

OT Leaders attend the 2011 Overseas Territories Consultative Council

Henry Bellingham MP, Minister for the Overseas Territories, hosted the Overseas Territories Consultative Council (OTCC) on 23-24 November 2011 in London with Premiers, Chief Ministers and other elected representatives from Britain's Overseas Territories in attendance.

On the first day of the annual meeting, the Foreign Secretary addressed leaders and stressed that the Overseas Territories are a priority for the UK Government. He said *"My Ministerial team in the FCO and my colleagues across other Government departments will work tirelessly to ensure that our partnership promotes the best interest of all our citizens and a bright and successful future for the Overseas Territories."*

There were also discussions on the Government's new Overseas Territories strategy and forthcoming White Paper, as well as sessions on aviation safety; financial regulation, financial crime and taxation. Discussions also covered good governance, financial management and economic planning, with Ministers from the Departments for International Development, Ministry of Defence, Treasury and Transport attending on that day.

A further eight Departments attended the second day, with UK Government Ministers and senior officials participating from the Departments of Education; Communities and Local Government; Culture, Media and Sport; Home Office; Business, Innovation and Skills; Work and Pensions; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and



▲ Front Row L-R – The Hon W McKeever OBE JP, Premier of Cayman Islands; Henry Bellingham MP, Minister for the Overseas Territories; William Hague MP, Foreign Secretary; Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for International Development; The Hon Hubert Hughes, Chief Minister of Anguilla; The Hon Paula A. Cox JP, MP, Premier of Bermuda

Second Row L-R – Mr. Ian Lavarello, Chief Islander Tristan Da Cunha; Hon Jan Cheek, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Falkland Islands; Mrs. Lillian Missick, Chair of the Consultative Forum, Turks and Caicos Islands; Ms. Kitty George, Councillor Ascension; Mr. Rodney Buckley, Member of the Legislative Council, St Helena;

Third Row L-R – Mr. Reuben T Meade, Premier of Montserrat; Dr The Hon D Orlando Smith OBE, Premier of British Virgin Islands

Energy, and Climate Change. They discussed with Territory leaders ways to assist the Territories, in line with the new Government-wide approach to supporting the development of the Overseas Territories.

Henry Bellingham said:

"This Government has a clear vision for our Overseas Territories to be vibrant and flourishing communities, proudly retaining aspects of their British identity and generating wider opportunities for their people. I had bilateral meetings with the Territory leaders on Tuesday and chaired my second Overseas Territories Consultative Council on Wednesday and Thursday. I was pleased to welcome over 250 guests to a reception that I hosted in honour of Territory leaders. Our discussions at the Consultative Council have been wide-ranging and constructive."

We have made good progress in the last year in developing our approach to the Overseas Territories. We are investing heavily in the Territories that need the most assistance, including building an airport on St Helena as well as significant development work in Montserrat and on-going work to restore the principles of good governance and sound financial management to the Turks and Caicos Islands."

We discussed global economic challenges and how the UK and Territories are taking action to strengthen public financial management and diversify economic development. We also discussed with Territory leaders ways in which we can build a stronger partnership, including by enabling the Territories to access UK public sector expertise and training – especially through secondments; and by strengthening links and engagement with the Commonwealth and EU."

I am glad that nine of my Ministerial colleagues from across Government were able to attend the Consultative Council this week, a clear demonstration that the UK Government as a whole is supporting the Territories, and not just the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development. We will continue to work closely with the Territories as we prepare for the publication of our White Paper on the Territories next year."

The Overseas Territories welcomed the inclusion of other UK Government Departments in the consultations and expressed appreciation for the support they offered, especially in these difficult economic times.

Development Projects: Anguilla continues to draw investors to its shores



▲ Chief Minister, Hon Hubert Hughes at the signing of the Zemi Beach

The Government of Anguilla is working hard to draw investment to the Island. This is a brief snapshot of some of the projects underway to promote development on Anguilla.

The Government of Anguilla recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop one of their quays, privately owned by Anguillian families and known as Scrub Island. The project is expected to begin sometime in the New Year.

The Government is also happy to report that a MOU which was signed earlier this year with 'Goldstein's', an American family, has this week resulted in the family opening its brand new Sales Office. This project is named Zemi Beach and is located on the best beach in Anguilla Shoal Bay East. The project will provide employment for close to 200 construction workers and, when completed, will require in excess of 190 workers to operate the resort.

