



UKOTA NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS TERRITORIES ASSOCIATION

September 2012

Territories at the heart of Jubilee celebrations

Territory leaders and representatives played a full and enjoyable part in the memorable celebrations which marked the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, concluded on Monday 18th June 2012 by a reception in the Speaker's House State Rooms within the Palace of Westminster. This was hosted by Andrew Rosindell, MP for Romford, who chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Territories, by permission of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP.

They were joined by people representing the Crown Dependencies of Jersey, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and the many Commonwealth countries where Her Majesty is Head of State. Guests included ministers, members of the House of Lords, MPs, High Commissioners and representatives of NGOs and other bodies which work with the Territories. The Chair of UKOTA, the UK Representative for St. Helena, Kedell Worboys MBE, explained to guests the significance of UKOTA's work in ensuring the views of territories and their populations are considered by decision makers, including British Government departments, ministers and organisations. Guests from Overseas Territories working and studying in the UK took advantage of the chance to talk informally with those whose work and decisions affect their communities.

Many territories' elected leaders or their UK representatives played a prominent role in the celebrations in London over the Jubilee weekend (Sunday 3rd June – Tuesday 5th June), taking part in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant on board the *Mercuria*. The



▲ Left to right: Andrew Rosindell MP, Chair of UKOT APPG, Kedell Worboys MBE, Chair of UKOTA and Rt. Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, Romford's Town Crier, Tony Appleton, introduced guests and speakers

territories' flags were flown on the adjacent vessel, the *Sapele*. A thousand vessels took part and the bitterly cold, wet weather which accompanied the day did not dampen anyone's enthusiasm. Preceding the Royal Convoy, were 55 dinghies, which sailed in diamond formation, one of which carried Sea Cadets from Bermuda.

The leaders and representatives were invited to a reception on the Monday in Buckingham Palace, where they met members of the Royal Family, Cabinet members and others prominent in public life, before being invited to watch the concert, televised by the BBC, in front of Buckingham Palace in which stars of the entertainment world paid tribute to Her Majesty's reign.

Beacons were lit in the territories to coincide with Her Majesty igniting the Jubilee Beacon's flame outside Buckingham Palace. The story about the beacon built out of cut-down invasive species of plants to help protect Tristan da Cunha's biodiversity, led to reports in news media around the world and an interview with Chief Islander Ian Lavarello on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*.

On the following day, the leaders and representatives took part in the Service of Thanksgiving for Her Majesty's reign in St Paul's Cathedral, before attending a reception with members of the Royal Family

and other guests in the Guildhall and lunch in the grounds of Lancaster House, where they were guests of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Rt Hon William Hague MP.

Territory leaders and representatives were honoured to have been able to play a role in the events. Cayman Islands Premier McKeeva Bush JP OBE said: "It was a privilege to participate in the Jubilee Celebrations in London as the representative of the people of The Cayman Islands. We have long known the deep affection which Her Majesty enjoys, but to witness it first hand and be part of the millions participating in the extraordinary Thames Pageant, the concert and magnificent fireworks, the moving service in St Paul's and the unforgettable grand finale in the Mall, made us proud to be a part of Her Majesty's British family."

New FCO Minister for the Overseas Territories

UKOTA congratulates Mr. Mark Simmonds MP on his appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the FCO whose portfolio includes responsibility for some of the UK Overseas Territories. Members look forward to meeting the new Minister and working with him.



ANGUILLA

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

British Long Jump record holder, Anguillian Olympian Shara Proctor receives Award

Shara Proctor, current British record holder for the Long Jump and a member of team GB visited Slough, where many Anguillians live, on Friday 10th August, to celebrate her achievements at an official reception held in her honour.

Shara, an Anguillian by birth, has been competing since 2006 and in 2012 won her first senior medal for Great Britain, a bronze in the long jump in the IAAF World Indoor Athletics Championships, after jumping a British national indoor record of 6.89 metres. Her longest jump outdoors is 6.95 metres in the long jump, achieved in June 2012 in Birmingham; and 13.74 metres in the triple jump, achieved in May

2009 in Greensboro, North Carolina, USA. Shara holds the national long jump records for Anguilla and Great Britain.

