interested in the welfare of my countrymen, and therefore I ought to be here; I love my country, and therefore I ought to be here; I love justice, and therefore I ought to be here ...".

Over the years, the collection has provided a focal point for seminars, workshops, film-screenings and related events. Thursday's book event with Mr. O'Brien followed in this tradition and was especially meaningful as it marked the first decade of the collection. Equally of interest is that the book highlights the importance and significance of the Anglo-Indian community, which though a minority, continues to make significant and important contributions to the life of the city and this country.



This was posted by Dolores Chew on her Facebook page. In fact, it was Dolores (extreme left) who organised the event in association with Professor Debasis Das (centre), Registrar, University of Calcutta, Dr Tanmay De Sarkar, Assistant Librarian, and the extremely helpful CU Central Library team. She has played a key role over the years, alongside Mr Blair Williams, in initiating and building the Collection.

We remember with deep gratitude the contribution made by the late Blair Williams and say a special 'thank you' to Dolores, and all our friends at the CU Central Library for all that they do for the Collection, and for adding my book to it. I deem it an honour and a privilege.

Barry O'Brien

EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS OF THE BOOK

‘The Anglo-Indians is a book that must be read’...

...writes Dolores Chew in a review of Barry O’Brien’s *The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community*, published by Aleph Book Company. This is a shortened version of the review which appeared in the online *International Journal of Anglo-Indian Studies – IJAIS Vol. 23, No. 1 (2023)*

Barry O’Brien’s doorstopper of a book, a rollicking paean to Anglo-Indians, is most timely in this moment in the history of India...It is very important to record, publicize and amplify the role and importance of minorities, when they are being squeezed into an existence predicated on sufferance. The book makes a significant contribution to this task, informing as it does, on the logical and legitimate locus stand of the Anglo-Indian community in India, and its evolution, both shaping and being shaped by the growth of India as a polity.

Encyclopedic in scope, the book is informed by rich insider knowledge of the community. Some of this was absorbed by Barry from his parents, who in turn garnered a lot from their parents and so on. But despite this prior knowledge, he tells us he was “shocked out of his socks” by all that he learned while writing this book, a sensation that many a reader of the book will also experience.

The Anglo-Indians is entertaining and informative. You feel you’re sitting with Barry and having a long ‘chin wag’, that is partly trip down memory lane, historical record, ethnography, curated recording of culture and objective defence of the community. It is an engrossing read and while hard to put down, at 538 pages needs more than a few sittings to complete. Those who’ve moderated an event in which Barry has been a speaker, will be familiar with how much he has to say, how well he says it, but could he be a little less expansive!? Because of the homey tone he uses in the book, it seems fitting to refer to him in this piece, more informally as ‘Barry’.

Writing by Anglo-Indians and on Anglo-Indians, and the emergence of the discipline of Anglo-Indian Studies (of which this journal is a vital part), has generated a lot of material. Those who’ve read existing works on Anglo-Indians - academic, anecdotal, biographic - will find much that is familiar in Barry’s book, as he has drawn on all of it, older as well as more contemporary works...To mine it all is an impressive achievement, for which Barry credits the meticulous research by daughter Zasha and wife Denise.

The book details the “roller-coaster ride” of Anglo-Indian fortunes, as the community has been deliberately used and abused by the powers that be. For the historical part Barry

relies on primary and secondary sources and draws on his own experience and observations when it comes to bringing the story of the Anglo-Indians right up until this moment in time. He succeeds in his objective of writing, “a book that would focus on how the community had fitted into New India”, and would be a corrective to “scattered clouds of misinformation”. The book traces the manoeuvring within political spaces the community inhabited, from the earliest, right up until the debacle visited upon Anglo-Indians in 2019 with the removal of representation in legislatures. It documents the efforts of pioneers and leaders from the early nineteenth century right up until the present time, the more well-known as well as the lesser known. It brings up-to-date the historical chronicling of minority politics dealt with so well in Uther Charlton-Stevens’ historical study (2018).

The expansiveness of the book is testament to Barry’s admiration for David Wallechinsky, “the world’s first pop historian”. Its chronological ordering, pen sketches, timelines, and use of Anglo-Indianisms, make it a treasure trove of information and trivia; encyclopedia, dictionary, a kind of Hobson-Jobson, rolled into one. Almost every well-known Anglo-Indian personality – sportsperson, writer, educator, politician, entertainer, religious figure, medical professional, member of the armed forces, philanthropist, visionary – gets at least one mention in the book, as do not-so-well-known ones, such as yours truly, commended for my “lethal ‘tongue-lashing’” of the film *Cotton Mary*.

Over the years I’ve attempted to initiate an Anglo-Indian glossary, with inputs from community members, also a book of Anglo-Indian Christmases. They didn’t materialize. But *The Anglo-Indians* has reassured me that much of this is now on record.

A constant thread in the book is the community’s political struggles over the centuries right up until today, which demonstrates grit and perseverance in the face of great odds. The book effectively shows how the community has manoeuvred to elicit concessions and affirmative action policies and been able to adapt and survive through the vagaries of time and different political dispensations.

While admiring the efforts to carve a space for the community in tough terrain, we cannot but ignore some critical questions, for example about Anglo-Indian ‘colonization’ movements. There didn’t seem to be any consideration at that time or in Barry’s recounting today, about the displacement of populations who might already have been inhabiting those spaces in the Andaman Islands, and what became McCluskieganj and Whitefield.

On the other hand, Barry is to be congratulated for tackling head-on, the elephant in the room – who is an Anglo-Indian? He challenges the patriarchal assumption in “European in the male line”, in the Indian Constitution, Article 366(2). But what I most appreciate, and aligns with my understanding, is his point that the Constitutional definition “has everything to do with blood, race, and one’s father’s lineage, and nothing to do with culture, language, and way of life”... And he quotes Anglo-Indian literary icon Allan Sealy who thinks similarly:



The book being displayed at bookstores around the country has stirred up an interest among people to know more about it. Its presence at airports, the World Book Fair in New Delhi, and the Kolkata Book Fair (the largest book fair in the world in terms of footfalls) has also created a buzz about the Community.

...this obsession with race...we have been defined over and over again as a community of mixed-race. I would like to think that we could exchange this notion of race for a simple one – culture. ... It is something that you don't have to explain.

In the sections about Anglo-Indian contributions to India's defence, India's sports reputation and Indian education, Barry demonstrates how though numerically a very small community, Anglo-Indians have always punched above their weight. At a time when the loyalty of minority communities in India is being questioned and their Indianness is being excoriated, this detailed history needs to be amplified. Anglo-Indians have demonstrated time and again their loyalty and patriotism. While it's unfortunate and pitiable that minorities feel compelled to prove their credentials and demonstrate their 'worthiness' for rights and entitlements, in the times we live in, it contributes to a timely discussion of 'who is an Indian'.

In this connection, as he chronicles the history of the community, Barry traces the history of migration, the first wave, often those who believed they were 'going home', but then subsequent waves when Anglo-Indians, like other Indians, went abroad simply to improve the prospects for themselves and their families. Nowadays, like many Indians from the middle-classes and elites, where most families have one or more relative residing abroad, Anglo-Indians are no different. The notion that Anglo-Indians leave because they don't feel 'Indian' is successfully demolished in the book. Moreover, Barry goes on to record how many Anglo-Indians who live in India are successful, in careers and areas of employment or self-employment which enable them to enjoy a comfortable standard of living; also, the percentage of Anglo-Indians pursuing post-secondary and post-graduate education has increased. At the same time, the book recognizes that many Anglo-Indians still live in very straitened circumstances, and it also acknowledges the efforts of many community members in India and the diaspora, towards ameliorating the lives of their less-fortunate community members and giving the youth hope and promise for a better future, such as CAISS (Calcutta Anglo-Indian Service Society).

Apart from those who left to go 'home', in the first wave of departures, there were Anglo-Indians who left soon after Independence because they felt the community would not fare well in a post-colonial state, having often been identified with the colonizer through association, service, or simply culture. And part of the sad, sorry history of Anglo-Indians is the loyalty shown to the colonizers, despite being used and abused by them. One of those who saw no future in independent India was Stanley Prater. He perceived the community would suffer in a post-colonial state not just because of questions about loyalty, but because of the political forces in existence. Writing about this, Frank Anthony said: "He persuaded himself that there were mounting signs of Hindu revivalism and implacable resistance to the provisional safeguards for minorities." Living in the times we do, Prater's assessment seems most prescient.

In the chapter 'Another 'Betrayal' – This Time by the Government of India'5 (2019-2020), Barry describes how a decision, uninformed by facts on the ground was pushed through and deprived Anglo-Indians of reservations. In December 2019 the "Indian government suddenly, arbitrarily, and insidiously wiped away the provision for the nomination of Anglo-Indian representatives to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies"...The bill (was) passed even though twenty-seven parliamentarians, representing seventeen political parties were in favour of the continuance of Anglo-Indian representation. Setting aside internal differences the community rallied, recalling earlier times when crises brought the community together as former MP Beatrix D'Souza recalled. "In our long history, the community has often got together to protect its interests and identity, under leaders like J.W. Ricketts and Henry Gidney, especially during its

uncertain relationship with the British". A meeting was held post facto where it was decided to "engage the government in dialogue while reaching out to the entire political fraternity represented in parliament, well-wishers, and the media".

There is a lot in the book about Anglo-Indian educational institutions and the generations of students of all communities and religions who've benefitted, many of them prominent in politics, business, academia and many other fields. They acknowledge the great debt they and the nation owe to generations of very dedicated educators whose sole objective was to provide the best education possible to their students; that they saw these students as building a better India, a democratic and secular India....Giving the government a tongue-lashing about the ending of nominated representation of Anglo-Indians, Sunanda Datta-Ray wrote, "Abolishing Anglo-Indian legislators is probably the first step, the true long-term target being the hugely popular Anglo-Indian schools on which the authorities dare not mount a frontal attack"

The Anglo-Indians is a book that must be read. However, I found the haphazard referencing annoying and distracting. While I appreciate that the book wasn't written for academic purposes, it would have been great to have all sources listed in a bibliography...Often the flow could have been helped by placing some interesting, yet slightly off-topic point in a footnote, rather than keeping it in the main text. A comprehensive Index would have also been very useful.

That said, bon appétit!

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'O'Brien's joie de vivre and breadth of vision often shine through his prose'....

...writes Syed Saad Ahmed in Hindustan Times. Here are some excerpts from his review of the book.

O'Brien's book *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community* brings together diverse — and entertaining — voices to capture the community's history, culture, and trajectory. While the Constitution of India defines an Anglo-Indian as an Indian citizen and resident of European descent from the father's side, many argue that the identity draws from culture, language, and way of life rather than just lineage. That's perhaps why O'Brien devotes a significant chunk of the book's 500 pages to these aspects, resulting in meditations on linguistic and temperamental quirks, migration, and kinship. He paints a holistic picture of a community whose depictions in popular culture are often enmeshed in stereotypes. The author rues the constant characterisation of Anglo-Indian girls as unwed mothers in yesteryear films, such as *Julie* (1975).

O'Brien's incisive exploration yields delightful anecdotes, such as a girl writing in his "autograph book": "My heart is like a cabbage / Broken into two / The leaves I give to others / The heart I keep for you." Lists such as "Ten things you are most likely to find in an Anglo-Indian home", "Ten toilet



EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS OF THE BOOK

euphemisms... used in the privacy of our homes!” and “The three best-sounding names of dishes” have a wealth of ethnographic details.

The book's first two sections tracing the community's 500-year history are equally insightful. It delves into how the British discriminated against Anglo-Indians after biracial people in Haiti led a revolt against French colonists in the late 18th century. O'Brien speculates that the British would have probably failed to suppress the 1857 revolt without Anglo-Indian support. The community's sacrifices during World War 2 also remain shrouded as the British drafted them as 'Europeans'. Eurasians could not apply to many jobs after an 1882 resolution restricted the term “natives” to those of “pure Asiatic origin”. Neither did they receive the benefits Europeans did, resulting in poverty and unemployment.

While *The Anglo-Indians* talks extensively about community luminaries such as the lawyer and parliamentarian Frank Anthony, and Henry Gidney, an ophthalmologist and community leader, it also touches on lesser-known figures like Gloria Berry and Francesca Hart. Berry, an air hostess, received the Ashoka Chakra posthumously, becoming the first woman to receive the award. Hart ranked third in the 1994 Femina Miss India, behind Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai.

While the book's delights are aplenty, many essays are a litany of names, details, and anecdotes...The surfeit of information is perhaps not an issue if the reader were to regard *The Anglo-Indians* as partly a reference book. She could dip into it to learn about the sundry community associations that O'Brien dedicates 15 pages to, if she were so inclined. These chapters' sole redeeming feature is that they can be skipped since each dwells on one topic rather than adding up to a larger narrative.

These tracts might have been readable if they had been pruned or organised in a more cogent manner, for O'Brien can be an engaging writer. His joie de vivre and breadth of vision often shine through his prose, especially in the introduction, where he weaves a conversational style, Anglo-Indianisms, and lists to make a compelling case for why one should read the book.

INTERVIEW

A BUFFET TREAT ON ANGLO-INDIANS

Excerpts from an interview by Soumitra Das of quizmaster, educationist, motivational speaker, and author, Barry O'Brien for Frontline, a widely circulated magazine published by The Hindu

Barry O'Brien, a Kolkata-based Anglo-Indian himself, has not flinched from telling us the bitter truths about these nowhere people who were necessary to keep the Empire functioning but were still looked down upon by the British, their steadfast loyalty notwithstanding, and who were regarded with suspicion and disdain

by Indians for the same reason. In this interview, he fields questions about his book and his community.

(This was the introduction written by the interviewee.)

First, let me congratulate you on mustering the courage to hold a mirror up to yourself and clearing the many misconceptions we generally have about the origins of your community. What made you do it?

Thank you. I think when you write a book honestly, you've got to write the truth... that's what made me do it! As an Anglo-Indian, I am very proud of my community, but as an author I had to write an honest, hand-on-my-heart account, “warts and all”. So, that's what I did.

I began with the origin of the community: it was a deliberate and successful attempt, first by the Portuguese and then, to a much larger extent, by the British, to create this community of mixed blood that would be loyal to them. In fact, from time to time, they would offer money or other incentives to British men to marry local women, though it is also true that not all of them officially tied the knot.

How long did you take to sort out so much material? How did you get hold of such a wealth, considering that we Indians are no good at record-keeping?

I started researching the book in 2017. It took almost five years to complete. I was helped by my eldest daughter, Zasha, who is the scholar in our family; my wife, Denise, helped me a lot in researching the pen sketches, editing, and giving the book a structure. But most of the second half of the book is from the top of my head. I have been deeply involved with the community since I was a teenager, and a lot of what I saw, what I observed, what I am experiencing is mentioned in the book. Some people I have named, some I have not. I think there is a good balance in the book between what is “serious” and what is “fun”—the social, cultural, and political history balanced with the present: who we are and how we live today and a touch of the future.

Several prominent people, including Ruskin Bond, have called it a “labour of love”. To be honest, it is! I put everything into it—so, I would say, it's a book researched over a lifetime.

My sources were many. I read almost every book of consequence about the community, besides magazines like *The Review* (which goes back almost a 100 years), and *Anglos in the Wind*, published and edited by Harry MacLure. I also consulted several books on the British Raj, the Railways, comprehensive websites like *BharatRakshak*, and more.

Anglo-Indians have won a prodigious number of medals for bravery on battlefields after Independence. This may come as a revelation to many readers. Why this collective amnesia about their contribution?

There have been so many fighter pilots from our community, officers in the army and the air force—less in the navy—many in the police force, who had served the nation. I felt that somebody needed to actually count the numbers of those who have been honoured by the nation. It was quite a difficult task... but I don't think it was “intentional amnesia”. Somebody just had to bring it all together and make everybody more conscious, more aware of these facts. That's all I did.



‘The reader receives a fuller understanding of the community’s resilience and flexibility’

Barry O’Brien’s skill at fusing first-person accounts, interviews and anecdotes into a cohesive whole to create a vivid and in-depth portrayal of the community is one of the book’s highlights. The reader receives a fuller understanding of the community’s resilience and flexibility, as well as the shared hardships and victories that have moulded their collective identity, through these personal accounts.

The strength of O’Brien’s conviction of the role of women is evident in his iteration of women in a male-dominated professional world, boldly stepping out into professions that few women from any other community would dare to venture. Handbag under her arm, O’Brien paints a picture of a sensitive, empathetic, caring, yet strong and resilient woman who not only provided an anchor to her family but also served as a pillar in various professions.



From Dr Michelle Philip’s review of The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community that appeared in Anglos in the Wind, Issue 55. Dr Philip is Head of the Department of English, Wilson College, Mumbai.

There are hardly any Anglo-Indians left in the schools they had established. How do you feel this has impacted the teaching of English?

There are still many Anglo-Indian teachers, but yes, they are far fewer in number than before. However, two or three generations of non-Anglo-Indian teachers who have studied in our schools are now teaching in them. So, I don’t think the teaching of English has been affected too much, certainly not in our Anglo-Indian schools.

I think the standard of English in many non-Anglo-Indian schools has really improved over the last 30 or 40 years. What is also interesting is, as I have mentioned in my book, that despite the government’s encouragement to “study in your mother tongue at the primary level”, even in the Hindi heartland, in States like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the State governments have in recent years started English-medium schools. I’ve mentioned the figures in my book—a startling statistic.

You have dug so deep and delved into the history of your people. Although the details are of great value to researchers, lay readers may find it a bit tiresome. Did you intend it to be a compendium?

That’s a really good question. I didn’t intend to go so deep into the community’s history but while writing, it just happened—though I have absolutely no regrets. I think it’s a wonderful thing that happened and I thank my publisher, Aleph, for giving me so much freedom—the book was originally planned to be much slimmer.

Having said that, yes, you’re right. There are many readers who would actually skip those chapters and go straight to the post-Independence sections: “Those Who Left”, “Those Who Stayed”, “The Way We Were”, “The Way We Are”, “Railways”, “Sport”, “Cuisine”, “Faith”, “Family ‘n Fun”.

I have had quite a few readers and stalwarts of the community like Beatrix D’Souza, ex-MP and MLA, saying that they are reading it in parts. She has put it quite beautifully: “Barry’s book should be

treated like a buffet—I keep visiting it from time to time... and each time I feel prouder of being an Anglo-Indian.” Dr Lawrence Jenkins, a retired professor from Bengaluru, says almost the same thing in his review on Amazon—that he thinks it’s a good read and he keeps picking it up from time to time and reading it in parts.

I think that’s perfect advice for readers: don’t read it at one go; pick and choose from the buffet.

I loved the section on the colourful Anglo-Indian lingo, which was once so much a part of our lives. Since it is rarely heard now, do you not think something ought to be done to preserve it for posterity?

In fact, right through the book I have used Anglo-Indianisms. By that I mean not just words and phrases originally coined by us but also words that we use very often—our turns-of-phrase. These are in italics; plus, there is the section you refer to, on Anglo-Indianisms. It has been very well received.

Yes, this will in a small way help preserve it for posterity, as will several other works of fiction and non-fiction that have been published over the last couple of decades, especially by publishers like CTR Publications, US, and Anglo Ink, Chennai.

Anglo-Indians once excelled at sports. Do you feel it was wrong of the Anglo-Indians to give up on sports?

Anglo-Indians excelled at hockey, football, athletics, and boxing. It came to them naturally. From the 1980s onwards, an entire generation suddenly realised that they had to finish school, move on to higher studies, and compete for jobs. There was a clear drift away from playing sport, except at a recreational level. So, I don’t think there was or is any room for regret. Yes, there are still some very talented boys and girls who play serious sport, and they need to be nurtured. But they are the exceptions; the rest are far keener on focussing on their education and building their careers.

Back to the Iconic Dalhousie Institute after a Century!

Leaders and stalwarts of the Anglo-Indian community met at the Dalhousie Institute in Calcutta on more than one occasion in the late 19th and early-mid 20th centuries to discuss the serious economic problems the community was facing - primarily due to the lack of education and unemployment. Interestingly, at the conclusion of the last meeting held there (in 1942), they sang *God Save the King*. Soon after, in an independent India, while many set sail for lands far away, many chose to remain at home, salute the Tricolour and sing *Jana Gana Mana*.

The dust has settled long since at the DI and across the country, and at the iconic Dalhousie Institute on 19 May 2023 those present had a fascinating evening as Raju Raman had a fireside chat minus the fireside with Barry O'Brien about the latter's book *The Anglo-Indians. A Portrait of a Community* (published by Aleph Book Company), the community's close connect with the city and the club. Barry was at his wittiest best when he wasn't going into great detail while elaborating on the incredible contribution of the Anglo-Indian community – then he spoke with clarity and passion.

Quizmaster-turned-author Barry O'Brien Discusses His Book *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community* at DI

The Dalhousie Institute came alive with a captivating discussion helmed by quizmaster and author Barry O'Brien, with S V Raman for company, on his debut book *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community* on May 19. Aptly titled 'A Community Matter(s)' the evening brought together a diverse group of attendees, including avid readers and business executives, eager to engage in thought-provoking conversations about the book and the unique Anglo-Indian community. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm, as participants freely exchanged thoughts and observations of the author's work.



Addressing the audience, O'Brien underscored the ways in which the Anglo-Indian community stands apart from others, their fusion of Western and Indian traditions and even cuisines. "The Anglo-Indians have traditionally held a unique place in society, bridging the gap between British and Indian cultures. Their exceptional viewpoint and diverse experiences contribute to their distinctiveness," he said. Later in the evening he also emphasised the community's significant contributions to sectors such as education, sports, and the overall cultural milieu of the country.

Drawing from meticulous research and personal accounts, he sensitively conveyed the struggles, triumphs, and rich cultural heritage of the community while reading passages from his book. He was ably supported with probing questions from Raman, which he fielded with aplomb and which added to the evening's enriching discussion.

Aditya Bose
The Telegraph, 29 May 2023

A Heartwarming Interview that Ends with the Author Singing

A conversation on UP WORDS with Barry O'Brien, author of *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community* at the Dalhousie Institute. The book is a comprehensive history of the community — providing a ringside view into their heritage, culture, literature, social mores etc. in an engrossing manner.

Don't miss this heartwarming interview in which Barry O'Brien speaks passionately about his community and its contribution to the nation, his book, his family, his city, and rounds it off by singing a Kishore Kumar melody followed by a Frank Sinatra classic.

Courtesy: JRC, The Tantra Foundation Media Outreach
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc0cc_z8J-U

EP#36 | English Podcast | Barry O'Brien | Who Are the Anglo Indians?

