ISLAND MINISTERS ATTEND 30TH BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL SUMMIT

Jersey was well-represented at the 30th Summit of The British-Irish Council held in Guernsey in June. The heads of delegation were welcomed to the St Pierre Park Hotel by the Chief Minister of Guernsey, Deputy Gavin St Pier, on behalf of the Government of Guernsey. Senator John Le Fondré, Chief Minister of Jersey, was attending his first BIC Summit and was accompanied by Senator Ian Gorst, Minister for External Relations, and Deputy John Young, Minister for Environment.

The British-Irish Council was set up as part of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, during which it was agreed that BIC would set the foundation for further integration between the UK, Ireland, devolved administrations and the Channel Islands. BIC holds two summits each year, with hosting duties rotated between the constituent members.

Each summit follows a particular policy theme, chosen from one of the twelve working areas agreed by the Council. The Guernsey 2018 Summit focused upon the issue of marine environment policy, with members discussing how best to tackle problems such as marine litter and ocean acidification in a concerted, cohesive manner.

Jersey Ministers also took the opportunity to hold high-level meetings with colleagues including Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, UK Cabinet Officer Minister David Lidington and Robin Walker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Exiting the European Union.

The Summit also noted ongoing political developments in each administration and, particularly in light of Brexit, how joined-up thinking and further engagement through BIC could continue to benefit all involved. The ongoing work of the Council was also highlighted as a crucial medium for meaningful discussions in specific cross-policy areas.

The next BIC Summit is due to be hosted by the Government of the Isle of Man in November 2018.
JERSEY SUMMER RECEPTION 2018

On Monday 9th July, the Chief Minister hosted the Government of Jersey’s Annual Summer Reception at the Royal Automobile Club in London. More than 150 guests were in attendance, including a number of UK Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

The Chief Minister welcomed guests from Jersey, the UK and a range of worldwide jurisdictions who took the opportunity to engage over areas of mutual interest. Speeches made by Robin Walker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the UK’s Department for Exiting the European Union, and House of Lords Justice Spokesperson, Lord Keen, highlighted the continuing importance of maintaining close relations between the UK, Jersey and other Crown Dependencies, particularly in light of ongoing Brexit discussions.

The reception also presented the opportunity to showcase a selection of local produce including Jersey Sea Salt, Jersey Honey and a range of seafood, dairy and Jersey Royals supplied by Genuine Jersey.

THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS JERSEY

The Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Mr Y K Sinha, made his first visit to Jersey in July.

The High Commissioner was a guest of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor at Government House during his stay.

On Friday 20th July, the first day of the visit, the High Commissioner had an introductory meeting with the Chief Minister, Senator John Le Fondré, and then attended a formal lunch hosted by the Minister for External Relations, Senator Ian Gorst. The High Commissioner also had the opportunity to meet with finance industry representatives and later attended an event hosted by Jersey Business and the Jersey Chamber of Commerce to learn more about Jersey businesses with interests or links in India.

On Saturday the High Commissioner attended a cricket match between local cricket teams; International Royals, comprised of Indian Nationals living in the Island, and Rathbones OV. This was followed by lunch at Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust with representatives from the Indian community and businesses. At the lunch the High Commissioner was given a presentation about Durrell’s approach to conservation, including the Pygmy Hog project in Assam, India.

The High Commissioner’s visit ended with a tour of Mont Orgueil Castle by Jersey Heritage, and a boat trip to the Ecréhous accompanied by the Minister for the Environment - Deputy John Young, demonstrating the Island’s unique marine environment, history, and relationship with France.
MINISTERS MEET MEPS IN BRUSSELS

In early July, a joint Jersey-Guernsey visit to Brussels allowed two of the Islands’ senior politicians to discuss key issues with representatives of the three main EU institutions – the Council, the Commission, and the European Parliament.

Jersey’s Minister for External Relations, Senator Ian Gorst, and Deputy Gavin St Pier, Chief Minister of Guernsey, met the Permanent Representatives (Ambassadors) to the EU of France, Romania and Latvia as well as senior officials from the Permanent Representations of Finland and the UK to the EU.

In the Commission, the Ministers met the chiefs of staff of the EU Justice Commissioner, Vera Jourová - whose responsibilities include data protection and anti-money laundering - and of the UK Commissioner, Sir Julian King, who has responsibility for EU security policy.