Nearly 150 members of the local community came to celebrate Shara's achievements at the reception.

At the reception Shara met the Mayor of Slough, Councillor Christine Small, and was presented with the newly established Transmarinis Award from the Government of Anguilla's UK Representative, Dorothea Hodge. The Transmarinis Award was established by Dorothea in 2012 to reward outstanding Anguillian achievement and to enhance

Anguilla's reputation in Europe. Shara said: "It was indeed a pleasure to meet the Anguilla Diaspora and the Mayor of Slough. I was truly honored and humbled by the award"



▲ Shara Proctor and the Mayor of Slough





BERMUDA

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 the Hon. Glenn A. Blakeney, JP, MP along with the Bermuda Olympians of 2012 and officials from the Bermuda National Olympic Association

Bermuda Proudly Represented at 2012 London Olympics

Bermuda was proudly represented at the 2012 London Olympics with eight Olympians. Bermuda fared very well and the results are as follows:

- Roy Burch - Men's 50m Freestyle with a time of 22.47, a national record for Bermuda
- Tyler Butterfield - Men's Triathlon placing 34th at a time of 1:50:32; Tyler had the fastest cycling time in the meet
- Flora Duffy - Women's Triathlon placing 45th with a time of 2:08:54
- Arantxa King - Women's Long Jump with a 13th place at a measurement of 6.40
- Tyrone Smith – Men's Long Jump with a 12th place at a measurement of 7.70
- Jillian Terceira – Equestrian (Jumping) placing 47th
- Jessie and Alexander Kirkland – Sailing (Men's 49er) placing 19th

The Premier, the Hon. Paula A. Cox, JP, MP, led an official delegation to the Olympic Games to support the Bermuda Olympians. The Premier was accompanied by the Minister of Youth, Families and

Sport, the Hon. Glenn A. Blakeney JP, MP; Permanent Secretary Mr. Wayne Carey and UK Representative Ms. Kimberley Durrant.

Towards the close of the competitions the Government of Bermuda London Office organized a reception to honour the Bermuda Olympians the evening of Thursday 9th August. The event was held at Aspers Sky Bar, with a spectacular view overlooking the Olympic Park.

That evening Premier Cox congratulated the athletes and said, "We came to celebrate Team Bermuda 2012 who have simply been outstanding here in London, and our discussions have us eagerly looking forward to the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"Seeing Bermuda's athletes perform on the world stage has been a phenomenal experience. This evening I shared with them that they may hail from a small Island, but they truly pack quite a punch."

Premier Cox continued, "This is my first Olympics as the Premier, however I am already thinking of ways to identify what more I can do from the position as Premier to give our athletes more support in preparation for Rio. Minister Blakeney and

I have had a lengthy discussion as to the possibilities and we will follow-through.

We recognize that greatness does not just happen overnight. There are building blocks that must be put in place. But my message to our athletes this evening was clear: we support them... we thank them... and we are tremendously proud of their performances here in London. Thank you Team Bermuda."

It is important to highlight that Bermudians participated in all aspects of the Olympics, to include various voluntary roles in the Olympic Park, official Olympic positions in the organization of some of the competitions and a Bermuda Regiment soldier worked alongside the British Army to assist in security. In addition, in his role as Treasurer and Chairman of the 2012 Olympic Events for the World Olympians Association, Mr. Patrick Singleton, a Winter Olympian from Bermuda was responsible for the organization of the Olympian Gala at St James' Palace in London on the evening of Wednesday 25th July. The event was in the presence of HRH Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco and HRH The Princess Royal, who honoured Olympians who competed in Games as far back as the 1948 London Olympics.

It should be noted that the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) graciously provided courtesies for visiting official Country Representatives, to include Bermuda.

Bermuda looked forward to Ms Jessica Lewis competing in the 2012 London Para-Olympic Games. Jessica competed in the 100, 200 and 400 metres races.





BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

New Financial Services Committee Launched



▲ Premier Dr Hon D Orlando Smith OBE

Under the leadership of Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. The Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, government in partnership with the private sector has established a Financial Services Business Development Committee (FSBDC). The Committee, which is comprised of public and private sector representatives, was formed to help enhance the financial services industry through the development of action plans for consideration by Cabinet. Working groups have already begun undertaking a review of the industry's various sectors to prepare initial recommendations. In a statement on the role of the FSBDC, Premier Smith said: "This committee is an asset to advise government on how best we can enhance and promote the financial services industry's offerings."

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

Tourism Minister Sets Out UK Strategy



▲ (left to right): Joyce Kinniburgh, Director of BVI Holidays; Premier Dr. Hon. D. Orlando Smith, OBE; Joanne Smethurst of Caribtours; First Lady Mrs. Lorna Smith; Mr. Russell Harrigan, Chairman of the BVI Tourist Board; Ms. Ginny Hawksley, BVI Tourist Board Manager for the UK; and Myrvina Jeria BVI Tourist Board Exhibition Coordinator for Europe.

In a bid to strengthen the BVI presence in the UK Tourism Market, Premier and Minister of Tourism Dr. The Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE held a trade reception in London on 31 May where he met with representatives of the UK travel industry. The Premier in remarks to the gathering outlined his Government's plans to "re-energise tourism in the BVI with a renewed focus on the UK as a primary market." Among the initiatives highlighted were improving long-term air access to the Territory, growing the super yacht sector, further developing the destination's wedding and honeymoon business and strengthening the cruise tourism sector. He also announced the appointment of Ms. Ginny Hawksley to the post of BVI Tourist Board Manager in the UK, whose responsibility will be to re-energise the BVI's presence in the UK market.

Territory Scores High on Financial Literacy Survey

The BVI recorded the highest score in the area of financial behaviour among 14 countries included in a recently published OECD financial literacy pilot report, entitled, Measuring Financial Literacy. The study provides a comparative analysis of financial literacy surveys completed in each country that among other things, tested financial attitude, financial knowledge and financial behaviour. The FSC is taking its own steps to boost the territory's overall financial literacy through its recently launched Money Matters website. The site, www.MoneyMattersBVI.org, provides free financial information and advice designed to help individuals improve their financial literacy. A pdf copy of the OECD report is available at www.MoneyMattersBVI.org.



▲ Sprinter J'maal Alexander, Chairman Lord Sebastian Coe and Sprinter Tahesia Harrigan-Scott

Olympic Committee Chairman Celebrates BVI Team

Olympic Organising Committee Chairman Lord Sebastian Coe paid a surprise visit to the BVI Olympic Team at the London 2012 Games' first official Welcoming Ceremony in the Olympic Village. The BVI flag was the first to be raised and the Chairman gave a warm greeting to the territory's two athletes, Mrs. Tahesia Harrigan-Scott and Mr. J'maal Alexander. Both athletes went on to compete in their respective 100 meter heats, but were unsuccessful in advancing to the next round of competition. The BVI Olympic Committee, which has been in existence since 1984, has set an ambitious goal of qualifying 10 athletes for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.





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



▲ (left to right) Minister Scotland, Cydonie Mothersille (front) Shaun Fraser, Brett Fraser and Ronald Forbes (rear).

Cayman Athletes “do Islands proud”

The Cayman Islands brought five athletes to the Olympic Games, Shaun and Brett Fraser, Ronald Forbes, Cydonie Mothersille and Kemar Hyman. The athletes were accompanied by Minister for Sports Mr. Mark Scotland as well as the management and support staff of the Cayman Islands National Olympic Committee-headed up by Mr. Donald McLean, President and Mr. Carson Ebanks, Secretary General.