In what could be the single longest ever interview about the Anglo-Indian community, Srinjoy Ganguly covers enormous ground, posing questions of every kind to his sporting, spontaneous, and well-informed interviewee. Unflustered, the eloquent Anglo-Indian leader answers them all, especially the tricky ones and the tough ones. Right through the hour-and-a-half long interview, he is relaxed, never insecure or looking over his shoulder. He is frank to the bone!

Be it Edith Simmons (*Mahanagar*) or Violet Stoneham (*36 Chowringhee Lane*), the Anglo-Indian community's portrayal in cinema can be deemed enigmatic, to say the least. This dovetails into the challenge of identity that is central to the community's enduring presence in independent India. Barry O'Brien, noted quizmaster and ex-MLA of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, joins us to discuss his book *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*, wherein he presents an insider's view of his community.

Premiered 3 June 2023 #englishpodcast #adda #AngloIndians
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyYKxL0EdOQ&t=2180s>

COMMENTS & REACTIONS

High Praise for 'The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community'

Good History of Anglo-Indians (4 out of 5 stars)

“A very balanced look at the Anglo-Indian community by an insider who knows his subject thoroughly.

Anyone who is interested to know more about Anglo-Indians will find this book tremendously valuable. Light history. Not tedious academic style. But too many appendages; so, one star less.”



– Tomichan Matheikal (reviewed on Amazon in India on 2 May 2023 - Verified Purchase)



On X (formerly Twitter)

So happy to see Anglo-Indians get mainstream representation in Zoya Akhtar's film *The Archies*. If you'd like to read more about the small community, @abarrytone has written a terrific account. Published by @AlephBookCo

Tweeted by Sameer Sewak (@Naa_Cheese)



On X (formerly Twitter)

Wow! My brother, Barry will be thrilled. So will every member of this small but gallant Anglo-Indian community. Now I must watch the film

Tweeted by Derek O'Brien (@derekobrienmp)



On X (formerly Twitter)

Thanks Sameer! In Zoya's film, Archie's dad advises him not to leave India: “We may be a minority, but this is our mulook.” Read about ‘those who left and those who stayed’ in *The Anglo-Indians*, available on Amazon. Humbled that Ruskin Bond has called my book “a stupendous work.”

Tweeted by Barry O'Brien (@abarrytone)

COMMENTS & REACTIONS



On X (formerly Twitter)

The Anglo-Indians, The Bengalis and The Assamese are the best account yet of one of India's most remarkable and enigmatic communities. Sudeep Chakravarti delves deep into the culture, literature, history and social mores of the Bengalis. He writes with acuity about the many strengths of the community but does not flinch from showing us its weaknesses and tormented history. Barry O'Brien, an Anglo-Indian with a ringside view and his finger firmly on the pulse of the community, delves deep into the heritage, culture, way of life, literature, social mores, and sheer dynamism of the community. Full of colourful anecdotes and unforgettable pen portraits, *The Assamese* is the first major attempt to provide a comprehensive and nuanced portrait of one of India's oldest and most distinctive communities by Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty.

#TheAssamese by @sangbarooahpish; **#TheBengalis** by @chakravier;
#TheAngloIndians by @abarrytone

Tweeted by AlephBookCo



"A gem of a book, one retrieved with enormous commitment and long research, from the ocean of our colonial past and post-colonial present. Delighted to be finally holding your precious gift to the community. Got it today from Amazon. Unputdownable! Loved what I have read so far. Enjoying your fascinating history of the community. A fine balance of political and cultural history. Congratulations Barry on this amazing record of my beloved community."

- Eugenie Pinto, in a whatsapp message to Barry O'Brien. Professor Pinto is a highly respected educationist; former Principal, Queen Mary's College, Chennai, and later Patrician College, Chennai.



"O'Brien orchestrates an Anglo-Indian aria in a resounding Barry-tome."

- Bachi Karkaria, eminent journalist and writer

On X (formerly Twitter)

One of Hazratganj's iconic landmarks is Universal Booksellers. Interacted with readers in Lucknow, signed copies of *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community*. Was happy to learn from the charming Mr Chander Prakash that the initial two lots of my books at Universal were "sold out"...and more were on the way from Aleph, New Delhi.

Tweeted by Barry O'Brien (@abarrytone)

On X (formerly Twitter)

Was warmly welcomed at Bahrison's Booksellers in Khan Market, New Delhi. Was happy to sign copies of *The Anglo-Indians: A Portrait of a Community* and delighted to learn that my book is being well received.

Tweeted by Barry O'Brien (@abarrytone)



“Meticulously researched and very well-articulated! Though it is a voluminous work, I found it very easy to read Barry’s book thanks to his conversational style.”



– **S.V. (Raju) Raman, former Programme Director of Goethe-Institute/ Max Mueller Bhavan, Kolkata; teacher, debater, cultural activist**



“This superbly researched tribute to one of India’s most enchanting people is a must read.” –

Prithish Nandy, eminent journalist, former Member of Parliament, and former Editor of the iconic magazine The Illustrated Weekly



“If you want to understand the true meaning of patriotism, integrity, and service to the nation and society, order your copy of Barry O’Brien’s magnum opus about the Anglo-Indians. It is a book every Indian should read and have in their personal library.”

– **Akhtar Islam, a structural engineer by profession; an avid reader and connoisseur of the English language who has a very soft corner for Anglo-Indians, having known them and worked alongside them for decades.**



“Dear Mr O’Brien, I’m going through the book and marvel at the work you have put in. It is quite an ‘Anglo-Indian Bible’. There is such a wealth of information between the covers.”



– **Jennifer Arul, in a handwritten letter to Barry O’Brien. Ms Arul is a renowned journalist, a former air-stewardess who was honoured for her bravery, and a proud member of the legendary Suares family.**



....a well written book by Barry O’ Brien, The Anglo Indians: A Portrait of a Community - a book I highly recommend for its attention to detail on the community from a historical and cultural perspective.



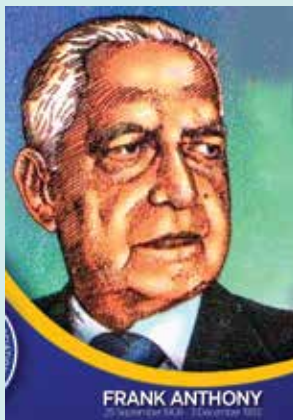
– **Caro D’Cruz on Facebook. Ms D’Cruz is a highly respected name on social media. She is the founder-admin of two popular Facebook pages – The Anglo-Indian Kitchen and Made in Heaven, Anglo-Indian Matrimonial**



OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE



Frank Anthony - Remembering Our Great Leader on His 115th Birth Anniversary



As The Frank Anthony Public Schools in New Delhi, Kolkata and Bengaluru celebrate Founder's Day on 25.09.2023, we wish the principals, staff and students "all the very best for the future". We pay homage to Mr Frank Anthony who personified courage and swam against the tide like no other.

Let us draw inspiration from our former President-in-Chief and founder of the 'FAPS' schools, who loathed pessimism and pettiness and embraced positivity and optimism.

Come friends, let us do the same. Let us set aside small-mindedness, stop being petty and desist from pulling others down.

Let us celebrate this special day by introspecting, as we look ahead at the 'bigger picture' with Courage ...and make our own Destiny.

Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief
Empathise, Educate, Empower
Together, We Can!

Posted on our National Facebook page on 25 September 2023

David Hilton Elected President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution



On behalf of the Governing Body and our members in 63 Branches spread across the country, I congratulate Mr David Hilton on being elected President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution.

Mr Hilton, a stalwart of the community, is a Life Member

of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, and has served the Association with dedication and loyalty in various capacities in Dehradun and at the national level over the last four decades. A highly respected Rotarian, he has also been the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India for several years.

May God bless you, Mr Hilton, and keep you in good health as you lead the Institution and the Frank Anthony Public Schools to greater success and glory!

Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief
The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

Posted on our National Facebook page on 4 March 2023

Honour for David Hilton



On 2 September, Mr David Hilton, received 'The Singhania Education Excellence Award-2023' from H. E. Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon. Governor of Maharashtra, and the Maharashtra Education Minister Shri Deepak Kesarkar, at Raj Bhawan, Mumbai.

Mr David Hilton is the President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution, a former Governing Body Member and Life Member of the Dehradun Branch of our Association. He is also the Honorary Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of Heads of Anglo-Indian Schools in India.

We congratulate Mr Hilton and assure him of our prayers and good wishes.



Irwin Jacob, President of the Ranchi Branch, Takes Over as Principal of Bishop's School

The Branch congratulates its President, Mr Irwin Alfred Jacob, on his appointment as the Principal of Bishop's School, Bahu Bazaar, Ranchi, on 1 April 2023. It is indeed an honour for the Branch and the Anglo-Indian community. The Branch is proud of him and prays that God blesses him.



OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE OUR PRIDE



The Engine Driver Who Whistled at His Wife: Nostalgic Recollections of the Gale Brothers and Their Heroic Father

The Gale brothers, David and Gerald, were highly esteemed classmates at Calcutta Boys' School. As boarders from Chakradharpur (now in Jharkhand), which they fondly called Chikadapore or CKP, the Gales enjoyed a special status among the day-scholars, often sharing what was in their tiffin



boxes during the 11 a.m. break - the Anglo-Indian version of the traditional English "elevenses."

The appeal of the brothers stemmed from their father's esteemed position as a Driver of the Bombay Mail, a job that resonated deeply with many an Anglo-Indian boy's childhood dreams in the late 1950s. The allure of driving a powerful locomotive, navigating through diverse landscapes, and commanding respect with the imperious whistle of the train, made Mr Gale a revered figure, though many of the boys had never met him in person.

The Gale brothers regaled their classmates with vivid tales of their father's exploits. Needless to say, the young group was captivated by the stories of Mr Gale's skilful manoeuvring of the iron horse, the Bombay Mail, an engine that consumed coal and belched black smoke as it traversed the Indian landscape. His whistle-signals were particularly fascinating. For sleepy rural stations, a long, continuous whistle ensured the tracks were clear. Busy suburban stops received three short bursts, while scheduled halts were announced with four quick whistles repeated thrice. However, the highlight was always Chikadapore. Here, Mr Gale's whistle included an extra burst—a loving salute to Mrs Gale, who watched from her kitchen window, stirring her mulligatawny soup. This unique whistle was a charming tribute, making Mr Gale perhaps the only man who whistled at his wife for love and got paid for it.

These stories, shared over *luchis*, *alu-dum*, and *halva*, forged a bond of admiration and camaraderie among the classmates. The Gales were not just friends; they were conduits to a world of adventure and heroism, embodied by their father's life on the rails.

Claver Pinto; Courtesy: Igatpuri: My Sugarloaf Heaven - Facebook Page

Remembering Felix Jacob on His 100th Birth Anniversary



Felix Jacob was born on 20 November 1923, in Calcutta, to Anthony and Ann Marie Jacob. Tragically, he lost his mother as an infant, and his father while still in school. Raised by his uncle in Bilaspur alongside his siblings Ann Felicia and George, and

cousins Adam, Barbara, Delphine, Christine, and Ernest Jacob, Felix had a nurturing yet challenging childhood. His education began at St Lawrence's boarding school in Calcutta and continued at St Aloysius School in Jabalpur, where he distinguished himself in football, hockey, and other sports, and also developed a passion for writing.

Felix began his professional journey with Bengal Nagpur Railways (later South-Eastern Railway), starting as a Goods Train Guard in Tatanagar. His career saw steady advancement, leading to roles as Passenger Train Guard and eventually A+ Grade Special Guard, with postings in Bilaspur, Nainpur, and Nagpur. He retired in 1981 after a career of commendable service.

In 1951, Felix married Teresa (Terry) Saville from Nagpur, the youngest daughter of Robert and Linda Saville. Together, they had six children: Gail, Janice, Raymond, Tina, Leon, and Joy (Hillary), all of whom are now senior citizens residing in Nagpur and Mumbai.

Felix was deeply committed to his community, serving as President of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, Nainpur Branch. He organized numerous community events, including dances, get-togethers, and children's parties, particularly at Christmas. His leadership extended to securing aid for less fortunate Anglo-Indian children and supporting the church in Nainpur and Jabalpur.

Known for his sense of humour and musical talent, Felix entertained family and friends with his harmonica and witty one-liners. He was an avid reader, with a notable collection of classics, and a regular contributor to *Reader's Digest*. Felix Jacob passed away on 25 November 2004, leaving behind a legacy of community service, compassion, and joy.

Joy Jacob, Nagpur Branch

ACHIEVERS

YOUNG ACHIEVERS

BHUSAWAL BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

Meet Author Ethan Kingsellers!

Ethan Kingsellers, son of Tyrone and Karen Kingsellers, has kept his dreams alive by understanding that achieving anything requires faith, self-belief, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. His parents are thrilled to



announce Ethan's first published book, *Andria: Rise of the Monsters*. Written for children using BriBooks, an all-powered writing and publishing platform, this book is a significant milestone for Ethan. It is available at Rs 711 per copy. The Branch extends its best wishes to Ethan, aged 14, for a future filled with success, joy, happiness, and more amazing opportunities.

COONOR BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

Thai Boxing Coach

Roshan McDonald, a member of the Branch, has made the community extremely proud with his remarkable achievement. After 12 years of dedicated training, he successfully completed 11 grades in Muay Thai or Thai boxing, certified by the



International Federation of Thai Boxing, and is now officially a National Coach. All praise to God for this accomplishment!

MYSORE BRANCH, KARNATAKA

Dr Reubel Coates - Going Deep into Research

Dr Reubel Coates has completed her MD in Community Medicine from St John's Medical College, Bangalore. She has made the Anglo-Indian community and the



Branch proud. She completed her MBBS with flying colours from A J Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalore, Karnataka, in 2019 and earned a merit seat to complete her MD in Community

Medicine from St John's Medical College and Hospital.

Reubel's achievements include:

1. Merit Certificate for Research Paper: Awarded for her research on the prevalence of work-related musculoskeletal disorders among dairy farmers in a rural area of Kolar District, Karnataka, in the Annual Research Award competition of St John's Medical College Research Society.
2. Research Presentation: Presented research on awareness regarding cardiovascular disease among school-going adolescents in a rural area of Bangalore district, Karnataka, at the 4th Amrita International Public Health e-Conference, 2021, Kochi, Kerala.
3. Antenatal Depression Research: Presented research on the prevalence and determinants of antenatal depression among women availing obstetric care at a rural maternity hospital, Ramanagara District, Karnataka, at the 2nd State Conference of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine, Karnataka Chapter, 2022, in Mangalore.
4. Poster Presentation: Presented a poster on the prevalence of work-related musculoskeletal disorders among dairy farmers in a rural area of Kolar District, Karnataka, at the 49th National Conference of Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine, 2022, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
5. Research Guidance: Guided MBBS interns on a study regarding perceptions and practices about menstruation among adolescents in villages under Udipalaya Subcentre, Kaggalipura Community Health Centre, Bangalore Urban District, Karnataka.
6. Factory Health Visits: Involved in factory health visits for various projects under the Division of Occupational Health Services, Department of Community Health, St John's Medical College, Bangalore.

MD in Community

7. Health Needs Assessment: Planned and conducted a health needs assessment in rural areas of Chamaraajanagar District, Karnataka.

8. Journal Reviewer: Served as a reviewer for the International Journal of Public Health Science, a Scopus indexed journal.

9. Certification in Biomedical Research: Completed the Basics in Biomedical Research conducted by NPTEL (SWAYAM), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Dr Reubel has been an active member of the Mysore Branch since her college days and continues to contribute to the Branch. She is the eldest daughter of Mr Crezvel Coates, a past Branch President, and Mrs Ramona Coates. Her younger brother Calvin is an engineer working at Nestle. The Committee of the Mysore Branch, along with its members, wishes her success in all her future endeavours.

NAGPUR BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

Anastasia Dias – Reaching for the Stars

Anastasia Dias of the Nagpur Branch has always harboured a starry-eyed ambition—not one of glitz or glamour, but a profound aspiration to explore the cosmos.



Her fascination with astrophysics, the study of the universe's mechanics, including quasars, pulsars, black holes, dwarf stars, and distant galaxies, has driven her academic journey. Astrophysics delves

into the realms of matter, space, time, and immense distances, exploring gravitational forces so powerful that even light cannot escape. Captivated by this enigmatic branch of science, Anastasia resolved to become an astrophysicist.

Her path began with a major in Mathematics, requiring her to move to Chennai for her undergraduate studies at Stella Maris College, Chennai, supported by Ms Jericia Moreya, Ms Coral Donovan, and Dr Dolly Thomas. She then pursued a Master's degree in Mathematics with

distinction from Loyola College, Chennai. Anastasia applied to several universities in Europe and the USA for a research program, ultimately shortlisting Princeton and the University of New Hampshire. Though Princeton was a prestigious option, she chose the University of New Hampshire and moved to Durham, New Hampshire, to pursue a Ph D in Mathematics. In addition to her research, she will work as a teaching assistant to a professor.

Anastasia is the daughter of Sheba Prim Dias and Noel Dias, affectionately known as "Popeye,". When she informed her father about her move to the USA to study astrophysics, he humorously remarked, "You mean Twinkle Twinkle Little Star?"—a testament to his pride, despite his limited understanding of the subject. Anastasia's achievements have brought immense pride to her parents, siblings, the Branch, and the entire community.

Liam Jacob – Sailing on a 'Sound' Platform

Liam Jacob, the elder son of Loretta and Hillary (Joy) Jacob, is skilled in Pro Tools, Logic Pro X, Audio Engineering, and Audio Post Production. He is also a highly qualified Live Sound Engineer currently serving on board 'The Empress,' a cruise liner of Cordelia Cruises.



Born into a religious Catholic and musically inclined family, Liam completed his schooling in Nagpur and graduated from St. Francis De Sales College. During his college years, he represented his institution in various activities and served as the Editor of the Rotaract Club of Nagpur in 2012-2013.

Liam's interest in foreign languages led him to study an intermediate course in French, where he excelled and was selected as a French tutor for an aviation academy, helping aspiring flight attendants communicate with native French speakers. After graduation, Liam moved to Pune to complete his Master's in Mass Media Studies, specializing in Audio Engineering from Seamedu - School of Media.

Following a rewarding internship, Liam worked with a sound equipment supplier in Pune. His talents were quickly recognized, leading him to become an Assistant Audio Engineer with Wizcraft's newly launched theatre division in Mumbai. Liam worked on Wizcraft's first touring show 'Balle Balle,'

a live Bollywood musical about the 'Big Fat Indian Wedding,' performed in Mumbai and New Delhi.

When the tour paused, Liam joined Goa's leading event technology company LumaSonic. Within a year, he was promoted from Sound Engineer to Assistant Manager, overseeing technical operations for major events with a dedicated team. The pandemic led him to temporarily switch to online guitar coaching with White Hat Junior until he was called back to work on 'The Empress.'

Liam is also an accomplished guitarist, capable of playing the bass guitar, keyboard, and drums, and enjoys singing. He trained his younger brother, Leander, who is now an accomplished musician. In his leisure time, Liam produces music, collaborates with other musicians, and performs live shows on the ship. When in Nagpur, he records sessions of his favourite songs and creates project videos. He has also contributed his talents to the SFS Cathedral choir and was the lead guitarist for the Anglo-Indian band, The Juke Plan.

Liam is known for his listening skills, avid reading, and down-to-earth demeanour. His family and Branch are proud of his achievements and wish him continued success.

Leander Jacob – a Spirit of Music and Service

If music be the food of love, let it play on—and indeed, music is **Leander Jacob's** first love. Born at the turn of the century



to Loretta and Hillary (Joy) Jacob, long-standing members of the Branch, Leander's early exposure to both old-time and contemporary music at home sparked his passion. He began his musical journey at the age of six,

with the help of his guitarist brother Liam. Together, they created a makeshift drum kit from their mother's pots and pans and their father's old paint buckets. From this humble beginning, Leander honed his skills and soon graduated to a hand-me-down drum kit, quickly filling in for regular drummers.

Attending The Bishop's School Camp, Pune, was a dream come true for Leander, who secured his place with a stellar 96 percent in Std V at Montfort School, Nagpur. At Bishop's, he became the school drummer, playing at various events and expanding his repertoire to include the guitar, bass, violin,

keyboard, trumpet, djembe, cajon, and other percussion instruments. He was elected Prefect of Arnold House but later gave it up to become the school's first Bandmaster. Leander also played drums for the Bishop's School band that won the Battle of the Bands at Stepping Stones School, Aurangabad, just before their 12th Board Examinations.

After graduating from Bishop's Camp, Leander pursued a Bachelor's in Performing Arts from Spicer Adventist University. During the lockdown, he delved into ethical hacking through an online course, further broadening his intellectual horizons. He began teaching music online with Whitehat Junior as a guitar instructor, later joining a music company, to balance his passion for music with his professional work.

Leander also contributes his talents to God by singing in the church choir and participating in a professional choir that donates its earnings to charity. He works as a music producer on plays produced by the SSU in Pune and engages in social forestry on weekends. Leander's talents, skills, and humility have earned him the admiration of his family and friends, making his community proud of his achievements. Leander Jacob continues to inspire and uplift those around him, embodying the spirit of music and service.

TIRUCHIRAPALLI BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

For Kimberley Fernandez, Her Courage is Her Destiny

Kimberley Fernandez, daughter of the late GERALYN and late Trevor Fernandez of Tiruchirappalli, graduated with distinction in Visual Communications from Holy Cross College, Tiruchirappalli, in 2021. She



secured the 2nd rank from Bharathidasan University and received a Gold Medal in Proficiency from Holy Cross College.

Currently, Kimberley, also known as Kimmy, is pursuing a postgraduate program in Journalism and Mass Communication from Amity University, online. Despite losing both her parents between 2020 and 2023 and caring for her younger brother, Gerald, with Down's Syndrome, she has faced adversity with remarkable positivity, as evidenced by her numerous achievements.

Kimmy has consistently excelled in both academics and extracurricular activities

throughout her school and college years. Alongside her studies, she freelances as a graphic designer and content writer. She also engages in hosting events, promoting for large clothing stores, jewellery establishments, and salons. Notably, she hosted the Women Icon Awards 2022 and the Asia Awards 2022 and 2023 in Tiruchirappalli.

In the realm of modelling and beauty pageants, Kimmy has earned several titles, including first runner-up at the *Miss Madarase Chennai* pageant 2023, *Miss Singapenne Trichy 2.0*, *Miss Beautiful Trichy 2023*, and *Miss Talent Fest Trichy Icon 2023*. She was also awarded Best Rampwalk Model at the Inspire Awards 2023 and Best Model at the Wow Women Entertainment (WWE) Awards 2024, both held in Trichy. Additionally, she has served as a jury member at numerous beauty pageants.

