

## MR KAYE WHITEMAN

(1936-2014)



**Mr Kaye Whiteman** was Director of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Information and Public Affairs Division in the late 1990s. He remained a longstanding friend and supporter of the Commonwealth after leaving the Secretariat.

- *I received with great sadness the news of the death of Kaye Whiteman. Kaye served as Director of Information and Public Affairs Division in the Commonwealth Secretariat during my tenure as Secretary-General. I had invited him to the Secretariat after his glittering service to the then European Economic Community, later to become the European Union, as Head of Information. He was a devoted servant of the Commonwealth always espousing the organization's cause with evident enthusiasm.*

*Kaye Whiteman was a distinguished journalist and author having cut his teeth in journalism in the historic West Africa Magazine under the editorship of the renowned David Williams. And he eventually became the Magazine's editor and a great champion of bringing the news about Africa and West Africa in particular to the world.*

*I last met with Kaye at a bookshop in Kensington at the launch of his book, Lagos: A Cultural and Historical Companion, in 2012. Included in the book is a mention of my home in Lagos.*

*My wife joins me in sending our deepest condolence to Marva and their family.*

**Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)

- *Kaye was also a great Secretariat colleague - supportive, innovative, thoughtful, dedicated, industrious, and with a dry humour that provided much-needed perspective. Such a sad loss. Kayode [Soyinka]'s moving tribute has been circulated to Round Table colleagues and the comments of Derek [Ingram] and others help remind us of a fascinating and talented friend who will be sorely missed. **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)*

- *I am very sad to hear this news. Such a lovely man. I think the best thing we can do to honour him is to help over a Memorial Service and obits, so that his contribution to Africa and the Commonwealth are is properly recognised. **Elizabeth Smith** (Former Secretary-General, Commonwealth Broadcasting Association)*
- *This has all been so upsetting to me. In a way I am lost for words, yet there is so much to say about Kaye. I suppose I had known him for the best part of half a century. We spent so many fascinating times together around the world covering and attending Commonwealth, and especially African, events. He was always great and often most amusing company and a fount of knowledge and wisdom. In a way his passing is the end of an era.*

*We shall certainly have several opportunities in the coming weeks to pay tribute to him. One of Kaye's most recent achievements was his hugely enjoyable book on Lagos. A most difficult subject, he captures this great volatile, untidy city just wonderfully. In the weeks to come we shall have several opportunities to reminisce together about this fine journalist. **Derek Ingram** (Former Editor, Gemini news agency and Journalist)*

- *So sorry to hear about Kaye's passing. I did not know him well and met him on only a few occasions - but recognised in him a really genuine Commonwealth man. **Hugh Craft***
- *Sorry to hear the sad news. We have to continue take one day at a time and to enjoy every day and maintain happiness. No one knows what the future holds and tomorrow promises no one. Since I worked at ComSec from 1978-2008 (30 years) I know Kaye Whiteman very well and had the pleasure to deal with him and his team from time to time while working in Education/Health, PAD and GTA (now GIDD). **Andrea David-Hugh-Kong***
- *I'm sorry to hear this. Only a while ago Kaye was in touch to say that he wanted to come and look at the magazines issued by the Quaker school he attended. **David Blake***
- *What very very sad news; I am still reeling from the information. He was a great person to work for, always witty, helpful and caring as well as having a deep understanding of Commonwealth affairs. He made working in CPAD a most enjoyable experience for me and I learnt much from him. He will be greatly missed. **Rupert Jones-Parry***
- *This is such sad news. Kaye was one of us. A lovely man. Talented, committed sincere. A great loss. **Lorna McLaren***
- *Noted with sadness another death. Though I have not met Kaye Whiteman. I wish his soul everlasting peace in the kingdom of God! **Shiranee Ranasinghe***

- *Kaye will be sorely missed by the Commonwealth family. He was the first journalist to approach me after I was appointed as Commonwealth Secretary-General in Uganda in 2007. I reminded him of this recently when he attended the annual Commonwealth Day celebrations at Marlborough House. He cared deeply about Africa and its people. **Kamalesh Sharma** (Commonwealth Secretary-General, 2008-2016)*
- *Kaye was a distinguished writer and journalist who, over five decades, developed an immense knowledge of Africa and reported on African Affairs for the international media. He was for years editor of West Africa Magazine and the author of several incisive books on Africa. **Patsy Robertson** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001 -2020)*
- *This sad - very very sad - news of Kaye Whiteman's death just reached me while in Nigeria where I am presently. I still spoke with him a few days ago before I left London for this trip. And my wife just told me this morning when I broke the shocking news to her that he even called me at our UK home on the morning of my departure on the 8th. We produced the June edition of Africa Today together. And he invited me to a CJA meeting at the House of Commons, which unfortunately I couldn't attend.*