As President Mclean pointed out, this was the first time that the Cayman Islands had so many individuals into semi-finals. Cayman swimmers went to three semis and in fact, had two in one semi-final. Sprinter Kemar Hyman made one semi-final in the 100m sprint but had to withdraw due to medical conditions. Overall the athletes did the Cayman Islands proud and all left for home with their heads held high.

and educational opportunities are already arising for people to fill these jobs. The University College of the Cayman Islands is now working on offering a nursing degree course to encourage young Caymanians to pursue careers in this field.

Health City will cater to local patients by offering tertiary care and other services that are currently not available locally, as well as to patients from the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Peer Review Group Onsite Visit

The Cayman Islands will be assessed as part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s Phase 2 of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes Peer Review Programme. The review consists of an onsite visit to obtain evidence and evaluate Cayman’s overall effectiveness in exchanging requested information. It is scheduled to take place in the Cayman Islands from 5-7 September. The assessment team will include two persons from the Global Forum Secretariat, and two from Cayman’s peer jurisdictions of France and South Africa.

The Cayman Islands was one of eight countries – and among the first in the world – to be assessed under the Global Forum’s Peer Review Programme in September 2010. The results from the report were positive, reflecting high levels of transparency within Cayman’s banking sector, and access to information through the competent authority – the Tax Information Authority.



▲ From left, West Bay MLA Eugene Ebanks, Minister of Health Mark Scotland, Deputy Governor Franz Manderson, Dr. Devi Shetty, Premier McKeever Bush, Deputy Premier Juliana O’Connor-Conolly and Minister of Education Rolston Anglin were among those who broke ground with “golden” shovels at the Shetty hospital site in East End

Medical Tourism Launched

The Cayman Islands has embarked upon medical tourism with the groundbreaking of “Health City Cayman Islands,” a hospital facilitated by a recent agreement with world-renowned cardiologist Dr Devi Shetty and Narayana Group. The groundbreaking for the 2,000 bed

hospital took place on Monday, 27 August.

Health City will offer affordable health expertise and facilities to patients locally, and boost Cayman’s economy in areas such as air transport, hotel occupancy, food and beverage services, and employment.

The first phase of the project will require as many as 600 employees, and training





FALKLAND ISLANDS

Falkland Islands – At a Glance

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



▲ MLA Mike Summers OBE outside the UN with young Islanders

© FIG

The Falkland Islands Government has announced that it will hold a referendum early in 2013 to give Falkland Islanders the opportunity to have their voices heard on the question of sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

For many years now the Argentine Government has been calling for negotiations with the UK on the question of sovereignty of the Islands, whilst the UK Government says that it does not doubt its sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, and will not enter into any such discussions unless and until the people of the Falkland Islands so wish. This is in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1 of the UN Charter which gives all peoples the right to freely determine their own political arrangements.

The people of the Falkland Islands have lived peacefully in the Islands for nearly 180 years. There were no native inhabitants of the Islands, and the people arrived from many parts of the world to make new lives, much as happened in the rest of the New World, including Latin America. There are now Falklands families who have been resident here for nine generations, and many who can count six,

seven and eight generations. We are a people in our own right, who have the right to adopt the government of our own choice. Our Constitution has developed over the years to provide for internal self government to the maximum extent possible, and we are internally self governing in all aspects except foreign affairs and defence, which remain the responsibility of the British Government. Our most recent Constitution which was adopted in 2009 confirms our post-colonial status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.

So why a referendum, and what is in doubt?

"Falkland Islanders are not content that much of the international community sees in the Falklands only a sovereignty dispute between the UK on the one hand and Argentina on the other. Falkland Islanders insist that the international community should concentrate on the fundamental human rights issue of self determination, and the rights and wishes of the Falkland Islanders. The international community does not need to choose between the UK or Argentina, but should support the fundamental human rights principle that

Falkland Islanders should be allowed to choose for themselves how they are governed.

A referendum that gives Falkland Islanders the opportunity to consider what is best for them is the only just solution to the Falklands dispute. The question(s) to be put will be fair and open, and the whole process open and transparent, with all shades of opinion free to put their points of view. It is planned that there will be an oversight panel of independent experts to ensure that both the organisation and the conduct of the referendum will pass rigorous scrutiny. The referendum is likely to be conducted in March 2013.

