

UK OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF UKOTA · FEBRUARY 2016



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TERRITORY NEWS

Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council 2015

In July, the Government of Bermuda hosted a meeting for the Leaders and representatives of the Territories, to discuss the issues that they wished to be raised at the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) 2015.

The fourth meeting of the JMC was held in London at the beginning of December. The meeting was attended by the elected Leaders and representatives of the Territories to meet with HMG Ministers and officials.

The key themes of this year's Council were building the prosperity and economic development of the Territories; protecting the most vulnerable members of the communities; pensions; health; education; sports; child safeguarding; and the role of the environment in delivering prosperity.

The Council agreed to a communique which identified priorities and set out a number of areas for joint work in the year ahead. The Communique has been published on the GOV.UK website: <http://bit.ly/1NuUWK5>

At a reception to mark the end of the meeting, hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, food and drink from a number of Territories was served. These included lamb and fish from the Falkland Islands, lobster and beer from Tristan da Cunha, liqueurs from the British Virgin Islands, honey from Pitcairn and candies from Turks and Caicos Islands.

UKOTA holds 2016 AGM



Incumbent UKOTA Chairman, Benito Wheatley; Fabian Hamilton MP, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs; Andrew Rosindell MP, OT APPG Chairman; and Sukey Cameron MBE, 2015 UKOTA Chair.

On 27th January 2016, UKOTA members gathered for their Annual General Meeting. Members formally adopted the UKOTA Annual Report for 2015.

Benito Wheatley, UK/EU Representative for the British Virgin Islands, was elected as Chairman; Albert Poggio GMH OBE, UK Representative for HM Government of Gibraltar, was re-elected to the role of Hon. Secretary; and Chris Carnegy; UK Representative for the Government of Tristan da Cunha, was re-elected to the role of Hon. Treasurer.

Benito Wheatley formally thanked Sukey Cameron for her service as Chairman over the past year. Sukey Cameron extended her thanks to the officers and the members of the sub-committees for their work during the year. She also thanked Edwina O'Mahony for all the work she had undertaken in providing the UKOTA Secretariat.

Inaugural Overseas Territories Student Conference



Over 150 students from various Overseas Territories travelled to London, in late November, to attend the inaugural Overseas Territories Student Conference.

The theme of the conference was 'Our Islands, Our Future; Sustainable Development'. The students attending gained a broader understanding of the themes behind sustainable development and the importance of conservation.

Sukey Cameron MBE, the Falkland Islands Representative and then Chair of UKOTA, gave opening remarks in which she welcomed the students. The keynote address was delivered by Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Dr the Hon. Kedrick Pickering. In his remarks he said, "Protecting the environment means taking tough decisions. As young persons whose future is ahead, it means having a vision of what you want to see and embarking on the journey to achieve it".

Conservation with consent



Adamstown, Pitcairn Island

A vast area of the Pacific Ocean is being designated for marine protection, with the support of Pitcairn Islanders.

Pitcairn is uniquely well-placed to provide a haven for fish, as the island group has no commercial fishery ambitions and commands an 'Exclusive Economic Zone' of over 830,000 square

kilometres. So the elected council enthusiastically endorsed the move. Next comes the work of enforcing the Marine Protected Area; a complex task of identifying rogue fishing vessels and if necessary prosecuting their operators.

The Overseas Territories hold over 90% of the UK's biodiversity, and the Territories take seriously their conservation duties. Environmental management is devolved to the Territories, so UKOTA welcomes new assurances from Her Majesty's Government that further measures will only be put in place in pursuit of aims agreed by the elected representatives of the relevant Territory.

Working together, the Territories and the UK can deliver world-class marine conservation, alongside the sustainable fisheries that are vital to many OT economies.

Government of Anguilla appoints new UK/EU Rep



The Hon. Chief Minister of Anguilla, Mr Victor Banks, has announced the appointment of Mrs Blondel Cluff as the Government of Anguilla Representative to the United Kingdom and the European Union (UK/EU). Mrs Cluff, who is Anguillan, took up her appointment on 1st February 2016.