An emerging poet, Kimmy published her anthology, *Through My Eyes: An Anthology of Manifold Musings*, under the pen name 'Kim Ann', in 2021. The book is available on Amazon, Flipkart, and other online portals. Keep achieving, Kimmy!

PUNE BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

Neythan McPherson's Skill and Determination at the Wheel

Neythan McPherson, a 17-year-old Anglo-Indian racer from Pune, demonstrated exceptional skill and determination at the JK Tyre Novice Cup National Championship



held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, in November 2023. Neythan's performance was nothing short of remarkable, securing an impressive second position in the overall standings.

His consistent and stellar performance throughout the races showcased his deep understanding of racing dynamics and remarkable composure under pressure.

Competing among seasoned racers for the first time in his career, Neythan's achievement is a testament to his relentless pursuit of excellence and passion for racing. His ability to navigate the circuit's challenges and strategically manoeuvre during races earned him a well-deserved place among the top contenders. His determination and sportsmanship set

a positive example for peers and racing enthusiasts alike.

Neythan McPherson's outstanding performance in the JK Tyre Racing Championship 2023 portends a bright future in racing and serves as a source of pride for The Bishops Co-Ed School, Kalyani Nagar, and the racing community. Notably, Neythan is the first Anglo-Indian to successfully venture into motor racing and has now been chosen to move up to the Formula series—a significant achievement!

Neythan's father, Shayne McPherson, is the Principal and Honorary Secretary of the Bishop's Camp School, as well as the President of the Pune Branch.

VEPERY BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

Simon Scurville – Academic Brilliance

It is with immense happiness and pride that the Branch shares the great news that



Simon Scurville, son of Troyden and Rowena Scurville, has achieved an outstanding score of 97.52 in the All-India JEE Mains this year. He also scored an impressive 92.6 percent in his 12th Board

Examinations. Simon is now pursuing his engineering degree at the prestigious Vellore Institute of Technology. We extend our best wishes to Simon for his future endeavours and commend Troyden and Rowena for their unwavering encouragement and dedication to their children's academic success.

Larissa Philbert, NIFT Topper

The Branch is also excited to share the news that **Larissa Philbert**, daughter of Ian and



Karen Philbert, has bagged the Gold Medal and Best Performer trophy from the premier fashion design institution in India, NIFT. Larissa's outstanding achievements proves that anything is achievable if

one has the right attitude, aptitude and aspiration. She is truly a role model for the youth of our community.

VISAKHAPATNAM BRANCH, ANDHRA PRADESH

Shenen Gilby - Brilliant BTech Results

The Branch is very proud of our youth



member, **Shenen Gilby**, for securing 84 percent in his BTech Mechanical Engineering at Andhra University. Shenen was also one of the recipients of the Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence

in Academics instituted by The Bishop's Education Society, Pune. This young man was selected during a campus interview and now works as an Engineer at Havells India Limited. The Branch congratulates the proud parents, Gordon Gilby and Cecilia Gilby, and wish Shenen all the best for his future.

GEORGE TOWN BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

Darren Anthony – First Year Topper

Darren Christopher Anthony is doing



his second year BSc Computer Science at Loyola College, Chennai. A determined and hardworking young man, he secured the First Rank in his First Year of study. The Branch wishes Darren Anthony the very best.

KORBA BRANCH, CHATTISGARH

Joy Atkins – Excelling in Karate, as well as Training



We are so proud of 21-year-old **Joy Atkins**, a First Dan Black Belt, for winning a gold medal in the 55-kg category at the 6th International Karate Championship held in February

2023 at Swarna Bharathi Indoor Stadium, Visakhapatnam. An active member of our Branch, Joy is the Secretary of the Karate Association of Korba, and is a very hard-working young man who trains children and college students. This helps him fund his education - he is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree at Dr C V Raman University, Bilaspur - Kargi Road.

VILLUPURAM-PONDICHERY BRANCH

Chris James - High NEET Score

Chris Neil James, the son of Elvis and Josephine Geetha James, secured 91.8 percent in the Higher Secondary Examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Examinations in 2023. He further went on to achieving a great NEET score that secured him a medical seat in



the prestigious Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Karaikal Campus. Chris was also one of the recipients of The Rev Dr Brian Charles Wintle Award for Excellence in Academics and Sports 2023-2024 instituted by The Bishop's Education Society, Pune.

Jennifer Benny - Doing Her Best



Jennifer Benny, the daughter of Denzil and Seanne Benny, passed her Higher Secondary Examination in 2023 with 84.66 percent (Commerce Group). Jennifer is currently pursuing her B.Com in International Business and

Finance, in Coimbatore.

VISAKHAPATNAM BRANCH, ANDHRA PRADESH

Isaac Abraham - a Promising Karteka

Isaac Abraham, son of William Abraham, won a gold medal in the Karate (KATA) Boys 12 to 14 years category at



the 15th AP State Open Kenyu-Ryu Karate Championship, 2023.

TIRUCHIRAPALLI BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

Trichy's Promising Youngsters

Janice David - a Topper All the Way

Janice David, the daughter of David Wilfred and Corrine David (nee Wright),



successfully completed her HSC from Orchard Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Trichy, with a score of 94.3 percent. She was felicitated at the Branch AGM for being the topper among the children

of our members. An active sports person in throwball and cricket, she is also proficient in drawing, painting and elocution. She held the prestigious position of Art House Leader in school. She is currently pursuing a professional course in BTech (Engineering and Computer Science) at the SRM Deemed University, Trichy.

Darius Fitzgerald - an Excellent All-Rounder

Darius Fitzgerald, son of David and Karen Fitzgerald, passed his SSLC exam in April 2023 scoring 85.4 percent marks. A student of Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy, he is currently doing his HSC with Computer Science



and Maths. He was the topper among all the students in the Branch and was honoured at the AGM of the Branch on 10 June 2023. He has represented his school in hockey tournaments at the inter-school level. He is also a promising artist, and his favourite activities include drawing and face painting.

Amorina Janes - an Aspiring Engineer

Amorina Janes, the daughter of Alister and Michelle, completed her HSC from St. Joseph's Anglo-Indian Girls' Higher Secondary School, Trichy, with a score of 84.5 percent. Amorina was the school's



Minister for Education during her HSC year and excelled in organizing and compering official functions. She is currently pursuing her BE (Electronics and Communication)

from the Saranathan College of Engineering, Trichy.

Angelina Alexander - Academics...and more!

Angelina Alexander, daughter of Ashmole and Loretta Alexander, a student of St. Joseph's Anglo-Indian Girls' Higher Secondary School, Trichy, passed her SSLC exam in April 2023 with a score of 335/500. She is currently pursuing her HSC in the pure



science group. She actively participates in sporting events and is also a budding musician.

Maec Rouse - a Budding Engineer

Maec Rouse, the son of Andrew and Annie Rouse, is a student at MIET Engineering College, Trichy, where he is pursuing a BCA degree, having successfully completed his HSC from Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy. He is an avid cricket player and an excellent cook.



Angelo Moreira - an active NCC Cadet

Angelo Moreira, the son of Gregory and Blossom Moreira, is currently studying for his HSC with Commerce and Accountancy as main subjects, having passed his SSLC exam in April



2023. A student of Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy, he is an active cadet in the NCC and also takes part in drawing competitions.

Steve Rouse – a Talented Lad



Steve Rouse, the son of Andrew and Annie Rouse, is currently doing his HSC in Computer Science and Maths, having passed his SSLC exam in April 2023 from Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy. His hobbies

include drawing, painting and calligraphy, and he has participated in the same in inter-school competitions.

Brad Vassou – a Bright and Talented Student



Brad Vassou, the son of Shannon and Beverley Vassou, a student of Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy, successfully completed his SSLC with a score of 71.2 percent. An ardent lover of hockey, he

has played the game at the level of inter-school championships.

Dwayne Jeremiah – an All-Round Talent

Dwayne Jeremiah, the son of Dalton and Juliana Jeremiah, completed his HSC from Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy, with a score of 81.8 percent and is following it up with a UG course in BCom at the GRD College of Arts and Science,

Coimbatore. Dwayne has excelled in athletics, winning laurels in sprints, long distance running and long jump events at district level school games. Also, an avid hockey player, he has represented his school at inter-school level.

Marcel Pereira – a Talented Sportsman



Marcel Pereira, the son of Christopher and Helen Pereira, a student of Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy, passed his HSC with a score of 432/600 and is currently doing his BCom in St Joseph's

College (Autonomous), Trichy. An all-round sportsman, he is proficient in athletics, swimming, football and hockey. He has also played cricket at the district-level.

Ricardo Sherwood – a Hardworking Young Man

Ricardo Sherwood, the son of Ashley and Althea Sherwood, has passed his HSC from Campion Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Trichy, scoring 75.5 percent marks. He is currently pursuing a UG course in Commerce from St Joseph's College (Autonomous),



Trichy. An active sportsman, he has represented his school in hockey at the inter-school level.

RANCHI BRANCH, JHARKHAND

Ranchi's Promising Youngsters

Yoana David – Excelling in and outside the Classroom

Yoana David is an exceptional individual and a student at Bishop Westcott Boys' School in Namkum, Ranchi. Yoana is the daughter of Tyrone and Leena David. She has demonstrated remarkable dedication and commitment, particularly in academics and excelled in the ICSE



Examination, where she specialized in the Science stream. Notably, Yoana excelled in English, securing an impressive 91percent in the subject. Her passion for the English language is evident as she plans to pursue a degree in English (Hons.) at the esteemed St. Xavier College in Ranchi.

Yoana's wide range of interests includes

dancing, singing, sketching, and declamation. Her talents have been recognized with a second prize in the zonal ISC Inter School Declamation (Senior Category).

As Yoana embarks on her journey towards a promising future, the Branch extends its best wishes. Her achievements are a source of immense pride, and we look forward to witnessing her continued success.

Yolanda Joseph and Aaron Joseph – Doing Their Parents Proud

The Branch congratulates **Yolanda Joseph**, the daughter of Harold and Leane Joseph, a student at Bishop Westcott Boys' School,



Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand, who secured 89 percent in the ICSE Examination, with 97 marks in English Literature. She will continue her studies at Bishop Westcott Boys' School, Namkum, Ranchi, pursuing

the Commerce stream. Yolanda is highly persevering, exceptionally creative in sketching and painting, and enjoys hobbies like listening to music and reading. We wish her all the best for the future.

We also congratulate **Aaron Joseph**, Yolanda's brother, and a student of the same school, for achieving an 80 percent score in



the Class VI final Examination. Aaron is passionate about games such as football, basketball, and badminton. The Branch extends its congratulations to Aaron for securing the 3rd position in the ICSE zonal inter-school under-19

Badminton tournament at Khel Gaon stadium in Ranchi. He also has a passion for music and dancing. We wish him all the best for the future.

Carissa Moses – an All-Rounder All the Way

Carissa, the daughter of Stanley and Sunita Moses, and a student at Bishop Westcott Girls' School, Doranda, Ranchi, has achieved commendable success in the ICSE Examination for the year 2023. Carissa is known for her dedication and



hard work, both within and outside the classroom. She has actively engaged herself in various school activities. On the occasion of the school's Founder's Day, she served as the cross bearer and led the school in sports, earning

several certificates and medals for her outstanding performances.

Apart from her academic pursuits, Carissa has a range of hobbies, including singing, badminton, and photography. She has also received awards and medals for her participation in skits at the Vocational Bible School. As Carissa embarks on her academic journey in the Commerce stream of Class 11 at Bishop Westcott Boys' School, Namkum, Ranchi, the Branch, along with her parents and grandmother, extend their wholehearted support to encourage her continued efforts. We wish Carissa all the very best for the future.

Lisa Jacob – a Multi-Faceted Young Lady

Lisa Jacob, the daughter of Abel and Abha Jacob, has successfully completed



her class XI final examinations in 2023 from the Commerce Stream at Bishop Westcott Boys' School in Namkum, Ranchi, achieving a commendable score. Lisa possesses a range of hobbies including singing, dancing, and playing badminton. Additionally, she harbours a deep passion for painting and sketching. The Branch, alongside her parents, extends their heartfelt best wishes to Lisa as she embarks on her academic and co-curricular journey.

EARLY PROMISE

Saisha Isaac – Her Focus is on Academics, Acting and Reading



Saisha Isaac, the daughter of Captain Charles and Dr Namrta Isaac, is a student at Loreto College in Lucknow. She excelled in her Class V final examinations with an impressive score

of 95.8 percent. Additionally, she took on the lead role of Willy Wonka in the school play *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Saisha has a passion for singing and is actively learning to play the lead guitar. She enjoys playing basketball and badminton. God bless her enthusiasm and talent!

KORBA BRANCH, CHHATISGARH

Veronica Gallyer Wins Gospel Singing Contest



Veronica Gallyer, daughter of Gradin and Roselind Gallyer, won the first prize at the Parish level Solo Singing contest, which was organised by the Catholic Church of Korba. Veronica, aged 10, sang a

beautiful Gospel song, "Bless the Lord O my soul...". She was honoured by Rev Father Ajay Kujur. Her parents would like to thank the Almighty, the elders in the community, and all their well-wishers for their prayers and blessings on their daughter.

The President-in-Chief's Visit to the Bangalore Branch's Community Hall Project Site



It was a crisp Bangalore morning in January when I had the privilege of visiting the Bangalore Branch's Community Hall project site. Unfortunately, the person who has made it all possible, was overseas – Vinisha Nero, former, two-term MLA and Governing Body Member, and currently the President of the Bangalore Branch. But several members of Vinisha's wonderful team were present, with coffee, brownies, sandwiches... and lots of love and warmth! Thank you, Deidre Flory, Beverly Bastian, Keith Davids, Elston Bell, and Brendan Bastian. I also thank my colleague on the Governing Body Clive VanBuerle for joining us.

It's an impressive 16,350 sq ft plot that will, I am sure, host many exciting sporting events and community get-togethers in the years ahead. For the moment, let us remember in our prayers those who made it possible, Mrs Vinisha Nero and the Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah; members of the Bangalore Branch Committee; the Late Mr Eddie Jones and Dr

Lawrence Jenkins for their support; and the professionals and labourers who are toiling through the day to complete the project.

Barry O'Brien

THE PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF'S ANGLO-INDIAN DAY MESSAGE

My dear friends, Anglo-Indians across the country and Anglo-Indians living right across the diaspora, as well as our friends and well-wishers, on behalf of the Governing Body of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association and our members spread across 63 branches in the country, I extend our greetings and good wishes to each one of you on Anglo-Indian Day, today, the 2nd of August.

Today, I will divide my message into two parts - a tribute followed by a prayer. I'll begin with a tribute. Friends, India owes a debt of gratitude to the Anglo-Indian woman, and I would like to dedicate my message today to the Anglo-Indian woman.

While most women of other communities stayed home more than a hundred years ago, the Anglo-Indian woman stepped out of hers with a handbag full of courage and a demeanour full of confidence to earn an honest living. No patient was untouchable, no sports outfit unwearable, no aeroplane too dangerous, no personal remark too hurtful, to send her scuttling home in fear or embarrassment. She pioneered the movement for the emancipation of women in India, not via activism and protests, but by sheer determination to go out and work. That, and the courage of her conviction! She was the lady with the lamp who showed the way to the other women of India. And unlike most others, she had the support of her family, not their permission - she didn't need that! Hardworking and efficient, she fought the big fight against vicious, ugly stereotyping and changed people's perspectives of the working woman, and their closed mindsets. She laid the foundation for women, particularly in urban India, to step out, stand up and be counted. And incredibly, this didn't distract her from her role at home as a wife or a mother or a sister, an aunt, or a daughter, often taking care of her entire family.

But, you may ask, haven't women belonging to all communities made significant contributions? Of course they have, and that's exactly the point I'm making. They have, especially over the last four or five decades in independent India, in spite of the challenges they have faced and continue to face in this highly patriarchal society that we live in, in our country. But friends, it was the Anglo-Indian woman who showed the way, a little more than a hundred years ago. Picture this: thousands of women leaving their homes, wearing what was then considered strictly male attire - uniform; and being part of a war effort, or being the only woman at a meeting in a smoke-filled boardroom of men, or nursing a wounded soldier, which meant cleaning him or seeing him helpless, even naked, or tending to a critical patient, not knowing whether he belonged to what others may have thought of as a touchable or untouchable caste or a religious community that had slaughtered members of your family in a bloody riot sometime, somewhere. Circumstance, religion, mindset and social taboo did not permit women of most communities to step out, get a job or pursue a career, even if they wanted to.

But into such a scenario walked the Anglo-Indian woman, boldly and confidently, grabbing the opportunities that circumstance, a positive mindset and the lack of social taboo had provided. With Independence came the uncertainty of whether she could continue to wear a dress to work and work alongside her male colleagues. The answer came quick, very quickly and without a fuss - of course she could! That is, if she could continue to handle or ignore what many people thought or said about her.

Well, she did! Anglo-Indian women, without a doubt, have clearly been the pioneers and torchbearers of the changing fabric of women's empowerment in both pre-independent as well as modern India. And, as a nation, we need to acknowledge that. Today, almost every young girl in urban India aspires to go out and work, many of them with the support and encouragement of their husbands and in-laws, their heads held high, dignity intact. Though they are still fighting the odds in this male-dominated nation, young women in India are taking giant steps in proving their worth and living their dreams. But it all began with the Anglo-Indian woman, and we salute her.

Now for the prayer I referred to at the beginning of my message. The reality, friends, sadly, is that so many women, even in the India of today, continue to live in villages and cities in a constant state of compromise, insecurity, some even cowering in fear, their rights often obliterated, the wrongs against them often not corrected, highlighted, or even thought of as important enough to be talked about. Come, friends, let us pray, hope and work towards an India where women are safe and secure, not oppressed and overpowered, be it in our homes, workplaces, farms, fields and on our streets, where they can live with their dignity intact.

It is high time we stop doing mere lip service to our great country as our mother, *Bharat Mata*. It is high time we put it into practice, starting with politicians and professionals, leaders, followers, the media, the administration, those influencing and those being influenced - at home, in the workplace, on the streets, you, me, every you and every me. We proudly proclaim that ours is the largest democracy in the world, perhaps the fastest growing economy too. Indeed it fills our hearts with pride and joy, but it is only when we can truly respect mothers, sisters, daughters and wives, our own, and those who belong to other communities, tribes and regions, then and only then will it be the India we want, the India we love, the India the fathers of our constitution set it out to be.

The time to introspect is now. The time to act is now. The time to speak is now. Not a day later, now.

Jai Hind. God Bless! Take care. Happy Anglo-Indian Day!

2 August 2023

An Email to the President-in-Chief

Dear Barry

I can't commend and congratulate you enough on your outstanding speech on our women and their role in India's history. Please also send my love and congratulations to Derek, the hero of the hour, the seemingly lone voice in the wilderness in India. You two brothers should be *(While thanking her for her generous praise, with due respect to Dr Moore, I have taken the liberty of deleting the next seven words. - the Editor, The Review)*

I said to Andy that my friends and I admire Derek's courage. With my closest Anglo-Indian women friends, my spiritual sisters, including our Australian friends, we are keeping Derek in our prayers for his safety.

Love and best wishes

Dr Gloria Jean Moore, Melbourne, Australia

(Dr Gloria Jean Moore is an Anglo-Indian research scholar and author. Her book, The Anglo-Indian Vision, was published in 1986. Besides being the first book on the Community written by a woman, it was also the first work based largely on oral history. A skilled raconteur, Moore, in this highly readable work, retells the captivating stories of hundreds of gifted raconteurs from a community bursting at the seams with them.)

THE PRESIDENT-IN-CHIEF'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Many years ago, I wrote a short story titled, *My Dream Christmas*. It's about 'the dream Christmas' of a boy, probably in his early teens. I recently adapted it just a little. It goes like this.

"My dream Christmas. Blimey! What's happening? Why is the tree blue? And why is Santa wearing green? And why is Jim Reeves singing 'Red Christmas'? What's wrong with this world? I was confused and scared. Why wasn't Christmas like it used to be? Beautifully decorated green Christmas trees, Santa's patented red suit and Jim Reeves's traditional 'White Christmas' ringing out."

"Nothing seemed right with this Christmas. The grumpy man behind the counter at the confectionery smiled as he slipped a small Christmas cake to the undernourished boy playing carols on his mouth organ - and what's more, he didn't even charge the little fellow for it! The lady next door had a kind word for Meera, the young girl who takes out the garbage - and what's more, she gave her two old dresses! My aunt visited my cousin's home for the first time in three years, and wonder of wonders, she hugged her daughter-in-law for the first time! My friend Vicky did not backchat his parents. He gave his father a sentimental card which just said: *Thanks for all that you've done for me dad. And to his mother he gave a single rose, that said it all.*"

"The news headlines screened that Palestine was now recognised as an independent nation by the government of Israel. And what's more, Prime Minister Netanyahu had confirmed that he would attend the ceremony to mark this historic occasion. The Taliban had announced that girls would be encouraged to go to school and college in Afghanistan. And what's more, their fees would be waived! In India, the powers that be framed policy to ensure that there would be no interference in people's private lives - who they marry, the religion they choose, what they wear, what they eat, and what's more, all political parties came together to make a joint statement on this."

"And, miracle of miracles, my brother and I were not fighting over the same pair of Nikes. In fact, we were willing to give the old pair, which was a size too small for us anyway, to Ganesh, Dad's office peon's son, as a Christmas gift. But just as we were getting into the car to find Ganesh's home, my mother called out to me, 'Wake up, son, it's Christmas! There's so much to be done - it's very late!'"

"I woke up with a start - oh, thank goodness! Our tree was still green; Santa on the mantelpiece still wore his red suit and Jim Reeves was still singing 'White Christmas'. What a relief! All was right with this Christmas. The grumpy man at the counter, in a bad mood as usual, grumbled at the mouth organ player for coming into the confectionery when there was such a crowd. The lady next door yelled, as usual, at Meera for dropping bits of rubbish in the corridor. My aunt, as usual, tactfully avoided going to my cousin's house and meeting her daughter-in-law. Vicky phoned me to criticise his narrow-minded parents for not understanding him. The Gaza Strip was still burning, and innocent people were still dying. Girls in Afghanistan still had a mountain to climb. And many in my country were still wondering, some even afraid, whether they would really be allowed to make their own choices."

"Halfway through that Christmas Day, I paused to think. Wouldn't it be great if all was not right? The Christmas of my dream - a blue tree, Santa in green, a Red Christmas, and love all around? A permanent solution between Israel and Palestine, girls being educated in Afghanistan, people in our country being allowed to do exactly what they want to, and make their own choices, as long as it did not interfere with others."

