FAREWELL TO SIR JOHN MCCOLL

Jersey officially bid farewell to the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John McColl, at the end of November, as His Excellency’s five-year term came to an end. The official farewell began with a special States sitting, during which Sir John made only his second address to the assembly. The Lieutenant Governor and Lady McColl were then escorted by the Bailiff and the Chief Minister on a walk of the Royal Square where they were bid farewell by States members, members of the Royal Court and the general public.

The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to be her personal representative and impartial advisor. The holder of this office exercises certain executive functions relating broadly to citizenship, for example Jersey passports are issued on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor’s office is also responsible for acting as a point of contact between the Jersey government and the UK government. The appointee is traditionally an individual who has enjoyed a distinguished military career, and applicants are interviewed and recommended by a Jersey panel comprising the Bailiff, a senior Jurat and a member of the appointments commission.

Sir John’s successor, Air Chief Marshall Sir Stephen Dalton, is due to arrive in the Island in March. Anticipating his arrival, Sir Stephen said “the people of Jersey have always made my wife and I most welcome during our visits to the Island over many years and we look forward greatly to working with and living amongst the residents in the year ahead.”

JERSEY’S VALUE TO BRITAIN & EUROPE

Jersey Finance, the promotional body for the Island’s financial services sector, recently launched two reports looking at Jersey’s Value to Britain and Value to Europe.

The independent reports undertaken by Capital Economics provide a comprehensive summary of Jersey’s value to the EU, be it in terms of jobs, investments or extra tax income. The main findings revealed that Jersey contributes:

- 250,000 jobs to Britain; 88,000 jobs to Europe
- £14 billion to UK economy; €0.9 billion to Europe
- £1/2 trillion of foreign investment into UK; €188 billion to Europe

The reports were launched at an event in the UK Parliament and was attended by a number of MPs, Peers, senior business leaders, civil servants and academics.

If you would like further information on anything contained in this newsletter, would like to contribute anything to subsequent editions, or would prefer not to receive these updates, please contact the Jersey London Office on jlo@london.gov.je or 0207 808 1143.
GOVERNMENT OF JERSEY LONDON OFFICE

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust has been awarded the inaugural Conservation Award from the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). Gerald Dick, Executive Director of WAZA, said “Durrell’s outstanding dedication to conservation success and long term efforts to save species from extinction made them the obvious choice this year.”

Continuing with their vital conservation work in November, Durrell announced that their Eat Jersey Food Festival, held at the Atlantic Hotel, had helped raise more than £6,000 for the Wildlife Trust. The evening had guests enjoying local Jersey produce cooked by top chefs, and included a silent auction. Bidders were in with a chance of winning one of the unique prizes on offer, including three nights at the Atlantic Hotel, and James Bond memorabilia signed by actor Daniel Craig.

In November, Durrell representatives delivered a lecture at the Royal Institute in London. Attended by a large crowd, including Jersey Government representatives, the lecture considered the future of amphibians, 40% of which are threatened by extinction.

Durrell have also announced the return of The Durrell Challenge; a 13km race from St Helier to Durrell Wildlife Park. In addition to this, there will also be the Superhero Stroll, an interactive lap of the park for all under-16s. In attendance on the day will be Durrell Ambassador and Superman actor Henry Cavill.

For more information, please visit www.durrell.org/wildlife

Photo credit: Durrell

KITCHEN INFERNO 2016

November saw the return of Kitchen Inferno; the cook-off where chefs battle it out for charity. The event, hosted by Masterchef’s John Torode, saw two teams of amateur chefs go head-to-head as they were challenged with putting on a Michelin starred dining experience for 150 guests.

The teams were given five training sessions in the weeks leading up to the show down, and worked for 15 hours to deliver the 3-course fine dining menu. Over the course of the evening, over £15,000 was raised for Jersey Cheshire Home, a charity which provides care and support for its disabled residents, and for Luke’s House, a new home for disabled children in India.