*Kaye was a distinguished journalist and editor who, over five decades, developed an immense knowledge of Africa and reported on African Affairs for the international media, including our newsmagazine - AFRICA TODAY, where he was for many years a Contributing Editor. His contributions in Africa Today are usually masterpieces.*

*He was for years deputy editor and eventually editor of the renowned West Africa Magazine. He appropriately took over as editor of West Africa from the legendary David Williams. Whiteman was Williams' protégé. He did his tutelage on Nigeria under Williams. He had covered the Nigerian civil war as a young reporter for The Time of London. He was a repository of African history. He knew something about nearly anyone who had served in public service in any African country. Nigeria was his favourite Africa subject. Particularly, he wrote on Nigeria and Africa with such authority, understanding and, indeed, affection, that is rare among Western writers on Africa, that made some of us to consider him an honorary Nigerian. His article on Nigeria at 100 in the April/May 2014 edition of Africa Today will continue to be a reference point. He was also the author of several incisive books on Africa, including the book, LAGOS, which was launched only last year.*

*Kaye Whiteman was head of Information for the old European Economic Community (EEC) before it became the European Union (EU). It was after leaving the EEC in Brussels that he returned to London to become editor of West Africa after the retirement of David Williams. Perhaps his biggest career regret is that, despite doing everything within his power, he could not prevent*

*the demise of the fabled "Methuselah" West Africa Magazine when the Daily Times of Nigeria that owned it collapsed and the Nigerian government under President Olusegun Obasanjo was no longer interested in funding it. Sadly, West Africa was placed under administration in the UK until Whiteman was able to get the Ghanaian government to buy it. The new owners couldn't sustain the magazine either and it finally collapsed.*

*Kaye Whiteman was also head of the Information and Public Affairs Division in the Commonwealth Secretariat serving under Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku in the late 1990s. Nigeria and, indeed, Africa has lost a great and dependable British friend and a powerful figure - a powerhouse - in the British and Commonwealth media. I remember when I was chairman of the London Management Committee of the Commonwealth Journalist Association (CJA) and he was editor of West Africa, he took strong interest in the activities of the CJA and became a member of the UK branch. The association now has a very strong and active UK branch thanks to the efforts of people like Kaye Whiteman and Rita Payne, the former Asia Editor of the BBC, who is now the International President of the CJA. Recently, before his death, he tried to get the Nigerians to re-establish a branch of the CJA in the country. He spent his last trip to Nigeria early this year visiting newspaper editors in Lagos and encouraged them to re-establish the Nigerian branch.*

*Personally, I will miss him greatly. His death is a huge loss to me. He was for many years a close personal friend, confidant and colleague. I consistently shared with him the very challenging experiences of publishing on Africa at global level. He was particularly a Pillar of Strength to me in my Africa Today project. I will for ever be grateful to him for the consistent support he gave me at Africa Today, where he wrote perhaps his very last piece in the June edition on a subject on which he was an authority - EU/Africa Relations. The Africa Today edition just came out and on the distribution chain - not even on the newsstands yet - when the sad news of Whiteman's death was announced in London. He is irreplaceable. I am delighted though that he was able to read that his last article in print before he died, because I made sure I sent him a copy before I left London.*

*Kaye will be sorely missed. My condolences to his wife and family. May his soul rest in peace. And God Bless His Soul. Amen. **Kayode Soyinka** (Journalist and Publisher, Africa Today)*

- *I was deeply saddened when I received this news in Malawi observing its current elections. I last saw Kaye in March when he attended my briefing on latest developments in Zimbabwe, committed as he was to its eventual return to the Commonwealth fold. Despite battling cancer he was always deeply interested and engaged in promoting the best for Africa and the Commonwealth, as he had done all his professional life. I will miss his droll sense of humour, his somewhat sceptical even bemused approach to life, and his passion for the Commonwealth and its*

people. *The Commonwealth is the poorer for the passing of Kaye, but the richer for his inspiration.* **Matthew Neuhaus**

