



# British Friends of Vanuatu BFoV Events 2023

As at 1st February 2023

## FUTURE EVENTS

Commonwealth Observance Day,  
Monday 13th March 2023

Commonwealth Day is normally celebrated on the second Monday in March at a prestigious interfaith ceremony held at Westminster Abbey. An important part of the ceremony is the parade of the national flags of the now 53 countries of the Commonwealth. Seeing the 53 national flags carried into the Abbey by young people from so many different countries, many in traditional dress, conveys a powerful image of the multinational nature of the Commonwealth and of hopes for the future.

This year's Service, which will be His Majesty The King's first as Head of the Commonwealth, will be held on the afternoon of Monday, 13th March 2023, at Westminster Abbey. Guests typically include the UK Prime Minister, representatives of His Majesty's Government and Opposition, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Commonwealth and UK dignitaries and UK schoolchildren.

Thanks to invaluable support from James E Harris, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Vanuatu to the UK based in London, and HE Georges Maniuri, the Republic of Vanuatu Ambassador to the EU and Vanuatu High Commissioner to the UK based in Brussels, our association was able to submit a last minute application to the Royal Commonwealth Society for Chevening Scholar Tapo (Sam) Posikai to carry the Vanuatu flag on 13th March. The application was submitted on 26th January, one day before the deadline, and has now been accepted.

**BFoV Spring Break and AGM  
Plymouth, Devon 21/23 April 2023**

The hotel we have selected for the 2023 Spring event is:

**New Continental Hotel, Millbay Rd, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3LD**

The hotel has been booked for the weekend of the **21st April, 2023**, for the core nights of Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd April, 2023. Additional nights can be reserved, in the usual way, for the Thursday prior or the Sunday following the two core nights.

Room Prices obtained for our usual Bed, Breakfast and evening Dinner are as follows:

Double or Twin :     £150 per night Half Board

Single :               £100 per night Half Board

Members may recall that Plymouth was chosen as the venue for our 2023 Spring Weekend following earlier reports in Nabanga of Professor Lamont Lindstrom's monograph about Sophia Elau, the young, 6-year-old Erromangan girl brought back to England in 1831 after being taken on board a sandalwood trading vessel. Sophia later died and was buried in Plymouth at the age of 9 years. We hope that in the course of our visit we may be able to present a commemorative plaque to mark the short and sad life in England of this young Melanesian girl from Erromango in the then New Hebrides. Both of the above events (Museum visit and the commemorative plaque) will be combined with a short Saturday coach tour to see local places of interest in and around the city of Plymouth. The coach will return to the hotel in time for the 4.30pm start of the BFoV AGM.

## Vanuatu Independence Day, Sunday 30 July, 2023

For a celebration lunch and a tour of the Savill Garden, Wick Lane, TW20 0UJ,  
from 12 noon until 3pm

For further information on any of these events please contact:

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