Mrs Cluff will be assisted in her duties by Ms Sonia Fleming as the liaison with the Anguilla Slough/UK Diaspora Community and to serve as the coordinator of enquiries from Anguillans seeking medical attention and wishing to pursue educational opportunities in the United Kingdom.

BERMUDA

Beauty with a Purpose

The Miss Bermuda Pageant has an illustrious history, first competing in the Miss Universe Pageants in 1965, with Margaret Hill winning Miss Photogenic in 1970. Miss Bermuda began competing in the Miss World Pageant in 1971 seeing Gina Swainson become the 1st and only Miss Bermuda to date to be crowned Miss World in 1979.

The current Miss Bermuda is Alyssa Rose, a 23 year old graduate of Kingston University London who competed in the Miss World 2015 in Sanya, Peoples Republic of China. Miss Rose finished top 26 in Sport and Top 13 in Talent. Her mission as Miss Bermuda is to use her MA in Marketing and Brand Management to assist and spread awareness to charities in Bermuda.

As a child growing up in Bermuda, Miss Rose admits she took full advantage and benefit from Bermuda's natural beauty. A beauty which is often taken for granted, but not every child has the same experience.

Miss Rose has spoken on this matter stating that "for the physically challenged or disabled, access to this beauty is very limited. As a result, it is difficult for the children to be taken into the community and despite being such a small place, there's still a huge stigma attached to the topic, with many knowing very little, if anything at all, about children with special needs here."

The Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy is the island's only dedicated school for children with special needs in Bermuda. Students here are between the ages of 4 and 18, with moderate



to severe multiple challenges. They are taught an adapted curriculum that includes language and literacy, functional math, living and communication skills, physical education and social, vocational and recreational skills.

The stigma and lack of awareness in the community make it very difficult for organizations and charities to gain financial support in order to provide the care for those attending the Dame Marjorie Bean Hope Academy. Through her efforts, Miss Rose hopes to change that.

Miss Bermuda's video, bringing awareness to special needs in education, can be found on the Government of Bermuda London Office Website. www.BDALondonOffice.co.uk



Kimberley Durrant Top 200 Power Woman

UK Representative and Director of the Government of Bermuda London Office has been included in the 2015 Citywealth IFC Power Women Top 200. The List is compiled by Citywealth Magazine of 200 of the most powerful women in government, private wealth, education, private client advisory and philanthropy across the International Financial Centres (IFCs).

Citywealth explain, "The list focuses on influencers as well as professionals and celebrates powerful women from diverse backgrounds. It recognises women of achievement who are trailblazers in their field, helping to promote business excellence in their home jurisdiction and consolidating the reputations of the financial services industry globally."

The Full list including additions from fellow British Overseas Territories can be found at citywealthmag.com

I F C 2 0 1 4
powerwomen
T O P 2 0 0



Bermuda – At a Glance

Capital: Hamilton | **Size:** 53.3 sq km | **Population:** 64,237 (2010 estimate) |
Currency: Bermudian Dollar (BMD) | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

British Virgin Islands

OECD rates BVI compliant on Tax



The BVI received a rating of 'Largely Compliant' by the OECD Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes in its peer review report published on 3 August 2015.

Commenting on the positive rating, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Hon. D. Orlando Smith, OBE said, "The BVI has a long track-record of meeting and exceeding the highest international regulatory and transparency standards and we continue to do so today. We are very pleased that this has been recognised by the OECD."

Premier signs agreement for direct flights to USA



Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Hon. D. Orlando Smith, OBE announced at a signing ceremony on 12th January 2016, that direct flights between the British Virgin Islands and the United States (US) would commence in late 2016, serviced by BVI Airways.