Whilst the questions for the referendum have yet to be determined, it is clear that they must give Falkland Islanders the opportunity to express clearly their views on how they wish to be governed. That is the essence of self determination to which all countries should be able to subscribe to and support. The Falkland Islanders will then call upon all countries around the world to accept and respect our decision in accordance with UN doctrine and international law."

*Hon. M.V. Summers OBE
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Falkland Islands*





GIBRALTAR

The Earl And Countess of Wessex Visit Gibraltar



Their Royal Highnesses, the Earl and Countess of Wessex visited Gibraltar as part of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The Royal Couple were met by His Excellency the Governor and the Chief Minister before driving to RAF Gibraltar to inspect a Tri-Service Guard of Honour and visit the Headquarters of the British Forces on the Rock.

During their stay, the Royal Couple assisted in laying the foundation stone for the Diamond Jubilee Monument on Line Wall Road where it overlooks the site of the new Jubilee Commonwealth Park.

On the second day of their visit, Their Royal Highnesses drove to the Upper Rock to stop at Queen's Lookout where they met several local people involved with Her Majesty The Queen's last visit in 1954 during her tour of the Commonwealth.

At a visit to the naval base, Hawk and Tucano aircrafts from the RAF conducted a series of flypasts.

Commemorating Her Majesty's birthday, The Royal Couple attended The Queen's Birthday Parade in Casemates Square,



which was followed by The Queen's Garden Party at the Convent.

The Earl and Countess were able to meet a cross-section of people from across the community, and presented local youngsters with Duke of Edinburgh Awards. They later met with resident religious leaders.

Before departing Gibraltar during this historic visit, the Earl and Countess were taken to the new airport terminal building where they inaugurated and named the viewing terrace as the 'Diamond Jubilee Terrace' and the general aviation areas as the 'Wessex Lounge.'

Finally, the Chief Minister, on behalf of the people of Gibraltar, made a presentation to The Earl of Wessex of a replica of the Keys of Gibraltar. The presentation was made in front of a photograph of Her Majesty the Queen touching the real keys of Gibraltar during the course of her visit in 1954.

Gibraltar – At a Glance

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



▲ Presentation of a donation to the Trust

The Evelina Family Trust

HM Government of Gibraltar has made a donation to the Evelina Trust in support of the work they do in providing free accommodation for families of children being treated in the Evelina Children's Hospital at Guy and St Thomas' in London.

Gibraltar invites Leaders of all British Overseas Territories

Chief Minister Fabian Picardo MP is keen to ensure that Gibraltar is well represented in all UKOTA and British Overseas Territories activities. He has instructed his United Kingdom Representative, Albert Poggio, to try and organise a meeting, either in London or Gibraltar, of all Overseas Territory Leaders and their Representatives to coincide with the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) visit. This is now being actively pursued.





MONTERRAT

Department of Environment Spearheads Semi-Intensive Livestock Farming



▲ Hill view of North Montserrat

The Montserrat Departments of Environment and Agriculture are working together to make available a model farm which can be used to demonstrate the advantages of semi intensive livestock farming. The departments are collaborating with local livestock farmer, Mr. Anderson Kirnon, to construct the farm at Gerald's Village in the north of the Island by providing him with resources and access to expertise which should enable him to increase the productivity of his current livestock unit.

The project is funded through a grant from the UK Overseas Territories Environment Programme, under a project entitled: Conserving the Centre Hills in Montserrat through the effective control of feral livestock populations. The Project is designed to: (i) build local capacity to effectively manage feral and loose livestock populations, (ii) reduce these populations to a level where they do not significantly impact the biodiversity of the Centre Hills and (iii) ensure that domesticated livestock do not contribute to the feral animal population

Mr. Kirnon is being assisted to construct a pen that will be compartmentalised into six areas. There will be three small isolation or lambing areas, two medium sized weaning or communal areas and one large holding area. The holding capacity of the pen will be approximately 20 sheep. Adjacent to the pen is a fenced paddock which will provide fodder and exercise for the animals.

