



UKOTA NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ASSOCIATION

August 2011

OT Leaders Meet for Pre-OTCC in the British Virgin Islands

Leaders from four Overseas Territories (OTs) gathered at Scrub Island Resort in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) for the annual Pre-Overseas Territories Consultative Council (Pre-OTCC) meeting that took place from 22-24 July. BVI Premier and Minister of Finance, Hon. Ralph T. O'Neal OBE, chaired the meeting that was also attended by Cayman Islands Premier and Minister of Finance, Tourism and Development, Hon. W. McKeever Bush;



▲ L-R: Hon. Ralph T. O'Neal OBE (British Virgin Islands); Hon. Charles Kirnon (Montserrat); Hon. W. McKeever Bush (Cayman Islands) and Hon. Hubert Hughes (Anguilla)

Anguilla Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, Hon. Hubert Hughes; and Montserrat Minister for Communication, Labour and Works, Hon. Charles Kirnon. The leaders discussed a range of issues in preparation for discussions with the United Kingdom (UK) Government at the official

OTCC meeting in London set for later this year. The issues discussed included a perspective on the new UK Coalition Government, UK plans for a new White Paper setting out the future relationship of the UK and OTs, Constitutional Issues, Civil Aviation Regulation and Security Matters.

UKOTA Members attend EU-OCT Forum in New Caledonia



▲ L-R Ms. Nadira Lord (Cayman Islands), Mr. Simon Young (Pitcairn), Chief Minister Hon. Rueben Meade (Montserrat), Mrs. Janice Panton MBE (Montserrat), Mrs. Sukey Cameron MBE (Falkland Islands), Mrs. Kedell Worboys MBE (St Helena) and Mr. Kedrick Malone (British Virgin Islands)

The 2010 OCT-EU Forum was held in New Caledonia in March 2011. The Heads of Government of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the European Union convened in Numeau for their annual meeting with officials from the EU.

The OCTs and the respective Member States to which they are linked, presented to the EU a Joint Position Paper on future relations with the European Union when the current Overseas Association Decision expires in 2014.

Members of UKOTA bid farewell to the following; Mr. Albert Poggio, former UK Representative for the Government of Gibraltar; Mrs. Mary Chandler-Allen, former Acting UK Representative of the Government of Cayman Islands; Mr. Robert Williams, former UK Representative for the Government of Anguilla and Mrs. Tracy Knight, former UK Representative for the Government of Turks and Caicos Islands. UKOTA thanks them for their time and dedication to the organization over many years.

UKOTA welcomes the newest member Tristan Da Cunha, who will be represented by Mr. Chris Bates. Members would also like to welcome the following appointees: Ms. Dorothea Hodge, UK Representative for the Government of Anguilla; Mr. Charles Parchment, Acting UK Representative for the Government of Cayman Islands and Mr. Peter Canessa, UK Representative for the Government of Gibraltar and we look forward to working with them.

UKOTA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT VISITS MONTSERRAT



Helen Larzleer from Bermuda was awarded the UKOTA scholarship for BSc Honours degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading in 2009. As part of her degree Helen has taken her final dissertation and related it to the island of Montserrat. The scholarship is funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and administered by UKOTA. The objective of the scholarship is to award a student from an Overseas Territory upon completion of their studies, the opportunity to work in one of the Overseas Territories or within an International Organisation which promotes and supports environmental and conservation projects in the OTs. Here Helen reports on her findings in Montserrat.

When I was first offered the UKOTA scholarship to study Ecology and Conservation at the University of Reading I was told that some funding would be made available if I was able to do my final project in one of the Overseas Territories. No one was sure at the time whether this would be possible, but I was determined to at least try and make it happen. During the Easter break of my first year, a workshop for OT students studying environment-related subjects was held at the JNCC offices in Peterborough. At these meetings I had an opportunity to find out more about the various projects going on in each of the territories, and if there were any which would particularly benefit from a new research project. It was at this meeting that Montserrat was mentioned as an OT which might be the best choice for further capacity building.

Upon my return to Reading I arranged a meeting with my course coordinator to find out whether I as an undergraduate would be allowed to attempt a project overseas for my dissertation. The biggest hitch seemed to be finding a supervisor who was willing to spend the extra time with me before-hand planning everything, as most project students meet with their advisors throughout the course of their work. Another hitch would be ensuring that I had adequate support in the country that I would be travelling to.

Things seemed grim until my Tropical Biology Field course to Borneo that summer. During an evening chat with the professor running the field course I discovered that he had two undergraduate project students working in Malaysia! I asked if he would be willing to take me on as a project student the following year, told him my likely destination was Montserrat, and told him I had no idea what my project was going to be yet...and he said yes! It was now time to delve a little deeper into the conservation efforts on Montserrat.

I very quickly discovered that Montserrat has a well-established commitment to the conservation of its biodiversity, as demonstrated by the extensive work put into the Centre Hills Biodiversity Assessment (CHBA) published in 2008. With the Lesser Antilles occurring in a biodiversity hotspot it is important to use every opportunity to expand the knowledge of biodiversity in this region. The CHBA has done an astounding job of cataloguing a wide range of the species found within the conservation area on the island. The report did note, however,



that information on the invertebrate populations was still lacking.