- *I was sorry to receive the news . Kaye Whiteman was a remarkable man with immense love for Commonwealth and undeterred commitment to what Commonwealth stands for. I join Chief Anyaoku and other colleagues in expressing our sadness. Please convey my condolences to his family.* **Mohan Kaul**
- *This is a blow to all of us: Kaye was a lovely man and had a fund of knowledge on West Africa and Nigeria in particular. I last saw him at Wole Soyinka's British Library lecture on 8 May, and had had a fascinating conversation with him and Eghosa Osaghae, Anyaoku Professor at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, only a few days before that. My own small tribute already lies in the references I have drafted for my half-written book about Nigeria, acknowledging especially his splendid book on Lagos.* **Richard Bourne**
- *Allow me to add my voice to the chorus of voices raised in this moment of Kaye's untimely passing. He will be greatly missed as stalwart friend of the Commonwealth and specially of West Africa - and as an internationalist who was steadfast to the highest principles of a common humanity. I send you and the family my deepest sympathy and condolence at this sad moment of loss which I and so many others share with you. May that sharing be a comfort and a strength.* **Sonny Ramphal** (Sir Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1975-1990 – Tribute sent to Mrs Whiteman)
- *I did not know Kaye. But I am impressed with all the wonderful tributes to him from so many people. He must have been an exceptional person. It is indeed a tragedy that such a man should pass away so suddenly. Please accept my deepest condolence at this tragic loss. May God give strength to his family to bear the burden of his loss and may his memory provide them with relief and consolation.* **Selina Mohsin** (Bangladesh)

**Selected links:**

- <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/jun/03/kaye-whiteman>
- <https://bcafrica.org/the-kaye-whiteman-summer-lecture/>
- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Books-Kaye-Whiteman/s?rh=n%3A266239%2Cp\\_27%3AKaye+Whiteman](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Books-Kaye-Whiteman/s?rh=n%3A266239%2Cp_27%3AKaye+Whiteman)

## MS CLAUDETTE CARTER

(-2014)

**Ms Claudette Carter** worked in the Secretariat from the late 70s to late 80s in the Export Market Development Division. She was married to fellow staffer Roy Carter who passed away a few years ago.

- *Sorry to hear this. Claudette was in EMD when I started there, fresh from Oz, in 1981. A very friendly, efficient and helpful colleague, as was Roy when he joined EMD a little later. **Chris Bowman***
- *Please send my condolences to Claudette's family, as I knew her so well and we worked together briefly in Education & Training when I was on voluntary rotation, at ComSec. May her soul rest in peace! **Shiranee Ranasinghe** (Sri Lanka)*
- *Deeply saddened to hear of Claudette's passing away. She had a bubbly personality combined with a quirky sense of humour which use to keep friends (well, me) on their toes when exchanging view on any topic. She will be missed by all who knew her. **Raja Gomez***
- *I am deeply saddened to hear the sad news of Claudette passing away. She was also a dear friend and I knew her family from back home in Sri Lanka. I spoke from Oz to Claudette a couple of weeks ago when she had been discharged from the hospital and was waiting to go home. She was a very strong and courageous person who battled with her illness. She will be very much missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace. **Genny Cooper***
- *It is so sad to learn of Claudette's passing, not too long after her husband's passing! She was a very nice lady, and will be greatly missed. Kindly pass my deep condolences to her family. **Evelyn Adlam***
- *Shocking news! We all join to express our deepest sympathy to the family and very close friends of Claudette (Chinniah) Carter. Many of us have lost a very dear and wonderful friend. Claudette's last email to us was on Thursday 10 July, and we spoke on Friday 11 July evening after her operation. She was in high spirits and was looking forward to spending more time with family and friends and especially with her new grand-daughter. Claudette was 71 years on Saturday 12 July - a birthday I never forgot as my Mum's birthday is 13 July.*

*Claudette has been a great friend since January 1978 when we both joined the Education Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat on the same day. We shared many wonderful and precious times. She was clever, efficient, humorous, God fearing, beautiful, tall and elegant. Whenever we met up there was always so much laughter and jokes. She was quite funny at times. She worked hard to bring up her 3 lovely children and loved them dearly.*

*Her late husband, Roy Carter, died just over 3 years ago. They spent many happy years together. Claudette was in and out of hospitals but being very positive with a strong personality, she always bounced back and so we all felt all will be well after her last surgery. Perhaps her beautiful frail body could take no more. Our wonderful friend is no longer with us but she will never be forgotten. She has gone to join Roy. May she rest in peace.*