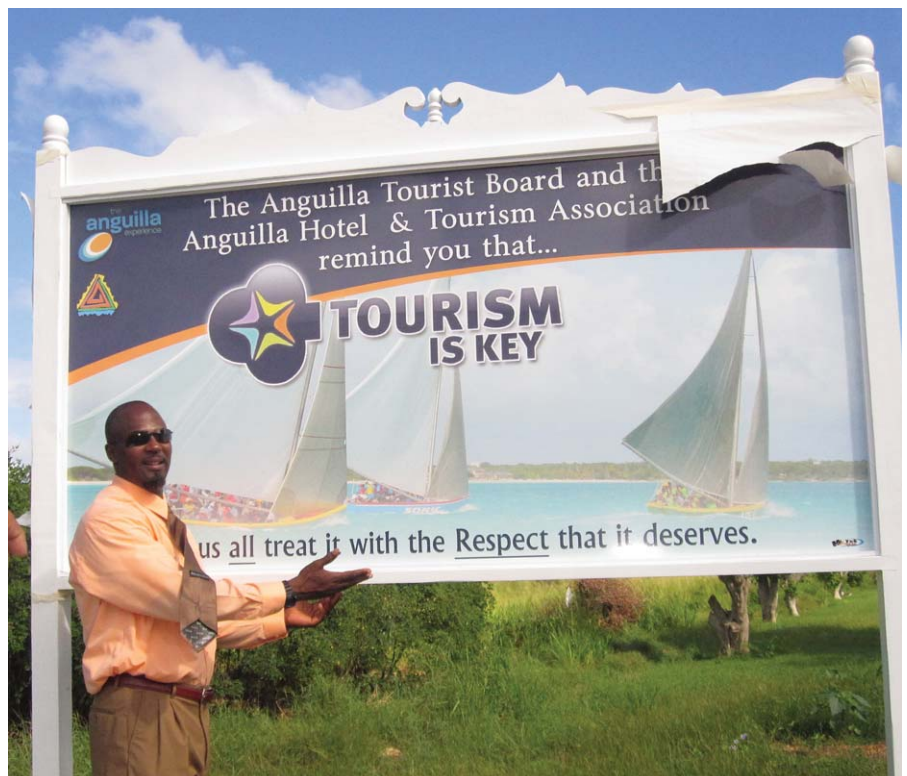
In the area of tourism Anguilla continues to have fruitful discussions with Dutch St. Maarten to help and promote Anguilla at their ports of entry, as well as to erect signage that will make the journey for those travelling to Anguilla much more smooth.

Following the OECD Global Forum and Peer Review Plenary in July of 2011 Anguilla also came in for high praise as a result of its compliance with the Global Forum's request to improve transparency and exchange of information in the

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

financial sector. And last month, at the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force Plenary, which was held in Margarita Venezuela, Anguilla was again commended for the work that is being done to monitor and regulate the financial services industry locally. Having made much progress, the work continues as Anguilla prepares for the second round Peer Review Plenary which is due in the early part of 2012.



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 Hon Paula A. Cox JP, MP and HE Joseph Zammit Tabona, High Commissioner of Malta

Bermuda signs its 30th Tax Information Exchange Agreement

On Thursday 24th November 2011, while in London to attend the annual Overseas Territory Consultative Council the Premier and Minister of Finance, the Hon. Paula A. Cox, JP, MP signed a TIEA with Malta which marked Bermuda's 30th Agreement for the exchange of information on tax matters. The signing of the Malta TIEA further demonstrates Bermuda's commitment to being a responsible player in the global finance sector. The signing was held at the Malta High Commission in London between the Premier of Bermuda and His Excellency Joseph Zammit Tabona, High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta.

The value of signing this TIEA is a protective and pre-emptive measure to strengthen Bermuda's position, to be exempt from harsher more punitive future legislative measures.

The signing of the newest TIEA helps solidify Bermuda's relationship with European Union and marks the 12th Tax Information Exchange Agreement with an EU Member State.

Rocket Tracked Successfully from Cooper's Island

In 2011 the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Government of Bermuda signed an agreement which authorized ESA to establish and operate a transportable and temporary station on Cooper's Island to track and receive telemetry data for ESA launch vehicles.

The first launch to be tracked from Bermuda stemming from this agreement took place on December 16th 2011, when the Soyuz rocket was launched from Europe's Spaceport in

French Guiana which is on the north-east coast of South America. The French space agency *Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales* (CNES) implemented this agreement on behalf of ESA.

Preparations for tracking the launch began in Bermuda in September 2011 to ensure the optimum conditions for all technical and operational aspects of the launch.

The December launch was deemed "successful" because the goal of the launch - which was to place six satellites in orbit at the correct locations, pointing the correct directions and at the correct times - was reached.

"Bermuda is an ideal location to track ESA launch vehicles heading north after liftoff," explained Michel Starozinski, New Stations Project Manager at CNES. "We always need a downrange tracking station after the loss of the signal by the Kourou station in Guiana, which occurs about 1,800 km away from the launch pad. When we launch to the North what is the only island after the West Indies between South and North America? Bermuda!"

