



UKOTA NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ASSOCIATION

April 2013



▲ Heads of Overseas Territories JMC delegations with UK Prime Minister Rt. Hon David Cameron MP and Foreign and Commonwealth Minister, Mark Simmonds MP

Inaugural meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council

Heads of the Overseas Territories' Governments were in London for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) which was held on 4th and 5th December 2012. The JMC is the successor to the Overseas Territories Consultative Council and was first mentioned in the FCO White Paper, The Overseas Territories, Security, Success and Sustainability published in June 2012. The Council of the UK government and the UK Overseas Territories governments meet annually to discuss political and

constitutional issues. Included in the agenda of the JMC was a meeting with the UK Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. David Cameron MP, at 10 Downing Street which took place on the 5th December 2012.

Heads of the Overseas Territories delegation convened separately for the UKOTA Political Council meeting when they reviewed the past year's activities of UKOTA and identified areas of common interest for the organisation to take forward.

Falkland Islands Referendum

A referendum on the Falkland Islands political status took place on 10th and 11th March.

In response to the question, asking if people wished to retain the current status as that of an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, the result of the vote was an unequivocal "YES" with 99.8% of the vote. The "no" vote gained 0.2% of the votes cast. There was a 92% turnout with 1,522 ballot papers having been issued to 1,672 registered voters; 1,518 votes were cast.

continued on page 7



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Bermuda takes the chair

At the Annual General Meeting of UKOTA held on the 31st January, Bermuda was appointed Chair of UKOTA. Ms. Kimberley

Durrant, Director of the Bermuda London Office will represent her Government in this role. The other honorary offices of Secretary and Treasurer were taken by the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands respectively.

The Premier of Bermuda, The Hon. Craig Cannonier JP, MP said, "I am delighted with the regard in which Bermuda is held within UKOTA. There are many areas of

mutual interest in which we can share knowledge and experience to our collective benefit. I look forward to my tenure as President of the Political Council and in particular how it seeks to shape the nature of engagement with the United Kingdom Government in matters of importance to the OTs."



ANGUILLA

Malliouana, one of the Caribbean's oldest and best-loved hotels to reopen

One of the Caribbean's oldest and best-loved luxury resorts, Anguilla's Malliouhana Hotel and Spa, will reopen this year.

A new future for Anguilla's Malliouhana was recently secured with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Island's Chief Minister, Hon Hubert Hughes, Benjamin Weprin (on behalf of a group of US investors) and Mark Harmon CEO of Auberge Resorts. The deal to redevelop the historic Meads Bay site, was hailed by all parties as a model for future Caribbean development.

Mr Harmon, speaking on behalf of Auberge Resorts thanked the government for its support throughout the negotiations and noted the pride his company felt in being entrusted with the world-famous resort:

'The awards and accolades this property have received over the years made it second to none in the Caribbean.'

We therefore take on that task of redeveloping Malliouhana with humility because we know there is a wonderful tradition here that helped to establish Anguilla as an island of exceptional

Anguilla – At a Glance

Capital:	The Valley
Size:	91 sq km
Population:	12,871 (1999 estimate)
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$), United States Dollar (US\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

quality and a culinary destination, with the best wine cellar in the Caribbean.'

The Chief Minister noted that he was "delighted that one of the most picturesque spots in the whole of the Caribbean will be redeveloped." He noted that the new Malliouhana will boost Anguilla's visitor economy for many years to come.



▲ Chief Minister Hon. Hubert Hughes (right) with Benjamin Weprin (left) at the signing ceremony



BERMUDA

A New Government

The results of the General Election held 17th December 2012 saw the first Cabinet of Bermuda's One Bermuda Alliance Government. As such the Hon. Craig Cannonier JP, MP was sworn in as the Premier of Bermuda.

On 20th December the Cabinet was sworn in at Government House by the Governor. The new government proudly announced

One of the Government's goals is to change the way they conduct politics, to bring forward a new emphasis on cooperation and collaboration.