My attention was drawn to Odonata (Dragonflies and damselflies) in particular because as well as being good indicators of water quality, the group consists of relatively large and recognisable insects, which can be identified by non-scientists with limited training. Furthermore, there has been a puzzling lack of reference to Odonata on the island throughout the years. According to the CHBA, the most recent assessment prior to theirs was a month-long survey by Fred and Margaret Sibley in October 2006, which provided additional records but no publications. The only previously published work found was by Jonathan Cooter in 1983 which described only four species. The Biodiversity Assessment was able to bring this number up to sixteen, a surprising increase for such an observable group.

Perhaps a more compelling reason to study this group is that it is currently unknown how the ash deposit from the volcano in waterways may be affecting the invertebrate species which live there. With the Centre Hills providing most of the islands potable water, the health of the insect life will be a strong indicator of water quality. When studying an ecosystem it is often impossible to study each species in detail, due to various resource constraints. In these cases it can be helpful to use indicator species to gauge how healthy the ecosystem is as a whole. Dragonflies are excellent indicator species as they are predators high up in their food chain during each stage of their life cycle, and also have relatively short life cycles. This means that changes in habitat quality and food availability will result in population changes which can be monitored year to year, as opposed to decades or longer. Their life cycle also lends itself well to study, as they spend their adult years on land. As dragonflies have specific and limiting habitat requirements (pools, streams or marshes with vegetation), it was easier to pick observation sites for the research project.

Finally, Montserrat's biodiversity is under a number of threats including the continued threat of climate change, encroachment of invasive species, as well as the continued activity of the Soufriere Hills volcano. One strong factor working for biodiversity on the island is that unlike many other Caribbean islands, the threat of habitat loss to human activities has been low in recent years. With such an intact conservation area, and strong Government support, expanding the knowledge of all taxa found on the island can be used to help the understanding of flora and fauna in the entire Lesser Antilles island chain.

With the help of my professor, Dr Mark Fellowes, the UKOTA Montserrat representative, Mrs. Janice Panton, and Director of Environment on Montserrat, Mr. Gerard Gray, my project is off to a great start and now at the end of my second week I have been able to positively identify all but one of the species listed in the Biodiversity Assessment of 2008. I am doing mark-recapture studies at various locations around the island to get an estimate of the population size, and also hope to see if any new species have managed to repopulate the island in the last three years. It has been a fun and definitely exciting new experience, and I look forward to what discoveries the next four weeks may hold.

Bermuda – At a Glance

Capital:	Hamilton
Size:	53.3 sq km
Population:	64,935 (2004 estimate)
Currency:	Bermudian Dollar (BMD)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours



Bermuda Attends NASA's Final Space Shuttle Mission

The Minister of Transport Terry E. Lister JP, MP, the Permanent Secretary of Transport Ms. Ellen-Kate Horton, the General Manager of Bermuda L.F. Wade International Airport Mr. Aaron Adderley and their guests were officially invited by NASA to attend the final launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis. All Bermudians travelled to NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to witness the historic event.

Bermuda and L.F. Wade International Airport specifically play a small but very important role in the overall success of the space programme as Bermuda once provided NASA with the capability to track its launches. In 1960 NASA established a tracking station at Cooper's Island which is part of Bermuda's airport property. This site was one of 18 NASA facilities built worldwide and one of the first NASA stations built outside of the US. The station in Bermuda was pivotal in collecting data from all NASA missions to include Projects Mercury and Gemini, the Apollo moon-landings, Skylab and the Space Shuttle.

Space exploration has created the genesis for a number of innovative solutions that have been applied to everyday life, including aviation. Airbus and Boeing, the world's two largest aircraft developers, have both incorporated the use of winglets into their aircraft design. This enhancement has enabled airlines to realize significant savings in fuel costs due to the level of efficiency the winglets enable planes to fly at.

The Bermuda representatives were interested to learn that the Space Shuttle Atlantis itself, though similar in design to a conventional aircraft with two wings and a tail, has an outer layer, or skin, that is not made out of metals, but rather a fiber waterproof material, made in part by hand, by people with such passion for the space programme. Their passion is reminiscent

of the passion those in aviation have for planes.

On Thursday 7th July the Bermuda team had the pleasure along with other invited guests to have a tour of the facilities. They toured the Thermal Protection System Facility where many of the parts were made and witnessed the making of tiles and many other parts that are used on the shuttle. They then toured the Shuttle Landing Facility, The Vehicle Assembly Building, the Space Shuttle Main Engine shop and the Orbiter processing Facility Bay 2 where the space shuttle Discovery was kept. What an amazing day thus far.

After spending some time visiting the Kennedy Space Centre, Visitor Centre they had the opportunity to get very close to the Atlantis which was on the pad and ready to go.

On Friday 8th July the day of the launch, the Minister and the Permanent Secretary and their guests were taken along with other very special guests to one of NASA's top official buildings, the Operations Support Building (OSB II), a building very close to the launch for viewing purposes. Here they attended the Administrators briefing and had the distinct pleasure of rubbing shoulders and meeting with astronauts, cosmonauts, Members of Congress and persons from all over the world.