According to Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Selwyn Maloney, this system is extremely

advantageous for keeping good quality livestock. He states that it gives the farmer the opportunity to inspect his livestock on a daily basis, allowing him to quickly pick up on any anomalies in herd health, administer treatment in a timely manner, keep better records and devise an effective breeding system.

The Director of Environment, Mr Gerard Gray, affirmed that the system improves the management and control of livestock, utilizes less land than traditional practices and reduces the likelihood of animals roaming. It also decreases the negative impact on the environment, particularly biodiversity of national and global importance and improves road safety, as the animals will no longer be on the streets.

Looking forward to a successful outcome, livestock owner, Mr Kirnon said that the project will enable him to improve the way his animals are being kept, as well as improve the breed and convert precious land space normally used for rough grazing into fodder banks. Mr Kirnon expressed his appreciation to the Departments of Environment and Agriculture for giving him the opportunity to develop the model farm

Once the model semi-intensive farm is in operation, demonstration sessions will be organized for other farmers and interested persons to visit and learn from Mr. Kirnon's experience. It is hoped that these demonstrations would lead others to adopt the technology, thereby resulting in increased production and improved quality of meat, while reducing the need for culling feral and loose livestock.

Montserrat – At a Glance

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

Public Support Sought for Critically Endangered Mountain Chicken

The Department of Environment and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust have embarked on raising awareness of the critically endangered Mountain Chicken (*Leptodactylus fallax*) on Montserrat through a project funded by the UK Darwin Initiative. The Department of Environment has thanked the public for their support of the Project to date and is seeking their support with their research on the Mountain Chicken.

The Mountain Chicken, a terrestrial frog which exists only on Dominica and Montserrat, is at risk due to loss of habitat, predation by invasive species and the recent attack by the chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*).

A brochure which has been published by the Mountain Chicken Project highlights the scientific research that is taking place on the Island and how this would contribute to the management of the frog on both Montserrat and Dominica. This is being circulated widely throughout the Island including to schools and government institutions and members of the public are asked to report on any encounter with the frog.



▲ Montserrat Mountain Chicken





ST HELENA

Full steam ahead on St Helena's Airport



▲ Airport Terminal landside view of external finish

After years of semi isolation with access only by sea, - the RMS St Helena being the Island's lifeline - St Helena is preparing for an airport that is set to catalyse economic growth, draw inward investment and develop the Island's tourism sector.

Ten months on from the airport announcement of 3rd November 2011 and the signing of the £250 million Design, Build and Operate contract between St Helena Government and Basil Read Ltd, progress on the airport continues apace.

In July of this year, the NP Glory 4, a ship chartered by Basil Read, arrived at St Helena packed with heavy plant and materials needed for the airport project, enabling St Helena to move out of mobilisation and into full construction phase. This was the first call on her 22 day cycle between St Helena and Walvis Bay, Namibia, an historic event for the Island as it was the first time that a vessel this size has berthed alongside and used a roll-on, roll-off facility.

The arrival of some of the heavy plant has

St Helena – At a Glance

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

enabled Basil Read to complete the 14km long Haul Route from Rupert's Valley to the airport site on Prosperous Bay Plain. The access track is being used to transport the heavy construction equipment to the airport site, as the Island's existing roads simply could not carry the weight of the plant. Construction works have now started in order to create the platform for the airport, with the number of Saints employed by Basil Read now standing at 182.

Further to these exciting developments, it was announced on 23rd July 2012 that a number of important changes have been

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▲ Offloading of the heavy Plant





ST HELENA



▲ The NP Glory 4 berthed alongside at Rupert's Bay

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finalised to the airport runway design, with the potential to deliver significant benefits for St Helena. A variation order has been signed for additional runway works, including an extra 100m of concrete runway and widening the areas at the ends of the runway (where the aircraft turns around). In the initial contract of 3rd November 2011, Basil Read were to construct an airport with a 1,550m long landing runway, meaning the largest aircraft that could use the airport would be the Boeing 737-700 and Airbus A319, both of which carry around 120 passengers. The additional runway works give the Island greater flexibility in the future to easily extend the runway to cater for larger aircraft, such as the Boeing 737-800 and Airbus 320, both of which can carry 160 passengers.