Head judge and Chef-Proprietor of Ormer Restaurant Shaun Rankin said that the chefs “rose to the challenge and should be very proud” of their work.

Photo credit: JEP/Andy Le Gresley

PAPER DIALOGUES IN ST HELIER

In October, St Helier Town Hall hosted an exhibition of unique work by artists Xiaoguang Qiao and Karen Bit Vejle. The ‘paper cut art’ comprises a nine metre long Chinese dragon and several large dragon eggs, and tells the story of the search for dragons; mythical creatures that have played a part in both artists’ native cultures.

The exhibition will be housed in a purpose built temporary gallery space within the Assembly Rooms of the St. Helier Town Hall, where the paper-cuts will be encased in glass with lights shining through them, highlighting the intricate details of the psaligraphy whilst casting beautiful shadows on the walls and floors.

During their stay in Jersey, both artists held masterclasses in papercutting for local artists, who hope to pass on these skills to the Jersey community at large. All of the work created will be exhibited in a special showcase in 2017 titled ‘Paper talks’.

Photo credit: Jersey Arts Trust
MINISTERIAL BUSINESS

It has certainly been a busy autumn for Jersey ministers, which began with attendance at the UK’s political party conferences. The Chief Minister and Assistant Chief Minister attended the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and SNP party conferences. This was a valuable opportunity to engage with a range of parliamentarians, members of the Shadow Cabinet, and UK Government Ministers. Follow-up meetings have been arranged in Westminster to continue the productive dialogue on a range of important issues, not least the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

The Chief Ministers of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man recently met with Robin Walker MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union. Mr Walker has been given responsibility for the Crown Dependencies within this department. He will be meeting the Chief Ministers regularly to ensure that the Crown Dependencies’ interests are understood and considered throughout the negotiations.

Work is also continuing to ensure that key stakeholders in the EU are aware of our position in relation to Brexit and understand our value to Europe. The Chief Ministers of Jersey and Guernsey recently held a series of meetings in Brussels with key permanent representatives to the EU and political advisers.

External Relations Minister, Senator Bailhache, undertook a recent overseas trip to diversify our business relationships with key partners beyond the EU. The Minister travelled to the UAE in October for meetings in Abu Dhabi and Dubai with Emirati Government Ministers, senior diplomats and business representatives.

In October, Jersey hosted The Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC, Justice Minister with responsibility for the Crown Dependencies. The visit offered the opportunity for the Minister to learn more about the Island’s rich cultural and historical heritage.

Jersey has also recently hosted a number of official visits from a range of diplomatic guests. The South African High Commissioner visited in September to discuss boosting jobs and growth on the continent and in Jersey. Later in the month the Swiss Ambassador paid a visit, following a signing earlier this year of a joint declaration on the introduction of the automatic exchange of information (AEOI) in tax matters. The Estonian Ambassador then visited in November to appoint an Honorary Consul for Jersey. During the visit discussions were also held about collaborative work in the digital sector and Estonia’s forthcoming EU Presidency in 2017.

JERSEY IN THE UK BREXIT EVENT

Minister for External Relations Sir Philip Bailhache, Assistant Chief Minister Philip Ozouf and Head of the Government of Jersey’s London Office Sam Gibbs, hosted a panel event on ‘What Brexit Means for Jersey’ in London in October. The panel, which also included Director of External Relations David Walwyn and Head of International Agreements Tom Le Feuvre, fielded questions from members of the Jersey diaspora who were interested to learn more about the areas in which the UK’s decision to leave the EU has potential direct and indirect consequences for Jersey and its fellow Crown Dependencies.

The panel discussion provided an opportunity for ministers to outline the work that had already been done by the Jersey Government both before and after the referendum. The topics covered immigration, financial services and our current arrangements with the EU which allow for free trade in goods.