The Government intends to push forward with plans to grow cooperation and collaboration amongst all sectors of the community, by creating opportunities for joint efforts in Bermuda's parliamentary

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



▲ The Cabinet accompanied by the Governor
 L- R: The Hon. Trevor Moniz, JP, MP Minister of Public Works, Senator The Hon. Nalton Brangman, JP Minister of Education, The Hon. Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, JP, MP Minister of Health and Seniors, Dr. The Hon. Grant Gibbons, JP, MP Minister of Economic Development, Senator The Hon. Michael Fahy, JP Minister of Home Affairs, George Fergusson, His Excellency the Governor, The Hon. Wayne Scott, JP, MP Minister of Community and Cultural Development, The Hon. Craig Cannonier JP, MP The Premier of Bermuda, The Hon. Mark Pettingill, JP, MP Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs, The Hon. Shawn Crockwell, JP, MP Minister of Tourism Development and Transport, The Hon. Michael Dunkley, JP, MP Minister of Public Safety, The Hon. Leah Scott, JP, MP Minister Without Portfolio, The Hon. E.T. Richards, JP, MP Minister of Finance, The Hon. Sylvan Richards, JP, MP Minister of the Environment and Planning.

that the a team of working-men and women, with fresh faces and experienced hands all dedicated to making Bermuda work better for the people. A team that has come together from all backgrounds, all walks of life, to be a public service government, getting things done and putting people first."

The Premier conveyed: "I can say that they are fired up and ready to get down to the people's business. Our primary focus is to get our economy growing again; creating the conditions for new jobs and opportunity... creating conditions to help people meet their daily needs; to ease the pressures they face. The work ahead will not be easy, but we will get the job done."

committees and by inviting parliamentarians from all parties to work on major policy issues of the day.

The Premier further stated: "I am very hopeful for progress in this area because it is the right thing to do, the more we work together, the more we take advantage of our collective strength, and the more we will find solutions that work for all of Bermuda. Another important goal for the Government is to close the gap that has grown between government and the people."

On the occasion of the convening of the Legislature, on 8th February the Government produced its first Speech from



▲ The Premier of Bermuda, The Hon. Craig Cannonier JP, MP and the Minister for Overseas Territories, Mark Simmonds MP.

the Throne to outline its commitments and priorities. The Government of Bermuda will be focused on delivering safer neighborhoods and enhance public safety; build a stronger well-managed economy; promote job creation; reduce public debt; improve the educational opportunities for Bermuda's young people; provide a better care for the senior citizens and affordable healthcare; and respect the environment.



BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Fishing Receives National Push



▲ Deputy Premier Dr. Hon. Kedrick Pickering addresses the National Fisherman's Conference

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour hosted a National Fisherman's Conference on 1st March that officially kicked-off Government's drive to develop the fishing industry.

The conference attracted over 50 fisherman and women who received information from various public agencies on 'Licensing and Registration;' 'Adapting to Environmental Challenges: Invasive Species and Climate Change' and 'Formation of National and Community-

Based Associations / Cooperatives.' Participants also exchanged ideas on developing the industry.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Hon. Kedrick Pickering, delivered opening remarks in which he told the fishing community, "...you should be able to invest in the fishing industry to the point where you can make real money, build your house, send your children to college and have money for retirement..." The



▲ Deputy Premier Dr. Hon. Kedrick Pickering listens to a local fisherman.

Government's drive to develop the fishing industry comes as it takes steps to diversify the economy. The Territory's largely underdeveloped fisheries sector is viewed as a potential third economic pillar after financial services and tourism.

Territory's Financial Services Ranked Globally



▲ Premier Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE

The British Virgin Islands was inducted into the World Finance Magazine's list of 100 international financial centres, produced by World

News Media. Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith, OBE, attended the official induction ceremony at the London Stock Exchange in December 2012 where he accepted an award on behalf of the Territory and was interviewed about the jurisdiction as an international financial centre.

The Premier said in his comments, "We are in fact part of the standard setters, and over the years we have consistently met all the requirements of the international regulators. We were also once part of the Global Forum, and we were recently nominated to Chair the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force –

an organisation concerned with setting standards to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing."