Governor of St Helena, Mark Capes, said of the design variation:

"This is an excellent development and demonstrates the long term vision that characterizes the airport project. This gives the Island much greater flexibility in the future, and I would like to thank all those who have worked hard to bring about this design variation."

Furthermore at a special sitting of the

Island's Executive Council, held in open session, on 31st July 2012, Councillors unanimously approved design of the external finishes of the airport terminal and combined Buildings. Combining glass and natural stone, the design sits well with the surrounding area.

St Helena is now poised for the biggest transformation in its history. The airport is paving the way for the development of high end, low volume tourism and the associated economic growth. During a world economic downturn, St Helena is in the unique position of being able to grow

its economy, improving the quality of life for current and future generations and helping to attract overseas Saints back to the Island.

Chief Executive for Economic Development, Julian Morris said:

"This is tangible proof of the opportunities that are now coming to St Helena after decades of not having any. The challenge now is for all Saint people and businesses to fully exploit the development possibilities."



▲ The 14km long Haul Route from Rupert's Valley to the airport site



TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Tristan da Cunha trains for the future

Being the world's most remote inhabited island has certain advantages – it gives a cachet to everything on and from the island – the ultimate Unique Selling Point. However, the reality of that physical remoteness causes serious difficulties in some areas, not least education and training. Until fairly recently, education ceased at age 15 and since the closure of a scholarship system with an English boarding school, there has been no system for higher, vocational or academic study. In an age increasingly reliant on modern technology and an ability to compete internationally where the developing world has developed, this has become a matter of serious concern for the Tristan Government.

The lack of any direct transport links to St. Helena or the Falkland Islands is clearly an additional handicap and there are only limited places for passengers on the eight or nine annual sailings of the lobster fishing vessel MFV Edinburgh and the freighter MV Baltic Trader to Cape Town: 1,750 miles (and at least six days' sailing) distant. Otherwise, islanders must depend on around 30 berths on the new SA Agulhas II, the South African Antarctic Survey ship taking over the annual voyage, which continues to Gough Island, this autumn.

For three years now, the UK Government, through DfID, has been investing in teacher training, improving courses and working with staff and pupils at the island's school to raise educational standards. With only 35 pupils of all ages, it's difficult to arrange effective education for over-16s, so an agreement has been reached with an international school in Cape Town for children who wish to transfer there to do so, thanks to the generosity of the Education Trust Fund established by the Tristan da Cunha Association and a joint fund run by the TdC Government and Ovenstone, the fishing concession holder. The first pupils have yet to join this scheme, but high hopes are entertained for it and Tristan fully expects the first students to be in Cape Town early next year.

Then there is the problem of effective vocational training for adults – both those wishing to improve existing skills (in areas



▲ Tristan da Cunha Chief Islander Ian Lavarello (centre) presented the Speaker of Tynwald Hon. Steve Rodan SHK with a plaque of Tristan's coat of arms, UK Representative Chris Bates (right)

such as fishing, agriculture, public works etc.) and those moving into new roles in areas such as the island's police, its hospital and medical services and in developing its tourist trade.

The physical distance from Tristan to anywhere else is a real problem: all Tristan islanders help to produce their family's food from their own poultry, beef cattle, sheep and their vegetable plots at The Patches (three miles from the Settlement at Edinburgh-of-the-Seven-Seas). Family commitments caring for older, infirm or very young family members are not easily rearranged and travel off the island usually means an absence of three or more months, on top of any period of study or training. So, it's a major undertaking for any family when one of their number is selected to go abroad for training – quite apart from the "culture shock" of living thousands of miles from home in an unfamiliar city with few friends or contacts, high costs and some of the dangers, too, of modern urban life.