Mr. Starozinski continued: "This launch, from the T0 (Time Zero) to the end of the mission was particularly long (more than four and a half hours), and during this time, all important phases need to be controlled by the Control Centre. That is why we use several stations to receive, process and transmit in real time the telemetry data sent by the launcher (or 'rocket') to the Control Centre in Guiana. Telemetry data provides information on the rocket's trajectory, including its position, velocity and acceleration, and its performance parameters - in particular pressure, temperature, voltage, currents and flight control computer data, as well as main events such as separations of stages and satellites,

ignitions and shutdowns of the engines. Bermuda was one of the 'main stations' during this launch as it was from there that we saw the first ignition of the upper stage of the launcher (Fregat) after its separation and the entire boost of the engine until its shutdown about four minutes later."

The Cooper's Island station tracked the launcher during this first pass from the South West on the horizon, about nine minutes after the launch, to the North East at the level of the St David's lighthouse. About one hour and a half later, the station tracked the launcher for a second pass from the South East to the North East.

Other stations used for this launch were Kourou in French Guiana, Lucknow in India, Jeju in South Korea, Perth in Australia and Saskatoon in Canada.

The Bermuda station at Cooper's Island consists of a 4.5 meter parabolic antenna, its transport container and a technical shelter to store operational electronic equipment, including a no-break power system, and a power shelter housing two generators and a fuel tank.

These facilities will be rolled out only for the launches set to be tracked from the station and will be removed thereafter. The installation needs about one week and can be done by two or three trained technicians. Two overseas technicians will arrive on the island to dismantle the station at Cooper's Island next week.

Minister of Environment, Planning and Infrastructure Strategy the Hon. Marc A. Bean JP, MP said: "I am extremely proud of the role Bermuda played recently regarding the success of the Soyuz rocket mission on December 16th - an event which I believe will pave the way for many similar launches to come. I am extremely pleased that we could be of assistance to our friends at ESA while, at the same time, being mindful of the sensitive environment we safeguard at Cooper's Island through the requirement that the tracking station be temporary in nature. ESA and the Government of Bermuda will work together to further identify and pursue projects of common interests, in particular the promotion of educational opportunities for students in the country."

New Government Elected



▲ Premier Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE

On 9 November 2011, a new government was sworn into office under the leadership of Premier Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith OBE of the National Democratic Party (NDP). Also appointed were Dr. Hon. Kedrick Pickering as Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour; Hon. Ronnie Skelton as Minister for Health and Social Development; Hon. Mark Vanterpool as Minister for Communications and Works and Hon. Myron Walwyn as Minister for Education and Culture. The Premier in his inaugural address outlined his government's immediate priorities, citing the economy and plans to boost the Small Business sector and measures to strengthen tourism and financial services.

MOU Signed with Hertfordshire County Council

Newly appointed Premier Dr. Hon. Orlando Smith OBE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Lancaster House with Hertfordshire County Council while in London attending the annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council (OTCC). The agreement which builds on a 2009 MOU on Sports Cooperation provides for partnerships between the BVI and Hertfordshire County that covers the public service, private sector, civil society and education. In remarks delivered at the signing ceremony, Overseas Territories Minister Henry Bellingham said "the MOU is a model for other Territories to follow".

The signing was followed by the Premier's visit to Hertfordshire County where he was officially received by Mr. Robert Gordon, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), and Councillor Jane Pitman, Chairman of HCC. The three leaders pledged to make the MOU a success in remarks made at a welcome reception at Hertford County Hall.



▲ BVI-Hertfordshire MOU Signing at Lancaster House. L-R HE Governor Boyd McCleary, Premier Dr Hon D Orlando Smith OBE, HCC Deputy Leader David Lloyd and Minister of Overseas Territories Henry Bellingham MP

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

The visit concluded with Premier Smith meeting Hertfordshire County residents in the village of Aston who have partnered with HCC to allow BVI athletes to stay in their homes and a luncheon with members of the business community and education sector.

Commenting on his visit to Hertfordshire County, the Premier told the local media that "the visit further strengthened ties between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the leadership and people of Hertfordshire County and I look forward to working with our new partners to build a meaningful and enduring partnership".

CAYMAN ISLANDS

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



Top: L-R front: Hon W. McKeewa Bush OBE JP, Mrs. Mary Chandler-Allen, Mr. Tom Russell CMG CBE, Mr. John Owen CMG MBE, Mr. Stuart Jack CVO.