Following their briefing the Bermuda team went onto the open porch of the OSB II building to watch the launch. The countdown started and there was incredible excitement in the air. With 31 seconds to go, the countdown stopped - what an eerie feeling. The crowd was absolutely silent – one could hear a pin drop. After a short while, there was an explanation of what had happened and the countdown resumed at 31 seconds. The crowds came alive again

and together they counted aloud down from ten seconds to liftoff. Spectacular!! Before one could blink an eye, Atlantis had gone with all of the firepower that one could imagine. She had lifted into space and was out of sight carrying four experienced astronauts with her. All that remained was the tower of smoke that she had left in her wake. All Bermudians had a bird's eye view.

The team's experience was majestic and surreal as they were awarded the opportunity to witness NASA's final space shuttle launch.

The benefits derived from the space programme can be used over a huge spectrum from aviation to general household use. From the now standard glass cockpit displays in modern aircraft, to the super-conductors and micro processors used in daily life, have all been initially rooted in space programme.

The visit was truly inspiring and moving forward young Bermudians will be encouraged to grasp developmental skill opportunities that can be derived from the reintroduction of NASA to Bermuda.

Minister of Transport Terry E. Lister JP, MP commented: *'The experience of being present at the launch is one that I shall never forget. The briefings were intended to prepare us for the lift-off but we learned that nothing could prepare us. It was a simply amazing experience that I was pleased to have been invited to share in.'*

Permanent Secretary of Transport Ms. Ellen-Kate Horton stated: *What a magnificent spectacle!! The dust beneath the shuttle began to move, the ground began to shake as Atlantis lifted off to the screams and applause of all watching. From where we witnessed the liftoff, we felt the rumbling, we felt the warmth, and we heard it as if it was in next to us. We had all witnessed something historical, something very special and yet something very sad – we witnessed the end of an era. I am thrilled to have been invited and to have had this amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity. I shall never forget it.*

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

BVI Shows Strong Performance in Global Financial Centres Index

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) maintained its position at number 40 in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) Edition 9 that ranks the world's 75 leading financial centres and measures their competitiveness. As a jurisdiction the territory made gains, largely on account of compliance with international standards of regulation and tax and information sharing. The BVI is the only offshore financial centre on the GFCI to record such an improvement.

22nd Tax and Information Exchange Agreement Signed



Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Social Development, Hon. Dancia Penn, OBE, QC signed the territory's 22nd Tax and Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Czech Republic during a brief ceremony in Prague on 13 June 2011. The Czech Republic's First Deputy Minister, Ladislav Mincic, was also on hand for the signing. In February the Deputy Premier signed a similar agreement on behalf of the BVI with India in London. The BVI has surpassed the 12 TIEA minimum set by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which allows governments to request information from each other on tax related civil or criminal investigations.

IMF Gives BVI Financial Sector Positive Review

The BVI received favourable reviews by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its latest Financial Sector Stability Assessment (FSSA) of the territory. The

IMF's report stated that the BVI is viewed as a compliant and cooperative jurisdiction with a strong legal framework and competent corporate services. This perception is strengthened by the territory's 22 TIEAs, 14 of which are with OECD countries.

40th Anniversary of BVI Spring Regatta



The BVI Spring Regatta celebrated its 40th anniversary from 28 March to 3 April. The regatta, which began in 1972 with 25 boats, is one of the Caribbean's premier international sailing events. This year's race attracted over 122 sailing vessels that assembled on four different racecourses that took boats around the numerous islands that make up the BVI. Among the pack was Sir Richard Branson sailing his catamaran Necker Belle from Ingrid Abery. He was joined by sports commentator and Olympic sailor Shirley Robertson who filmed the race for the CNN program 'Mainsail.'

Protecting the Environment



Premier and Minister of Finance, Hon. Ralph T. O'Neal, signed a grant contract with the European Union (EU) to receive €560,000 for a conservation management initiative under the EU's Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economies project that also involves the Turks and Caicos Islands and Cayman Islands. The purpose

British Virgin Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	Road Town (Tortola)
Size:	153 sq km
Population:	27,000
Currency:	US Dollar (US\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

of the project is to develop facilities at selected national parks and to implement integrated management plans for conservation management and sustainable use of protected areas and their surroundings. Three Project Steering Committee Meetings have been held thus far, with the most recent taking place in the BVI between 9 – 11 May.

Two BVI Islanders Make Queens' Honours List



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II bestowed honours on Mrs. Lorna Smith and Mr. Charles Tobias for services rendered. Mrs. Lorna Smith, a former Permanent Secretary and Director of the BVI International Financial Services Centre, has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services rendered to the Government of the British Virgin Islands. Mr. Charles Tobias has been awarded a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for services to the Royal Navy and BVI community.

Cayman Hosts Peer Review Group

The Cayman Islands hosted the seventh meeting of the Global Forum Peer Review Group from 18-22 July.

More than 125 attendees, representing 40-plus jurisdictions, attended to discuss tax transparency and information exchange. Cayman has actively participated in tax transparency initiatives since 2000 and it continues to have an integral role in the restructured Global Forum Steering Group and the Peer Review Group, in the provision of assessors for five peer review evaluations; and in developing aspects of the Global Forum's work, such as the Advisory Panel.

Cayman has a longstanding relationship with the OECD and to date it has signed bilateral agreements with 24 countries. It continues to work with jurisdictions in discussing and negotiating additional agreements. The Cayman Islands had a favorable assessment during Phase 1 of the Peer Review Process and is expected to undergo its Phase 2 in the second half of 2012. Cayman has made a rapid response in addressing the most significant issues in the Phase 1 report, and as such its Supplementary Report will be one of the first considered by the PRG at the next meeting.