"But why *couldn't* it happen? So, I told my brother that we could do our bit. He could wear the Nikes, unless of course he thought it was a better idea to give it to Ganesh. My brother was shocked and touched. We went to my dad and requested him to drive us to Ganesh's home. Dad smiled as only he could and agreed spontaneously. Mum gift-wrapped the old Nikes and wiped a tear. She looked on with pride as we got into the car. All was right with this Christmas. My dream Christmas was happening. We were making it happen!"

Yes, dear members, across our 63 Branches, and friends of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, let's make *our dream Christmas* happen. We keep talking about, 'I'm not feeling Christmassy' or 'I'm feeling very Christmassy'. Well, I think more than *feeling* Christmassy, it may be a good idea to *do* something Christmassy, in modern parlance that would be, '*let's do Christmas*', not just *feel* Christmas. And the best way to *do* Christmas is not worry too much about the colours, not worry too much about the decorations and the festivities. Of course, they're important, and congratulations to all our branches and members who are spreading the spirit of Christmas that way. And even more credit to those branches and those people who are *doing* Christmas by reaching out in a special way to the less fortunate. Many of our Branches are doing it, some in groups, some individually - some of you do a lot, personally, and the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

Well, from Denise and myself and our home, and on behalf of the Governing Body of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, we wish each one of you and your families a very meaningful, merry and blessed Christmas. Let Jesus be at the centre of our Christmas, because Christmas without Christ is no Christmas. Have a wonderful year ahead, continue the work you are doing and don't worry too much about other people who tend to not feel Christmassy through the year except during Christmas. Pray for them and remember, it's more important to *do* Christmas. So, this year, come, let's *do* Christmas. Take care.

December 2023



AGRA BRANCH, UTTAR PRADESH

The small but strong and loving community of Agra came together



to celebrate **Anglo-Indian Day**. A big 'thank you' to all the Agra Anglo-Indians for taking the time out and contributing in making it a memorable day, full of camaraderie and fun.

Sent in by the Branch

AYANAVARAM BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

The city Branches of Chennai enjoyed a **day out** at the 309-year-old St George's Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School campus, where Youth Games Day was organised by the Branch. Dr Oscar Nigli, former MLA, National Vice President and Governing Body Member, Tamil Nadu, graced the occasion. This was a Pallavaram Branch initiative led by Mr Justin D'Silva and Committee Members, in collaboration with Mr Marlon Brewart, President, Vepery Branch. Mr Locklyn Jeffries, President, St Thomas Mount Branch, and MC Mr Randy Wilkins, President, Ayanavaram Branch, were also present.

Sent in by Kandy Wilkins

BANGALORE CITY BRANCH, KARNATAKA

The Branch under the leadership of President Mr Ryan Taylor has been highly active, setting new standards with a dedicated Committee overseeing various aspects. The Committee includes Vice Presidents for Education & Scholarships, Entertainment, and Finance, along with Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Treasurer, and Committee Members. The MIC of Donations &



Welfare achieved a notable milestone by securing contributions exceeding Rs 1.5 lakhs, enabling the Branch to extend welfare programs aligned with the President's vision, without using Branch funds.

The President's commitment to community support was evident through events held at the Bangalore Friend in Need Society (FINS), benefiting both the Branch and FINS' residents. Notable events included the **grand Christmas Tree & Ball** and the **Boogie & Bingo**, providing cost-free experiences for children and high tea for FINS' residents and staff.

The Christmas Tree and Treat took place on the grounds of the Friends in Need Society on 18 December, featuring games, entertainment, and a balloon race that amused the audience. Santa arrived late but brought joy to the children. Goodie boxes were distributed to children and residents, sponsored by Ma Baker, and a cake was sponsored by Mrs Maria McPherson and her husband, David. Dancing and music filled the event, which ended with a tasty dinner at 11 p.m. Special thanks were given to those who contributed to the event's success, including Mr Wayne Taylor for securing the venue, our Vice Presidents for serving as Masters of Ceremony, Mr Edward Fairman and family for decorations, and the DJ, Sean. Generous contributions from members, friends, and well-wishers, particularly Mr Craig Mario Francis securing sponsorship, made the event possible.

Additionally, the Branch organized initiatives like the "**President Ration Drive**," "**Back to School Drive**," and support on "**World Senior Citizens Day**," demonstrating a commitment to community welfare. Presently, the Committee is focused on extending outreach to young achievers in sports and education within the community. The Branch aims to continue supporting its members and the less fortunate as a way of giving back to the community.

Sent in by the Branch

BANGALORE BRANCH, KARNATAKA

The Republic Day Football and Throwball Festival organised by the Branch took place at St John's School Grounds on 28 January 2023. The event commenced with an assembly, including the singing of the National Anthem and a prayer by Secretary Mr Elston Bell, followed by an address from Branch President Mrs Vinisha Nero. The festival featured food stalls and a recruitment drive by our main sponsor, 'Le Roma Gardenia'. Football matches for Seniors and Juniors and a Ladies Throwball Match occurred simultaneously. Winners included "Titan Blue" in Throwball, "Mighty 7s" and "Thunder Down Under" in Football Juniors and Seniors respectively. Cash prizes, trophies, and certificates were awarded to winners and individual players. The festival concluded with thanks to sponsors and well-wishers including Le Roma Gardenia, Peregrine Sporting Concepts, and others.

Later in the year, the Branch President and nominated MLA Mrs Vinisha Nero, in the presence of Governing Body Member Dr Lawrence Jenkins, Mrs Maureen Jenkins, and the Committee, formally laid the **foundation stone of the community's much-awaited Community Centre at Yerapannahalli, Kannur Post**. This event marks a significant stage of the process, taking the Branch a big step closer to realizing its vision of having a permanent and dedicated venue for Anglo-Indian community activities. The Branch requests for prayers for the timely completion of the project and looks forward to engaging with its members in more meaningful ways once the new Community Centre is fully set up.

To commemorate **Anglo-Indian Day**, the Branch Committee laid



the foundation stone for a modern play arena at its upcoming Community Center. Led by the Branch President, Mrs Vinisha Nero, the Committee handed over the grounds for the multi-sports court project to Mr Murali of Ilarium Sports. The project is now underway. To symbolize their commitment to sports, the Committee Members signed a football and hockey stick, which would be displayed at the Center's inaugural event and later signed by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, highlighting the State Government's support for minority welfare.

Earlier, Mrs Nero and delegates met the CM to extend greetings for Anglo-Indian Day and his birthday on 3 August, and to thank him for his support. Additionally, Rs 6 Lakhs in donations was received from the CSI Karnataka Central Diocese and an anonymous donor. The donations were handed over to the VP Finance Mr Keith Davids for the Community Center's development.

On 26 August, the 107th Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held at Tunbridge High School. It was a vibrant and well-attended event. The members actively participated in the business proceedings, characterized by lively discussions and Anglo-Indian wit. The meeting also witnessed the announcement of new initiatives and community updates, particularly highlighting the remarkable progress made in developing the new Community Centre under the leadership of Branch President Mrs Vinisha Nero. Prof Dr Lawrence Jenkins, the Governing Body Member for Karnataka, served as the Returning Officer and declared the existing Branch Committee re-elected for a second term, with minor changes. A few members chose to step down, and new members, including Rev Shane Grove, Mr Elston Shalom Bell, and Ms Donna Cotter, joined the Committee.

During the AGM, the Branch honoured outstanding members for their contributions and achievements:

1. Mrs Beryl Rebeiro received The Pride of The Bangalore Branch Award for her six-decade-long dedication and support to the community.



2. Ms Deirdre Flory was recognized with the President's Award for Best Committee Member for her exceptional service and commitment.

3. Dennis Victor Cotter and Bradley CJ Fegrado received the Outstanding Achiever Awards for their excellence in athletics and academics/sports respectively.

4. Katelyn Clements and Rhea D'Cruz were awarded the Outstanding Performer Awards for their academic achievements.

5. Clint Meakin received the Youth Leadership Award for his leadership and sportsmanship in cricket.

6. Glen Bell was honoured with the Dedicated Sportsman Award for his commitment to cricket.

7. The Dedicated Team Player Awards were presented to several Anglo Youth Cricket Club players for their dedication and performance.

8. The Ashe Scholarship Winners for 2023 and winners of the Essay Writing Contest were also recognized during the event.

The AGM concluded with a Vote of Thanks and a closing prayer led by Rev Shane Grove, followed by a delightful lunch and entertainment activities, including Housie and an Anglo-Indian jam session, leaving attendees satisfied and optimistic for the year ahead.

Sent in by Fabian Stanley

BHOPAL BRANCH, MADHYA PRADESH

The Anglo-Indian Day celebration in Itarsi on 6 August 2023 was a joyous and inclusive event. Mr Leslie Lobo, the Branch President, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, introducing new members from Khandwa. The programme commenced with a recorded message from the President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien, which resonated well with the audience, particularly the historical significance and contributions of Anglo-Indian women in India.



A specially crafted cake for the occasion was blessed by Reverend Father Williams, followed by a delightful cake-cutting ceremony involving children and senior members. Mr Denzil Eims orchestrated a lively game of tombola, enjoyed by both young and old alike. Father Williams then commended the event, emphasizing the importance of social gatherings in fostering unity and awareness within the community. He extended a warm invitation for future functions to be hosted in the church Parish Hall.

As part of the event, school bags were distributed to 11 school-going children under the "Education for All" scheme, sponsored by an

NGO led by the Lobo Family. The atmosphere was further enlivened with music and dancing.

Mrs Genieve Pereira, the Secretary, delivered a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the efforts of individuals, such as Mrs Bernadette Ingil, Miss Leonita Paul, Mrs Maria D'Rose, and Mr Darryl Birdsturgeon in organizing the event. She also expressed gratitude to all members whose participation contributed to the success of the function. The celebration concluded with a sumptuous lunch for all attendees, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community spirit.

Sent in by the Branch

KHURDA ROAD – BHUBANESWAR BRANCH, ODISHA

On 23 December 2023, the Branch, held its **Children's Christmas Tree** at the Parochial Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Khurda Road. The Christmas Tree function started with the children playing games, such as Chocolate Wheel and Treasure Hunt. They were then given party plates filled with goodies, after which they were taken for a long ride with Santa. On their return, Santa gave each one their Christmas gift. The evening concluded with a draw for the Christmas Hamper which was won by Mr Wayne Leake.

Sent in by the Branch

CALCUTTA BRANCH, WEST BENGAL

Here is a summary of the Branch's projects and events held in 2023.

Branch Scholarship Interviews (2 April 2023): Our Committee Members and several senior educationists of our Branch met approximately 150 children and their parents or guardians at this annual exercise. The students' report cards were assessed. Children were guided on academic matters. Some were encouraged to work harder, while others were praised for achieving good results. Many senior students were guided on their subject combinations. A few students were briefly guided on possible career options, based on their ability, skills and education. This scholarship-interview exercise helps the Committee to realize the ground realities of our children's education. It helps us to course-correct and offer guidance or financial assistance. On the whole, it gives us a clear picture and helps our now 20+ year Education Project to stay on track and to be strengthened from year to year.

Summer Camp (27 & 28 May 2023) - The Youth Committee organized a two-day camp for 81 campers aged 15 years and above. Over the two days, participants competed in several indoor and outdoor games and activities - basketball, football, quiz, debate, talent contest, fashion show, photo hunt, etc. It was a lot of fun in a competitive, yet friendly, environment. The Youth Committee has decided to make this an annual affair after the success of the camp.

All-Stars Basketball & Table Tennis Tournaments (10 & 11 June 2023): The Youth Committee, mentored by the Branch Committee, organized this two-day sporting event of a 5-a-side mixed basketball tournament and a table tennis tournament. The matches created plenty of excitement among not just the participants but the spectators too. Lunch was served to all the participants. The games ended on a high note with everyone agreeing that it was two days well spent. Trophies and medals were presented to the winners.

Inter-School Musical of Musicals (22 July 2023): Organised by the Youth Committee, under the guidance of the Branch Committee, the event saw performances from popular Broadway and West End musicals like *Frozen*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mary Poppins*, *Annie*, and *Mamma Mia*. The judges agreed that the performances were top-class, and it was tough to judge. Parents were invited to see the programme. The contest was won by The Frank Anthony



Public School, with St Augustine's Day School as first runners-up and Loreto Convent, Entally, as second runners-up. The students thoroughly enjoyed the event. Another successful one organized by our super-active Youth Committee.

Anglo-Indian Day celebration (6 August 2023): We celebrated Anglo-Indian Day with great enthusiasm. The guests included community stalwarts, including our very own President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien; Mr Leslie Pereira; Mr Ian Myers; Mr Colin Fitzgerald, the President of CAISS, who was accompanied by several of his committee members; and Principals of reputed schools. The day began with a prayer service presided over by Rev Phillip Gupta. The service was accompanied by beautiful songs of praise sung by the choir, under our choir mistress Ingrid Rozario. Following the prayer service, our President-in-Chief addressed the gathering.

The Calcutta Branch **honoured and felicitated Mr Leslie Pereira**, a highly respected Anglo-Indian social worker who has worked tirelessly over the last five decades for the community. The Branch also **honoured and felicitated Mr Ian Myers**, for his support, guidance and service to the community, especially the youth. The President thanked the members of CAISS for joining us in this celebration and making it more meaningful for us.

The entertainment began with a lovely dance performance by the youth. Jayden Lazarus, a youth member and the winner of the national Junior Voice of the Year a few years ago, sang beautifully. The stage was then handed over to one of the city's most popular singers, Christopher Lobo, a marvellous singer and very close friend of the Association, who got the members to dance their feet off with his renditions of old retro numbers. The members showed off their skills at jiving, twisting and even 'the line dance'. After lunch, we had a family evening where members and their guests mingled with each other.

Teacher's Talent Contest (12 August 2023): Guided by the Branch Committee, our youth organised this first-of-its-kind event. Teachers from various schools participated in fun-filled and stimulating events including football, quiz, singing and dancing, showcasing their hidden talents. Bringing out the inner child in them, they participated with great enthusiasm.

Branch AGM (20 August 2023): Our Annual General Meeting for the year 2023-24 was held on 20 August 2023 at The Frank Anthony Public School hall. It was attended by about 150 members. The following members were elected unanimously: President: Mrs Denise O'Brien; Vice Presidents: Mr Lawrence Hartnett, Ms Sharon Singh, Ms Carolyn DuPratt; Committee Members: Mr Rodney Mendes (Secretary), Ms Andrea O'Brien, Mr Dennis Rozario, Ms Sandra Lobo, Mr James Williams, Ms Judy Cesar, Mr Clayton D'Rozario.

Prize Day (20 August 2023): Our students were honoured at the Prize Day celebration immediately after the AGM. No achievement, however small, went unnoticed.

Youth AGM (27 August 2023): At the Youth AGM elections, the following office bearers were elected for 2023-2024: Donnawyn Savyell - President, Vivian Pote - Vice-President, Sherwin Burke - Hon Secretary.

Family Evenings: On second Saturday of every month the Branch organizes a Family Evening. Each of them was well-attended.

Inter-Parish 5-a-side Football Tournament (14 & 15 October 2023): Sixteen teams from different parishes of Kolkata, and as far as Bandel, participated in the hard-fought tournament, organized by the Youth Committee of the Branch. The tournament drew a large audience. The coveted prizes were Most Valuable Player, Highest Goal scorer, Best Goalkeeper, AND Best Dressed team. The winners were Bandel Basilica. It was a weekend of fun, laughter and friendship. Thanks to The Sonika Chauhan Foundation for its support. Our thanks to our referees and match officials too. Well done, Youth!

Black and White Dance (4 November 2023): Held at the Dalhousie Institute, the Black and White Dance has been on our calendar for quite a few years. This year too we saw people of all ages on the dance floor. Prizes for the Oldest and Youngest Persons on the dance floor, Spot Dace and many more were presented. The hall was filled thanks to the pulsating music provided by Generations Apart and a special appearance by the super Shayne Hyrapiet. A truly special evening of fellowship and 'giving back', since the proceeds went towards the Education Fund of the Branch.

Jingle Bell Rockout - Inter-school Carol Singing Competition (2 December 2023): Another superbly organized Youth Committee event! Twelve schools participated in a joyous morning of song in solo and group performances, to ring in the Christmas celebrations of the Branch. The competition was judged by a panel of well-known professionals - Christopher Lobo, Savio Bor and Mrinal Dhote. The competition was fierce, and the judges were in agreement that every school put on an amazing show. St Augustine's School, Shyamnagar, bagged the winner's trophy in the Group Singing and St James' School bagged the first place in the Solo Category. Christopher Lobo delighted the crowd with his rendition of "We are the World" drawing the audience into a feeling of unity.

Anglo-Indian Food Carnival & Christmas 'Family Evening' (3 December 2023): The annual event, which the city looks forward to, was a sellout, as usual. The home-cooked meals at Food Carnival gave us a chance to reconnect, a time to share the love for food and strengthen the bond within the community. The menu included beef vindaloo, pork balichow, yellow rice and ball-curry, jhaal-frezi, pantras, potato chops and many more items. Our Family Evening was well attended. Everyone was served a slice of Christmas cake. Plenty of gift hampers and prizes were won. The evening set the tone for the Christmas season ahead.

Children's Christmas Tree (9 December 2023): This event was held at The Frank Anthony Public School ground. Outdoor party games were organised for children of the different age-groups. Candy floss and popcorn was distributed to the children and all the children proudly showed off their tattoos painted by the artists who were present. Santa Claus had a Christmas gift and delicious snacks for each child. Goody bags, which were meticulously prepared by the Committee, were a treat for the senses. It was an experience like no other. Our special thanks to Keventer's for their support!

Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea Party (17 December 2023): This is a very touching, heart-warming and the most awaited event of the year. Our elderly members, Branch pensioners and friends from the various Old Age Homes eagerly await this day. The ladies in their best dresses and the gents in their suits look so good. We had 154 young-at-heart people partying. Christopher Lobo, one of our Branch's very dedicated, talented and committed friends, is always

ready to entertain our aunties and uncles. The afternoon began with two rounds of 'Bingo for prizes', after a refreshing cup of tea and snacks. Then came the dance numbers, and the senior members rocked the floor. Excitement filled the air as they sang, danced and walked the ramp contesting for the prestigious titles of Mr & Ms Universe. It was great fun to see how sporting as well as competitive they were. Christopher Williams was declared Mr Universe and Ms Universe was Annette Brooks. Our very own Santa Claus, Kumar Mitra, made his entry at the end and presented each one with a little envelope and goodie bags.

Sent in by the Branch

COCHIN BRANCH, KERALA

The Branch commenced **Anglo-Indian Day 2023** celebrations with a Eucharistic Celebration at the Santa Cruz Cathedral Basilica, followed by a special prayer for peace and solidarity with the people of Manipur. The gathering, holding candles, observed a moment of



silence. The prayer concluded with the hymn, *Bind Us Together*. May justice reign supreme, and may God bless the world with peace. Let every individual uphold this vision of peace so that common efforts for building an environment of harmony and understanding can have a greater impact.

On 9 November 2023, a memorable event took place at the late Mr I S D'Costa's home, marking the **launch of the Christmas Hamper Lucky Draw** sales by the Branch. Mr Llewellyn de Rozario, the Governing Body Member for Kerala, had the privilege of buying the first two lucky draw numbers from President Mrs Coral Godinho's list. This auspicious beginning heralded the start of the festive season, as the Branch aimed to foster joy, goodwill, and unity among the Anglo-Indian community throughout the Christmas period. **The Silver Bells Christmas Party** is a heartfelt tribute to senior citizens over 80, celebrating their significant achievements. Mrs Coral Godinho, the Branch President, initiated the event with a prayer and warmly acknowledged the seniors' profound impact on future generations. The event officially commenced with a cake and wine ceremony, setting a festive and joyous mood. Entertainment included a lively tombola game and the fun "Silver Bells Ting a Ling" game, infusing the celebration with energy and laughter.

Guests enjoyed a light yet satisfying dinner, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. The evening was enriched by the seniors recounting their nostalgic stories, adding a personal touch to the gathering. The celebration concluded with a moving candlelit performance of Christmas Carols, enveloping everyone in a peaceful and festive spirit that perfectly captured the essence of the season.

Sent in by the Branch

COIMBATORE BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

Teachers' Day was joyously celebrated by the Branch on 6 September 2023, at the Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore. Sponsored by Mrs Patricia Tanner, the event featured high tea, snacks, and



dinner for teachers. The evening began with a prayer by Mr Clinton Rozario and included a tribute by Ms Natasha Rozario, as well as a special handmade gift from Mrs Audrey King. Mrs Sharonne Reno was honoured for receiving the Best Teacher Award from the Government. The celebration included engaging games and Bingo, making it a memorable and fun-filled evening. The event was a heartfelt gesture of appreciation for the dedication of our teachers.

The community enjoyed a delightful evening at Stanes Higher Secondary School on 14 October 2023. The event began with a prayer by Mrs Patricia Tanner, President of the Branch. Children were entertained with musical chairs, where Kristle Joseph and Sarah emerged as winners. The Bingo sessions captivated both young and old, as the 'prizes' were attractive. The Family Elimination game saw enthusiastic participation, with Nelson Cardoz and family taking the winner's prize. DJ Angelo Mendez provided great foot-tapping music, and the Jerusalem dance was a hit. Overall, it was a fun-filled and wonderful time spent with family and friends.

Sports ignite the inner spirit to perform, compete, and transcend physical appearances, striving for a well-deserved place on the podium. Equally important are team spirit, camaraderie, and forging new relationships. This was beautifully demonstrated at the **Anglo-Indian Premier League (AIPL)** held in Coimbatore on 26 November 2023, at Stanes Higher Secondary School grounds. Eight teams from various Tamil Nadu districts participated. In the finals, Podanur Sports Club faced off against Erode Vipers, showcasing near-professional skills to lift the rolling trophy. Additionally, they secured two more trophies: Best Batsman and Player of the Tournament, both awarded to Mr Ashley Edmonds. Mr Ferlin Marcar from Erode Vipers won the Best Bowler trophy. The event was made more entertaining by the lively commentary of Mr Willow Fernandez and Mr Ralph Simmons, with Mr Anthony Dias as the scorer.

Mr Brett Tanner, the inventor of the AIPL and last year's Best Batsman award winner, successfully organized the event with his team of co-organizers. Congratulations to all the teams who participated, and sincere appreciation for the contributions of all our members to the tournament's success.

Christmas 2023 was a Christmas 'of giving back' for the Branch. The Branch decided to help those in need and the members contributed generously to Mother Theresa's Home for the Aged.

Sent in by the Branch

DANAPUR BRANCH, BIHAR

The 'Joy of Giving' programme was conducted on 2 October 2023 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The Branch along with Don Bosco Academy, Patna, distributed rations to the poor. They were joined by the Parish Priests of Patliputra and Kurji.