Ministers assured members of the audience that Jersey’s interests are best served by a continuation of its relationship with the UK and, as far as possible, with the substance of its relationship with the EU. Ministers and officials are working tirelessly to ensure that Jersey’s message is being heard and will be taken account of by the UK in its upcoming negotiations. The panel also confirmed that the Jersey Government is continuing to strengthen the Island’s relationship with EU member states directly.

The event was the latest in a series of events designed to bring together the Jersey diaspora in the UK. If you would like more information or would like to attend one of these events, please contact the Jersey London Office on jlo@london.gov.je.
The Jersey cricket team recently travelled to Los Angeles, USA, to compete in the World Cricket League Division Four international tournament. Jersey defeated Italy and secured an impressive victory over tournament favourites USA, but with losses against Oman, Denmark and Bermuda, they did not do quite enough to avoid relegation on net-run-rate.

Jersey players Corey Bisson and Nat Watkins finished as first and third highest run-scorers, respectively, in the tournament, whilst Charles Perchard was fourth-highest wicket taker.

Reflecting on the tournament, coach Neil Macrae said that to be relegated was ‘disappointing’ but he was proud that the team won three of their last four games. Captain Peter Gough also announced that he would be stepping down as skipper, having led the team for the past 6 years. Jersey Cricket Board Chairman Ward Jenner said that Gough will be a “huge miss as captain” but that he would continue to offer a valuable contribution to the side as a batsman.

The Red Caps enjoyed considerable support whilst in Los Angeles, with a travelling cadre of friends and family joined by the Jersey diaspora and friends of the Island living in America. For the game against the USA, Jersey were cheered on by none other than Mick Jagger, legendary lead singer of the Rolling Stones.

**Jersey Ice Age**

Jersey Heritage, with the support of the One Foundation, has launched a new project aimed at teaching all Jersey primary school children about Jersey’s Prehistoric past and the Island’s special role in the Ice Age.

The project will ensure that every Jersey primary school receives a full teacher’s resource pack, including lesson plans and activity sheets, and a Palaeolithic handling collection containing 10 specially commissioned replica items from the Ice Age.

Jersey Heritage is also offering free transport for the schools to visit an exhibition with an educational guide, and take part in an Ice Age Workshop, which will show children how Neanderthals made and used tools.

For others interested in Jersey’s icy past, Jersey Museum is currently holding an exhibition entitled ‘Ice Age Island.’ Drawing on the work carried out by archaeologists through the ‘Ice Age Project,’ this exhibition invites visitors to explore the ancient underwater landscapes of the Channel Islands, documenting how this landscape was sculpted and altered by changes in climate: from an island during warm periods, to overlooking a vast river system when it was cold.

Also on display are remains of Ice Age animals, on loan from the British Natural History Museum, and unique pieces of Neanderthal art from the British museum, as well as tools made by early man.

Ice Age Island is being held at Jersey Museum & Art Gallery — Merchant’s House — and is running until 30 December.

**Squash Champions to Come to Jersey**

Jersey has seen off competition from the likes of Malta, Sweden and Portugal to deliver the winning tender to host next year’s European Squash Team Championship.

The competition, which will be held in April, will see Jersey face the likes of Gibraltar, Greece, Italy and Channel Island rivals Guernsey, as the teams battle to secure promotion from Division 3.

In 2015, the first year Jersey entered the Division after being granted international status by the World Squash Federation, saw the island finish fifth. This year, Jersey improved on their performance to finish third, missing out on promotion by just one place, behind Portugal, Italy and Greece (who finished joint-second).

Jersey’s Director of Squash Nick Taylor said: “It’ll be fantastic for our elite and development players to compete at a level higher than the Island Games.” If the event is deemed a success, Jersey stands a good chance of being allowed to host the Junior European Tour in late 2017 or early 2018.

**Government of Jersey London Office, 2 Queen Anne’s Gate Buildings, Dartmouth Street London, SW1H 9BP**

Phone: 020 7808 1140
Email: jlo@london.gov.je