In the European Parliament, the Ministers met two senior MEPs - Dr Wolf Klinz (Germany) and Ashley Fox (UK). The Ministers also met the Ambassador of Switzerland to the EU and the head of the Government of Gibraltar EU Office.

The meetings, organised by the Channel Islands Brussels Office, gave the Ministers the opportunity to discuss a range of issues, with a particular focus on Brexit and the ongoing EU Code of Conduct assessment process.

CHANNEL ISLANDS - ILLE ET VILaine SUMMIT

Jersey’s Chief Minister, Senator John Le Fondré and Minister for External Relations, Senator Ian Gorst attended the second annual Channel Islands - Ille et Vilaine Summit which took place in Guernsey in July. The summit followed the signing of a cooperation agreement in June 2017 to promote greater partnership working between Jersey, Guernsey and Ille et Vilaine.

Jersey first signed a cooperation agreement with the French department in 2008, which was renewed in 2014, and the two jurisdictions have met annually to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. Last year, Guernsey joined the partnership for the first time.

The Chief Minister and the Minister for External Relations chaired the summit with Guernsey’s Minister for External Relations, Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq and Jean-Luc Chenut, President of the Conseil Départemental of Ille-et-Vilaine. During the summit a variety of subjects were discussed, including educational links, youth mobility, sports exchanges, cultural initiatives and economic opportunities. Alongside the formal summit agenda items, Brexit and its implications for the Channel Islands was also discussed. The next summit will be hosted in Jersey in 2019.
RECOGNITION SHOWS DURRELL REMAINS A ROARING SUCCESS

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey’s world-famous conservation charity, proved they remain a hit with the locals following their triumph, for the second year running, in the Visitor Attraction of the Year category at the recent Jersey Style Awards. Durrell, who also run Jersey Zoo, have achieved worldwide acclaim through their conservation work and the recent hit TV drama – The Durrells.

Further gongs were captured at the Insurance Corporation Conservation Awards, where Jersey Zoo’s Education Officer, Sarah Maguire, who also works at the Jersey Biodiversity Centre, won the Best Conservationist prize.

Ms Maguire also picked up the People’s Choice Award for Bioblitz Jersey, voted for by the general public.

Jersey Zoo was recognised for its work in several categories at the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums annual awards ceremony which took place last month in Devon. Durrell’s new strategy ‘Rewild our World’ won the only Gold Award in the PR, Marketing and Events Category and they also received a Bronze Award in the same category for ‘Durrell’s Underhogs’; a documentary made by Dan Craven about Durrell’s work with the world’s smallest pig.

JERSEY TRIATHLON 2018

With the sport of triathlon growing exponentially around the world and on the Island, this year the Accuro Jersey Triathlon attracted hundreds of participants, from first-timers to Commonwealth Games athletes, to its start line on Sunday 1st July.

The demanding course was again centred at Les Jardins de le Mer on the Waterfront in St Helier with the sea swim taking place in front of Elizabeth Castle, the bike course sending competitors out to the west of the Island and back for the run around Elizabeth Marina.

Richard Tanguy, a former Commonwealth Games cyclist, won the men’s Olympic distance event in a time of 2 hours 2 minutes, while Katie Silva overcame reigning Island Games and Jersey Triathlon champion Jo Gorrod to win the women’s race in 2 hours, 16 minutes.

THE ROUND ISLAND CHALLENGE

On Saturday 14th July, 300 competitors lined up to take part in the 2018 Jersey Round Island Challenge.

The event sees participants race to circumnavigate the island either by swimming, kayaking, rowing, stand up paddle boarding or running. Participants can compete on their own or as part of a relay team.

The distance of the race varies for each category; the run course is approximately 48 miles, the swim 45 miles and the row/kayak/stand up paddle board course is around 40 miles.

Each race category is managed by a relevant Island club, who provide essential support, training and safety guidelines.

Before the race, competitors received a motivational talk from Sean Conway, the first person to cycle, swim, and run the length of Great Britain, from Land’s End to John o’Groats.

The Jersey Round Island Challenge raises awareness and valuable funds for the Grace Crocker Family Support Foundation, a local charity that supports families in Jersey with sick children needing treatment in the UK. To date participants have helped to raise £45,000 for the charity.