Tristan now hopes it has found a way to overcome some of these negative factors. An offer from one of the Crown Dependencies, the Isle of Man, to help with training Tristan islanders, should soon see the first islanders going there in 2013. Administrator Sean Burns and Tristan's UK Representative, Chris Bates, spent time on the Isle of Man planning details following the success of an initial "Good Governance" training visit by Chief Islander, Ian Lavarello, which saw him sitting in on the Manx Legislative Assembly, Tynwald (the oldest Parliamentary body in the world) and learning how its Government process works from its officers, Manx Government Ministers and their departments.

Part of the logic behind the link is that Tristan islanders will feel more at home, more comfortable and thus more able to concentrate on their studies in an island setting.

Tristan da Cunha – At a Glance

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



Tristan da Cunha Chief Islander Ian Lavarello with the President of Tynwald, Mrs Clare Christian MLC, Isle of Man.

The Isle of Man is a self contained, locally governed community where fishing, agriculture, tourism and conservation of its heritage are central to its life. Its friendly, supportive and "can do" approach and its strong sense of identity are similar to the qualities which make life possible and attractive on Tristan.

Tristan is now identifying the most appropriate people to benefit from this training, which will be supported by the Tristan Government through funds made available by DfID. This will enable fisheries' staff to widen their experience and gain qualifications as Tristan gears up to export its gourmet-quality lobster to new markets; it will enable a new policeman to be trained to take over when current officers retire and with hopes in the offing of an upgrading of Tristan's hospital – or construction of a new one – much-needed training can be given at the Nurse Training School at the Nobles Hospital, near Douglas (the Manx capital), to people working in nursing. Similarly, with retirements expected of key personnel in Tristan's agriculture department, it is hoped to train new appointees (and benefit all of Tristan through the transfer of skills). Another priority is to let Tristan's enterprising tourism development staff work alongside those in the Isle of Man, where an innovative approach to promoting the island's Viking heritage has transformed its image and opened new markets to replace mass tourism trade lost to Spain and Turkey.



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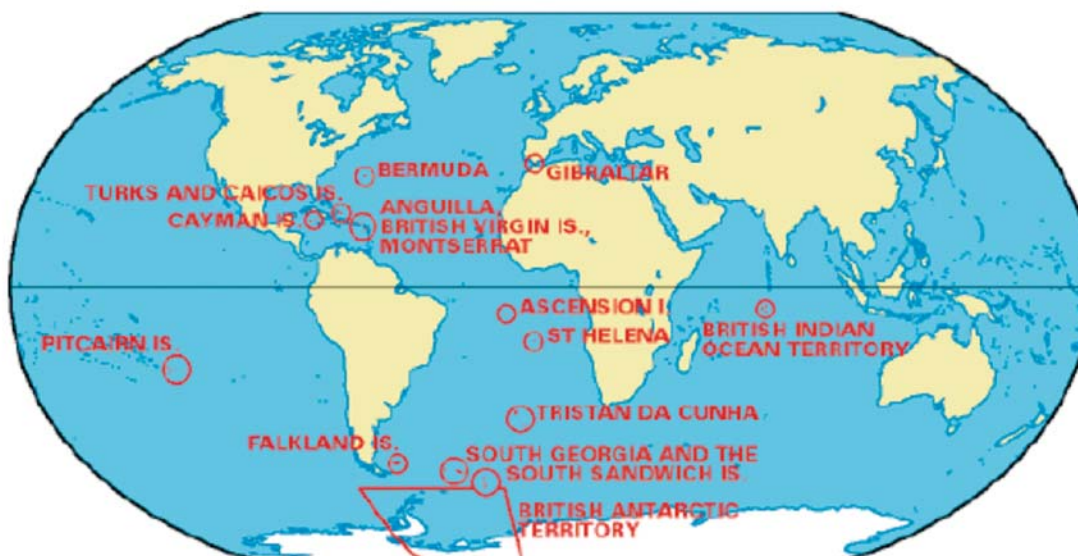
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