The direct flights from Terrence B. Lettsome International Airport to Miami International Airport will provide the Territory with

connections to destinations in the US mainland, Caribbean, Central America, South America and Europe. The service will begin with three flights per week and increase in frequency during the tourism high season. In remarks at the ceremony, Premier Smith said, "Today's signing is indicative of my Government's resolve to do all that we can to maintain and improve our economy for the benefit of present and future generations of BV Islanders and residents."

BVI supports islands at Paris climate change meeting



Deputy Premier delivers remarks at UNFCCC COP 21 side event

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. Hon. Kedrick Pickering, attended the UNFCCC COP21 meeting in Paris from 7th-9th December 2015, where he advocated for international support for islands to adapt to the negative consequences of climate change.

The Deputy Premier delivered remarks at events organised by the Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA)/Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA), Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCC) and the Government of France/International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Deputy Premier Pickering said in comments on his attendance that "my main purpose was to bring attention to the work islands are doing to adapt to climate change, which can serve as a model for other societies, and to call on the international community to support these efforts to help mitigate the very real climatic threats to island communities whose people and their livelihoods are at risk."

British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

Capital: Road Town (Tortola) | **Size:** 153 sq km | **Population:** 28,000 |
Currency: US Dollar (US\$) | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours |

Cayman Islands

Tourism Focus: Arrivals soar to new record highs



Over 2.1 million visitors arrived in Cayman during 2015, making it, as expected, another record-breaking year. Both cruise and air arrivals were up during the last twelve months, with 385,379 total air arrivals, a marginal 0.67% increase over 2014. However, this was not only the most arrivals since records began but the 5th year in a row that the number of stay-over guests has increased, demonstrating the consistency of that market.

Cruise arrivals reached an annual total of 1,716,812 passengers, a 6.66% increase on last year, the best since 2007 following several years of mixed results for cruise numbers.

"The continued success of our tourism sector means that more Caymanians are able to positively impact our visitors' experiences while maintaining a livelihood in what is an exciting and dynamic industry," Tourism Minister Moses Kirkconnell said. "Together, the Ministry and Department of Tourism

actively advanced efforts to educate and train persons within our community to be confident Caymankind ambassadors throughout 2015.

Whether it was through the PRIDE programme, Hospitality School, developing a tourism-infused curriculum in primary schools, or granting of scholarships, we know that it is the Caymanian people who make our destination so special and create those lasting memories for our valued visitors."

The soaring air arrivals are expected to continue with the start of the expansion project at Owen Roberts International Airport. Although it is expected to take three years to complete, it will significantly increase the capacity.

"The improvements at the airport, along with other infrastructure projects currently in progress, will make our tourism marketplace even more appealing for our visitors as product enhancements, including numerous hotel developments, continue to come on line," Stran Bodden, the Tourism Ministry Chief Officer, said. "Ensuring that the Cayman Islands are able to provide the highest quality in both service and product will continue to be a top priority for all of us in tourism."

Government is also working on the development of a national public transport strategy to improve bus routes to address congestion issues on the road and to feed the demand for drivers at the airport, ensuring visitors reach their destination quickly. Officials said this was creating opportunities for Caymanian tour operators and taxi drivers.

Grand Cayman's first new resort in a decade on schedule for a late 2016 opening

The one-year countdown to the opening of Grand Cayman's first luxury resort in more than a decade, the Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa, and for-sale residential offering.

Situated on the resort's 12-acre site, The Residences at Seafire is Dart Realty's first for-sale Seven Mile Beach property and includes 62 luxury residences in an elegant 10-story building adjacent to the hotel. The Residences at Seafire offers the best of both worlds, the privacy of a luxury residence and exclusive owners' rooftop lounge along with access to the best-in-class amenities offered at the resort, including two ocean view pools, six bars and restaurants, a signature spa, distinctively landscaped gardens and a coastal walking and biking trail.