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

"With his knowledge of London, finance and business, Mr Parchment is a strong addition to government's team," said Cayman Islands Premier, the Hon. McKeeva Bush, OBE, JP.

Natwest Island Games 2011

A contingent of 100 athletes and officials represented the Cayman Islands at the Natwest Island Games in the Isle of Wight from 25 June to 1 July, participating in a range of sports. Events kicked off with a procession of costumed carnival performers through the streets of Ryde, followed by the parade of teams, who gathered on the sea-front to see Lord Coe, Olympic Gold Medallist and Chairman of the London Olympics Committee, perform the Official Opening. A reception was held for the Cayman Islands Team at the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes on 27 June. Former Governor John Owen CMG MBE DL, who is a resident and Deputy Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, was able to secure this prestigious venue and the event was sponsored by Queensgate Bank, its Chairman Andreas Ugland having flown from Norway specially in order to attend. The Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight and the Leader of the Council were present. The Cayman Islands team won a total of 23 medals and was placed 9th in the Medal Table.



▲ CI Athletes at the Natwest Island Games team reception, Royal Yacht Squadron



▲ New currency

New Cayman Islands Banknotes

The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) has introduced the first complete redesign of banknotes since local currency was introduced in 1972. Unveiled on 4 April, this new "D" series has features that increase protection against counterfeiting and make the notes more durable. All six denominations – the \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100 banknotes – depict the Cayman Islands' environmental heritage, and its expansion from its seafaring tradition into a modern financial services centre. In line with the 2009 Constitution, the Minister of Finance's signature appears on each note, rather than that of the Financial Secretary. The signature of CIMA's managing director also appears on each note. The notes are being issued on a phased basis. All of the notes, except the \$10 and \$100, are now in circulation.

Retirement and new Appointment to London Office

The Acting Representative, Mary Chandler-Allen, retired at the end of July after 28 years in the London Office, as well as two years living in Grand Cayman. Mary joined the office in 1983 working for the first Representative, Mr. Thomas Russell CMG CBE; she was appointed Deputy Representative in December 1994 and has been Acting Representative since Jennifer Dilbert, the previous Representative returned to the Cayman Islands in December 2008. Mary said that she will miss her colleagues and the scope and variety of the work, and will continue to follow developments from a distance. She is looking forward to this new phase of her life, having more time to develop new interests and doing some extended travelling. Following a broadening of the economic objectives for the Cayman Islands Government's London Office, Charles Parchment has been named deputy representative effective from 1 August. He will take on the role of Acting Representative until a new Representative is appointed.



Mary Chandler-Allen, Acting Representative

Hydrocarbon exploration update



▲ *Polarcus Nadia*

© *Polarcus Ltd.*

Since the revival of the hydrocarbons exploration programme in Falkland Island waters which began in 2010, a total of twelve wells have been drilled using Diamond Offshore Drilling's semi-submersible, Ocean Guardian. This brings the total number of wells drilled in the Falkland Islands Offshore Area to 18, which includes six wells drilled in 1998.

Ocean Guardian will continue to drill exploration and appraisal wells for Rockhopper Exploration and Desire Petroleum in the North Falkland Basin in a programme which is currently expected to last until the 4th Quarter of 2011. Drilling activity is set to extend into 2012 following Borders & Southern Petroleum and Falkland Oil and Gas signing a contract with Ocean Rig UDW, in November 2010, for the provision of mobile drilling services. The semi-submersible rig Leiv Eiriksson will be mobilised from Greenland to the South

Falkland Basin in the 4th Quarter of 2011 to commence the four-well drilling programme.

In May 2010, Rockhopper Exploration made an oil discovery at its Sea Lion well which was subsequently successfully tested in September 2010. The company will shortly commence appraisal drilling in order to further analyse this prospect. In January 2011, Rockhopper Exploration and the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) agreed the limits of a Discovery Area around the Sea Lion well, with an effective start date of 15th April 2010. The agreed Discovery Area covers the southern part of the greater Sea Lion fan complex. In June 2011, Rockhopper Exploration conducted a fully engineered flow test of the upper Sea Lion sands and announced that oil had flowed in commercially viable quantities at a stabilised rate of 5,508 barrels of oil per day over a 48 hour period.

Under Falkland Islands legislation, operating companies must declare a discovery area following a hydrocarbons discovery. The company concerned then has five years in which to conduct further work in order to fully appraise the discovery.

Activities in the Falkland Islands Offshore Area also continue apace in the form of seismic data acquisition. The North Falkland Basin operators, Argos Resources, Desire Petroleum and Rockhopper

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

Capital:	Stanley
Size:	12,173 sq km
Population:	2,379
Currency:	Falkland Islands Pound
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -3 hours

Exploration, contracted Polarcus Ltd to undertake extensive seismic survey operations through the use of two vessels in the North Falkland Basin. In addition to the 3D seismic data, significant environmental data is being acquired by marine mammal and seabird observers who have been placed on-board both vessels for the duration of the surveys. The data collected will be extremely useful to offshore operators, the Falkland Islands Government and other stakeholders such as Falklands Conservation, both in terms of enhancing overall understanding of the environment, and in the planning of future activities.