*This news is certainly a wakeup call for us. What we could do today, do it, take one day at a time, enjoy life, do all the things we want to do, smile a lot and maintain happiness for tomorrow promises no one. We are here today and could be gone tomorrow. Only God knows who is next. My Mum always said to us 'when you smile, the world smiles with you, but when you cry, you cry alone'. **Andrea David-Hugh-Kong and all friends of Claudette Carter***

- *Hi Andrea, This is a wonderful tribute from you for Claudie. Only you could have done it so aptly and on behalf of all her friends. It was her time and she is now free from her sufferings. May her soul rest in peace. **Georgina Wilson***
- *We are indeed saddened by the loss of our dear friend, Claudette. She will greatly be missed - may her gentle soul rest in peace. **May Nakatudde***
- *I did not know Claudette. But any death is tragic. Please convey my condolence to the members of the family. I pray for Claudette and hope her surviving family members have enough strength with beautiful memories of Claudette's life to help them to go forward and accept the loss. **Selina Mohsin (Bangladesh)***
- *I remember Claudette with great fondness. I am saddened by her passing. Condolences to her family. May she rest in peace with her beloved Roy. **Yusuff Ali***

### **MR ARVIND BARVE**

(-2014)

**Mr Arvind Barve** was Director of the Export Market Development Division, Commonwealth Secretariat in the 1980s and early 1990s. He also served on the Commonwealth Association Executive Committee.

- *Our condolences to his family. **Cheryl Dorall** (Former Hon Secretary, The Commonwealth Association)*
- *It is sad to hear that Arvind Barve is no more - he was gentle and forward looking and contributed much to Commonwealth's work. We will miss him. My condolences to his family and friends. **S K Rao***
- *This is such sad news, Cheryl. He has a great colleague - courteous, enthusiastic, cheerful and deeply committed to his work. He continued his involvement with the Commonwealth through the Commonwealth Association and was a valued member*

of ExCo. He will be much missed. **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)

- *Very sad news about Arvind Barve. We were good friends when we were colleagues at the ComSec. He was a really lovely person. It was a pity we did not keep in touch when we left the ComSec. Please convey my condolences to his family.*

**Farida Ariffin**

- *I was deeply saddened to read this news. Arvind was a good friend during my years at the Secretariat and then, more recently, as a fellow member of the ExCo of the Commonwealth Association. We had many a delightful conversation walking to Victoria Station after ExCo meetings and I cannot bring myself to accept that there will be no more of those. He will be missed by all who knew him. **Raja Gomez***
- *I am indeed very sad to learn of the passing of a very good friend and colleague. Apart from his contribution to the work of the Commonwealth and afterwards as an ex co member of the Association, he was an active Rotarian. He influenced my joining after I retired as he was a member long before then. He always seemed very even tempered and always there to offer a friendly word. Our condolences to his family. He will surely be missed by all those with whom he was associated. **Rickie Sankar***
- *I am shocked to hear that Arvind Barve has passed away. I worked with him in the Secretariat for quite some time and we used to meet almost every day. He was kind, helpful and always cheerful. I cannot believe that he is no more. Please convey my condolences to his family. **Gurudas Bailur***
- *With Arvind Barve's death goes another of the former team of thoroughly dedicated servants of the Commonwealth. The enthusiasm and activism he brought to his work as Director of the Secretariat Export and Marketing Division was always impressive and will be long remembered. Please convey my condolence to his family. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*
- *This is very sad news. Arvind was a wonderful friend, courteous, good humoured and always looking for something positive to say about the CW. His contribution in spearheading Comsecs work in trade promotion will be long remembered. I knew him from my time in UNCTAD. He will be sadly missed. Kindly convey my heartfelt condolences to his wife and family. Rest in peace Arvind. **Rumman Faruqi***
- *This is very sad news indeed. I got to know Arvind when I was in Sir Peter Marshall's office and he remained a dear friend. He was a thorough professional always bursting with ideas about how to move the Secretariat's work forward. He was also a kind-hearted man and he and Malini were generous hosts. Regrettably, I will not be in London to attend his funeral. Please convey my sincere condolences to Malini, other members of his family and friends. Rest in peace, Arvind. **Lorna McLaren***



- *I share the great sadness and sense of loss that others have expressed over Arvind Barve's death. It comes as a shock to us all. Although he and I never worked closely together on technical/professional matters, such was his smiling, outgoing, presence that we established a warm friendship in pursuing Commonwealth endeavours after so-called 'retirement'. Like others I am going to miss him greatly.*