Individual condominiums offer sweeping views of the resort grounds and Seven Mile Beach, and those facing the North Sound will have views equally as compelling as those that overlook the beach and Caribbean Sea.

The diverse array of options provides buyers the possibility of acquiring a home on Seven Mile Beach for under \$1 million or getting the penthouse of their dreams nearer to the \$8 million price point.

With stunning and sophisticated design, its prime Seven Mile Beach location and thoughtful consideration of every aspect of the guest and residential experience.

Airport progresses despite rain delaying work



Workers have begun erecting the 29,000 square foot steel framed building at Owen Roberts International Airport, the first phase in the expansion plan, which is on schedule despite the weather. Heavy rains in December caused a few delays to the groundwork but the project is on track, according to officials.

The Cayman Islands Airport Authority the contractor, Arch and Godfrey, has worked hard to minimize the impact of the construction work on the airport operations.

Phase one includes the construction of a new baggage handling and screening area, along with offices and a second floor mechanical room. The overall expansion project is expected to be completed in 2018.

Officials are currently going through the tendering process for the main part of the project, which is scheduled to start following the completion of the new baggage hall.

Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital: George Town | Size: 264 sq km | Population: 58,440 |
Currency: Cayman Islands Dollar KYD | Time Zone: EST -5 hours |

Falkland Islands

Assembly Member Visits the Caribbean



President Granger of Guyana with Hon Ian Hansen MLA

In January the Honourable Ian Hansen, Member of the Legislative Assembly, met with the President of Guyana His Excellency David Granger, at the Ministry of the Presidency in Georgetown.

He was accompanied at the meeting by British High Commissioner Colin Quinn and the Falkland Islands Government's Public Relations Officer, Ms Krysteen Ormond. The purpose of the visit was to build on previous discussions between Assembly Members from the Falkland Islands and President Granger in

recent years, during which time he held the position of Opposition Leader in the country.

As President Granger had stressed in the previous meetings he strongly emphasized his support for the right of self-determination for Falkland Islanders. MLA Hansen said that it has been a very productive meeting; "The President was very clear that we should determine our own future". They also discussed matters currently of concern in the region, such as a recent offshore oil discovery near Guyana and an ongoing border dispute with Venezuela.

The meeting was one of a number attended by MLA Hansen and Ms Ormond on a trip across several countries in the Caribbean over a three week period. The trip also incorporated visits to Belize, St Kitts and Trinidad and Tobago - where they attended a renewable energy conference - which gave them the opportunity to highlight the work that has been done in the Islands in this sector.

Princess Royal Visit



HRH The Princess Royal with youth groups in Stanley

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, accompanied by her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, visited the Falkland Islands in January 2016. It was the fourth time that she had been to the Islands, with her last visit having taken place in 2009.

Commonwealth Walkway



Local children with one of the brass markers outside the Falkland Islands Community School

Over the course of three months straddling the New Year, two brass markers forming part of the Commonwealth Walkway, were laid in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. The Commonwealth Walkway Scheme was launched by the Outdoor Trust following the success of the Jubilee Walkway in London, which formed part of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of 2012.

The Chairman of the Outdoor Trust, who was in the Islands to launch the scheme, Hugo Vickers, already had strong links to the Falklands. His late aunt, Baroness Vickers, tirelessly led the fight for Falkland Islanders to receive full British Citizenship in the years prior to 1983, when they received that status.

The eventual aim of the scheme is to create 100 Walkways across all 71 Commonwealth Nations and Territories. The Falkland Islands are the first of the Overseas Territories to take part in the project. The overall intention of the project is to connect and inspire walkers to learn more about the diversity of the Commonwealth, and celebrate Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, in a subtle way, whilst also benefitting their health. Each stone can be scanned using a free mobile device app and will offer the walker relevant information and interesting facts.

The first stone was laid outside Government House in November 2015, the second was laid in January 2016 and was unveiled by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal at Christchurch Cathedral in Stanley.