L-R back: Hon Rolston Anglin, Minister of Education, Training and Employment, Mr. Bruce Dinwiddy CMG, Mr. Graham Brady MP, His Excellency the Governor Duncan Taylor CBE, Mr. Charles Parchment and Mrs. Jennifer Dilbert MBE JP

Left: Lord Blencathra, Hon W. McKeewa Bush, Hon Rolston Anglin, Mr. Orrett Connor, Mr. Richard Smith with Caymanian students

Centre: Hon W. McKeewa Bush and Mr. Richard Benyon MP

Right: Hon W. McKeewa Bush, Hon Rolston Anglin, Ms. Shmona Simpson and Mr. Orrett Connor

Annual Reception in London

The Premier of the Cayman Islands, Hon W. McKeewa Bush hosted the Annual Reception in London in November 2011.

Annual Student Reception in London

The Premier of the Cayman Islands, Hon W. McKeewa Bush hosted the Annual Student Reception in London in November 2011. The event was well attended by Caymanian university students currently studying in the UK.

Celebrating our natural wonders

During the week of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council (OTCC) meeting, The Premier of the Cayman Islands, Hon W. McKeewa Bush had the honour of meeting Mr. Richard Benyon MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries,

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at the OTCC. The Premier presented a reminder of the natural wonders found in the Cayman Islands, which included the Cayman Iguana, the Cayman Parrot, and the famous Stingray City.

Premier congratulates Rhodes Scholar

The Premier of the Cayman Islands, Hon W. McKeewa Bush had the pleasure of congratulating Ms. Shmona Simpson, 2012 winner of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship an international postgraduate award for study at the University of Oxford. The Premier told Ms. Simpson how immensely proud he was of her accomplishments thus far and wished her well on behalf of the people of the Cayman Islands. Minister for Education, Hon. Rolston Anglin also offered his praise, "On behalf of my Ministry and the Government, I would like to congratulate Shmona on this most outstanding

achievement. This is a huge honour, not just for Shmona but also for our country as a whole. Shmona is one of our own national scholarship recipients, and it is exciting to see her academic and leadership achievements acknowledged in this way. She is a true testament to the success that can come through hard work, dedication and a commitment to excellence."

Ms Simpson, 23 completed her BSc in Biomedical Sciences two years ago, and subsequently completed the MSc in Global Health Science at Oxford. Last year she spent three months at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam developing a rapid laboratory diagnostic for the Enterovirus 71 which causes Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in children. She is currently working as an Immunologist at the Centre for Emergency, Preparedness and Response of the Health Protection Agency in the UK. Aside from her interests in public health, Ms. Simpson is an accomplished pianist, winning 5 Gold Awards for Achievement in Music and one for Literary Achievement at the Cayman Islands National Festival of the Arts. Long-term, Ms. Simpson aspires to play a leading role in public health in the Cayman Islands.

FALKLAND ISLANDS



This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands War and the Liberation of the Islands by British Forces. For the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), it presents an opportunity to showcase the development that has taken place in the Islands since 1982 and to take the key messages, of self determination and self sufficiency, to a wider audience, as well as commemorating and remembering the events and sacrifices of thirty years ago.

Towards the end of 2011, two Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Roger Edwards MLA and the Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA, travelled to the Caribbean, visiting St. Kitts & Nevis and Antigua & Barbuda. They met with Prime Ministers and senior officials to discuss the Falkland Islands.

"There was a very positive attitude from both Governments and civic leaders and support for self determination in all non independent countries (such as the Falklands)" said Hon. Mike Summers OBE. He added that they were "satisfied with the reception we received and the discussions that took place." The MLAs spoke of the challenges the Falklands face in the United Nations for support of the right to self determination.

A second visit will be made to the Caribbean, following the Overseas Countries and Territories Forum, in January. MLAs the Hon. Sharon Halford and the Hon. Roger Edwards will travel to Grenada,



Liberation Monument and Government Secretariat, Stanley

St. Vincent and St. Lucia to meet with elected representatives and officials there to again reinforce the position of the Islands.

Following the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in November, the Hon. Jan Cheek MLA and the Hon. Dick Sawle MLA travelled to Brussels to meet with MEPs and Officials from the EU. This was an opportunity to update them on the current situation with regards to Argentina and their aggressive tactics that are affecting the economy of the Islands. It was an opportunity to explain first hand FIG's position and to reinforce the right to self determination. They sought support from EU officials for the Falklands' right to trade freely and without hindrance.

On his return to the Islands, the Hon. Dick Sawle MLA said, "The meetings were important as there are many within the European Union who were unaware that Argentina still maintain an aggressive stance towards the Islands. Nor were they aware of the full extent of the attempts to blockade and isolate the Islands from the rest of the World."

All the Officials that they met were in no doubt that Argentina would not be able to influence the European Union (EU) against the Falklands' position as an associate territory of the EU. The Hon. Dick Sawle MLA commented that "The support we got was impressive and complete."

