

BVI-IN-UK

The official e-newsletter of the British Virgin Islands London Office

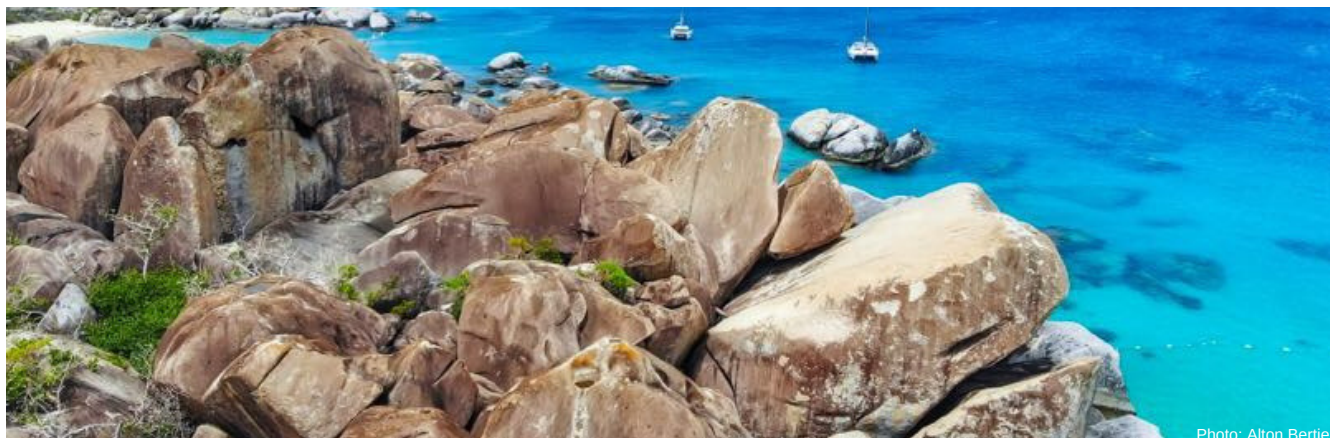


Photo: Alton Bertie

Welcome

BY: DR. SANDRA BESSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Welcome to the first e-edition of BVI-IN-UK, the official newsletter of the British Virgin Islands London Office (BVILO).

This quarterly e-newsletter will serve as a bridge to connect you, our readers, to BVILO and the Territory. Regular updates on BVILO's activities as well as pertinent political, cultural and general news from the BVI will be featured. Coupled with the launch of our brand new website (see pg. 3), this publication serves as an extension and information outlet for BVILO.

The BVI London Office is the BVI Government's Representative Office in the United Kingdom and Mission to the European Union. Its work entails conventional diplomatic and consular activities conducted in the interests of the BVI as a jurisdiction and of its citizens who reside in the UK and Europe.

Your feedback on this newsletter is greatly encouraged and would be welcomed. Comments and queries may be sent to the editor Siobhan Flax at sflax@bvi.org.uk.

Enjoy reading!

SNEAK PEEK

02

Hon. Andrew Fahie is
the new Premier

02

BVI Represented at
OCT-EU Forum

03

BVI Diaspora Group

New BVILO Website

Honourable Andrew Fahie is the new Premier of the British Virgin Islands

His Excellency Mr. Augustus Jaspert, Governor of the Virgin Islands has appointed Honourable Andrew A. Fahie to be the Premier of the Virgin Islands. Governor Jaspert appointed Fahie as Premier after receiving the Writs of Election from the Supervisor of Election Ms. Juliette Penn, who certified the results from the General Elections held on February 25, 2019.

Honourable Fahie led the Virgin Islands Party (VIP) and gained a majority (8 of 13) of the seats of elected members of the House of Assembly. In a letter to the Governor the elected members of the VIP recommended the appointment of Andrew Fahie as Premier, he also serves as the Minister of Finance.

The other Members of the Cabinet include: Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Carvin Malone; Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities, Honourable Kye Rymer; Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration, Honourable Vincent Wheatley; Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture, Dr. the Honourable Natalio Wheatley; Junior Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Honourable Sharie de Castro and Junior Minister for Tourism, Honourable Shereen Flax-Charles.