On the occasion of **Teachers' Day**, the Branch felicitated their Super Teachers on 6 September 2023.

Sent in by the Branch

DELHI BRANCH

After concluding a small but enjoyable **Diwali celebration** with Branch members on 29 October, the Branch took advantage of the screening of the National AGM and organised a **Children's Day** celebration with Halloween as the theme on the evening of 12 November 2022. It was a cosy event where participants enjoyed a few rounds of the hallmark Anglo-Indian game of Tombola followed by dancing to the beats of some old numbers courtesy Spotify. This was the third in-person event hosted by the Branch within as many months.

Sent in by the Branch

GEORGE TOWN BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

On **May Day**, the Branch engaged with its members by distributing provisions to 15 individuals who found them very helpful and were touched by this gesture.

The Branch celebrated **Anglo-Indian Day** with thirty members receiving provisions. Snacks were enjoyed while listening to lovely music.

On 14 November, in honour of **Children's Day** and Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday, the Branch organized a lively event for the community's children. The day began with an opening prayer by Mr Clarence Murray and a welcome speech from Branch President Mr Dennis Andrews. The children enjoyed a variety of activities, including a talent show, drawing and colouring, grain art, pencil shaving art, dot printing, a 50-meter race, lime and spoon race, blowing paper, shifting cups, sack race, and popping the ball. A fashion design showcase by elders added a creative touch. The parents appreciated the efforts of the organizing Committee: Fabian Joseph, Sharon Jacob, Timothy David, Dawn David, Clarence Murray, Brenda Murray, Charmaine David, Keith Doll, Dexter Anthony, Svetlana Brown, Nicaldo Jacob, and Carol Kirk. The event concluded with Mrs Brenda Murray thanking everyone for their participation and support. The evening showcased that each child is a unique flower, together creating a beautiful garden.

On 16 December 2023, the Branch celebrated its **Christmas programme**, creating a delightful evening for everyone. The event began with an opening prayer by Mr Clarence Murray, followed by a warm welcome from our President, Mr Dennis Andrews. The Chief Guest, Dr Oscar Nigli, who has always been a strong supporter, graced the occasion. The youth choir performed "C is for the Christ Child." Later, everyone enjoyed a game of Tombola. Santa Claus made a special appearance, handing out toys and gifts to all the children. The elders of the Branch were overjoyed to receive dress and shirt material. The Branch was pleased to welcome Food Hub Ltd, who generously sponsored the food, snacks, gifts, and toys. Additionally, some members received hampers donated by Mrs Caroline Kirk and friends. The event concluded with carols sung by our youth members.

Sent in by the Branch

HUBLI BRANCH, KARNATAKA

The Branch's **Easter celebration** on 9 April, 2023, at the Railway Institute North, Gadag Road, Hubli, featured a festive "Hawaii" theme. Community members, including children, youth, and seniors, participated in activities right through from 10 a.m. till 5.30 p.m., dressed in Hawaiian attire. Mr Neville D'Monte and his team from Bangalore, led the event, which included music, dancing,



games, Housie, and spontaneous prizes for fun categories like the biggest handbag and longest socks. Highlights included musical chairs for children, dance competitions for youth, and a memory test for seniors. Prizes were awarded, with winners including Mr Gavin Platel, Ms Neha, Mrs Philo Antonio, and Mr and Mrs Bobby Nelthrop. The Easter Eggs were sponsored by Mr Joel Noranho. The event featured a hearty lunch, continued dancing, and tea with snacks. It concluded with Mr Bruce Robert and Mrs Priscella Antonio expressing gratitude to the Committee Members and participants, celebrating the event's success and anticipating future gatherings.

The Branch kicked off the Christmas season with **carol singing** on 16 and 17 December 2023, organized by the Committee and Youth Members. The carol group visited Anglo-Indian families, sang carols, distributed plum cake, and shared Christmas program flyers.

On 23 December, the Youth of the Branch held the **Children's Tree and Treat event**, featuring outdoor sports, tea and snacks, and a visit from Santa, who danced with the children and gave out gifts.

The Christmas Dance on 26 December, at the Railway Institute (North) Hubli, was led by Mr David Noronho, with music by Music Fever from Goa.

The New Year's Dance on 1 January 2024, at the same venue, featured music by Elston and Saby from Goa. Both events were successful, with Branch President Mr Bruce Robert thanking attendees for their presence and support.

Sent in by the Branch

HYDERABAD-SECUNDERABAD BRANCH, TELENGANA

The Branch, together with the Youth Members, had a **Monsoon Get-together** on 17 June 2023. Everyone had a wonderful evening with games and dinner organised by the President and the Committee.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch on 26 August 2023 was a notable success, characterized by high engagement, accomplishments, and community spirit. Mr Warren La'Touche and his Committee were unanimously re-elected for the 2023-2024 term, reflecting members' trust in their leadership. Capt Barry Martin chaired the AGM, ensuring a smooth process. The Branch emphasized its community outreach by hosting dinner and providing gift vouchers to seniors, and celebrated academic



achievements among students, including that of Mr Adrian Peters who was applauded for securing a scholarship at Yale University. Ms Evelyn Jobard succeeded Adrian Peters as Youth President, signalling ongoing youthful leadership. The post-AGM dinner featured music, enhancing member interaction. A motivational message from our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien further unified attendees. The AGM underscored the Branch's commitment to growth, service, and unity, praising President La'Touche and his team for their dedication and looking forward to a year of continued progress under Mr Barry O'Brien's overarching guidance.

Sent in by the Branch

JABALPUR BRANCH, MADHYA PRADESH

The Branch gathered with friends and family on 31 December 2023 to **welcome the New Year**. The dance floor united generations, with each step reflecting love and celebration. Amidst laughter and



light banter, a strong bond of togetherness was felt, creating vibrant memories as the clock struck midnight, marking the beginning of a new journey together. It was truly a great start to the New Year!

Sent in by Shiney Anthony

JAMSHEDPUR BRANCH, JHARKHAND

The Annual General Meeting was held on 5 August 2023, at St Joseph's Welfare Centre Hall in Golmuri, coinciding with the celebration of Anglo-Indian Day. Mrs Belinda Sneyd was the MC, leading the event that began with a prayer and a welcome address. The Annual Report and Audited Financial Statement were unanimously passed by the members. The meeting highlighted the challenge of reaching all members due to geographical distances and called for volunteers to become Area Representatives. The following were elected to the Branch Committee for 2023-2024. The Committee comprises: Mr Nevada Dalby, President; Mr Eustace Sneyd, Vice President; and Mrs Evelyn Thomas, Vice President. Members included Mr Marvin Moss, Mrs Belinda Sneyd, Mr Conrad David, Mr Randhir Alberts, Mrs Patricia Bosen, Mrs Maryanne Ekka, Mrs Marlene Sinha, Mr Christopher Lear, Mr Elvis David

(a new member on the Committee), and Mr Hesketh Lear (a new member on the Committee).

The Chairman of the Meeting, Mr Glen Galstaun, MLA, and the President, Mr Nevada Dalby, delivered speeches emphasizing unity and addressing financial challenges. The session concluded with the distribution of scholarships and awards. Three children



were awarded the Leslie Alberts Memorial Award for their accomplishments in the ICSE and ISC Board Examinations for 2022-23: Shania Geraldine Sandys, Isabella Alice Howell Lewis, and Karoline David. Michelle Maria McGhee received the JAI Special Award. The formal ceremony was followed by the celebration of Anglo-Indian Day with cake cutting, games, and music organized by Godwin McGhee and Eustace Sneyd, and a dinner featuring pulao and chicken curry. Despite a modest turnout, the event was marked by a strong sense of community spirit and engagement.

On 31 December, the Utkal Association Hall in Jamshedpur was abuzz with preparations for the **New Year's Eve celebration**. The venue featured festive decorations, a sound and light setup, and a bonfire, creating a lively atmosphere for the evening's festivities. Attendees, dressed in their finest, gathered around the bonfire, which was lit to the tunes of "Auld Lang Syne" and other traditional songs, complemented by a stunning fireworks display. Despite a smaller crowd, guests enjoyed delicious food such as kathi rolls and danced to a mix of music provided by DJs Grenville Peters and Bradley Reid. Highlights of the night included various dance performances and a jive competition, which was won by our Branch President Mr Nevada Dalby and Ms Natasha Francis. The celebration wrapped up at 2 a.m., with all attendees expressing their gratitude for an unforgettable night. The Committee was pleased with the successful event, marking the arrival of the New Year with joy, ensuring a memorable evening for all.

Sent in by the Branch

KANPUR BRANCH, UTTAR PRADESH

The Branch AGM was held on 21 May 2023 at St Patrick's Church Hall, Kanpur. The Governing Body Member for Uttar Pradesh, Mr Adrian Michael, chaired the meeting, and began it with a beautiful prayer. An election for members to the Committee was carried out, and through the process, Mrs Gloria Marston was elected President, and Mrs Corrine Clare Anderson and Mr Johnathan Shear, Vice Presidents. Mrs Bridgette Anderson-Scott was elected the Treasurer while Mr Jude Woodward (Youth President) and Mr Conald Belletty were elected Committee Members. After the elections were over and congratulations extended, the members enjoyed playing a few rounds of Housie. This was followed by lunch, generously sponsored by Mr Adrian Michael. A big 'thank you' to him for the kind gesture. Many people have taken Membership Forms and will be becoming new members. There is quite a lot of excitement about the new Committee and the future of the Branch.

Sent in by Gloria Marston

The President-in-Chief Meets the Kanpur Branch Committee

We shall always remember this date – the 13th of December 2023! It was on this date that we had the great pleasure and privilege to meet our President-in-Chief, Mr Barry O'Brien, in Kanpur. We met him at an interaction over High Tea at Bikanerwala, Sarvodaya Nagar,



which was most graciously hosted by Mr Sushil Singh of Neuberg Publishing (India), publishers of some of Mr O'Brien's school textbooks. We sincerely thank him for his hospitality.

What touched us in a special way was when we got to know from Mr Sushil Singh that Mr O'Brien insisted on meeting us in spite of the fact that he had had a very early start that morning and he had visited several schools through the day, meeting principals and addressing teachers and students. Though he must have been quite exhausted, our President-in-Chief was in high spirits - never for a moment giving the impression that he was too tired to chat, and enquiring about each one of us. He spoke to us in detail about several matters of importance, while keeping the mood warm and friendly, even making us laugh ever so often. It was just wonderful being with him, and we express our gratitude to him for making us feel so special.

Finally, even when it was time for him to rush back to Lucknow to catch a flight, he was still so patient and sporting, obliging each of us by posing for photographs. We shall remember this day for years to come, those of us who were present: Gloria Marston - President; Corrine Anderson and Johnathan Shear - Vice Presidents; Charles Saygo - Secretary; Jude Woodward - Committee Member and Youth President; and young Clive Shear.

Sent in by the Branch

KHARAGPUR BRANCH, WEST BENGAL

The Kharagpur Branch celebrated **Anglo-Indian Day** on 13 August 2023, starting with a Holy Mass dedicated to the community and praying for its welfare that saw significant attendance from members. The day was filled with enthusiasm as ladies participated in throwball and gentlemen in volleyball, with spectators actively cheering. Moving indoors, each attendee was greeted with a butterfly carrying a number for participation in a special game. A heartfelt message from our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien was shared, receiving widespread appreciation from the 95 members present. The indoor segment featured games like 'Yes and No,' a lucky dip, and a lucky number draw tied to the butterfly numbers, culminating in the highly anticipated Bumper Housie. A sumptuous lunch followed, with attendees expressing their gratitude to the Committee for a memorable day and hoping for future gatherings. Special thanks were extended to Rev Fr Sudhir and Rev Fr Gregory Monteiro for providing the venue.

Sent in by the Branch

KORBA BRANCH, CHHATTISGARH

The Branch celebrated **Republic Day** with the people of Risdi. The National Flag was unfurled, and the National Anthem was sung by everyone present. Vice President Mr Robert Paul addressed the gathering, and sweets were distributed. The Branch extends its thanks to Mr Robert Paul, Mr Basil Rodrigues, Mr Richard Hart, Mrs Josephine Gallyer, Mr Rudolf Gallyer, and others for ensuring the day's success, with our special thanks to Mrs Roseline Gallyer for sponsoring and organizing the event.



Under the guidance of the Governing Body Member for Chhattisgarh, Mr Bernard Rodrigues, ex-MLA, the Branch organized a **Children's Day get-together**. The event, starting with a prayer by Mrs Bridget Rodrigues, included various competitions and activities. Vice President Mr Robert Paul addressed the gathering, and twenty-five children received gifts and prizes sponsored by the Branch and Mrs Roseline Gallyer. Tea and snacks were served, and the event concluded with the National Anthem. Our thanks to Mr Robert Paul, Mrs Gloria Rodrigues, Mr Robin Rodrigues, and other members for making the event a successful one.

A proposal for an **Anglo-Indian Community Hall**, on land donated by Mrs Roseline Gallyer, was approved and funded by the Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management. The foundation stone was laid by Minister Shri Jai Singh Agarwal on 22 January 2023. The Revenue Minister and Mayor Shri Rajkishore Prasad, who spoke on the occasion, emphasized the importance of such projects for community support. Mr Gradin Gallyer highlighted the significance of this building for the Anglo-Indian community.

On 18 April 2023, the roofing for the hall was completed. Despite challenges, members like Mr John Atkins and Mr Rudolf Gallyer ensured timely progress of this excellent project. Our special thanks to Mrs Shweta Lal for providing water, and to other helpers for their dedication. The roofing work was completed by evening, showcasing excellent teamwork.

On 17 September 2023, Shri Jai Singh Agarwal inaugurated the newly built Anglo-Indian Community Hall, the first of its kind in the country. The event featured traditional dances and fireworks. Community leaders and government officials attended. The Revenue Minister praised the Anglo-Indian community's contributions, and Mr Bernard Rodrigues and Mr Gradin Gallyer thanked Shri Agarwal for his support. Mementoes and shawls were handed over. This was followed by dinner. The event's success was due to meticulous planning, untiring legwork, and the generous donation of the land by Mrs Roseline Gallyer, whose contribution will always be cherished by the Branch.

On the occasion of **Anglo-Indian Day** and the **Branch Foundation Day** on 31 July, the Branch celebrated, with enthusiasm and gusto, in its own newly-constructed Community Hall with the children of the locality. Twenty children benefited from the distribution made on

that day. Snacks and tea were served, and everyone had a lovely time. Finally, all the children and members were presented with gifts. Our special thanks to Mrs Roselin Gallyer for sponsoring the event.

The Branch is grateful to the Almighty, to the President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien, ex-MLA and Governing Body Member Mr Bernard Rodrigues, and the Korba members for their guidance and support. Special thanks to all the senior members of the Branch as well as their commitment, guidance and support, and for always being available to attend Branch-related functions.

Sent in by the Branch

LUCKNOW BRANCH, UTTAR PRADESH

The Branch conducted its **AGM** on 23 April 2023, for the Financial Year 2022-2023. One-hundred-and-eighty members were present. The Annual Report, Audited Books of Accounts and the Branch Roll have been forwarded to Head Office. The same Branch Committee was re-elected for the ninth consecutive term. The AGM received wide publicity in leading newspapers of the city.

Sent in by Adrian Michael

MADHAVARAM BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

The Branch celebrated **Republic Day 2023** with the local community, emphasizing unity in diversity. The event started with a prayer and the National Anthem, followed by coffee, snacks, gifts, and games for children, creating an enjoyable evening for all.

On 30 April 2023, the Branch held a successful **Sports Meet** with O2 Health Studio, featuring football and badminton tournaments. Guests included Dr Oscar Nigli, ex-MLA and Governing Body Member for Tamil Nadu, and eminent dancer and choreographer Mr Jeffery Vardon. The event showcased exceptional talent, with Central Government Referees ensuring fairplay. Mr Elvis Durand, a prominent announcer from the Railways, expertly guided the audience through the matches, keeping them engaged and informed. The photography team, consisting of Elisha Moses and Nicholas Moses, captured the vibrant moments and showcased the enthusiasm of the participants. The security team, led by Mr Prabhu and his men, as well as the K6 Police Station, provided the necessary law and order support for the smooth conduct of the event.

The badminton tournament at Arrow's Academy saw Fedora Roberts win the Women's Singles, Edwin and Sounder win the Men's Doubles, and Sounder win the Men's Singles. The football tournament at St George's School grounds crowned Red Bulls Chennai as winners. Trophies, medals, certificates, and cash prizes were awarded to winners and participants.

On 18 June 2023, the Branch celebrated **Father's Day** by distributing provisions to special children at St Teresa's Home.

The Branch held its **3rd Annual General Meeting** on 27 August 2023, with Dr Oscar Nigli in the Chair. Presidents and Committee Members from other Branches, namely, George Town, St Thomas Mount, Vepery, Ayanavaram and Pallavaram were present for the AGM. The new Committee for 2023-2024 was elected as follows: President: Mrs Carrie Shankar; Honorary Secretary: Mr Dunford Gomez; Treasurer: Mr Charles West; Vice President (Education): Miss Susanna West; Vice President (Entertainment): Mr Ricky Hibba; and Vice President (Sports): Mrs Carissa Sandy. The Committee Members are Mrs Annie Jefferies, Miss Pinky West, Mrs Loretta Moses, Mrs Genevieve Cockburn, Mrs Shyann Gomez, Mr Leander Concesso, and Mr Sylvester Louis.

Cash gifts were awarded to academically excellent students and the Youth Committee. Senior citizens and single parents received



goodie bags and cash covers. The AGM concluded with the Branch's 3rd anniversary celebration, cake cutting, and honouring Silambam champion Patrick James. The AGM featured a presentation of the year's programmes and ended with a dinner for members and guests.

The Branch organized an **overnight stay at a beach house** on 4 and 5 November for Committee Members, Youth Committee Members, their families, and children. The day began with a potluck lunch by each family. The evening was filled with exciting games and activities, including a "Colour Theme Snack Party," "Line Dance & Jive Sessions," and "The Copy-Me Dance Game." Children enjoyed the swimming pool while the youth played frisbee. Indoor activities kept everyone in a fun picnic mood. The youth enjoyed a star-gazing night and witnessed the waves turning neon green. A cake was cut to celebrate Mrs Shyann Gomez's birthday, Branch Committee Member and Youth President. The beach house featured a lovely hall, comfortable bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, swimming pool, bonfire, and immediate beach access. It was a wonderful trip, and everyone enjoyed the day together as one family.

Our **Christmas Treat** was held on 9 December 2023 – it was a wonderful five-hour fun event. The event saw a full house with around 105 members in attendance. Dr Oscar Nigli and his wife, Mrs Rachel Nigli, were the guests of honour. The festivities kicked off with a Zumba session for the kids, followed by numerous games for both children and parents, bringing much joy and laughter. Mrs Carissa Hibba was the evening's MC.

The highlight was the "Talent Show" for all age groups, judged by Mr Locklyn Jefferies, President of the Mount Branch, and Mr Elvis Durand, a leading MC in Chennai. Santa Claus made a timely appearance, distributing gifts and goodie bags to the children. Attendees also enjoyed delicious treats from a stall serving hot tea, sandwiches, and cold juices. The event received enthusiastic feedback, filling the "Wall of Thoughts" with positive responses from parents.

Sent in by Carissa Hibba

MUMBAI BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

It is often said that an Anglo-Indian is fashionably late, but this was not the case for the Mumbai Branch. To celebrate **Anglo-Indian Day** on 2 August 2023, the Committee hosted a flawlessly smooth and fun-filled event for over 127 attendees. The celebration was led by the ever-inspirational President Blossom Lillywhite and her dedicated Committee Members.

As newcomers ourselves, my husband Darryl and I felt immediately welcomed, as if we had always been part of this close-knit community. Here's a glimpse of the day's events, executed with clockwork precision!

Our Chief Guest was Justice Conrad Dias, Hon'ble Judge, Kerala High Court. The festivities began with an opening prayer led by Jason O'Connor. As the enthusiastic group networked, the dance floor came alive with the foot-tapping tunes of our homegrown DJ Aidan Mason, who deserves special recognition for his journey and academic achievements. The novelty dance with umbrellas and hats had everyone, even those seated, enjoying the beats.

My husband once remarked that the easiest way to identify an Anglo-Indian in a crowd is to introduce karaoke. This proved true as what started with Vernon D'Souza's solo turned into a delightful medley featuring Graham Heiden, Jason O'Connor, Aldo Michael, Dr Peter Rodrigues, and Dominic Rosario, who serenaded us during lunch with their heartwarming voices.

No gathering is complete without a good meal, and Dominic, our go-to person for all functions, alongside his family at Rosario Caterer's, outdid themselves with a traditional yet lavish Anglo-Indian buffet that had many going back for seconds.

Lorraine Edwards' monsoon-themed Tambola, creatively planned and driven by her with plenty of prizes, was called out by Aldo. This had everyone fully engrossed with the attention to detail it required. The event concluded with joyful faces and hands full of prizes from various spot prizes to multiple Tambola winners. Mr Rudolf Woodman, the Honorary General Secretary and Governing Body Member (Maharashtra), and his charming wife Lorraine spent the entire day actively participating.

In summary, this Anglo-Indian Day program was meticulously planned under the watchful eyes of Blossom Lillywhite and Graham Heiden, with assistance from Jacqueline Mitchell and Lorraine Edwards. The hall was set by Aundre, Troy, and the reliable service staff of Christ Church, with Valencia LeBlond maintaining an account of the expenditure.

On that note, I wish everyone here in India and around the world a Happy Anglo-Indian Day. Anglo's Forever!

Corina La'Rive Furtado

Our **AGM** was held on 30 July 2023, followed by the Awards' Ceremony and our Anglo-Indian Day celebrations. The attendance was good. Mr Rudolf Woodman, Honorary General Secretary and Governing Body Member in charge of Maharashtra, was the Returning Officer who presided over the deliberations. The following members were elected to the Committee for 2023-24: Blossom Lillywhite - President; Graham Heiden, Belinda Fernandez and Jason O'Connor - Vice Presidents; Glenda Michael - Honorary Secretary; Valencia LeBlond - Honorary Treasurer; Malcolm Lavocah - Youth Representative; Norman Stokes, Lorraine Edwards and Jacqueline Mitchell - Committee Members.

National AGM: The National AGM was held in October 2023 at



Bishop's School, Pune. Mumbai Branch was very well represented with 36 members in attendance. The Branch has set itself a record of being judged the Best Dressed at the Theme Night of the National AGM ever since its inception. This year, all 36 Mumbai Delegates adorned costumes portraying the subject "glitter & glam" and were awarded Rs 10,000 as the first prize which the participants shared with the Branch for the Republic Day Dinner-Dance.