In addition to these visits, and similar ones that will take place throughout the year, a large number of visitors will be welcomed in the Islands. Special guests will be invited to take part in the 30th Anniversary of the Liberation ceremonies on 14th June and, in November, around 80 veterans and family

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

members will be in the Islands for Remembrance Sunday. These events will provide Islanders with the opportunity to show their gratitude for those that fought for their freedom in 1982 and also give the veterans the opportunity to see first hand what their actions then have enabled the Islands to do.

Over the last 30 years the Falkland Islands Government has invested in land reform, communications – including the construction of 800 kms of roads – health care and education. More recently investment in a wind farm, just outside Stanley, has proved its worth by producing up to 40% of the energy requirement of the town. The search for hydrocarbons continues with some encouraging results.

The population has grown, the estimate is over 3,000 – the highest ever – and the majority of the students, who the Falkland Islands Government sponsor through college and university in the UK, return home to make their future in the Islands.

With the spotlight on the Islands this year, the Falkland Islands Government will be sending a clear message that the Islands are not a colony, but are a self governing, self-sufficient country with a long history and unique culture. The people of the Falkland Islands have a right to self-determination, enshrined in international law.

Unfortunately, Argentina fails to recognise the situation in the Islands and the position of the Islanders and continues to press their claim to Sovereignty. A spokesperson for the Assembly said " We wish for neighbourly relations with Argentina, for mutual practical benefits and regret that, given the current stance of the Argentine Government, that this situation is not possible."



▲ Gibraltar Chief Minister, The Hon Fabian Picardo

Gibraltar elects a new government

The leader of the Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party/Gibraltar Liberal Party Alliance (GSLP/Libs), The Hon Fabian Picardo, became Gibraltar's new Chief Minister on Friday 9th December 2011. The GSLP/Libs won 10 of the Parliament's 17 seats with 48.88% of the vote, following a high turnout at the previous day's General Election of 81.4%. Mr Picardo's party will govern Gibraltar for the next four years.

In his victory speech, Mr Picardo declared it was "a privilege to lead this nation of ours" and hailed his political triumph as the dawning of a new era for Gibraltar – the theme of his manifesto. "A new dawn has broken," he said; a statement that drew loud cheers from his supporters present at the venue where the counting of votes had taken place overnight.

The Gibraltar Social Democrats (GSD), led by former Chief Minister The Hon Peter Caruana, obtained 46.76% of the vote. Mr Caruana now becomes Leader of the Opposition.

Gibraltar Museum Director – Landmark New Book and Keynote Speaker at University of Oxford Seminar

Gibraltar Museum Director, Professor Clive Finlayson, has just had a new book published by the prestigious international publisher A & C Black under the T & A D Poyser label, generally regarded as the most important list for ornithological titles in the world. The book – *Avian Survivors. The History and Biogeography of Palearctic Birds* – traces the history of the birds that occupy the Palearctic Region. This is the vast geographical area which stretches from Gibraltar to Japan. Professor Finlayson has combined his two major areas of expertise – the ecology of birds and the study of the history of environmental and climatic change of our planet – in this new book. Much of Professor Finlayson's research incorporates the unique record of bird fossils from Gorham's Cave. Indeed, the cover of the book is a wonderful watercolour by nature artist Tim Worfolk; it depicts Gorham's Cave at the time when the Neanderthals were living in Gibraltar, with a corresponding environment and birds.

The back cover shows the same image but today, with a sea level rise and the birds that visit the site today.

Gibraltar is thus given prime status in a major book that covers a vast region of our planet. The jacket describes the book in the following terms: using a fresh approach that classifies birds according to their bioclimatic characteristics, Clive Finlayson views the history and distribution of Palearctic birds from a radical new angle. History and chance play a central role in a story that has its origins before the asteroid impact that

Gibraltar – At a Glance

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

finished off the dinosaurs. In this book Finlayson shows that the avifauna of the Palearctic long predates the glaciations of the last two million years, and had established itself gradually during the turbulent times of the Miocene and Pliocene, the lifting of Tibet and the drying of the continents having a major influence on these birds. Those that made it to the start of the glaciations were equipped to deal with whatever climate could throw at them. They were the avian survivors, and they are still here with us today. The book is packed with figures and with a rich colour section. *Avian Survivors* tells the definitive story of the birds of the Palearctic, across space and time. It should interest those interested in birds but also those with an eye on climate change.

Commenting on his recent book Professor Finlayson expressed his delight at having had another important work, following from books published by Cambridge and Oxford University Presses, published by one of the world's major publishers. He expressed his satisfaction that, once again, he had been able to give little Gibraltar a pivotal position in a work of this magnitude. "I am a Gibraltarian, born and bred, and I am proud to be able to give something back to my Rock and its people. We are small but our outreach far exceeds our physical dimensions."

Oxford Seminar

Meanwhile, Professor Finlayson has been invited to give the key note paper at a seminar to be held at the University of Oxford in January. Organised by the School of Archaeology, the seminar will

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address a question that has remained unanswered in this scientific field: when and how did people occupy desert and semiarid regions of the Eurasian mid-latitude belt in prehistory?