Regarding 2013 plans for the sector, Premier Smith highlighted Government's plan to open a Hong Kong Representative Office, stating, "One of the things we have found is that it is very important to be as close to your customer as is possible. Much of our business comes from the East, so we plan to establish an office in Hong Kong."

The Government remains committed to diversifying and bolstering the Territory's financial services industry.





CAYMAN ISLANDS

Cayman Premier, Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly visits UK



▲ Bruce Dinwiddie, former Governor of Cayman, Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, Premier Cayman Islands, John Owen, Former Governor and Hon Rolston Anglin, Deputy Premier of Cayman.

The Premier of the Cayman Islands, the Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly made an official visit to the UK in January for a series of meetings. She was accompanied by the Deputy Premier, Mr. Rolston Anglin and a number of officials. The Hon Juliana O'Connor-Connolly was making her first official visit to London as Premier, having taken over from Premier McKeeva Bush in December 2012

The Premier first made a call on the Minister for the Overseas Territories, Mark Simmonds MP and afterwards said, "I said to Mr. Simmonds that we wanted a new relationship with the Foreign Office based on constructive dialogue



▲ Premier of Cayman, Deputy Premier, Governor and some representatives of the Cayman APPG

and working in partnership and that I was keen for us all to take forward the action which was agreed at the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) in December."

The Premier then met some members of the Friends of Cayman Group who

would continue to operate and compete effectively with its global counterparts. It also underscores the Island's positive reputation regarding transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes.

Cayman Amendment Paves Way for AIFMD Compliance

To facilitate the marketing of Cayman hedge funds in the European Union, the Cayman Islands Government has passed an amendment that allows the jurisdiction's regulator to enter into

Cayman Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	George Town (Grand Cayman)
Size:	260 sq km
Population:	57,000
Currency:	Cayman Islands Dollar (CI\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours

expressed their satisfaction at the way the Cayman Ministry for Financial Services and the Monetary Authority were preparing for the implementation of the EU rules on AIFMD. The Premier assured them that Cayman would be fully compliant with the new rules before the Legislative Assembly was pro-rogued for the General Election on 22nd May.

UK Parliamentarians belonging to the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Cayman Islands were also on the Premier's list of important people to meet. She thanked them for their stalwart support particularly since Cayman is on the receiving end of much unfair media comment relating to international finance.

memoranda of understanding with its EU counterparts, using a model MoU developed by the European Securities Markets Authority (ESMA).

The Monetary Authority (Amendment) Law, 2013, is in response to the EU's Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive (AIFMD). The directive requires certain conditions to be met before non-EU countries can market alternative investment funds – such as hedge funds – in the EU.

Government passed the amendment on 15th March. AIFMD is set to become fully effective this July.

Cayman first Overseas Territory to agree FATCA deal

The Cayman Islands announced in March that it would adopt a Model 1 intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in response to the US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FACTA). The decision will apply also to a similar arrangement for the automatic exchange of certain information with the UK and it is expected that final negotiations on the details will conclude reasonably quickly. The Minister for Financial Services, Hon Rolston Anglin said that agreement on the Model 1 IGA would ensure that business in Cayman





FALKLAND ISLANDS

Falkland Islands Referendum

continued from front cover

On 12th June 2012 the Falkland Islands Government announced its intention to hold a referendum, in order to enable Falkland islanders to express their view on the political status of the Islands.

Following public consultation and having taken outside expert advice on the specific wording to be asked in the Referendum, the Executive Council approved the final wording of the question, which asked if people wished to retain the current status of the Islands as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom

The voting took place over two days to enable those living in the outlying areas to vote, using mobile polling stations, flown by air, or driven by vehicles, around the communities on East and West Falkland.

An international observer mission, with members from North and South America and New Zealand oversaw the proceedings and declared the process having been “free and fair, reflecting the democratic will of the voters of the Falkland Islands.”

The Prime Minister, the Rt.Hon. David Cameron MP, welcomed the result saying “It is the clearest possible result there could be. And the fact is that the Falkland Islands may be thousands of miles away, but they are British through and through and this how they want to stay, and the people should know we will always be there to defend them.” He went on to say that the most important thing about the result is “that we believe in self-determination, and the Falkland Islanders have spoken so clearly about their future.” He urged other countries around the world to respect the very clear result.