The Falkland Islands Government continues to work closely with British Geological Survey, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Health and Safety Executive in respect of offshore hydrocarbons matters.

For more information visit: www.falklands-oil.com

Rural Development Strategy

In 2008, when the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands initiated a project in partnership with the local private sector to develop a long-term Economic Development Strategy (EDS) for the Islands, they also confirmed their vision to ensure that Camp, the rural areas outside of the Islands' capital, Stanley, makes a strong contribution to, and benefits from, the growth of the Falkland Islands economy. Three years on, the Rural Development Strategy (RDS) is bringing that vision life.

The RDS aims to identify the implement the actions, policies and investment required for sustainable growth in Camp.

While the EDS is designed to work at a national level to identify economic opportunities, review existing national policies and attract and encourage inward investment in the Falkland Islands, the RDS will work to exploit these opportunities and help to ensure that Government policy and investment decisions contain a Camp dimension and reflect those issues and hurdles which are particular to the region.

The strategic objectives of the RDS are to increase Gross Value Added (GVA) – the value of goods and services produced in the area, improve national infrastructure, increase the Camp population, strengthen

the social fabric of Camp, and manage and conserve the natural environment.

For more information on the RDS visit www.ruraldevelopment.gov.fk



▲ *Pebble Island settlement*

© *Russell Evans*

Gibraltar – At a Glance

Capital:	Gibraltar
Size:	6 sq km
Population:	29,431 (2009)
Currency:	Gibraltar Pound
Time Zone:	Central European Time

Changes at Gibraltar House



▲ Mr. Peter Canessa, United Kingdom Representative

As part of its ongoing programme of reform and modernisation of the public service, the Gibraltar Government recently announced changes in the running of Gibraltar House in London that came into effect on 1 April 2011.

The staff of Gibraltar House, comprising 7 persons, became employees of a Gibraltar Government owned company. Until recently they had been employees of a privately owned company.

By mutual agreement Albert Poggio stands down as Director of Gibraltar House and thus as the Gibraltar Government's UK Representative. He is replaced by Civil Servant Peter Canessa, who is joined in London by another Civil Service Officer. Total staff will therefore consist of 9 persons. Peter Canessa's last appointment in Gibraltar was as Principal Private Secretary to the Minister for Enterprise, Development, Technology and Transport and Deputy Chief Minister. Prior to that, he had been CEO of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

Albert Poggio has been appointed, on Consultancy terms, to continue with his

political lobbying role for the Gibraltar Government. In this political consultancy capacity he will continue to play a leading role in relations with Parliament, UK MPs, local authorities and political parties.

Commenting on these changes, Chief Minister Peter Caruana said: "As the Gibraltar House operation has got bigger and more significant, it has become necessary and desirable to bring it more under Government Civil Service administration and control.

"In the past we have relied entirely on Albert Poggio and arrangements of a commercial and private nature, but, as he himself says, he is getting no younger, and it is now important to operate under a system that enables and ensures succession planning and continuity into the future.

"Albert has done a tremendous job over many decades, culminating in the successful implementation of the project to establish a new Gibraltar House at 150 Strand of which we can all be justifiably proud.

Some of his most important work has been on the political lobby front, and I am therefore delighted that he will continue in this role".

Issue of Gibraltar Currency Notes

The Government of Gibraltar is pleased to announce the release into circulation of the £5, £20 and £100 notes which form part of the new series of Gibraltar currency notes. The £10 and £50 notes were released into circulation in July 2010. Each denomination in the new series has a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II on the



front, complemented by pattern work representing Gibraltar's strategic location at the entrance to the Mediterranean, where it meets the Atlantic Ocean. The reverse of each of the banknotes carries a vignette which shows an aspect of Gibraltar through the Ages.

The new £5 banknote, printed in green, depicts the Upper Ward of the Moorish Castle and the Tower of Homage on the reverse. The castle consisted of three wards rising from the area of what is today Casemates Square to the Tower of

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GIBRALTAR

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Homage, which was rebuilt in the 14th century. Even today it dominates the old City.

The new £20 banknote reproduces the 1995 Battle of Trafalgar banknote, and indeed it gives greater prominence to that part of the vignette on the earlier banknote depicting the great battle where Admiral Lord Nelson won a great victory

but lost his life. It features the dismasted HMS Victory, the Admiral's flagship, being towed to Gibraltar after the battle, bearing the body of the dead Admiral. In lines with the 1995 series it has an orange-yellow colour scheme.

The £100 Gibraltar banknote is the first Gibraltar bank note of this denomination and has a predominantly mauve colour scheme. The King's Bastion is depicted on the reverse of the note. The King's

Bastion stands at the centre of the medieval seawall that protected the old City. It was fortified by General Boyd (who is buried in the Bastion) in 1773 in time for it to play a key role in the defence of Gibraltar during the Great Siege. Gibraltar's first electricity generating plant was sited in the courtyard of the Bastion. The Generating Station was demolished to give way to today's leisure centre, a stunning innovative use for a historical military fortification.