**Peter Williams**

- *Having just seen your email, I hasten to share my shock and deep sorrow with you all at Arvind Barve's passing away. Thoughts come flowing to me of the numerous interactions we had not only as colleagues at the Commonwealth Secretariat, but long thereafter. He was kind hearted and friendly. Our discussions across his table were always polite and even on the rare occasions when we agreed to disagree, he seemed to say, a la Voltaire, that he would defend to his death my right to express my views. Post our retirements, we continued to meet socially and he was ever generous to invite me to the lunches at the Westminster Rotary. His contribution to the Commonwealth Association was more than yeoman. My wife joins me in conveying our sincere condolences to the Barve family. We will be mentally present at his funeral, wishing his soul eternal peace.* **P P Kanthan**

- *I was immensely saddened to learn that Arvind had passed away. I remember him as a very dear man, much devoted to the Commonwealth. We will all miss him. My sincere condolences to his family.* **Gail Larose** (Canada)

- *Let me join with so many of our members in paying tribute to our dear colleague Arvind, and extending our condolences to his family. I treasure in particular memories of some meetings which he organised in Nairobi in 1988, during the course of which he deftly arranged for me to fit in a visit to Amboseli National Park.*

**Peter Marshall**

## **MS CATHERINE SEBASTIAN**

(-2014)

**Ms Catherine Sebastian** worked in the Secretary-General's Office and Economic Affairs Division, among others.

- *I knew that Catherine was battling cancer and, after an operation, was awaiting chemotherapy (delayed because she suffered repeated infections). I spoke to her fairly recently and she seemed remarkably upbeat and stoical in the circumstances. But it seemed that the cancer quickly spread to her lungs and liver, with the inevitable result.*

*I know there will be many of Catherine's former colleagues who will be deeply upset and saddened by this news. Catherine worked with me in the Private Office during part of Chief Anyaoku's tenure and was always cheerful, dedicated, skilled and professional and also utterly loyal. I know she also worked in EAD and with other parts of ComSec. We kept in touch over the years and this is such sad news.* **Stuart Mole** (Deputy Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001-2020)

- *This is indeed sad news. I spoke to Catherine in early December to see if I could see her, but she was not very well and so we promised to be in touch again. In all my conversations with her since she became ill she was always cheerful and was always hoping she would soon be able to attend some of our events. I hope to join other members of the CA able to attend the funeral to express our condolences to her family. **Patsy Robertson** (Chair, The Commonwealth Association, 2001 -2020)*
- *Grateful if you could please convey my condolences to her family as I am currently overseas and will not be back in the UK for some time yet. **Roy Rodriguez***
- *Sad news indeed. May her soul remain in peace. Heartfelt condolences to her family.*  
**Ved Goel**
- *I am so very sorry to hear this awfully sad news. I was not aware that Catherine was ill and in fact the last time I saw her she appeared to be in good health. Catherine and I worked in the Secretary-General's office at the same time and she proved to be a very competent colleague. At a time when the rest of us were struggling with newly introduced computer technology she embraced it and aided all of us. So sad that she died so young.*  
  
*I am currently away from London and would ask that you convey my deepest sympathy to Natasha and the rest of Catherine's family. **Lorna McLaren***
- *Catherine Sebastian's death is shocking to me. I took over from her in EAD and then worked with her briefly in SG's Office. A very helpful woman she was. She worked around Victoria after she left ComSec and I used to bump into her on the Victoria Line on the way to and from work. It's been a while since I saw her and wondered where she was. May her soul rest in everlasting peace. I am out of the country therefore unable to attend her funeral. My condolences to her family. **Ivy Chikoti***
- *What a sad way to begin the new year with the news of Catherine Sebastian's death which reached me today in Nigeria. I remember Catherine as a devoted and hardworking member of the team in my private office during the early part of my tenure. Please convey my condolence to Natasha and her family. **Emeka Anyaoku** (Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 1990-2000)*
- *It is very sad to hear about Catherine Sebastian, a fellow Trinidadian. She was always very bubbly. She was also a fantastic dancer. May she rest in peace. It is important for us to continue to give praise and thanks to God for being here and in good health. We need to do all the things we want to do, maintain happiness, smile a lot and continue to enjoy every day until our time comes. **Andrea V David-Hugh-Kong***

- *This is sad news indeed. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend her funeral. It will be appreciated if you could please convey my condolences to her family.* **William Rezel**