Professor Finlayson, now regarded as a leading world authority in the field of human origins and also a scientist of the prestigious *Academia Europaea*, was the first to introduce the concept of a Mid-latitude Belt which once stretched from Gibraltar in the west to China in the east. At different times, global climate change turned this belt from a land of lush savannah and wetland to a veritable desert. Many parts – the Sahara, Arabia, Thar Desert in India, the Central Asian deserts – are arid lands today but they were not always so. For long periods these areas were occupied by people as new evidence is beginning to reveal. Professor Finlayson's ideas, which included the prediction that the Mid-latitude Belt was central to our evolution, have formed part of a number of research papers and two of his books: *Neanderthals and Modern Humans, An Ecological and Evolutionary Perspective* (Cambridge University Press) and *The Humans Who Went Extinct* (Oxford University Press).

"Some people may find it hard to believe that Gibraltar was the western extreme of this wide belt of lands which was the stage for our origins" declared Professor Finlayson "but our research confirms that it was so, acting as a refuge for the last Neanderthals and as part of the pump that catapulted us to today". He added "it is yet another cog in the wheel of time that places this small land of ours in the centre stage of world affairs, like it often was later during the course of written history". The fieldwork which Professor Finlayson and his team have been conducting for two decades now is revealing the detail of the environments that were the key to human survival and how these were altered as climate changed, lessons that we can draw from in trying to predict future events.

Gibraltar was central to a small region of south-western Iberia, which included coastal areas such as today's Doñana National Park in Spain, which stretched to the area of Lisbon. "This region was part of the Mid-latitude Belt and its affinities lie more with North Africa to the south than with Europe to the north" said Professor Finlayson. "Our research shows that people focused their activities very closely

to water sources and there were plenty close to the Rock. We have an Underwater Research Unit here in the museum, which is run by some fantastic and dedicated scientists. Dr Geraldine Finlayson and Dr Darren Fa have been performing the gruelling and exhausting task of charting the sea bed off Gorham's Cave and they have been finding the places – now submerged – where people were living. And these places included sources of raw materials that they used to make stone tools and, importantly, springs of fresh water!"

There were times when things went bad even here in Gibraltar. One such moment, around 25 thousand years ago, saw the worst climate Gibraltar had seen for a quarter-of-a-million years. It was not cold that hit but severe drought. Gibraltar, for a while, was part of the great deserts of the south. "Before this moment we had Neanderthals, during it nobody could live here, and afterwards we see the first signs of our own ancestors" said Professor Finlayson. Now all this evidence from Gibraltar and beyond will be the subject of Professor Finlayson's key note lecture in Oxford.

Sustainable Development



▲ Area Designated for Development

During a recent visit to the United Kingdom, the Premier of Montserrat, the Hon. Reuben Meade outlined to the Diaspora that the key priority areas for the sustainable development of the Island are exploration of geothermal energy, the new town development, increased tourism, continuing development of arts and culture and increased use of ICT.

A new town to replace the abandoned Seat of Government, Plymouth is seen by the Government as vital in attracting Montserratians to return to the island and also as a driver for economic development. The Government held

Charrette in October 2011 for town planners, property developers, architects and investors to put forward their plans for the development of both Little Bay and Carrs Bay as sites for the new town and for a new seaport. These are now being considered by the Government.

An increase in information technology has been identified by policymakers as being important for current and future residents and for businesses in Montserrat. The Ministry of Communication and Works has embarked on developing Montserrat's first comprehensive information and communication technology (ICT) strategy. A three month consultation process is

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

now underway to find out what is needed to develop an ICT focused culture on the Island.

The production of geothermal energy, using the heat from volcanic activity in the south of the island to produce electrical power, is seen as the catalyst to attract investment into Montserrat and to establish a green economy.

Celebrating Fifty Years of Festival

In 2012 Montserratians will celebrate fifty years of "Festival", an annual event of music, dance and theatre held over several days in mid December through to the New Year. The arts and culture have together always played a part in attracting the Diaspora back to Montserrat for holidays and also for ensuring that tourists make return visits. During this year there will be many opportunities for visitors and returning Montserratians to enjoy the various activities planned to commemorate this 50 year event.



Brades the former capital abandoned in 1997

Airport for St Helena



▲ L-R Jimmy Johnston, Basil Read; Rt Hon Alan Duncan, DFID Minister for State; Kedell Worboys, SHG UK Representative; Nigel Kirby; Tom Kelly

On 3 November 2011, the Secretary of State for International Development, the Rt. Hon Andrew Mitchell, announced that the four conditions set by HMG had been met and the Department for International Development is to fund an airport for St Helena ending five centuries of isolation.