Mr Malcolm Lavocah, a member of the Mumbai Branch, who is a teacher at Christ Church School, Mumbai, was appointed as **National Youth President – AIAIAY** for 2023-24. A proud moment for us! Our heartiest congratulations to Malcolm! We wish him and his team all the very best!

Our thanks to our ever-generous members and friends who continue to remain our sponsors but have requested to remain anonymous in covering the Outreach Program and other efforts. To name a few – the Delhi Branch Flood Relief, some less fortunate senior members' Branch Subscriptions, medicine reimbursement, distribution of hampers with essential commodities, college fees of an academic achiever, the Widows and Senior Men's Christmas party and gifts, and covering some sundry expenses and entrance tariff at the Branch events through the year.

A Meaningful Christmas Extravaganza: An outreach event was hosted by the Branch for all the widows at The Shepherd Widows Home, Byculla. The Branch would like to record its special thanks to the Principal, Christ Church School, the Choir, the staff, the Music Department, the Branch Committee Members and all those involved in hosting this programme.

Gratitude to Dominic Rosario, Jacqueline Mitchell and Pamela Michael for the gift shopping etc., Mama Mia Caterers for sponsoring the sumptuous treat and the sponsors - Patricia and Joseph Mascarenhas, and Edwin Roedert, for their generosity.

Above all, thanks go out to the Vice President Graham Heiden for overseeing the entire event with Valencia, Lorraine, Jacqueline and some of the Christ Church school staff. We sincerely appreciate all that was done to make the event not just possible but enjoyable.

God bless each one involved in making this first-ever Christmas Extravaganza event possible.

Sent in by Blossom Lillywhite

MYSORE BRANCH, KARNATAKA

Keeping in mind the spirit of love and sharing during the Christmas season, the Branch organized an **outreach visit to St Teresa's Home for Destitute Women** in Bannimantap, Mysore, on 28 December 2022. This visit, arranged by Branch President Mr Alistair Rodrigues, included a sponsored lunch for about 70 residents. Members interacted with Sister Leena Mary, the staff, and the women at the home, engaging in prayer and song. The dedicated service of the Sisters and staff was deeply touching, showcasing the love of God through their actions. This visit highlighted the importance of gratitude and selfless giving, reinforcing the values of labouring without seeking reward and toiling without rest.

Branch President Mr Alistair Rodrigues, a spiritual leader, preacher, and counsellor, initiated a **three-day Lenten Retreat** from 31 March to 2 April 2023, at St Teresa's Church. Coordinated by Brother Colin Calmiano and his team from Bangalore, the retreat was well-attended by both Anglo-Indians and non-Anglo-Indians. The first day began with the Stations of the Cross, followed by an English Mass and an inspiring talk by Brother Colin on the Holy Spirit. The following days maintained the spiritual momentum with talks by Brother Colin and his team, focusing on themes like prayer, forgiveness, and living for the greater glory of God. Soulful choir



music added to the spiritual ambience, and sessions concluded with benediction by the Parish Priest. Lunch and tea were sponsored by Mrs Irene Dove, Additional Treasurer of the Branch.

In pursuit of better health and recognizing the high costs of medical treatment, the Branch organized a **free Medical and Dental Health Camp** from 15 to 18 May 2023. Held at St Martha's Polyclinic in NR Mohalla, Mysore, the camp featured free medical and dental screenings by Dr Kantharaju, General Physician, and Dr Aloysius Amith, Dental Surgeon. The camp was inaugurated by Branch President Alistair Rodrigues, and the dedicated doctors, nurses, and staff were honoured. The Committee Members ensured the camp ran smoothly, and the event received an encouraging response from the community.

The Annual General Meeting for 2022-2023 was held on 23 July 2023, at St Teresa's Church Hall, Rajiv Nagar. Dr Lawrence Jenkins, Governing Body Member in charge of Karnataka, presided over the AGM attended by 75 of the Branch's 125 members. Nine candidates were unanimously elected, with the following individuals serving on the Branch Committee for 2023-2024: Alistair Rodrigues – President; Gerard Edwards – Vice President; Joy Dove – Honorary Treasurer; Irene Dove – Additional Treasurer; Lester Nunes – Honorary Secretary; Barbara Bayer – Additional Secretary; Llewellyn Rodrigues – Member; Jacqueline Raj – Member; Craig Parker – Member. Awards were presented to outstanding students in academics and sports: Steven Rodrigues – Academics; Serena Lewis – Academics; Roger Lewis – Academics; Savina Rodrigues – Academics; Serena Rodrigues – Football. This was followed by lunch, music, some dancing, and Housie. A major highlight was the distribution of the scholarship cheques for our students that were received from The All-India Anglo-Indian Education Institution, New Delhi.

The Branch, in partnership with Lions Blood Centre and Jeevadhara, organized a **blood donation camp** on 19 November 2023, at St Philomena's Church auditorium. Rev Fr Peter inaugurated the event, which ran from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Drs Jeevan and Rashmi, and their team, collected fifty-three units of blood from fifty-three donors, who received certificates of appreciation. The Branch also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Lions Blood Centre. The Committee Members thanked the Lions Blood Centre team, the parish priest, and all donors. The camp was publicized by local newspapers.

As part of the Branch's outreach initiatives, a **visit to the Chamundi Children's Home** in Mysore was organized on 29 December 2023. The Chamundi Children's Home, established by the late Mrs Sheila Irani, a former MP and MLA of Karnataka and President of the Mysore Branch, is home to 18 boys. During the visit, members sang songs, played music, and Santa Claus distributed toys and treats to the children. The members enjoyed sharing joyful moments with the children. Dinner was served to both the children and the caretakers. The evening celebration concluded with a prayer and words of encouragement from the President, Alistair Rodrigues, who also thanked and appreciated the dedication of the Home's staff.

Sent in by Dr Lester Nunes

NAGPUR BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

The 22 December 2023 was one of the most anticipated days of the year as the Branch celebrated its Christmas Tree. The event featured a live Anglo-Indian band and a special visit from Santa Claus, straight from the North Pole. The evening was a resounding success, filled with festive cheer and joy. Kudos to the Committee Members who worked tirelessly to ensure everyone had a fantastic time!

The Branch Committee for the year 2023-2024 is as follows: Mr



Christopher Dee (President), Mrs Susan Coutinho (Secretary), Mr Arthur Narcis (Vice President), Mr Anthony Besterwich (Treasurer), Maj Gen (Retd), Glenn Ford (Joint Secretary), Mr Donald Ford, Mr James Lavocah, and Mrs Irene Jacob.

Sent in by Susan Coutinho

PALLAVARAM BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

The Branch is an active one and ensures the involvement of every section of the community through activities all-year-round. **The 37th Annual General Meeting** of the Branch was held on 27 November. Dr Oscar Nigli, former MLA, Vice President, and Governing Body Member, presided. The Committee for the year 2022-2023 was unanimously elected. Academic achievers were recognized at the AGM, with awards such as the A. N. Carter and A. B. Nigli Awards given to students who excelled in the 10th and 12th Board Examinations. Special awards were also sponsored for students who achieved outstanding results in English and Mathematics. Youth who participated in online programmes organized by the Branch and competitions organized by BAIT were also honoured.

Following the AGM, attendees enjoyed music, dancing, Tombola, and dinner. The proceedings included a prayer by Ms Shivon Bellard and Ms Rianna Daniels, an awards' ceremony conducted by Ms Richelle Hart, and a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms Steffi Bastian. The President, Mr Justin D'Sylva, expressed gratitude to the members and the youth for their support and hard work, ensuring the success of the AGM. Dr Oscar Nigli was thanked for his continuous support not only to this Branch but to all the Branches in Tamil Nadu. Appreciation was also extended to members of sister Branches and accompanying office bearers and Committee Members. The President assured members that the newly elected Committee would uphold the Branch's reputation and work diligently.

The Branch marked **Republic Day 2023** with an evening of festivities, bringing members together for youth games, Tombola sessions, party games, music, and dancing. It was a delightful occasion of unity, enjoyed by members, youth, and children alike. Attendees were each given a miniature National Flag to pin on to themselves, and a prayer was offered for our country and its citizens. Tea and snacks were served while members played Tombola.

Each year, the Branch organises a **prayer meeting for students**



who are appearing for their Board Examination. This year, the Governing Body Member for Tamil Nadu, Dr Oscar Nigli, was unable to be present for the students' prayer meeting due to a prior commitment. However, he wished the students through a voice message and assured them of his prayers and also told them to work hard and to excel in their Board Exams. The students and their parents were very happy to have attended this special prayer meet organised by the Branch. They thanked the Committee for having taken the initiative to pray for the students and to wish them all the best.

In June 2023, the Branch witnessed a transformative experience as ten students enthusiastically participated in a **Leadership and Team Development programme** organized by the Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch. The programme, held near Pondicherry, attracted students from various Branches, fostering camaraderie and an exchange of ideas and experiences. The curriculum, crafted by the organizers, included dynamic activities aimed at instilling essential leadership skills and emphasizing teamwork. Participants hailed the programme as engaging and enjoyable, acknowledging its value in personal growth and future leadership endeavours. The participants extended their gratitude to Dr Mrs Cheryl-Ann Shivan, President of the Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch, for the opportunity. They reflected on gaining practical skills and insights that will benefit them academically and beyond. The success of the program underscores the commitment of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association and its Branches to promoting continuous learning and holistic development among student members. As participants returned to their Branches, equipped with newfound knowledge and enthusiasm, they were poised to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

On 29 July 2023, the Branch organized "**An Evening with Our Elders**". Young members warmly welcomed senior citizens, ushered them to their seats and served them tea and snacks. Dr Oscar Nigli commended the Branch President, Mr Justin D'Silva, and the team for their community-involvement. The youth ensured that the elders had a delightful evening, entertaining them with singing, dancing,



and personalized attention. Activities included tombola, musical chairs, and dancing, with seniors eagerly participating. A group photo captured the cherished moments, and each elder received a thoughtful gift as a token of appreciation. A wholesome dinner featuring gentle homemade dishes was served, leaving the elders profoundly content and grateful for the memorable occasion created by the Committee and our youth.

The Branch organized a **fun-filled day out for members and children** on 29 October 2023, at Lakshmi Gardens, a charming beach house on East Coast Road. Excitement filled the air as buses departed for the picnic destination that boasted a delightful swimming pool and outdoor play area along with indoor game facilities. The picnic commenced with a prayer, uniting everyone in gratitude for the opportunity to enjoy themselves as a family. Children splashed in the pool while youth engaged in volleyball and throwball matches. Indoor games like table tennis and carroms kept other members entertained. Dr Oscar Nigli and his wife Mrs Rachel Nigli attended the picnic, expressing delight at witnessing the joyous atmosphere. A sumptuous lunch was served, followed by Tombola and party games for children, with tug-of-war being a highlight, igniting enthusiasm among participants. The day concluded with music and dancing around the pool, accompanied by tea and snacks. Members expressed gratitude to the Committee for organizing a memorable picnic as they boarded the buses for home, cherishing the delightful memories that were created.

The Branch's **Christmas Treat** was held on 10 December 2023 at Senetta Hotel, with nearly 120 members and children enjoying a festive evening. The program featured games for children, elders, and all members, with a carol session led by the youth adding to the festive spirit. "Silent Night" was sung with 'candlelit hands' waving to the tune. Dr Oscar Nigli and Mrs Rachel Nigli joined the celebrations, participating in carols, dancing, and other events. A sumptuous buffet lunch was served, which everyone enjoyed. Post-lunch, Santa's arrival with goodies and gifts thrilled the children and elders, making the parents excited too.

Sent in by the Branch

PATNA BRANCH, BIHAR



On 18 December, the Patna Branch organised the 20th Inter-School Carol Competition in which 61 teams participated. The competition was well attended, and a grand success.

Mr Donald Galstaun, Director of St Karen's High School, was the Chief Guest while Mrs Leslie Galstaun, Fr. James Shekhar, Director Sewa Kendra, Fr Martin Anand, Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Church, Fr Pius Prashant s.j., Parish Priest of Queen of the the Apostles' Church, and Sr Violita of Patna Women's College were the Guests of Honour.

Sent in by the Branch

PODANUR BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

The Branch was happy to have been able to celebrate **Children's Day** on 20 November. Fifty-three participants between the ages of 'one and twenty-three' took part and had a wonderful and memorable evening. The children and youth were entertained with various games, music, talent shows, on-the-spot contests and much



more, not forgetting the sumptuous snacks that were served as well. All the winners walked away with cash prizes.

The splendid evening was made possible thanks to the cooperation of all those involved - children, parents and members. A special word of thanks for the all the efforts of the President and the Committee.

Sent in by Austin Fernandez

PUNE BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

The Branch held its **AGM** on 4 November 2023. Present at the meeting was Mr Rudolf Woodman, Honorary General Secretary of The All-India Anglo-India Association and Governing Body Member of Maharashtra. Business at the AGM, including the approval of the accounts' statement, appointment of auditors, and elections for the Branch President, Vice Presidents, and the Branch and Youth Committee, were conducted smoothly and in accordance with the Articles of Association of our Association. Following the business section of the meeting, awards for academic excellence were presented. A total of Rs 75,000 was awarded to 60 deserving children who secured 65 percent and above in their final examinations. The following members were elected to the Branch Committee for the year 2023-2024: Mr Shayne McPherson (President), Mrs Denise Chakranarayan (VP), Mr Ashley Eates (VP), Mr Glenn Raberts (VP), Mr Darryl Pounce, Mr Karl Young, Mr Rees Phillips, Mrs Belinda Route, Mrs Olivia Southwell, Mr Barry Barnes, Mr Avinash Seymour, Mr John D'Cruz, Mr Clifford Edmonds, and Mrs Myrtle Aikin.

The Christmas Carnival, one of the Branch's most popular events, was held on 17 December 2023 and was attended by a large number of members and their guests. Both children and adults enjoyed the



various games and food stalls. The highlight of the evening was the arrival of Santa, who distributed sweets, followed by gifts, adding to the festive merriment.

The Christmas Dance took place in the Quadrangle of The Bishop's School on 26 December 2023, with approximately 750 members and their guests in attendance. They enjoyed dancing to live music by the band, 'Livewire'. The evening was hosted by Mr Ashley Eates, who interspersed the dancing sessions with games for both children and adults, enhancing the fun and merriment. Numerous food counters offered an enviable variety of dishes. The Branch was honoured to have Mr Rudolf Woodman and Mrs Lorraine Woodman, and Mrs Erica Rodrigues and Mr Bernard Rodrigues, Vice President and Governing Body Member (Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh) in attendance.

The New Year's Eve Ball was held on 31 December 2023, drawing a large number of members and their guests. The band 'No Rush' entertained everyone with their music, keeping everyone on their feet, dancing to jive, fox-trot, and pop music. The evening was hosted by Ms Celine Littlewood. Apart from the delightful music and dancing, spot prizes and a novelty dance were additional attractions. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed in true Anglo-Indian spirit.

Sent in by Karl Young

RANCHI BRANCH, JHARKHAND

The Branch organised a delightful **Pre-Christmas Picnic** on 19 December 2022 at Latratu. Despite the cold weather, it was a vibrant get-together, with many families joining in the festivities. The day was filled with engaging activities, including games and boat rides for the children. The highlight was a mouth-watering lunch generously provided by Ms N Jacobs, Principal of Bishop Westcott Girls' School, Namkum, Ranchi. Two hampers were awarded — one for adults and one for children. The adult hamper, donated by Mrs J J Edwin, Principal of Bishop Westcott Girls' School, Doranda, was won by Mr Obray Francis. The children's hamper, donated by Mr R I Thornton, Principal of Bishop Westcott Boys' School, was won by Ms Cynthia Moses, who also won the vegetable hamper sponsored by Ms S K Bright, Principal of Bishop's School, Bahu Bazaar.

We are very grateful to our Governing Body Member and MLA Mr Glen Galstaun for his generous donation. Half of this amount was given as cash gifts to children under 15-years, with Santa Claus doing the honours. The remaining amount was used to purchase Christmas gifts for others. Additionally, each family received a Christmas gift in an envelope from the Branch. Attendees also enjoyed participating in two rounds of Tombola.

The Branch extends its heartfelt thanks to the Committee Members, particularly Mrs O Isaac, Vice President; Mr N Isaac, Treasurer; and Mr G Edwin, Secretary. We say a special 'thank you' to Mrs C Jacob for her hard work behind the scenes to make the picnic memorable. The Branch also expresses its gratitude to the Governing Body Members for their valuable support, Mr Glen Galstaun who is a steadfast pillar of the Branch, our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien for his guidance, and Mr Somnath Dasgupta of the Head Office, who is always just a phone call or message away.

Sent in by Irwin Jacob

ST THOMAS MOUNT, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

The 72nd AGM of the Branch was held on 18 December 2022 at St Anthony's Church Hall. The meeting was presided over by Dr Oscar Nigli, ex-MLA, Vice President, and Governing Body Member in charge of Tamil Nadu. The newly elected Committee Members are as follows: President - Mr Locklyn Jeffries; Secretary - Mrs Sabrina Trivett; Treasurer - Mrs Judy Edmonds, Vice Presidents - Mr Louis Patterson and Mr Leonard Patterson; Committee Members - Mr



Clifford Allwyn, Mrs Christine Benny, Mrs Jennifer Wilson, Mrs Leanne Robson, Ms Amanda Edmonds and Mr Allan Henricus. Following the elections, three minutes of silence were observed in thanksgiving memory of the Branch's former President, Mrs Dawn Wilson.

Post the AGM, the **Christmas Tree** was organised for the children and senior citizens. The event featured games for all attendees. Together with Dr Nigli and Mrs Rachel Nigli, the children cut a cake to commemorate the birth of Baby Jesus. The evening's festivities included lively music that encouraged many to dance. The celebration concluded with a delicious dinner for all attendees.

On 30 April 2023, the Madhavaram Branch organized the **Chennai Sports Meet**, in which the St Thomas Mount Branch participated enthusiastically. The event featured badminton and football matches, with teams from Bangalore and other districts of Tamil Nadu participating. The Branch emerged victorious in the football match.

Between 10 - 14 December, the Branch had its Committee Members visiting each member's houses, **carolling the songs of Christmas**. This joyful initiative brought cheer to the members and strengthened the bonds within the Anglo-Indian community.

Later in the month, **members of the Branch came together as one big family to share the Christmas spirit** with music, dancing, games, and a mouth-watering dinner; all the while keeping in mind that Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. The gathering was delighted to have Dr Oscar Nigli and Mrs Rachel Nigli grace the occasion. It was also a pleasure to have Rev Fr Suresh Thomas bless the occasion and each one present. Congratulations are due to the Committee Members and the youth who meticulously planned the **Christmas Tree programme**. The participants added much spice and joy with their wholehearted participation. A big 'thank you' to all our well-wishers and those who worked behind the scenes.

Sent in by the Branch

TANGASSERI BRANCH, KERALA

The Branch's **Christmas Tree** celebrations were held on 23 December 2022 at the Infant Jesus School grounds in Tangasseri. The event was well attended by members, non-members, and their families. The evening began with a prayer led by Rev Dr Silvie Antony, followed by a welcome from the President, Mr Lester Fernandez, and a Christmas message from Rev Antony. Carols were sung by Mr Ronnie D'Rozario and the Youth Members. The event featured games and snack boxes for the children put together by the Committee Members. There was a special appearance by Santa, Master Andre Fernandez, who distributed sweets and gifts. The highlight was the mega hamper draw with sixteen attractive prizes. The evening concluded with a Vote of Thanks from the Additional Secretary Miss Luciana Morris.

The **Christmas Dine and Dance** was held on 25 December 2022 at Hotel Shah International. About 100 attendees enjoyed carols, cake, wine, and snacks. President and DJ Mr Lester Fernandez kicked off



the dancing, with Santa, played by Mr Lewellyn Fernandez, joining later. A competition for the best dancing couple and a garland dance added to the fun. An American Auction during dinner saw active participation, and a paper costume game entertained everyone. The night ended with dancing that continued until 1.30 a.m., with President Fernandez thanking everyone for their support.

Senior Citizens' Nite was held on 16 February 2023 at Trinity Hall, Tangasseri, Kollam. The event, dedicated to senior citizens above the age of seventy, began with a prayer and welcome from President Mr Lester Fernandez. Mrs Ann Cardoz gave a speech, and gifts were distributed to all senior citizens. The evening featured a game of Housie and a sing-along session before concluding with dinner and dancing.

The **Easter Dine and Dance** on 9 April 2023 at Hotel Shah International featured a 'Floral Night' theme. The event included dancing, games, and Housie, with DJ Mr Lester Fernandez and MC Miss Andrea Fernandez keeping the evening lively. The party ended at 12.45 a.m., with everyone leaving with fond memories.

The Branch conducted a major **Artificial Limb Donation project** with KIMS Health Limb Centre, Trivandrum, at Infant Jesus Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Tangasseri. A hundred-and-six-beneficiaries received free artificial limbs. The project, inspired by the need for a limb for Mrs Enid de Rozario, involved mobilizing beneficiaries, providing the venue, and arranging necessary facilities. The camp was held in two phases, with screening and fitting of limbs. The project was a success, thanks to KIMS Health Centre, the Principal and Staff of Infant Jesus School, and the support of Branch members and well-wishers.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Branch was held on 6 August 2023, at Hotel Shah International. The meeting began with a Welcome Address by the Additional Secretary Miss Luciana Morris, followed by the Presidential Address by Mr Lester Fernandez. The Annual Report was presented by the Secretary Mr Hamilton Gonsalves and was approved by the floor. Similarly, the Annual Accounts for 2022-23 were presented by Treasurer Mrs Delphine Andrady and was passed unanimously. The election of the Committee for the year took place, and scholarship-awards were presented to the ISC and ICSE toppers: Andre Fernandez, who scored 82 percent in ISC (Commerce), and Cassandra Francis, who scored 83 percent in ISC (Science). The Branch bulletin *Tangy Echoes*, highlighting reports and activities for 2022-2023, was released by the Vice President Dr Kevin Christian, who handed over the first copy to Mrs Delphine Andrady. Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to four distinguished members for their outstanding service to society: Dr Kevin Christian, who has served as a dentist

for four decades; Mrs Mary Fernandez, who served in the Railways for three decades; Mrs Marie D'souza, who served as a Botany lecturer for three decades; and Mrs Euprine Motha, who served as a teacher for over four decades. The meeting included an open house discussion, followed by the Vote of Thanks by Dr Kevin Christian and concluded with the National Anthem. The event wrapped up with entertainment, a game of Housie and lunch.