Cruise Ships are Encouraged to Stay Longer in Port

The Government is pleased to announce that cruise ships will be allowed to open their on-board casinos and shops to their passengers after 6pm, providing an incentive to remain alongside until the early hours of the following morning. This policy decision should encourage cruise ships to extend their calls at Gibraltar by staying later in the evenings. Up until now, ships have usually sailed at around 5 or 6pm in order to reach international waters and be able to open their revenue-

earning on-board outlets for their passengers, even if their next port of call was close by. This initiative will give both passengers and off-duty crew the opportunity of going ashore in the evenings. This means additional business opportunities for local traders and ships will save fuel by remaining tied up for a longer period of time. It will, equally importantly, enable local tour operators to offer a wider range of shore excursions for passengers who will have more time to see what Gibraltar has to offer, both on tour and independently.

The relevant legislation is now being drafted in order to allow for this initiative

to become law. Deputy Chief Minister, the Hon Joe Holliday, discussed the idea with major cruise lines during a short visit to Miami prior to the start of the Cruise Shipping Miami Convention in March, in order to allow cruise companies to factor this opportunity into their schedules for the 2012 season. "I was extremely pleased with the reaction of the cruise lines to this incentive, as it is a win-win situation for everybody. The cruise operators can offer more tours to their passengers, offer more time ashore to their off-duty crews and importantly save fuel which is their top priority at present, while Gibraltar will benefit from having ships extend their stay into the evening."

MONTSERRAT



The new governor of Montserrat, Mr. Adrian Davis took up his new post as Governor of

Montserrat on 8th April 2011 accompanied by his wife Sujue. The couple has two adult children

Unlike previous Governors whose civil service careers have been with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr. Davis started his career with the ODA (now the Department for International Development) in 1974 and has remained with DFID until his appointment as Governor of Montserrat. His last posting was as Country Director based in Beijing for North and East Asia.

Prior to taking up his post, Mr. Davis met with members of the Montserrat community in London to learn more about the island and their aspirations in relation to future developments on the island.

New Constitution

The Montserrat Constitution 2010 which was laid before Parliament on 20th October 2010 after five years of local consultation comes into effect from 1st September 2011.

Under the new Constitution, the Office of the Chief Minister becomes the Office of the Premier and a new Deputy Premier will be appointed. There will also be the introduction of parliamentary secretaries and the upper chamber will become a Cabinet replacing the current Executive Council.

SGV Air adds Montserrat to its Regional Services

From March 2011 SGV commenced daily scheduled flights between Montserrat and Antigua increasing the choices open to passengers going to and from Montserrat. The St. Vincent and the Grenadines based company has been operating in the region since 1990 with flights to Jamaica and Guyana.

Soufriere Hills Volcano 15 Years on

The Montserrat Volcano Observatory, together with the Seismic Research Centre and the Institute du Physique de Globe de Paris, held a conference on "The Soufriere Hills Volcano 15 years" on 3rd to 8th April 2011. The conference which brought together volcanologists and researchers who have been involved in recording, monitoring and advising on the eruption of Soufriere Hills over the last fifteen years, was opened by Dr. Paul Cole the Director of the MVO in the presence of the Deputy Governor, Her Excellency Sarita Francis and the Chief Minister, the Hon. Reuben T. Meade.

The eruption of Soufriere Hills Volcano,

Montserrat – At a Glance

Capital:	Plymouth (Abandoned)
Size:	102 sq km
Population:	4,875
Currency:	Eastern Caribbean Dollar (EC\$)
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours

broke records with the largest and highest lava dome recorded, the longest runout pyroclastic flows and has been the focus of several large scientific projects. The conference provided the opportunity for the presentation of and discussions on some of these projects.

Chief Minister Chairman of the ECCU Monetary Council



▲ ECCU Monetary Council Officials gather for their 70th Meeting

Montserrat hosted the 70th meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union Monetary Council at the Montserrat Cultural Centre on Friday 15th July 2011. The Chief Minister of Montserrat the Hon. Mr. Reuben Meade, chairman of the Monetary Council for the year to July 2012, in his welcoming speech to visiting delegates, said that when most persons think of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank they think only of the traditional Central Bank. He added that "we of the Monetary Council cannot afford the luxury of simply conducting the traditional functions. The challenges are immense and we must ensure that while we hold true to the core functions of a Central Bank, but we must also extend the Bank's role in support of our collective role in advancing our ultimate goal of a single economic space with 8 disparate communities."

The Chief Minister told delegates that "during the 2011/2012 financial, the Bank

will focus on its four main policy areas, namely financial sector stability, fiscal and debt sustainability, the availability of money and credit, and economic growth and development. As a consequence, the Bank will continue to implement measures to enhance the supervisory and regulatory framework of the ECCU and would continue to assist member governments with the drafting of financial legislation to address gaps in the regulatory framework".

In his address, the Chief Minister acknowledged that it is a very challenging time to be a Minister for Finance and that in "accepting the challenge of the Chairmanship of the Monetary Council I look forward to the support of my fellow Council members, the Board of Directors, Management and staff of the Bank in our pursuit of financial stability and transformation of our economies for the betterment of the people of the currency union."

A New Governor

A new Governor has been announced for St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha. Mr Mark Andrew Capes has been appointed to the post and will replace Governor Andrew Gurr, who will be retiring later this year. Mr Capes is at present the Chief Executive Officer of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and has held the position of Deputy Governor in both Bermuda and Anguilla. Mr Capes has visited 6 of the Overseas Territories in total.

Preparing for Air Access

After being given the green light for an airport on 22nd July 2010 by the British Government, subject to meeting certain conditions, St Helena Island is preparing itself to reap the economic benefits of improved access to what is one of the most isolated places on earth.