Following the result, Members of the Legislative Assembly embarked on a far

reaching programme of overseas visits, to the United States, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Europe, in order to publicise the result as widely as possible.



▲ A special stamp issue to mark the Referendum © Creative Direction (Worldwide) Ltd.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference



▲ Delegates at the Conference ©FIG

The 43rd British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), held in the Falkland

Islands on the 12th and 13th February 2013, was described as both fascinating and thought provoking by delegates.

The theme of the two-day conference held on the 12th and 13th February was

“Self-Determination and its role in Self Governance and Devolution.” Guest speakers were invited to address three plenary sessions. ▶





The Rt Hon Baroness Scotland QC addressed the first Plenary Session, entitled "Self-Determination and its role in Self Governance and Devolution". In her speech she placed the right to self-determination squarely within the international legal framework and gave examples of how fluid and varied a nation's journey can be through different degrees of self-governance.

Professor Michael Keating addressed the second Plenary Session entitled "Arguments about Self-Determination". He explained the different elements required for a nation to determine its own future, and the different ways in which this can occur. He concluded with a statement describing how over time a group can constitute itself as a people to determine their own future, so long as it can be demonstrated that there is a genuine desire to do so.

These Plenary Sessions were followed by two workshops, focusing on "The challenges of Governance in smaller territories and regions" and "Theories of Self-Determination: How have these theories been applied in recent years across the world and what are the international trends?"

The second day of the conference saw The Hon Samantha Sacramento MP

deliver a speech on behalf of Fabian Picardo, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, prior to the third Plenary Session entitled "The Right to Self Determination is not curtailed by Sovereignty Claims". The speech described Gibraltar's own journey of self-determination, and the challenges faced by small states in exercising their right to decide their own political future.

The final Open Plenary discussed "Experiences in the Development of Greater Regional and National Autonomy".

MLA Jan Cheek said: "Besides the relevance and thought provoking quality of the presentations and workshops, I enjoyed the opportunity to talk in the margins to most of the participants. We have much to learn from one another and many valuable contacts were made."

MLA Mike Summers MLA added that "it was an interesting experience for all parties to the Conference to be able to compare the varying levels of devolved government in their territories, and the important role played by self-determination in reaching those positions. The right of the people to choose their relationship with others remains a key determinant in their interrelationships, and remains one of the most fundamental of human rights."

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

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

MLA Dick Sawle said: "For me, the thing that stood out was that there is no 'one size fits all' definition of self-determination. All of the paths that countries/territories have taken in the exercise of self-determination have been different. Ours is a classic case of finding a path forward for the Falkland Islands that meets the requirements of our home and people."

Parliamentarians were also present from Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, Malta, Northern Ireland, St. Helena, Wales and the Westminster Parliament. In addition, observers from Anguilla and Canada attended the conference.



FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT

8th April 2013

Baroness Thatcher It is with great sadness that we received news of the death of Baroness Thatcher this morning. She will be forever remembered in the Islands for her decisiveness in sending a task force to liberate our home following the Argentine invasion in 1982. Our sincere gratitude was demonstrated in 1983 when she was granted the Freedom of the Falkland Islands. Her friendship and support will be sorely missed, and we will always be thankful for all that she did for us. The thoughts and deepest sympathies of all Falkland Islanders are with her family and friends at this sad time.



Hon. Mike Summers, On behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands





GIBRALTAR

Simon Hughes MP reiterates his support for Gibraltar

Mr Albert Poggio OBE, United Kingdom Representative of H.M. Government of Gibraltar, represented the Government and Dr Joseph Garcia, Deputy Chief Minister, at a dinner hosted by The Rt Hon. Simon Hughes MP, Deputy Leader of Liberal Party, to celebrate thirty years as Constituent MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark. Simon Hughes MP, is a long-time friend of Gibraltar and of

Dr Joseph Garcia. There were many celebrities in attendance.