Sent in by the Branch

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

The Branch **AGM** was held on 10 June 2023 at the Southern Railway Anglo-Indian Institute, Tiruchirappalli. Presided over by Mr Shannon Vassou, the meeting began with a prayer led by Mrs Myrtle Jeremiah, followed by a welcome from Mr Mark Fernandez. A minute's silence honoured members who passed away during the year. This well-attended physical meeting, the first in three years, featured the presentation of reports and financial statements. Mr Vassou emphasized the importance of parental support in education and extracurricular activities. The AGM also honoured SSLC and HSC toppers with awards. The Committee for the year was elected, and Mr Mark Peters proposed the Vote of Thanks. The evening concluded with rounds of Tombola and a sumptuous dinner.

The Branch organized a **Family Picnic** on 29 July 2023 at The Bono Resort, near the Kallanai Dam on the Cauvery River. Seventy-five participants enjoyed a day of frolicking in the shallow waters, indoor and outdoor games, and a sumptuous lunch. As the day ended, participants left with fond memories and hopes of returning soon.



The **6th Prof Garnet Fernandez Memorial Hockey Tournament** was held on 1 October 2023 at Anna Stadium, Trichy. Eight teams from Tamil Nadu and Bangalore competed. The tournament was opened by Mr Beverley Wright, and despite threatening weather, it was a day of exciting hockey. "The Squad" from Bangalore faced "The Spartans" from Trichy in the finals, with the latter emerging victorious. The winners received a trophy and Rs 15,000, while the runners-up received Rs 10,000. Individual prizes were also awarded. A special match between Beginners and Veterans added to the day's excitement.

On 29 October 2023, the Branch celebrated **Elders' Day** at the Southern Railway Anglo-Indian Institute. The event began with a prayer and included games, Tombola, and the distribution of blankets and purses to indigent seniors. The day concluded with a delicious lunch.

Carols' Nite was held on 2 December 2023, featuring choirs from various parishes and schools, including a choir of Branch Committee Members. On 9 December 2023, Christmas Games were organized at St Anthony's Matriculation HSS, Trichy, with active

participation from members of all ages. Mrs Geraldine Issacs declared the event open.

The **Christmas Tree** celebrations took place on 23 December 2023 at the Southern Railway Anglo-Indian Institute. Members and their families enjoyed games for all age-groups – for which there were prizes, and a visit from Santa Claus, who handed out goodies. The evening concluded with Tombola and a sumptuous dinner.

Sent in by the Branch

TRIVANDRUM BRANCH, KERALA

On 30 July 2023, members and friends of the Branch embarked on a **delightful trip to Kollam**, enjoying a day on a houseboat. The gushing breeze and scenic beauty, with birds flying around and occasionally perching, made the day special. Children especially enjoyed the backwaters and even took a sunbath. The day was made even more memorable with scrumptious food, a lively game of Tombola for both adults and children, music, dancing, and light-hearted banter, ensuring a thoroughly enjoyable day for all attendees.

This year's **Onam project** by the Branch focused on the act of distributing clothing to spread warmth, embracing the belief that sharing is a true act of caring. Members gathered at the Secretary Mr Jessel Rodricks' residence, generously donating their 'preloved' clothing. It was a day filled with kindness and camaraderie, ensuring every piece of clothing found a new home. Special thanks to the generous donors: Ms Sandra Morris, Ms Jessica Morris, Mrs June Lopes, and Ms Natasha Suresh, whose contributions had a profound impact. The Branch extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in this beautiful gathering, encouraging the spirit of sharing not just during Onam but throughout the year.

The Branch **AGM** was held on 15 September 2023, at Hotel Prasanth. The outgoing President Mrs Janet D'Souza thanked the President-in-Chief, the Governing Body, Committee Members, and Branch members for their support throughout her term. Elections for the term 2023-2024 were conducted by Governing Body Member Mr Llewellyn de Rozario. The newly-elected Committee comprises President - Mr Robert Mendez; Vice Presidents - Mr John Rodricks and Mr David Rebeiro; Secretary - Mr Jude Rozario; Treasurer - Mrs Pearl Rodricks; and Committee Members - Mr Llewellyn Watts, Mr Kevin Fernandez, Mrs Jean Fernandez, Mr Ubald Varney, and Ms Jessica Morris. The newly-elected President expressed gratitude for the trust placed in him and sought members' support to move forward with determination. Mr Llewellyn de Rozario highlighted the strong bond among Branch members and urged the Committee to focus on increasing membership and to nurture the youth. The AGM had a good turnout and reaffirmed the Branch's commitment to its mission and the preservation of Anglo-Indian culture.

Diwali celebrations on 12 November 2023, at the Trivandrum Tennis Club, were vibrant and memorable. Guests enjoyed an evening of cultural festivities, games, and treats. The President, Mr Robin Mendez gave the welcome address, followed by a thought-provoking Diwali message from Ms Maya Gomez. Ms Natasha Suresh's soulful rendition and youth performances captivated the audience. Mr Daryl Rodricks kept everyone engaged with exciting games. The night featured music by Ms Deanne Rodricks, dancing, traditional sweets of Kerala, and a live dosa counter. The Secretary, Mr Jude Rozario, expressed gratitude in a heartfelt Vote of Thanks. A lively game of Housie wrapped up the evening.

On 15 December 2023, the Branch organized a heartwarming **lunch for residents of Sancta Maria Old Age Home**, sponsored by a relative of the President Mr Robin Mendez. Some members visited the Home, spreading festive joy, which was deeply appreciated by the residents and caregivers.



On 22 December 2023, the youth of the Branch led a **Christmas Carol Serenade**. The ensemble visited Nirmala Shishu Bhavan Missionaries of Charity and continued house-to-house carol singing, spreading festive cheer. Led by Ms Maya Gomez, they continued their mission by serenading 17 Manipuri youth on a church mission in Trivandrum. Santa Claus, who was looking suspiciously like Mrs Pearl Rodricks, added enthusiasm and joy to the event.

The Branch's **Christmas Celebration** on 23 December 2023, at Hotel Prasanth, was filled with festive cheer. MCs Jessica Morris and Daryl Rodricks guided the evening with prayer-songs, a welcome address by President Mr Robin Mendez, a thought-provoking Christmas message from Dr Eva D'cruz and inspiring words from Prof Clamour. The event featured carols, games, a raffle draw, and delectable treats, concluding with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks from the Branch Secretary Mr Jude Rozario.

Sent in by Jessica Morris

VEPERY BRANCH, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

The Branch organized an **online Flower Arrangement Competition** to celebrate International Women's Day on 13 March 2023, with excellent participation from members.

The Outreach Programme, planned by the President, Committee Members, and Miss Flora Lazar, saw members gathering at Mercy Home, which houses 150 elderly individuals in two blocks – one for the ladies and another for the gentlemen. The team toured the campus, interacted with residents, and shared a meal of mutton biryani with the nuns. The Branch also handed over the provisions requested by the Home. The President thanked the sponsors and Miss Flora for their efforts, calling it a heartwarming experience.

An **online Drawing Competition** for children in the age group of 3 to 7 on the topic "Love for Animals" saw enthusiastic participation, with Aaron Netto winning the first prize and Ciara Dixon finishing second.

A **Treasure Hunt @Home** for ages 8 to 13 involved fun-filled rounds, engaging both children and parents.

A **virtual International Men's Day contest** on 20 November, featured a Vegetable Sculpture competition judged by renowned Chef Geetha Krishnan, with keen participation and online encouragement. A picture of the contestants was morphed in the flyer announcing the contest by Mr Rocklin Netto.

On 1 December, the President, Mr Marlon Brewart, along with some Committee Members and Miss Flora Lazar, the Outreach Coordinator, **visited Mission to the Blind**, a training institute for visually impaired individuals. Our members met the inmates, shared snacks, and donated 100 melamine plates. The trainers provided detailed explanations of how the institute functions



and supports the visually impaired. The Committee Members experienced the world of the blind firsthand by being guided through a series of dark rooms, culminating in a pitch-dark room. They learned how visually impaired people navigate daily tasks, such as crossing roads and boarding buses. This immersive experience gave the members a deep appreciation for their own sight and the challenges faced by the visually impaired. It was a meaningful way to start the Christmas season, emphasizing the importance of "Helping Hands" and spreading the spirit of Christmas.

The Branch celebrated a **special Christmas event** on 9 December 2023, with the themes 'Holly', 'Jingle & Mingle'. The event was attended by 120 members and 60 non-members. The evening began with various outdoor games for children, providing fun for all ages. Snack bags were distributed to everyone before the indoor



programme started. It began with a prayer by Mrs Anna Fewkes. A youth-led skit followed, along with the felicitation of winners from the Children's Day and Men's Day contests and achievers in academics.

A slideshow showcased **awards won by the Branch** at the 148th National AGM in Pune, making it a proud moment for all. Santa Claus delighted children by distributing toys and gifts, followed by a game of Tombola. Dr Oscar Nigli, Governing Body Member for Tamil Nadu, released the 2024 **Branch Calendar**, which was given to each family. A Branch photograph was taken, and then everyone sang 'Silent Night' with lighted candles, creating a warm and heartfelt moment. The evening concluded with a lively jam session, highlighted by a surprise performance from the Branch President Mr Marlon Brewart. The programme ended after several hours, with members wishing each other a Merry Christmas.

Sent in by the Branch

VILLUPURAM-PONDICHERRY BRANCH

In June 2023, the Branch, supported by the Blair and Ellen Williams Foundation, organized an overnight **Leadership and Team**

Building training for 40 students, including 30 Anglo-Indian students from Higher Secondary and College levels and 10 college-going non-Anglo-Indians. The training took place at Pegasus, a camp run by ex-service, men near Pondicherry. This opportunity was extended not only to members of the Branch but also to students from other Branches in Chennai.

The training aimed to impart workplace management and life skills to students, emphasizing collaboration and concentration on instructions. Practical aspects of the training ensured hands-on learning, preventing monotony. Dr Oscar Nigli, the Governing Body Member for Tamil Nadu, facilitated coordination among the Chennai Branches, while Mr Justin D'Sylva, the President of the Pallavaram Branch, along with members Mr Clayton Bastian and Mrs Judy Edmonds, accompanied the Chennai students. Mr Floid O'Brien of the Villupuram-Pondicherry Branch, serving as the local



Manager of Pegasus, ensured the success of the event, reflecting Mr Blair Williams's vision for an educated and well-trained young Anglo-Indian community ready for the job market.

On 5 August 2023, the Branch held its **74th AGM**, chaired by Dr Oscar Nigli, accompanied by his wife Mrs Rachel Nigli. The new Committee for 2023-2024 was elected. It comprises Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan as President; Mr Gregory Hart, Mrs Geraldine Caster and Mr Ashley Carter as Vice Presidents; and Mr Tyrone O'Brien, Mrs Deborah Fernandez, Capt Charlotte Fernandez, Mr Gerard Noronho, Mr Marcus Parker, Mr Dexter Stephenson, Mrs Naomi Bello, Ms Sharon Stephenson, and Mrs Barbara Parker, as Committee Members. In its subsequent meeting, the Branch elected Mr Gerard Noronho and Mr Tyrone O'Brien to the posts of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Following the AGM, the Branch celebrated **Anglo-Indian Day** with a Dinner-Dance, graced by Dr Oscar Nigli and Mrs Rachel Nigli. The evening featured dance games, prizes, music, and delicious food, creating a joyous atmosphere for attendees.

In commemoration of the Branch's 75th anniversary in 2024, round-the-year activities have been planned. The first activity, a **Fancy Dress Competition** for children, took place in November 2023, with winners announced on **Children's Day**. Videos of the event were made available on the Branch's Facebook page.

The Branch also organized its annual **Children's Christmas Tree and Treat** in Pondicherry and Villupuram on 9 December and 10 December, respectively, bringing together members and their children for games, carol singing, and festive cheer. The generosity of former and present members ensured a memorable Christmas for the community.

Sent in by the Branch

VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

The Branch organized a highly successful **Halloween Day party** on 29 October 2022. The Master of Ceremonies, Mrs Lynette Pereira, kept everyone entertained and dancing throughout the night. Prizes for Best Costume were awarded in three categories: Children, Ladies, and Gents, by the senior members in attendance. Delicious snacks were served to all guests and the partying continued into the early hours of the morning.

Anglo-Indian Day was celebrated on 2 August, with Mass at two churches in different areas followed by treats after the service .

The **AGM** of the Branch took place on 12 August 2023. Mr Warren La'Touche, Governing Body Member representing Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and his wife, Mrs Wendy La'Touche, were warmly welcomed. The members present focused on reflecting on the past year's projects, achievements and discussing future initiatives. These efforts aimed to support the welfare and advancement of the local community. Various issues were raised and deliberated. Mr La'Touche encouraged the youth to actively participate in the Branch's activities and national events organized by The Association. He emphasized the importance of joining the Branch Committee, as well as reaching out to those who were members earlier and those who have never been members. Student members were recognized for their outstanding achievements in academics and co-curricular activities. The meeting was an enlightening and interactive event, especially inspiring for the youth, motivating them to lead the community while preserving their rich cultural heritage.

A **Fun Fair** was organised on 26 November 2023 at the Kotak Salesian School grounds. The event was patronised by many people of the community. There were nine game stalls. Lady luck favoured most of the people at the Hoopla and Wheel-of-Fortune stalls. There were also stalls that sold plenty of exquisite Christmas decorations. The food stations were a hit. Santa's surprise entry was the icing on the cake. Excited children ran around Santa as he showered them with candies. The older folks sat around in groups, listening to music, munching delicious eats and catching up on news about family and friends. This very pleasurable and fun-filled evening was made possible by the members of our Branch Committee.

On 16 December 2023, the Branch hosted a lively **Dine and Dance event** at Kashyap Hall. With around 125 attendees, the evening featured delicious food, complimentary drinks, and spirited music. The five-piece band, 'The Timeless', performed classic hits. The highlight was the raffle draw with a 3-gram gold coin as the grand prize, along with other very attractive prizes. A surprise Christmas souvenir, a silver coin sponsored by Bhima Jewellers, was given to each member family. The paper-dance competition added fun and excitement, while the DJ's energetic music kept the dance floor buzzing.

A **Christmas Tree-cum-Treat** for the children was held on 23 December 2023 at SFA Church Hall, Madhurawada. The



evening began with many fun games creating a good amount of merriment. Santa's arrival excited the children as he danced around, distributing goodies, snack boxes and gifts. Senior citizens were included in the games; they too received Christmas hampers from Santa. Cake and coffee were served to the approximately 80 attendees. It was a delightful evening.

A **Country and Western Pre-New Year Bash** called 'Howdy Nite' was organised on 29 December 2023. The event had attendees wearing jeans, cowboy hats, and chequered shirts. About a hundred people attended, creating a Texas town atmosphere with a "Wanted Dead or Alive" picture window. Attendees enjoyed line dancing to country music and competed for prizes in costume and dance competitions. The event was a great success, closing out 2023 on a high note, with promises of more exciting programs in the future.

Sent in by the Branch

VYPEEN BRANCH, KERALA

The Branch held its **10th Annual General Meeting** on 29 April 2023, marking a significant milestone. The event, filled with gratitude and future plans, began with a prayer and an "Oath of Allegiance" led by Mr Fabian D'Rozario, Vice President. Mrs Julia Fernandez, the Master of Ceremonies, welcomed the distinguished attendees. Mrs Eileen D'Souza presented the Annual Report for 2022-23, highlighting the Branch's events and initiatives, which was approved by the General Body members. Mrs Ann Isaac, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement, which was reviewed and endorsed. Mr Llewellyn D'Rozario, Governing Body Member, Kerala, appreciated the Branch's dedication, encouraging the youth to actively participate. Former Governing Body Member and Branch President Mr Derrick Fernandez congratulated the members on the 10th Anniversary, urging continued youth involvement. Branch President Mr Desmond D'Costa expressed gratitude to all attendees, emphasizing optimism and commitment to the Association's growth.

On 4 May 2023, the new Committee for 2023-2024 met at Mr Desmond D'Costa's residence for the "**Handover and Takeover**" ceremony. The new Committee includes Mr Desmond D'Costa as President,



Mr Trevor Paynter and Mr Fabian D'Rozario as Vice Presidents, Mrs Eileen D'Souza as Secretary, Mrs Marita D'Cruz as Treasurer, Mrs Phyllis D'Costa as Additional Treasurer, and Ms Brooke Isaacs as Youth President. The meeting discussed planning events for the youth, with Ms Brooke Isaacs tasked to form a Youth Committee. Plans for the upcoming Summer Picnic were reviewed, with venue challenges noted. The meeting concluded with a thanksgiving prayer and a Vote of Thanks from Mr Desmond D'Costa, leaving members with a renewed sense of purpose.

On 20 May 2023, the Branch held its much-anticipated **Summer Picnic**. As early as 8 a.m., 47 members set out on a two-hour drive to a resort in Thattekad. The day featured team-building events to enhance observation, listening, and photography skills, fostering teamwork. The day included skits, swimming, and Tombola, and attendees returned as family after a day of fun and bonding.

A lively **Housie Nite** was organized on 27 May 2023, featuring four games of Housie, snacks, and surprises.

On 10 June 2023, the **Monsoon Fun event** brought members together for rounds of Tombola, with surprise gifts, snacks, and beverages adding cheer to the rainy day.

Continuing the momentum, **Fathers' Nite** was celebrated on 24 June 2023. The evening began with a game of Ludo and with the reading out of heartfelt messages. The fathers captured the event with a group photo before cutting a special Father's Day cake to the melodious rendition of "Happy Father's Day" by the ladies. The event ended with snacks, refreshments, and a Vote of Thanks from the President.

A **Bingo Night** on 15 July 2023, saw members engaging in four rounds of Bingo despite the monsoon season. It was a time for reconnecting and socializing. The President expressed gratitude for the members' support and participation.

On 5 August 2023, the Branch celebrated **Anglo-Indian Day**. Sixteen families prepared traditional Anglo-Indian dishes, shared a communal meal, and played Tombola. The President explained the significance of Anglo-Indian Day, and the evening was spent tasting the delicious dinner, dancing, and more Tombola.

On 28 October 2023, the Branch organized **Oktoberfest** with the theme "Dress in Your Best and Be the Best." The event was held at the Branch President Mr Desmond D'Costa's residence. He welcomed the members. This was followed by a prayer and a game of Housie. Mr Derrick Fernandez and Mrs Julia Fernandez, ex-Presidents of the Branch, initiated the "Snowball Dance". The "Best Dressed" competition followed, where participants explained why they deserved the title. It was heartening to see the gentlemen participate as well. Ms Melissa D'Rosario won the Best Dressed title and performed an exhibition dance. The evening continued with surprise packets, lucky draws, and a game of Snowball Housie. The music and dancing lasted till 1 am. Members left satisfied, eagerly anticipating the event of the following month.

The Branch hosts regular gatherings every second and fourth Saturday of the month, providing a platform for camaraderie and enjoyment.

Sent in by the Branch

Anglo-Indians Want Representation Restored in Parliament, State Legislature

The Anglo-Indian community in Uttar Pradesh has demanded restoration of their right to have representation in parliament and state legislature that was scrapped by the Centre in 2020

The Anglo-Indian community in Uttar Pradesh has demanded restoration of their right to have representation in Parliament and state legislature that was scrapped by the Indian government in 2020 through a constitutional amendment. The President-in-Chief



of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, Barry O'Brien said the population of the community in India is over 4 lakhs, but based on an erroneous 2011 census result, which stated that the number is just 296, the community's right to have representation in legislature bodies was scrapped by the government.

ANGLO-INDIANS SEATS IN THE PARLIAMENT

"We have written several letters to the government, but there has been no reply," he said.

Anglo-Indians are individuals of a mix of European and Indian ancestry. Since the community was not native to any state, hence, its members were nominated to Parliament and state assemblies. It served as a platform to air their grievances and state their point of view.

Business Standard, 23 November 2022

'Restore Anglo-Indian Quota in Parliament, Assembly'

Lucknow: Members of the Anglo-Indian community on Tuesday demanded restoration of their right to have representation in Parliament and state legislature that was scrapped by the Indian government in 2020 through a constitutional amendment.

Addressing media persons, the President-in-Chief of The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, Barry O'Brien said the population of the community in India is over 4 lakh, but based on an erroneous 2011 census result, which stated that the number is just 296, the community's right to have representation in legislature bodies was scrapped by the government.

"We have written several letters to the government, but we have not even received a reply," he added.

Times News Network, 21 November 2022

Remembering Blair Williams

An Anglo-Indian with a Passion for Helping His Community

Excerpts from a heartwarming tribute to this great Anglo-Indian by Peter Loverly, his friend, and a much-loved Anglo-Indian himself



Blair Williams succumbed to his ongoing battle with cancer on 21 December 2022. If you had the opportunity to meet Blair, I am sure you would concur, he was a larger-than-life personality, very articulate, quite unforgettable - and that would be just the first impression. He was born in Port Blair in the Andaman Islands and educated at Montfort School, Yercaud, a hill station in Tamil Nadu. He met his soulmate, Ellen Gardner, at St Mary's Teachers Training College in Poona. Blair had a short but illustrious career with the Indian Railways that included a four-year mechanical engineering apprenticeship in Jamalpur, after which he was posted as a first-level officer (AME) in the Southern Railway. He quickly progressed up the officer ranks to Works Manager, followed by District Mechanical Engineer (DME) and, before leaving India, he was appointed to the Railway Board as Deputy Director based in Calcutta.

Blair and Ellen Williams immigrated to the USA in 1976, where he worked in various managerial positions for more than 22 years at several major manufacturing companies. On retiring, they settled into a lovely golf community in New Jersey. But, not surprisingly, a quiet leisurely retirement life was not Blair's 'cup of tea.' In 1997, Blair and Ellen returned to India for the first time since emigrating. On that life-changing vacation, he saw how disadvantaged Anglo-Indians were living in the slums of Tiljallah in Kolkata. This motivated Blair to create Calcutta Tiljallah Relief, or CTR as it is better known, which is a registered USA IRS charity that supports underprivileged Anglo-Indian seniors and children.

Blair had the vision to launch another important innovation when he undertook the publication of an anthology of Anglo-Indian stories under the CTR banner, a series which documents the community's culture, values and way of life. The motivation for this endeavour, was to counter a grossly distorted stereotype of the community and especially of Anglo-Indian women in India. The eight books were written and edited by Anglo-Indians and provide a wonderful narrative with a balanced view of the community, for posterity. These books are: *Vanishing Remnants of a Bygone Era (2002)*; *Haunting India (2003)*; *Voices on the Verandah (2004)*; *The Way We Were (2006)*; *The Way We Are (2008)*; *Women of Anglo-India (2010)*; *More Voices on The Verandah (2012)*; and *Curtain Call (2015)*. In addition to achieving the initial goal of changing the literary narrative on Anglo-Indians, all proceeds from the sale of the books were donated to CTR charity. In 2019, Blair also donated his personal collection of Anglo-Indian books to the University of Calcutta, where they are housed under the Derozio Collection of Anglo-Indian

Studies, a lasting monument for our unique community. (See the photograph of Blair and his collection at the CU Library.)