During what was a very busy schedule during her time in the Islands, Her Royal Highness laid a wreath at the Liberation Monument in Stanley, which commemorates the end of the Falklands Conflict of 1982. A short service was held led by Reverend Kathy Biles and was attended by many members of the public and various community groups. Members of the local community were also in attendance, along with Her Royal Highness, at a reception hosted by Falkland Islands Government later in the day. Whilst in Stanley she also unveiled the second marker of the 'Commonwealth Walkway' at Christchurch Cathedral.

Her Royal Highness was also able to experience the new Falkland Islands Museum in the historic dockyard, which was a finalist in the Museum and Heritage Awards in their 'International Museum' category in 2015. Visits to the Agriculture Department, the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and the Seamen's Mission were also undertaken.

Following her visit to the Falkland Islands Her Royal Highness, who is the Royal Patron of the South Georgia Heritage Trust, and her husband travelled to South Georgia.

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

| Capital: Stanley | Size: 12,173 sq km | Population: 2,563 |
| Currency: Falkland Island Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours |

HM Government of Gibraltar hosts 16th Gibraltar Day in London



L-R: Albert Poggio GMH OBE, UK Representative for HM Government of Gibraltar; Rt Hon David Lidington MP, Minister of State for Europe; Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister of State for Armed Forces; and The Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, Chief Minister of Gibraltar

On 12th October 2015 HM Government of Gibraltar hosted the 16th annual Gibraltar Day in London. The celebrations began with the now traditional Thanksgiving Mass in Fulham the day before and culminated in a reception for over 800 invited guests and dignitaries at the City of London's prestigious Guildhall.

Amongst the guests were The Rt Hon David Lidington MP, Minister for Europe, and Ms Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister for the Armed Forces. Both took to the stage to address the gathered guests and reiterated their, and their Governments', strong support for Gibraltar. Minister Lidington stated that "we remain adamant that the people of Gibraltar can remain British for as long as they want to be and we will

never stop defending that right." The Minister was also keen to highlight the importance of Gibraltar's inclusion in the franchise for the upcoming EU Referendum. Noting the strategic importance of Gibraltar to the UK, Minister Mordaunt added that "ultimately this is what it boils down to. You help us defend freedom and in turn we must and will defend you."

Music during the Reception was provided by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers. At the conclusion of the Reception, guests were treated to a Massed Bands Spectacular and Sunset Ceremony by The Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band and Corps of Drums and the Band of the Corps of the Royal Engineers in the Courtyard of the Guildhall.

Gibraltar Police Officer on secondment to Tristan da Cunha



Royal Gibraltar Police Constable Jonathan Barcio recently completed a three month secondment with the Tristan da Cunha Police Department.

He was the first Police Officer in many years to have been seconded to

the force and worked on Policing, Customs, Port, Sea and Rescue, Immigration and general health and safety for the island. While secondments by different Police Forces are a reasonably regular occurrence across Overseas Territories, owing to the remoteness (and extremely low levels of crime), they are few and far between for Tristan.

On his return to Gibraltar, Jonathan was awarded The Gavin Clinton Constable of the Year Award, after receiving the highest number of nominations from both peers and management. Constable Barcio joined the Royal Gibraltar Police in 2000 and has served in Area Response Teams and as Custody Officer within the Operations Division. In addition to his operational duties, PC Barcio has over the years instructed recruits and colleagues in First Aid, and was seconded to Gambia as part of the British Military Advisory Training Team in 2008, where he assisted in training Gambian Police Officers prior to their deployment as United Nations African Mission in Darfur, Sudan, as part of peace support operations.

Constable Barcio returned home with several mementos, including a signed copy of the book "Rockhopper Copper", written by a former Chief Islander and the island's current Police Inspector, Conrad J Glass.

Gibraltar Election

The GSLP Liberals, under the leadership of The Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, Chief Minister, will govern Gibraltar for another four years after winning the recent General Election with 68.4% of the vote; a landslide victory.

