

Dear Members and Friends,

The sad passing of the Duke of Edinburgh in April was marked by a brief statement on our website and a further piece from the Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society worldwide Dr Linda Yue. A great supporter of the Commonwealth, he will be deeply missed.

We would like to inform you of the date of our AGM which will be held on Zoom at 6.30pm on July 7th. It is hoped that our patron the Mayor of Bath and our president the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Annie Maw will be able to join us. Further details on the Zoom link will be sent nearer the date.

We will also be officially welcoming at the AGM a new trustee to our branch council Natasha Hopkins who works at the University of Bath. Her experience working with students and in Commonwealth matters will be of great value to the branch and we hope she enjoys her time with us. Natasha has been appointed as a trustee on an interim basis until the AGM, when we will be requesting all members to participate to elect / re-elect trustees.

You will see from the announcements on our website www.rcsbath.org that we have once again provided financial support of £500 to the Children of Choba project which has led to the purchase of a new water tank for the school and furniture and equipment for the classrooms. More information together with photographs can be found on the website. The Commonwealth Cook Up organised by trustee Lotte was a great success, including live linkups to Canada and Zambia. Students from around the Commonwealth, many studying in Bath, together with other members produced a selection of dishes. These included recipes from Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. Lotte is currently compiling a Commonwealth Cookbook which will be available on our website very soon.

We are also in the process of organising our summer event which will be a Commonwealth picnic in early August in Bath and as soon as we have further details we will be back in touch.

The RCS Bath 2022 Art Competition is well underway and Anita and her team have received a great deal of financial support from a number of sponsors including the Chartered Trustees of Bath and the West Country branch of the Britain-Australia Society. We are currently promoting this event on YouTube and various other social platforms.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Habila Mormi who has been our student co-ordinator at the University of Bath but we are pleased to welcome Olalekan Samuel Bodunrin who is taking over the role. We would of course like to thank Habila for all his hard work and support for the branch during his time with us. Gaiven Claremont from Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to continue as the student co-ordinator at Bath Spa University.

We hope also to organise a further event during the autumn for the new Commonwealth students in Bath and give members a chance to be able to meet them alongside Commonwealth students from local schools.

Best wishes and keep safe.

Godfrey Hall, Chair.