Since announcing this major development, there has been a lot of discussion on what needs to be done in preparation for airport related economic development and an increase in visitors to the Island. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the St Helena Government (SHG) and the Department for International Development (DfID), on 20th December 2010 setting out various time bound actions that SHG will need to undertake. This will ensure St Helena's readiness to take advantage of the opportunities of economic growth that should come with air access.

The reforms centre on encouraging people to invest in the Island's economy. To prepare for this, a lot of the work throughout 2011 is focusing on changing key policies and laws relating to Land, Tax, Immigration and Inward Investment. These reforms are designed to make St Helena more open and attractive to investors, which is seen as essential if the Island is to grow and sustain its economy for the benefit of the current and future population.

At present the Island's economy is very much dependent on UK aid. St Helena also faces the challenge of a dwindling population and the outward migration of its skilled workforce along with rising prices. This, along with physical isolation severely constrains economic growth.

Air access and accompanying investment is ultimately seen as the answer to St Helena's problems. By meeting the commitments in the MOU, the Island hopes to have a strong foundation on which it can develop a sustainable economy. Overall, St Helena wants to get to a point where it is no longer in need of financial aid. In this regard, the MOU states that the St Helena Government "is determined to honour the commitments made in the MOU as a critical first step in realising this vision."

Gillian Francis, Acting Chief Secretary said "the news from the British Government has been most welcome for St Helena and it is pleasing to see what progress has been made in terms of policy reform that is needed to enable the Island to optimise the benefits that will arise from air access. We want St Helena to move forward and become less reliant on aid."

Councillors participated in a video conference last week with Alan Duncan, Department for International Development Minister of State. This provided them with the opportunity to discuss the MOU and progress to date on key areas.

Preparing for Tourism

In addition to attracting investment, economic growth will be largely dependent on Tourism. Paving the way for this in November 2010, DFID awarded the Island £1.2 million for a Tourism Development Project and this money is being used to develop and promote the St Helena tourism product.

The St Helena Tourism Department is taking the lead with this project and is focusing on enhancing what the Island has to offer. The project is also concerned with marketing and promoting St Helena to target audiences, travel agents and tour operators. A newly appointed UK-based Sales Marketing Executive, Janet Shankland, is carrying out much of the marketing work while a newly appointed Tourism Development Executive, Mike Dean, is working with the tourism team on the Island.

Overall, St Helena Tourism is building on what has already been achieved with tourism development and is introducing some new initiatives along the way.

St Helena – At a Glance

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



▲ JNCC Blue Turtle Award Presentation:
L-R Marcus Yeo, Tara Pelembe, Cllr Raymond Williams, Mrs. Kedell Worboys MBE, Robert Buckland MP, Richard Benyon MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Alan Duncan MP – DFID Minister of State

Environmental Success

St Helena received good news earlier this year, when the Island's Millennium Forest initiative won the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Blue Turtle Award.

The Millennium Forest Project started in 2000 in a bid to restore a native forest habitat through encouraging the community to plant their own endemic Gumwood trees to create a forest for the future.

To celebrate the Island's achievement, a reception was hosted on St Helena by Governor Andrew Gurr while the St Helena Government UK Representative, Kedell Worboys MBE, hosted a reception in Westminster. Both events were linked via telephone which enabled the presentations that were made by Alan Duncan, DFID Minister of State and Richard Benyon MP, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Minister in London to be heard in St Helena.

Councillor Raymond Williams, Chair of the Island's Natural Resources, Development and Environment Committee, who was in the UK at the time, received the award on behalf of the Island.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Wreck over-shadows Island Life



▲ *Ms. Oliva*

Day to day life on – and the business of running – the most remote inhabited island in the world, Tristan da Cunha, has been very much overshadowed by the wreck of the 75,300 tonne bulk carrier MS Oliva on Spinners Point, Nightingale Island (an uninhabited part of the Tristan Archipelago) on Wednesday 16th March 2011 and the subsequent and continuing effects on Tristan's wildlife, its economy and the 263 inhabitants. The Maltese-registered, Greek-operated vessel, commissioned in 2009, was 225m long by 32m and came to grief en route from Santos in Brazil to Singapore, carrying 60,000 tonnes of soya beans. A voluntary evacuation of ten of the 22 crew on board to the regular Tristan crayfish-fishing vessel MV Edinburgh (which was in the vicinity) took place that day.

A salvage tug left Cape Town (1,750 miles distant) on the Thursday with a salvage team, a naval architect, divers and an environmental adviser on board. A Management Team to deal with the situation was set up led by Administrator Sean Burns, with Fisheries Officer James Glass, Search and Rescue Police Inspector Conrad Glass, Conservation Officer Trevor Glass and Head of Communications Andy Repetto. Offers of assistance were received from environmental groups including MCA, RSPB and ITOPF.