In his address, Simon Hughes MP praised Dr Garcia and reiterated his continued support for Gibraltar and the right to self-determination. He said that he had watched Gibraltar's progress over the years and he was particularly proud of the coalition Government. He praised the

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital:	Gibraltar
Size:	6.5 sq km
Population:	29,752 (2011)
Currency:	Gibraltar Pound
Time Zone:	Central European Time



▲ Simon Hughes MP, Deputy Leader Liberal Party and MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP, Liberal Democrat member of the European Parliament for London, Spokesperson for European Justice and Human Rights Katherine Grainger CBE, 2012 Olympic Gold Medallist and 3 time Olympic Silver Medallist Albert Poggio OBE, United Kingdom Representative, HM Government of Gibraltar

enthusiasm in which the new Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister had taken on the mantle of power.

Also among the many people in attendance, Mr Poggio had the opportunity to speak at length with Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP, Liberal Democrat member for London, Spokesperson for European Justice and Human Rights. Baroness Ludford was well briefed on Gibraltar issues and was looking forward to further contact with Gibraltar in the future.



▲ The City Remembrancer (Mr Paul Double) awarding the Freedom of the City to the Chief Minister

Freedom of the City of London for the Hon Fabian Picardo MP Chief Minister

presented in 1237. This honour to the Chief Minister was supported and recommended by the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and can only be granted by the City of London itself. Today most of the practical reasons for obtaining the Freedom of the City have disappeared but it nevertheless remains a unique part of London history.

The Chief Minister was nominated for this honour by the Master of the Guild of Freemen, Anne E Holden as well as Brigadier Michael Keun and Albert

Poggio. The Guild of Freemen of the City of London was founded in 1908 and its purpose is to bring together Freemen of the City of London for charitable, benevolent, educational and social activities.

In recent years it has been granted to former South African president Nelson Mandella, and former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl as the City of London continues to maintain the Freedom as a living tradition.





MONTSERRAT

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



▲ Director of Montserrat Volcano Observatory, Rod Stewart, observing loading of well casing onto drill rig

Geothermal Development

Drilling for geothermal energy has started in Montserrat after many years of deliberation. The Managing Director of Montserrat Utilities, Peter White, spoke of what the success of this project could mean for Montserrat citizens. He began by first explaining what geothermal energy is.

“Geothermal energy is basically energy that comes from the earth. In our case we want to change the energy in the earth in the form of heat to the form of electricity that we can readily use.

We have known for a very long time that we have very hot water underground in Montserrat. We have had evidence of this when it leaks to the surface at the Soufrières, or at places like the Hot Water Pond in the Foxes Bay area or the beach below Sturge Park, from the very hot sand under the sea.

The geothermal development seeks to bring that hot water to the surface where it can then be used in a steam turbine engine to generate electricity. In this way we do not need to use a fuel such as coal or diesel oil to heat the water to steam to use in an engine to generate our electricity. Nature has provided it for us.



▲ Drill Rig

How would this help the development of Montserrat?

Initially, it would significantly reduce the large amount of money currently being spent on the importation of diesel fuel to the island. This in turn would reduce the cost of generating electricity on island which could be passed on to every consumer. The cost goods and services that depend on the use of electricity either for its making or its storage or delivery would also be reduced.

Secondly it would allow for the increase

use of electricity for all purposes without, necessarily increasing costs which will encourage the development of existing and new businesses that are heavily dependent on energy. This in turn creates new jobs, expands the amount of goods and services available on Island, thus boosting the economy.

This, in conjunction with the other initiatives now ongoing, the new port and town development in Little Bay and Carr’s Bay, will spur greater development, attract more residents, increase the number of businesses and grow the country as a whole.

With the assistance of Department for International Development (DfID) we have now begun the drilling phase of the development to tap into the reservoir. This is the last stage before building a plant to produce electricity. The exact size and type of plant must await the results of the drilling exercise.

The Drilling phase is expected to take four to six weeks per well for two production wells; the first of which has already started. Once we have tapped into the reservoir and determined the temperature and pressure of the water when it reaches the surface, we will be able to design and build the best plant for the conditions found.