Upon being sworn in for his second four-year term in office, Chief Minister Picardo said "Gibraltar has told us what it is she wants us to do. The time has come now to start working again to deliver."

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital: Gibraltar | **Size:** 6.5 sq km | **Population:** 34,000 (2014) |
Currency: Gibraltar Pound | **Time Zone:** Central European Time |

Montserrat



Montserrat granted Associate Membership of UNESCO

On 3rd November 2015, Montserrat was granted Associate Membership of UNESCO. This took place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

In making Montserrat's inaugural address to the UNESCO Members, at the 38th General Conference, the UK Representative for the Government of Montserrat, Mrs. Janice Panton MBE, pointed to the benefits that associate membership would bring to the reduced 5,000 population, which includes a high percentage of recent migrants from within the region, including some from Spanish speaking countries. This reduction in population is a result of volcanic eruption which started in 1995, and which made two thirds of this 40 sq. miles island uninhabitable and caused mass off-island evacuation.

In giving the acceptance speech, Mrs. Panton expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the Government and people of Montserrat and conveyed Montserrat's commitment to fulfilling UNESCO's mandate. She lauded the activities

of UNESCO in providing policy guidance on education and science and promoting cultural diversity.

Delegates were given a brief outline of the history of the island and the impact of the ongoing volcanic eruption on the island and its people. Mrs. Panton pointed out that, although the volcanic activity is now at a very low level, over the past twenty years, sustained activity has had, and continues to have, a devastating effect on the island's economy with Montserrat now in receipt of budgetary aid. Mass migration has resulted in severe loss of core middle and senior management workers and their offspring. Previous boasts of being in the top educational league in the region is no longer true as standards have dropped due to inability to recruit and retain qualified teachers, and there is now a need to look afresh at their education system.

Mrs. Panton went on to point out that the benefits that have been realised as a consequence of the eruption - Montserrat now has a volcano

observatory (MVO), which continues to bring world-class volcanologists and geologists to their shores. Their work and that of others at the MVO, is an inspiration to budding scientists and Montserrat now has at least two homegrown earth scientists; Montserrat has been afforded the opportunity to turn from fossil fuel to geothermal energy. With aid from the UK Department for International Development, they have commenced drilling and discovered enough geothermal energy resource to meet current needs. This energy resource will provide cleaner and cheaper energy and should boost the economy.

As an Associate Member of UNESCO, Montserrat is looking for benefits to include the tools to build an educated community - not just an educated individual, but a whole community of educated individuals who, working together can learn and act on the experiences and policies of UNESCO and its members. They benefit from the UK in this respect, and can only imagine the effect of learning from over 190 other UNESCO members would have on their development.

Montserrat – At a Glance

Seat of Government: Brades | **Size:** 102 sq km | **Population:** 4,922 |
Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$) | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

Growing businesses

In the middle of the South Atlantic, St Helena Island (population c. 4,500) is using the opportunity of air access to enable economic development. Driving economic growth, and leading on the implementation of the island's Sustainable Economic Development Plan, Enterprise St Helena (ESH) is developing tourism, building local capacity in the hospitality and construction sectors, encouraging and supporting both local and inward investment and providing advice and support (including financial support) to local businesses as part of a strategy to grow the Island's private sector.

A vibrant private sector is the foundation for increased economic activity and growth. In ESH, a small highly motivated and enthusiastic team of people work closely with the local business community to encourage entrepreneurs to maximise opportunities and develop their businesses. Since April 2014, and as part of a targeted programme, ESH staff have engaged with businesses on a regular basis and have supported more than 1/6 of the Island's business community in various ways as shown in the table below.