The conservation team immediately prepared to travel to Nightingale Island with the aim of setting bait stations in case rodents came ashore. Three islanders working for the department were on Nightingale at the time of the ship struck. However it soon became evident that the weather at Spinners Point was worsening and plans were made for all of the crew remaining on the MS Oliva to be taken off,

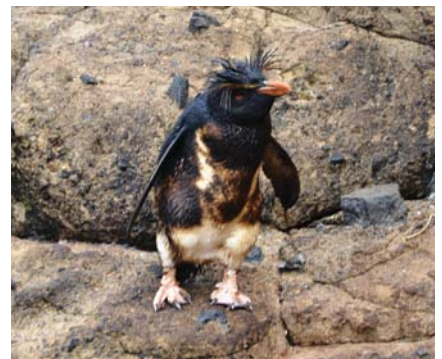
to the waiting MV Edinburgh, at first light, so effectively abandoning the vessel. However conditions were too dangerous and the first signs of oil spillage appeared. Led by the MV Edinburgh's Captain Clarence, assisted by staff in zodiacs from the cruise ship MS Prince Albert II, under Captain Alexander Golubev (who had answered calls for assistance, en route to Tristan) all were rescued. The crew had to be caught by those waiting below in the zodiacs as they jumped off the pilot ladder in dangerous sea conditions. Fifteen crew members were brought ashore to be looked after by islanders; the others stayed aboard the MV Edinburgh to return to Nightingale Island to be able to monitor the stricken vessel and await the arrival of salvors. Those islanders who sheltered the rescued crew members were recompensed.

By the Friday, the MS Oliva broke her back in the force of a relentless swell and the wreck began to break up. Flows of oil were all around Nightingale's coast. Tristan is the one of the most important centres in the world for breeding sea birds and the late austral summer season is crucial, as all adults fly daily to catch fish for their rapidly maturing chicks. It was feared that two of the islands in the Tristan Archipelago which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Inaccessible Island and Gough Island, might also be at risk from oil pollution.

Grim news of the effect of the oil was soon reported by the Administrator - "an awful scene". A slick eight miles offshore was more or less around the whole island, with the smell of diesel everywhere. The Tristan Conservation Team did what they could to clean up Northern Rockhopper Penguins, coming ashore smothered in oil. Another concern was the impact of the cargo on the fragile local marine environment, especially any long-term effect on the economically essential fishing industry for crayfish (*Jasus tristani*). An Environmental Assessor aboard the first salvage tug to reach the site estimated that up to 20 000 oiled penguins might be present. The fishery around both Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands was closed, pending advice.

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

Capital:	Edinburgh of the Seven Seas
Size:	98 sq km
Population:	275
Currency:	Pound Sterling
Time Zone:	Greenwich Mean Time



▲ *Oiled Penguin*

A remarkable wildlife rescue operation now got under way. Working closely with a sea bird specialist, the Tristan Conservation Team carefully collected oiled Rockhopper Penguins from Nightingale, Inaccessible and Middle Islands to transport them to the main Tristan island, where personnel and facilities were available to stabilise, clean and eventually release them. The toll of the pollution continued to mount: heavy crude oil and lots of tar balls were reported on the water 4.5 miles south of Nightingale. On Alex (Middle) Island, many of the recently moulted penguins left their rookery to access the sea and became oiled. On Inaccessible, un-oiled penguins were corralled to prevent them from entering the sea over oiled rocks where heavy swell was churning up the thick oil among the boulders. More than 3,700 oiled penguins were taken to the main Tristan island for cleaning and rehabilitation: only 10% survived and it was three months before the final batch could be released.

Work now continues between the Tristan and UK governments, the ship's owners and insurers and other interested parties to determine the long-term effects on the island, its fishery and economy and the level of compensation which will have to be paid.

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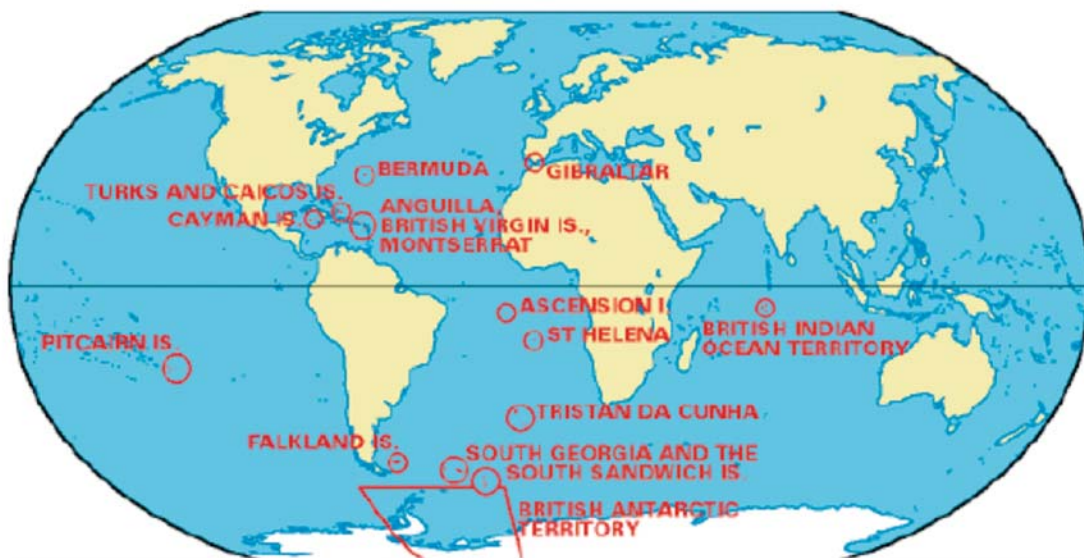
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