Governor Mark Capes announced the good news on St Helena

To echo the words of the Governor in his address to the people of the Island:

"This decision lifts the fog of uncertainty from the island. It is an expression of confidence by the UK Government in St Helena's future. It will give us the best chance we will ever have of reversing the economic decline of the last 50 years."

A Design, Build and Operate contract was signed between St Helena Government (SHG) and Basil Read (Pty) Ltd, a leading construction company in South Africa on the same day in the presence of the Rt. Hon Alan Duncan, Minister of State for International Development. Design and construction of the airport will total £201.5 million, an additional £10 million has been agreed for shared risk contingency and £35.1 million will be made available for 10 years of operation.

The airport will help the Island to achieve its vision of 'A prosperous, peaceful and democratic society for all achieved

through sustainable economic, environmental and social development leading to a healthy and eventually financially independent St Helena'.

The airport will be the catalyst for economic growth drawing on inward investment and development of the tourism sector. By creating new job opportunities the Government expects that the airport decision and associated economic activity will help to reverse the population decline of so many years.

Within a few weeks of the airport announcement, representatives from Basil Read visited St Helena. The team met with SHG officials, Councillors, the private sector and many potential employees. From these meetings the Basil Read team was able to determine the skills and private sector capacity available with a view to identifying how Islanders could contribute to different areas within the overall project.

The long awaited airport decision rewards the work of the St Helena Government and many others who were involved in the reforms under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between DfID and SHG in December 2010. This set out what St Helena needed to do in readiness for air access and focused in particular on opening the Island's economy to inward investment and increased tourism.

St Helena – At a Glance

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



▲ Inauguration of HE Governor Mark Capes

Mark Capes settles in as New Governor

Governor Mark Capes, previous Chief Executive of the Turks and Caicos Islands and a former Deputy Governor in Bermuda and Anguilla, is settling in on St Helena. During his time on the Island the Governor has been actively involved in a range of activities including air access, which he described as 'momentous news' for St Helena.

In his address to the people of the Island Governor Capes assured them that in carrying out his duties as Governor he will 'seek to be accessible and as transparent and open as possible about government policies and decisions, while fully embracing a spirit of partnership and cooperation.'

TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Eruptions, storms and shipwrecks – but Tristan survives



Fifty years ago, the homes and fields of what had been the world's most inhabited island stood silent. Not a human sound or movement anywhere – and the smoking, glowing volcano at the west of the only settlement on Tristan da Cunha showed why. Its eruption during 1961 sent a stream of lava across the fields, over the fish canning factory and the most useful beach. Fortunately, there had been no injury or loss of life, but people had been forced to leave behind everything they could not pack into a case and flee to Nightingale Island, 25 miles offshore – an even more lonely spot, with no fresh water and no resident population, just huts used by Tristan islanders when hunting petrels for their fat.

As the calls went out for help and the Royal Navy sent a rescue vessel from what was then the British base of Simonstown in South Africa, a Dutch liner, the *Tjissadane*, was able to divert to Tristan on its way to South Africa, rescue every islander and find them cabins on board. From her decks, the islanders feared they were seeing their homes for the last time and that the spitting fire of the volcano and its red-hot lava bombs would consume everything.

Arrival in Cape Town plunged them into a different world: few had ever left Tristan, so for most it was their first sight of cars, buses, trains, bicycles – and bustling crowds of humanity. Despite the warmth of the welcome and the interest of the press, the system of apartheid had to be explained to the islanders and the consequence that under it, they would always be classed as second class human beings if they stayed in South Africa. They accepted an offer of evacuation to the UK and set off on the liner, the *Stirling Castle*, for Southampton and were accommodated in an old Army camp in Surrey.

By now, it was winter – and a bitter cold one at that. The islanders found it difficult to cope with the climate in the flimsy huts; they found the attention of the press and TV increasingly intrusive – but were determined to stick together until they could return home. They were moved to much better accommodation, service families' married housing which lay disused at Calshot near Southampton. Many men found work in local boatyards and the Fawley oil refinery and their children began to attend the local schools.

Nevertheless, the Tristan people continued to insist that they be allowed to return home and a Royal Society expedition, accompanied by two islanders, set off for the South Atlantic to investigate the possibility.

They found that water courses and fields were not polluted, that all except one of the houses remained intact (though some had been looted) and that while much of the livestock had been killed by the dogs, human habitation was possible. In 1963, an initial group returned to prepare housing, kill the feral dogs, clear the fields (so that the staple crop of potatoes could again be grown) and repair water courses, electricity and other essentials. When the time came for the rest of evacuees to return, only about 30 elected to remain in England.

