



British Friends of Vanuatu

Breaking News

As at 27th July 2020

Cyclone Harold 6th/ 7th April 2020

Cyclone Harold was a Category 5 Tropical cyclone - the most severe.

Vanuatu, home to around 300,000 people, was already in a state of emergency because of the coronavirus pandemic. The storm particularly affected Sanma province, home to the country's second biggest city, Luganville. The islands of Santo, Malo, Aore and Pentecost sustained severe damage facing winds of up to 300kph. Three fatalities have been reported. Photos showed roofs blown off buildings, severely damaged homes and public buildings and power lines brought down. Some people took shelter in caves.

BFoV Future Events and the Constraints of Corona Virus

The Coronavirus worldwide crisis resulted in the cancellation of the BFoV 2020 Spring Weekend and AGM in North Wales and the AGM re-arranged for the planned BFoV Autumn Weekend in Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes, in September was also cancelled. Faced with continuing Covid-19 uncertainties, next BFoV meeting planned will be the postponed Spring Weekend and AGM in Llangollen, North Wales, to be held on the core dates of Saturday and Sunday 25-26th April, 2021. This event too will be subject to the current legal arrangements for the hospitality sector being maintained, and to our members' confidence in attending public events at that time. For up to date details on planned meetings please see the 'Future Events page on this website.

Vanuatu Legislative Elections March, 2020

Following the Vanuatu national elections in March, Bob Loughman, an MP from the island of Tanna, was elected prime minister of the the Republic of Vanuatu. Vanuatu's parliament elected a new prime minister more than a month after the country went to the polls, as the country was reeling from a devastating category-five cyclone and preparing for a potential coronavirus outbreak.

Bob Loughman, defeated the former foreign minister Ralph Regenvanu in a vote in parliament by 31 votes to 21. Loughman is the leader of the Vanua'aku Pati – one of the oldest political parties in Vanuatu – which secured seven out of 52 seats in elections held on 19 March.