This development should be seen as a key resource in the future development of the Island but it needs to be fully exploited in order to have a fully vibrant and sustainable future on the island.”





ST HELENA

Progress gathers pace on St Helena



▲ St. Helena Government officials with DAPM team

The visiting Department for International Development (DfID) Development Aid Planning Mission (DAPM) team and the St Helena Government signed the annual Aide Memoire in February. The document was signed by Governor Capes and DfID Programme Manager for St Helena, Suzanne Adcock.

The Aide Memoire finalised the budget for the financial year 2013-2014. Given the serious economic constraints in the UK and elsewhere this is, once again, an excellent result for St Helena. Public spending will increase this year and will be more tightly focused on THE immediate priorities in the run-up to air access. This, plus massive and continuing airport investment puts St Helena in the unique position of being able to grow its economy.

The airport project provides employment for 258 Saints. Works are continuing on the excavation of Prosperous Bay Plain, blasting for Rockfill material and concrete aggregates and filling in and compaction in Dry Gut.

The progress on the airport project has brought renewed interest from two international hotel groups. A team of six from the Mantis Collection, a group of privately owned boutique hotels and eco-escapes across the globe, visited St Helena in January, and in the space of one week, were very impressed with the Island, which they deemed 'exceptional'.

The team comprised Adrian Gardiner, Chairman of the Mantis Collection and his wife Shirleyanne, Graham Vass, the Development General Manager for the group and his wife Megan, Graham



▲ HE the Governor receiving an invite from Verline Leo (project manager) for the economic forum



▼ Adrian Gardiner and Graham Moon from the Mantis Collection

St Helena – At a Glance

Capital:	Jamestown
Size:	410 sq km
Population:	4,289
Currency:	St Helenian Pound (SHP)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time

Moon, Chief Executive Officer Mantis Development and John Erasmus, Finance Director.

They held discussions with key stakeholders in the business and tourism sectors, visited the airport site and took part in a variety of tourism offerings on St Helena. This has led to an exclusive period of discussion with Enterprise St Helena (ESH) regarding the establishment of a boutique hotel at Ladder Hill Fort.

Following the successful visit of the Mantis Collection, St Helena has now enjoyed another positive visit from a major hotel group, Protea Hotels, who arrived in February. This has led to another exclusive period of discussion regarding the establishment of further hotel accommodation in Main Street, Jamestown.

The Economic Forum, held at Prince Andrew School on 7th March, focused on the partnering of Government and the private sector in driving economic development on St Helena. HE Governor Mark Capes echoed the recent strides that St Helena has made: "The status quo of the many decades past has gone forever. St Helena is reconnecting with the world. For some, that change in direction may feel uncomfortable. We should recognise that and provide reassurance to help ease that discomfort. But make no mistake, we are heading in a new direction. We are now set on a course that will move St Helena away from dependency on the taxes paid by other people thousands of miles away, to a St Helena that can support itself and spend its own income as it chooses."



TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Tristan investing in its future as it celebrates a unique heritage



▲ Thatching a traditional Tristan cottage -- as reconstructed by the island pensioners - depicted on one of the island's much-collected postage stamps. © Tristan Post Office

Fifty years ago, the hardy people from the most remote inhabited island on the planet, were re-building their community, after exile near Southampton 6,500 miles away in 1961 by the eruption of the volcano that dominates their spectacular home in the South Atlantic. They chartered a ship and sailed back to Tristan da Cunha.

Progress and life are never easy for the 262 inhabitants: remoteness, lack of an airport, limited service by ships six days from Cape Town, sea surges and storms all present difficulties.

The future of the community rests on its ability to deal as equals with the "Outside World" and the Island Government is working with the Department for



▲ Tristan's first Manx trainees explore the Isle of Man: assistant agricultural officer Martin Green and Postmistress Iris Green outside Castle Rushen.

International Development (DfID) to improve teaching, to raise the school leaving age and with the support of the Tristan Association, offer the opportunity to study in Cape Town towards higher education. At the same time, with the Crown Dependency of the Isle of Man (and again with DfID support) vocational training is being offered to some of those with specialised roles essential to the future development of Tristan.