Nearly half a century on, a very different scene greets the visitor who braves the six-day sailing from Cape Town (there is no airport and Tristan is again the most remote inhabited island in the world). The island is not in receipt of budgetary aid (though its diminished financial reserves still cause concern to the island government); there is a new factory to process the gourmet-quality Tristan rock lobster upon which the economy mostly depends. That has taken over from the post-volcano replacement factory burned down four years ago – (taking with it the electricity generating system) at a time when the substitute harbour, was in danger of collapse and the only crane gave way, its jib rusted and weakened by spray and salt.

Islanders argue that what is now called Calshot Harbour is fundamentally in the wrong place, too close to a reef and with such a shallow draft that only small fishing boats and barges can use it, even on days when the Atlantic swell and storms subside to permit that. They claim that a new harbour, to the west, is the only long-term solution. Meanwhile, work goes on to stabilise the present harbour's retaining breakwater (built of dolosses). Elsewhere on the island, progress is visible. In addition to the new fish processing factory built to meet EU standards, a new crane, more plant and machinery with which to repair the infrastructure, a new tourism centre, post office, police station are in evidence. Each family is allowed a limited number of cattle and sheep and the animals look noticeably healthier than a few years ago.

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

The Patches – small, walled fields where islanders grow their potatoes, linked with the Settlement of Edinburgh-of-the-Seven-Seas over its three miles by the only metalled road and the world's most remote timetabled bus service, look cared for, neat and productive.

More recently, it was the wreck of the Greek-registered bulk carrier, the *MV Oliva* on rocks at Nightingale Island which brought Tristan to many people's attention. While the media focussed on the remarkable rescue operation which saw more than three thousand oiled Northern Rockhopper penguins transported to the main island (where people worked tirelessly to de-oil and rehabilitate them), the fishery around Nightingale was closed. It remains off-limits while the effect on the lobsters of the cargo of 60,000 tonnes of soya beans and the oil which escaped from the *Oliva's* fuel tanks, is investigated. That too has implications for the longer term economy of the island and negotiations continue with insurers and other interested parties.

Meanwhile, work continues to bring the education the island's children are offered up to a higher standard, to enable them to cope with the demands of the 21st century. With the help of the UK-funded ex-pat education adviser, pupils and their teachers are being prepared for schooling to continue to age 16, with those likely to benefit from further education being able to continue their studies in Cape Town. Conservation work to protect globally important species of birds which live in the Tristan archipelago is being developed, as is sustainable tourism, where the increasing popularity of specialist cruises to the Antarctic is bringing benefits to Tristan's economy. So too are the revenues from the sale to collectors of Tristan's much-sought postage stamps, souvenir coins and island-made crafts. The recent appointment of the island's first Chief Executive Officer is helping to implement the Strategic Development plan and re-order its finances – but the core values and principles which gave the islanders the strength and determination to return and rebuild 50 years ago, remain as strong as ever and as fundamental to their ability to thrive on the world's most remote inhabited island.

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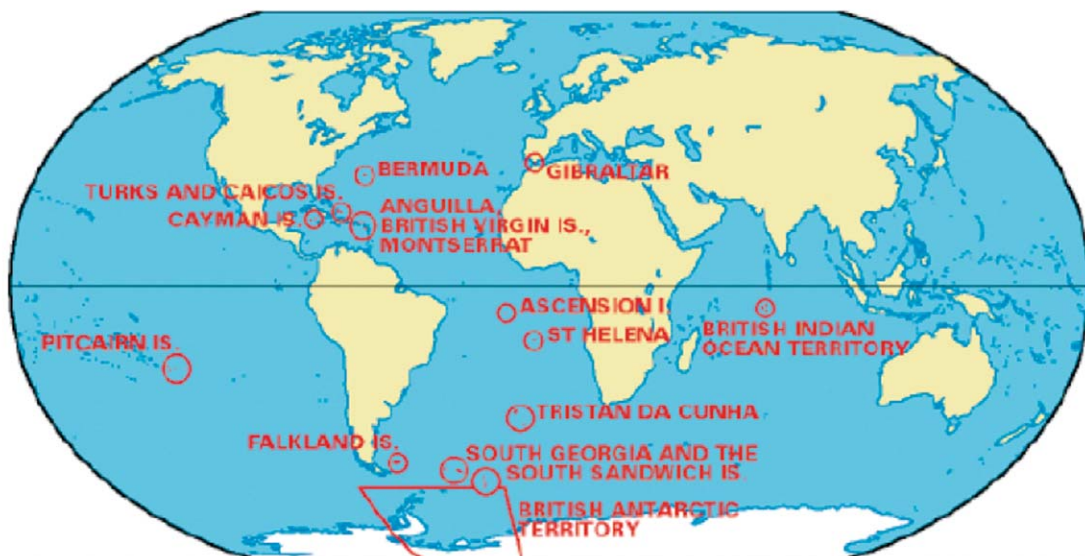
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