Lynn and I met Blair and Ellen in New Jersey in 1997, where I was posted for an extended work assignment and have been close friends ever since. I witnessed the creation of the CTR charity and remember well the significant effort Blair invested in establishing it as a registered USA charity. What impressed me most was the absolute passion with which Blair approached this project, despite the many hurdles he encountered along the way.

Blair epitomized the Anglo-Indian zest for life, and he accomplished more in retirement than most of us could possibly dream of achieving in a lifetime. He was predeceased by his wife Ellen, in August 2016, and is survived by his wife Mary Kyle (they married in 2020), son Julian and adopted daughter Sevilay.

Peter Loverly is the Canada Coordinator for CTR charity. He wrote this tribute to Blair for the Newsletter of the Anglo-Indian Association of Canada.

THE OTHER SIDE OF BLAIR WILLIAMS

Blair Williams and my father knew each other well from their 'days in Cal' back in the Seventies. Cut to a quarter-century later, when they met again in the late 1990s.

To say that Blair Williams and Neil O'Brien were 'poles apart' in their thinking on matters related to the Community, would be putting it mildly. Let's just say that 'they agreed to disagree' for the rest of their lives. However, one of the few things they did agree on wholeheartedly was 'how beautiful' my mother, 'Joyce looked in a saree back then'. They also thought very highly of her as a person.

But here's why I thought/think very highly of these two gentlemen - besides, of course, for reasons of what they have done for our Community.

Unlike with my father, Mr Williams and I were often on the same page. In fact, we would discuss concerns of the Community for long hours - and we would often 'agree to agree'. But not once did he speak ill about my dad or use words unbecoming of a gentleman. It was always with due respect and admiration but from a crisp debating-standpoint - frank and forthright!

Dad too scored high in this regard in my book. Not once did he imply, let alone suggest, that I should avoid having such serious discussions with a person who had his own - strong - views about The All-India Anglo-Indian Association. This, despite the fact, that I, myself, was deeply involved with the Association - and getting deeper by the day.

So, though the whole thing seemed very complicated, it wasn't actually! Here were three individuals, each with their own minds, their own methods, but each doing what they felt was best for the Community. That was clear; and that was the only thing that each had on his agenda!

Not long after I was elected to head the Association, I received several calls from Mr Williams in the US, and we continued our discussions 'for and about the Community.' Now, there was no need



The ever adventurous Blair Williams with Cheryl-Ann Shivan in Pondicherry

for debates. Since I was in the Chair (!), we just chatted. He had many suggestions. Some made a lot of sense to me. But some...well, let's just say, now we 'agreed to disagree'!

But since he knew that I was always open to hearing the opinions of people who cared for the Community – particularly those who were passionate about it – he never missed an opportunity to share his ideas with me. On one of our US-India calls, he spoke to me about “Pondicherry – why don't you start a Branch there, Barry? I'll introduce you to a wonderful person there. Her name is Dr Cheryl-Ann Shivan.”

By sheer coincidence, Dr Oscar Nigli, our Governing Body Member in Tamil Nadu, had mentioned the same idea to me, suggesting that we combine Villupuram (where there was a Branch earlier) and Pondicherry, and rename the revived Branch, Villupuram-Pondicherry. And, in yet another incredible coincidence, Oscar's choice for President of the new Branch was “a college principal named Cheryl-Ann Shivan!”

That, friends, isn't coincidence! It's God's hand on something that needs to happen!

Now that I think of it, much of what Blair Williams did for the Community, had God's hand firmly on it!

“And, now that you're right there with Him, my maverick, generous friend, Blair Williams, keep interceding for your beloved

Community, and, while, on the subject, do put in a word for The All-India Anglo-Indian Association. And, if you do bump into your friend, the one who headed it, the one you 'agreed to disagree with', do have a chat with him...and his wife. By the way, she's the beautiful woman in the saree you are both staring at!”

Barry O'Brien

BLAIR AND HIS THIGHS...IN JAMALPUR

Jamalpur, in Bihar, was built as a railway town in 1862. Today, the Jamalpur Locomotive Workshop employs more than 25,000 people at its training institution, the Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. It is Asia's oldest and largest locomotive railway workshop. At one time, as many as 1,000 of the 12,000 at the Workshop were Anglo Indians. In the late 1950s, one of them being trained was eighteen-year-old Blair Williams. He was a Special Class Apprentice—the only Anglo-Indian in his batch.

He once wrote, “The British established this category of Apprentice in 1927, probably for brown sahibs—young Indian gentlemen, who were very English in upbringing, language, and thinking, and usually from affluent families.’ Since his Hindi was ‘atrocious’ and his culture very different from that of his batchmates, it wasn't easy for young Williams to fit in. Finally, two of his skills helped him break the ice and become quite popular—one on the hockey field and the other on the dance floor! I am sure you will enjoy this wickedly innocent telling of how they had good clean fun. Over to Blair!

‘Jamalpur was famous for its Anglo-Indian social life. Attending the Railway Institute dances helped to give me an enviable status in the eyes of my colleagues—“he holds women in his arms. Imagine!” Many asked me to teach them to dance. I endured being manhandled by various budding dancers, as I was led by them in their valiant efforts to learn. I remember advising a friend to “guide with his thighs” (and getting him all excited at this prospect). Later, when we went to a dance, an Anglo-Indian lady asked me, “Blair, what was such-and-such trying to do to me?” When I confessed that I had told him to guide his partner with his thighs, she laughed hysterically. Needless to say, I never heard the end of this from other Anglo-Indian ladies and girls - “Watch out for this thigh-guiding Special Class Adviser”.’

From The Anglo-Indians – A Portrait of a Community by Barry O'Brien, published by Aleph Book Company (2022)

Remembering John Mason

Teacher, Mentor, Symbol of Excellence

*Excerpts from Member of Parliament Derek O' Brien's
Tribute to 'a real-life Mr Chips'*

In a world of unnecessary divides and social media arguments, few emotions unite us more than childhood memories of a beloved teacher. When Jonathan Anthony Mason passed away at 77, the outpouring of grief and warm messages from a cross-section of our society — from people who were generations removed, had never met each other, and had perhaps not met “Mr Mason” in years — was as beautiful as it was humbling. John Mason, ‘Uncle John’ to me, lived a good life; more than that, he touched innumerable lives in so many good ways.

John Mason was the quintessential schoolteacher and headmaster — a real-life Mr Chips who also reported a happy and fulfilling family,

married to Anjali (Sapru) and the father of Neel and Dia. For me, he was an affectionate and adopted younger brother to my father Neil, with whom he shared so much. He was a star student at La Martiniere in Kolkata, famously winning the Good Conduct Medal in his final year and conforming then and for the rest of his life to the principles of an honourable schoolboy.

After graduating with an MA in English Literature from Jadavpur University, he returned to his alma mater to become a much-loved teacher of English, a mentor in a range of extra-curricular activities, ranging from debating to dramatics, writing textbooks to quizzing. My Martinian friends call him the finest principal



La Martiniere never had. His old school's loss was St James' gain. In a few short years, he transformed it into a beacon of academic and all-around excellence. For Uncle John, education was not a profession, it was a calling.

From Kolkata, John Mason moved to Dubai, as principal of Modern High School, run by the Varkey Group. He was there from 1991 to 1996 and played a key role in my early career as a professional quizmaster. One day, he phoned me and invited me to conduct my first quiz outside India. In that

avuncular fashion that was ever so gentle, but also an indication that he had decided for me, he said, "Listen, you need to come here. You need some international exposure."

Uncle John was at the airport. He drove me to his house, where Auntie Anjoo made me comfortable. I will always remember what he told me after the quiz: "There are two types of people who come to Dubai to perform. Ones whose careers are on the way up -and then there are those who are past their prime. Obviously, at 30, you are in the first category. We'll watch out for you!" It was his way of blessing me.

From Dubai, he went to Dehradun, as Headmaster of Doon School. Given the high-profile alumni, the pressures there were of a

John Mason, Educationist Extraordinaire

Path-breaking educationist John Mason passed away at a Chennai hospital suddenly on 18 February 2023, following medical complications after he fractured his femur bone while on a holiday in Pondicherry. He was 78. We offer our deepest condolences to Anjoo Ma'am, their children, Neel and Dia, and grandchildren. Rest in peace, great teacher!

Barry O'Brien
President-in-Chief
The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

different order. John Mason was an "outsider", not a Dosco either as an old boy or as a teacher. Yet, diligence, sincerity, and sheer goodness made him a success. He gave Doon his all, and it embraced him right back.

India's school system has been built by the grit and commitment of many teachers, administrators, and educationists from all states, sections, and religions. It is a matter of pride for our community that, despite the tiny numbers, our country's Christians and specifically Anglo-Indians have contributed disproportionately. Somewhere in the Happy Classroom in the Sky, John Mason, Frank Anthony, Neil O'Brien and many other cherished names of Christian education will raise a toast to protect, preserve and grow India's great educational institutions run by a minuscule minority.

This article appeared in The Indian Express on 21 February 2023

CALCUTTA BRANCH, WEST BENGAL

DONALD ALNEY

The Branch mourns the passing away of Mr Donald Alney, ex-Principal of La Martiniere for Boys, Calcutta, on 4 September 2023. His name is among the legends of Calcutta's education fraternity! He will be fondly remembered, particularly by legions of Martinians for being a strict disciplinarian with the warmest of hearts.



The Calcutta Branch owes him a debt of gratitude for the wisdom he brought to the Committee over the years he served on it as Vice President. He was a brilliant photographer, so passionate about his 'new career', post-retirement!

Our deepest condolences to his wife, Winnie, with whom he 'jived' on the dance floor and through a well-lived life, and his son, Duncan.

Rest in peace, Mr Alney! You will be missed!

Sent in by Denise O'Brien

BILASPUR BRANCH, CHHATTISGARH

ALBERT DAMERUM

Albert Damerum, husband of Charmaine, and father of Troy and Gavin, passed away on 21 December 2023. Mr Damerum was a former President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Bilaspur Branch for several years. He retired as the OSD to the DRM, Bilaspur, after serving the Indian Railways in different posts for 38 years. He helped



many youngsters get jobs on the railways. He was also the President of the Catholic Association of Bilaspur for many years.

May his soul have eternal peace!

Sent in by Bernard Rodrigues

CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

FAITH COURPALAIS

Safe in the Arms of Jesus!



Faith Courpalais, aged 82, passed away peacefully on 1 November 2023, at her residence in Perambur, Chennai. Our deepest condolences to our dear friends - her daughter Rachel Nigli, son-in-law Dr Oscar Nigli, her grand-daughter Abigail, and the rest of the family - as we pray for them and the repose of the soul of Auntie Faith.

Posted on our National Facebook page





JAMSHEDPUR BRANCH, JHARKHAND

STELLA NORMAN

Stella Norman, aged 100 years, the senior-most member of the Branch, left for her heavenly abode on 27 December 2023. Sincere and heartfelt condolences to her children, grandchildren and the entire family.



Sent in by the Branch

MUMBAI BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

PETER WOODMAN

It is with deep regret that the community is informed about the demise of Group Captain (Retd) Peter Woodman, in Hyderabad. Peter Woodman was the son of the late Eric and Thelma, loving brother of the Honorary General Secretary, Mr Rudolf Woodman, brother-in-law to Lorraine Woodman, uncle to Ryan and Duane



An Officer and a Gentleman...a darling brother, uncle and grand uncle...we salute you, Peter... love you and are so proud of you!

The Branch extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the members of the family. We have lost an amazing gentleman and friend! May our dear Peter's soul forever rest in peace!

RONALD WHITE

It is with deep regret that the Branch announces the demise of one of its members, Mr Ronald White, President of the Bombay Education Society and Chairman for several years, on 30 March 2023. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to the members of his family. May Mr Ronald White's soul forever rest in peace!



Sent in by Blossom Lillywhite

LUCKNOW BRANCH, UTTAR PRADESH

IRIS REUBEN

Mrs Iris Reuben, wife of the late Mr David Reuben and daughter of the late Mr Vivian Welsh, was 'a railway child and wife', was born in Alma on 15 September 1922, and lived in Alma, Bhusawal, Nagpur and other stations of the Central Railways before settling down in Lucknow. She passed away on 4 May 2023. The last community event that she attended before the pandemic was the National AGM at Lucknow in October 2019. The Branch was privileged to celebrate her birthday online via the zoom platform on 15 September 2021, joined by family and friends from all over the world. Mr Barry O'Brien, the President-in-Chief, and other members of the Anglo-Indian community were present to greet her on this milestone occasion.



NIGEL HOPLEY

Nigel Hopley, a member of the Branch, passed away on 30 April 2023. Condolences to his family on their loss. May he rest in peace!

Sent in by the Branch



MYSORE, KARNATAKA

ROSEMUND SHERWOOD



Rosemund Sherwood, a senior member of the Branch, an ex-teacher of Good Shepherd Convent, Mysore, wife of Richard Sherwood, and mother of Clover and Glenda Sherwood, passed away on 7 December 2023. Our deepest condolences to the family. May her soul rest in peace.

NAGPUR BRANCH, MAHARASHTRA

EDMUND (EDU) STEPHENS

Edu Stephens, born on 9 September 1948, embarked on a life-journey filled with dedication, compassion, and service. For 23 years, he diligently served the Bank of India, leaving an indelible mark on both colleagues and clients alike with his professionalism and integrity. A new chapter unfolded in Edu's life when he moved to Muscat, where he spent 14 meaningful years and worked hard to provide and care for his family.



Upon retiring, Edu returned to his cherished hometown of Nagpur, where he continued to be a beacon of light to his community. As an active member of the Association, he passionately advocated for the preservation of Anglo-Indian heritage and culture, embodying the spirit of unity and friendship that defined the organisation.

Edu's commitment to his faith was unwavering, as he immersed himself in the workings of the local church, particularly in managing the Books of Accounts meticulously. His dedication to serving others knew no bounds, and he was always ready to extend a helping hand to anyone in need. His kindness and generosity have left an enduring legacy, with countless individuals cherishing memories of his selflessness and warmth.

Though Edu Stephens may have departed from our midst, his spirit of compassion and his legacy of service will continue to inspire us all. In honouring his memory, let us strive to emulate his kindness and generosity in our own lives, keeping alive the essence of his remarkable legacy.

Sent in by the Branch



**PALLAVARAM BRANCH,
CHENNAI,
TAMIL NADU**

ANTHONY D'NAZARETH

It is with deep sorrow that we inform members of the passing of Mr Anthony



D'Nazareth, aged 98, on 12 December 2023. Uncle Tony, as he was fondly called, was a

cherished member of the Pallavaram Branch. Heartfelt condolences to the family and prayers for the repose of his soul.

HYACINTH VANHALTREN

Mrs Hyacinth Vanhaltren (aged 95), a senior member of the Branch, passed away on 19 December 2023. We pray that her soul rests in peace.

Sent in by the Branch



TRIVANDRUM BRANCH, KERALA

RAY NAPIER

The Branch mourns the loss of its brave soldier Col. Ray Napier, aged 69 years, on 16 August 2023. He was the second-born and only son of the late Mrs Gladys Napier (née Christian) and the late Brigadier W G Napier. He is survived by his sisters Mrs Lyla Culas (Bengaluru), Dr Vilma Vaz (Trivandrum), and Mrs Reena Kumar (USA).



Col. Ray Napier was born in the Military Hospital at Jalandhar, Punjab, on 18 May 1954. His childhood was spent in places such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Udhampur. He studied at Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet, and completed his graduation from Mar Ivanios

College, Trivandrum. He served in the Army Service Corps (ASC) as an officer. He was fearless and was loved by his juniors and jawans. His career in the army took him to the border states of Sikkim, and the North-East. He also served in Jammu & Kashmir during peak militancy periods.

Col. Ray Napier was a person with an innate good heart who generously helped those in need. He was a benefactor of the Branch. Never one to expect anything in return, he believed in the beatitude, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

Rest in peace, brave soldier and generous soul! You will be greatly missed!

LEON D'CRUZ

The Trivandrum Branch is deeply saddened to announce the

demise of Mr Leon D'Cruz on 30 March 2023. Leon was brought up in Kolkata and worked in the Merchant Navy. He was a stalwart of the community and took a lead role in guiding youngsters in church activities. He is survived by his wife Leela, son Capt Alfred Lynn D'Cruz and family.



Mr D'Cruz was the recipient of the 'The Gentleman of the Community' award instituted by the Trivandrum Branch.

Sent in by Janet D'Souza

VILLUPURAM-PONDICHERRY BRANCH

IVAN NORONHA

Ivan Noronha, aged 70 years, passed away on 21 November 2023. Ivan was a fun-loving person who endeared himself to all those he met. Our prayers and condolences are with his wife Ghislaine, as Ivan leaves her to be reunited with their beloved daughter Annalise.



BERYL HENDERSON

Beryl Henderson, (81 years), departed for God's garden of rest on 25 December 2023. She was a soft-spoken, gentle person whose soothing presence will be greatly missed by her husband Gerard (Gerry), her daughter Alyson, and family, and a whole host of relatives and friends. May she rest in peace!



Sent in by the Branch

GOLDEN ROCK BRANCH, TAMIL NADU

NEVILLE ROZARIO



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Mr. Neville Rozario, a stalwart of our Community and the esteemed President of the Golden Rock Branch, on June 8th, 2022, at the age of 83. Mr Rozario dedicated over four decades of his life to The All-India Anglo-Indian Association, serving as a Committee Member, Vice President, and finally as President. His tireless efforts and inspiring leadership touched countless lives, leaving a lasting impact on our community. He will always be remembered for

his dedication, resilience, generosity, and compassion. May his soul rest in eternal peace!

GLEN DEWELTZ

It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of Mr Glen Deweltz, Vice President of the Golden Rock Branch, on 13 April 2022, at the age of 59. He is deeply missed by his beloved wife, Sheryl Deweltz. Mr Deweltz served our Community for over two decades, starting as a Committee Member and eventually becoming Vice President. He is fondly remembered for his courage, simplicity, and unwavering commitment to the greater good. May his soul rest in peace!



Sent in by the Branch

Dear Barry,

I was so happy that I attended the online function – I got to know of so many super achievers who are an inspiration for everyone. Thanks for bringing me back! My dad would have been proud - he was the President of the St Thomas Mount Branch for a few years - all the meetings were held at our home. Thank you very much for this recognition. The feeling is very different when you hold it in your hands! Carrie (Jeffries Shankar) visited us at home with her daughter Carissa, the Branch Secretary Donford Gomez and the Treasurer Charles West to hand over the Award. We had a very pleasant morning and a lovely chat. I promised Carrie all the support from my end. I would be happy to be a part of the Association and be of any help.

Thank you for conducting the event so well and wishing you good health to keep our flag flying at full mast. It really feels great getting back to our community!

Jeff

(Dated 5 March 2022 and 19 November 2022 - from Mr Jeffrey Varden of Chennai, recipient of 'The Norman Hutchinson Award for Outstanding Talent' 2021)

Dear Barry

Thank you so much! I am glad the Community recognised me. I would be greatly overjoyed if someone from the community can step up and deliver like in the past.

Good wishes to you and the family and to all who were a part of the virtual program.

My regards and best wishes,

Roger

(Dated 12 March 2022 - from Mr Roger Binny, recipient of 'The Pride of the Community' Honour, 2021.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr O'Brien

I am honoured and thankful to you and the Governing Body for conferring this prestigious award on me. I am truly humbled and will continue to try and do my best. I'm proud to be an Anglo-Indian and remain thankful to the Association. Thank you also for your kind words of appreciation. It all began in 1987. I was the first Anglo-Indian to receive the Anglo-Indian quota seat for MBBS in Bangalore Medical College. I'm happy to let you know that our son Mathew has joined Medical College here in Chennai.

A father once told his son, 'Be careful where you walk and the path you take'. His son replied, 'Dad you need to be careful because I will follow your steps and path.'

I mention this because your father, Late Mr Neil O'Brien, was a great man and leader who had a clear vision for our community. You are following in his footsteps and continuing his good work, leading our community forward. I thank you and your team for all the hard work and effort all of you are putting in to keep our flag flying high.

I would like to meet you when I'm in Kolkata. I will be in touch.

Best wishes to you and your family,
Kindest regards

Nigel

(Dated 5 March 2022 - from Dr Nigel Symss recipient of 'The Reach for the Stars' Honour 2020.)

Dear Barry,

I feel honoured and doubly motivated! I have sincerely appreciated your guidance of the Community, and, in particular, how you never miss an opportunity to showcase and celebrate its members' achievements, big or small. You have long understood the value of having Role Models - and lo and behold, you became one of the finest our community has produced!

All the very best! Will be with you on this journey of grooming and nurturing the qualities and talents of our community...

Warm regards

Priscilla

(Dated 13 March 2022 - from Ms Priscilla Corner, recipient of 'The Joy Michael Award for the Creative Arts', 2021.)

Dear Barry Sir

It was wonderful to be there with everyone that evening. I feel grateful and honoured to receive this prestigious award from my community.

I wish the Association all the best for the future.

With my warm regards,
Stuart

(Dated 11 March 2022 - from Mr Stuart Binny, recipient of 'The Wilson Jones Honour for a Sportsman', 2021.)



OUR YOUTH TURNED OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS AND MORE THAN MADE THEIR PRESENCE FELT

In a letter to our President-in-Chief Mr Barry O'Brien, Dr G. K. Francis, ex-MLA, and a highly respected leader of the Community, wrote: "I was really amazed and delighted to attend the programmes held as part of the 148th Annual General Meeting. My heart was filled with joy to see so many youngsters coming out in large numbers and taking part in the proceedings. They have committed themselves to making our Community better and better"



THE DELEGATES' BALL AT THE CORINTHIANS CLUB AND RESORT, PUNE

It had everything to do with elegance, grooming, and sophistication...and yet, it had Something that was like a Magical Mystery Tour, when it was time to Come Together and just Let It Be. When it was time to Twist and Shout, you wished it was Yesterday, and your knees didn't ache, and you didn't need any Help. But you soon realised that one can Get By With A Little Help From My Friends. And just when you were ready to Get Back, you Saw Her Standing There. That's when you said, And I Love Her. You said to her, I Wanna Hold Your Hand. That's when the other guy agreed, saying, She Loves You, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah...and went on to the stage to sing, While My Guitar Gently Weeps!