113 businesses or individuals received financial support via grants for Business, Skills or Capital Development, or Loans and Equity schemes

99 DFID supported small business Grants approved (approximately 4-5 businesses supported per month)

22 EDF Grants, Loans and Equity applications approved

The total amount of financial support to date amounts to £387,000

ESH has also facilitated local direct investment in the region of £535,000 for the same period and supported or facilitated training in the hospitality and construction fields, for 741 individuals.

Recently ESH launched a project to refurbish an old building to create the Longwood Enterprise Park. This will open up development on the eastern side of the island by providing additional commercial floor space as well as agricultural pack-house facilities.



Two businesses which have developed as a direct result of ESH support are Island Images Ltd. and Green Wagon.

ISLAND IMAGES LTD. commenced operation in March 2009, initially offering photography services and handcrafted mirrors and earrings. In July 2013 the business diversified and expanded into the hospitality sector and opened "The Sandwich Bar", in the capital Jamestown. In 2015 the business expanded further into "Richard's Travel Lodge" comprising indoor and outdoor dining and two serviced en-suite B&B rooms, together with the launch of "No Limits Travel & Tours".

GREEN WAGON returning St Helenian Joan Peters, together with her husband Steve Evans,

began exploring the agriculture opportunities on the island and in early 2014 commenced a small agricultural business producing courgettes, aubergines, melons and a variety of herbs, using hydroponic technology under covered production at Blue Hill. The business has since evolved their products into branded packaged produce under the Green Wagon label. The owners commented that "it feels good to be doing something positive, to be putting fresh produce out there, as well as some different products" and went on to say that "if you really want to make it happen, then get in touch with The Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (ANRD) and ESH, go for it and do whatever it takes, the assistance and opportunity are there. Just don't expect it to happen overnight."

St Helena – At a Glance

Capital: Jamestown | Size: 410 sq km | Population: 4,289 |

Currency: St Helenian Pound | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time |

Tristan da Cunha

Thumbs-up for sustainable fishery



Yvonne Glass is one of many islanders who staff Tristan's modern processing plant on fishing days.

The world-class lobster fishery that underpins the economy of Tristan da Cunha has again been independently judged to be sustainable. The Marine Stewardship Council conducted a 'surveillance audit' and periodic reassessment of the archipelago's fishery in autumn 2015, and once again has awarded Tristan its gold-standard certification.

The MSC status is a tribute to the skill and care of Tristan da Cunha's fishermen and the islands' licensee Ovenstone Agencies. Quotas are carefully managed to ensure a healthy lobster population, and each fish is individually checked for size. The fishery is a vital source of jobs and public revenue for this unique maritime community; it accounts for over 80% of the islands' economy. The MSC's processes have helped the Tristan fishery to map-out a long-term resource management plan, and sustainable status boosts the appeal of the catch as a high value, niche-market product. 'Tristan Rock Lobster' is a gourmet food enjoyed in Europe, Australasia and the USA.

"I am the future"

11 year-old Nathan Swain was cheered by every Tristanian when he journeyed to Buckingham Palace to collect junior First Prize in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition.

Nathan, a pupil at Tristan's only school St Mary's, wrote down his thoughts on how learning the carpentry skills of his father and grandfather will help him build the future. It was an inspiring message from the world's remotest community. A panel of expert judges chose Nathan's essay as the overall winner among over 7,000 junior entries. For Nathan and his parents, the prize trip was their first visit to the UK, and their first flight in an aeroplane. The Royal Commonwealth Society, and UK-based members of the Tristan da Cunha Association, organised a series of visits for the Swains – from the Houses of Parliament to the Lyme Regis boat-building academy. The central moment was the reception in Buckingham Palace when Nathan was handed his award by HRH the Duchess of Cornwall. To quote the winning essay: 'I can build anything I want if I have the skills'. We're proud of you, Nathan.