Photo: Honourable Andrew Fahie, Premier and Minister of Finance



Photo (Lto R): Premier Honourable Andrew Fahie and His Excellency the Governor Mr. Augustus Jaspert

BVI Represented at Overseas Territories Meetings with EU Officials



Photo (Lto R): BVILO Social and Cultural Officer Ms. Siobhan Flax, Deputy Director BVILO Dr. Sandra Besson and Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour Mr. Joseph Smith-Abbott

The 17th Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) - EU Forum and Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) Ministerial Conference took place in Tahiti, French Polynesia from 25th February to 1st March. Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, Mr. Joseph Smith-Abbott led the BVI delegation. He was accompanied by the Deputy Director of BVILO, Dr. Sandra Besson and Social and Cultural Officer of BVILO, Ms. Siobhan Flax.

A series of meetings between EU officials, leaders and officials of EU Overseas Territories and EU Member States were held. Discussions around the prospects of Brexit and UK OTs were one of the main focal points of the discussions. The BVI signed onto the declaration of the 11th European Development Fund Caribbean OCTs Regional programme on Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity.

Mr. Smith-Abbott signed a financial agreement (see photo at left) reflecting a grant of 2 million Euros from the European Union for Hurricane recovery and rebuild projects in the BVI. Mr. Smith-Abbott commented "The BVI expresses our deepest gratitude to the European Union for their support through this grant in the wake of the 2017 Hurricanes. It highlights the importance of the relationship between the EU and OTs."

The BVI is a member of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA), and associated with the EU. The BVI is represented at the annual OCT-EU Forum and OCTA Ministerial Conference each year.



Photo (Lto R): European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Mr. Neven Mimica and Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour Mr. Joseph Smith-Abbott

New BVI Diaspora Group Formed - Join Action BVI Foundation

Action BVI Foundation was formally launched in 2018 as a diaspora group for BVI Islanders in the UK. This is an opportune time for the formation of the group as the BVI Community in the UK continues to grow steadily, particularly in the aftermath of the 2017 Hurricanes.

The charitable organisation, currently led by BVI Islanders Kadeau Collins and Xyrah Wheatley, will play a vital role in uniting the BVI-UK Community and supporting meaningful charitable projects in the Territory. "Action BVI Foundation was formed with a vision of a Virgin Islands which is climate-aware, resilient and bursting with culture and tradition, one which supports innovative learning and education systems and maintains strong community ties here in the UK as well as globally" shared Ms. Collins.

The Foundation has recently completed a recruitment drive to fill vacancies on its 2019/20 Executive Board. It is now actively seeking general members and volunteers. To join and get more details on the Foundation please email actionbvifoundation@gmail.com and be sure to follow them on Facebook at @actionbvi or on Instagram at @actionbvifoundation. Ms. Wheatley welcomes all BVI Islanders in the UK to get involved stating "Now is the time for us to actively shape the future of the BVI for the better. We look forward to welcoming all members as we embark on this exciting journey."

BVI London Office Launches New Website

The BVI London Office is excited to announce the launch of its new and improved website. The website serves as a virtual extension of the BVI London Office. It is a handy source of information containing news, updates and events from BVILO and the wider Territory.

The website covers a range of useful content and tips on visiting and doing business in the BVI. Another key feature is a section dedicated to persons in the BVI who wish to relocate, visit or study in the UK and wider Europe.

BVI Citizens and Students residing in the UK and Europe are encouraged to register with the BVI London Office under the student and resident sections of the site.

The website is now live at : www.bvi.org.uk . Keep us with us on our Facebook and Twitter pages @BVIINTHEUK.



Photo : www.bvi.org.uk - Homepage



@BVIINTHEUK

Get in Touch



BVI House

15 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W1K7PJ

www.bvi.org.uk



enquiries@bvi.org.uk

Editor: Siobhan Flax (Social and Cultural Officer) - sflax@bvi.org.uk