On Tristan, pensioners, have built a replica of an original settler's home from Napoleonic times, showing youngsters how to quarry the rock, create ceilings and doors from salvaged timber and to thatch the roof. The same team has created the Island's first park, close to the lava flow from the 1961 eruption.

Discussions continue with DfID on replacing or renewing the Camogli Hospital, essential to maintain and extend health provision and to attract medical professionals to work with local staff.

Even more fundamental is the need to rebuild (or in many Islanders' view, relocate) the harbour retaining wall, essential to the ability of people and goods

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital:	Edinburgh of the Seven Seas
Size:	98 sq km
Population:	262
Currency:	Pound Sterling
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time

to reach and leave Tristan. All ships have to anchor at sea and transfer passengers and freight to small boats. Despite repairs, the wall is in danger of collapse during storms and the harbour constantly fills with stones from a reef.

The Tristan Government has announced that settlement has been reached with the insurers of the bulk carrier MV Oliva and its cargo of soya beans, which were lost on Nightingale Island in 2011. It provides for further monitoring and research on the fishery, monitoring the impact on the penguin population and some insurance against any future losses of revenue. Work continues to assess the impact on the stock of Tristan lobster in the area, upon which Tristan's economy depends, but early indications are that stock levels are returning to normal. The master of the MV Edinburgh (the island's lifeline), Captain Clarence October, has been awarded an Honorary MBE by Her Majesty the Queen, for his role in rescuing the crew and some 3,500 oiled.

Elections on the island for the Tristan Council have seen the Chief Islander, Ian Lavarello, returned unopposed for a second three-year term and a new, noticeably younger, group of councillors chosen by the electorate.



▲ Awarded an Honorary MBE by The Queen for his role in rescuing the crew of the wrecked bulk carrier Oliva and 3,500 oiled penguins -- all taken to safety on Tristan da Cunha: Captain Clarence October (left) with crew member Thembinkosi ("Enos") Hlongwane (Photo: Ovenstones Agencies Pty Ltd)



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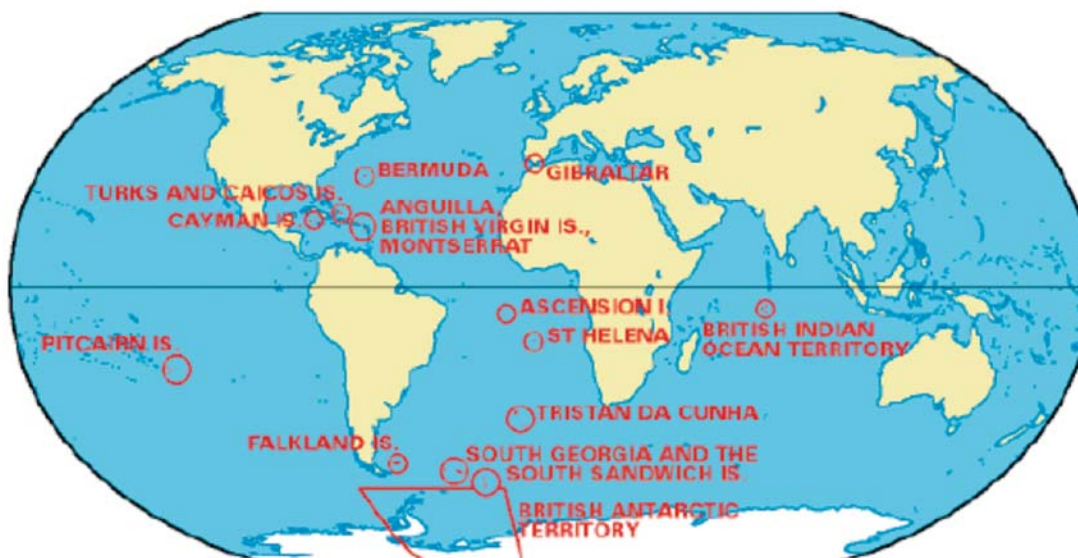
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