HRH The Duchess of Cornwall with Nathan Swain,
(Courtesy of the Royal Commonwealth Society)

Toasting a special island link

Tristan's special relationship with the Isle of Man is now expressed in tasty liquid form. A consignment of rubrum berries picked on the volcanic South Atlantic island was shipped 6000 miles to Bushy's Ale of Man Brewery, where owner Martin Brunnenschweiler used it to create Island Brew. UK drinkers who bought an early pint were rewarded with a 'free beer' voucher – to be redeemed only in the Albatross Bar on Tristan da Cunha!



Tristan's UK Representative Chris Carnegy helped Martin serve Island Brew samples at a Foreign and Commonwealth Office reception.

Proudly British for 200 years

2016 will bring a series of celebrations to mark 200 years of continuous British settlement on Tristan da Cunha. A military garrison of 1816 was succeeded just one year later by a civilian society, which thrives to this day on its neighbourly founding principles.

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital: Edinburgh of the Seven Seas | **Size:** 98 sq km | **Population:** 267 |
Currency: Pound Sterling | **Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time |

Turks and Caicos Islands

Government Signs Refinancing Loan

The Turks and Caicos (TCI) Government signed a new \$28m loan agreement with the Royal Bank of Canada on 13th January 2016. The balance of the \$170m UK guaranteed bond will be repaid from the sinking fund and other TCI Government cash resources. The \$170m bond is due to be repaid on 22 February 2016.

RBC Royal Bank provided the most competitive proposal following the Government's Request for Financing Proposals in September 2015. The terms of the new loan are very attractive with interest at just 1.2% over Libor. It will be repaid in quarterly installments with the final payment being due in 2019, although the Government may also repay the loan early without penalty. It was not necessary to request a loan guarantee from the UK.

"The TCI economy has seen a major turnaround over the past three years and, with its BBB+ credit rating, 4.3% GDP growth and consecutive budget surpluses, this will allow the Government to retire its \$170M UK guaranteed debt. As a government, we can now make significant investments in the socioeconomic development of our people and country. This is indeed a proud moment for the Turks and Caicos Islands," said Premier Dr Rufus Ewing.



"This is the final piece of the jigsaw in the refinancing of our UK guaranteed debt taken out in 2011. The competitive terms achieved are a testament to the progress we've made. We are grateful to RBC Royal Bank for their commitment to TCI at this important stage in our recovery and we look forward to working with the Bank as we build on this platform", said Minister of Finance, Washington Misick.

Governor Peter Beckingham also welcomed the agreement with RBC Royal Bank saying: "The signature of this agreement is a milestone for TCI.

Repayment of the \$170m bond will mark the end of the loan guarantee provided by the UK Government when TCI's finances were in poor shape, and another step on the country's move to a strong and resilient economy. I would like to pay tribute to everyone in Government, the House of Assembly, the public service and the private sector who have contributed to this achievement, as well a range of special advisers and the Chief Financial Officer from the UK. As the London Times are planning to bill in a special report on TCI, it is a major economic turnaround of which the whole country should be proud".

Significant Investment in Education

An historic day in the national development of the Turks and Caicos Islands was marked on 26th November 2015, as the Government officially opened the fifth secondary public school in the multi-island nation.

The Long Bay High School, named after the district in which it is located, was officially opened by the Premier, Dr. Hon. Rufus Ewing, Governor H.E. Peter Beckingham and Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Akierra M.D. Missick.

The institution, the first of its kind to be built in the past 20 years on the Island of Providenciales, currently houses nearly two hundred first year high school students, but when completed is expected to accommodate nearly five hundred. The project, which is in two phases and will eventually lead to a full-fledged high school, broke ground in February 2015 and was completed in seven



months just in time for the start of the second term of the school year.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government have committed USD \$4.2 million towards this project

and construction on phase two has already begun and will be completed in 2016.

Former Minister of Education and noted author, Dr. Carlton Mills is the principal.

Turks and Caicos – At a Glance

| Capital: Cockburn Town | Size: 98 sq km | Population: 36,689 (2015) |
| Currency: United States Dollar (US\$) | Time Zone: Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours |

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