

Two New Books Celebrate Agriculture, Sustainability, and Culture

Release Date: 2 May, 2025



The Virgin Islands' cultural and literary landscape will see the launch of two new books by local farmers next week.

Johnny the Great Rooster is an educational story aimed at highlighting the essential role that roosters and chickens play in sustainable farming and the preservation of cultural traditions while, Arona's First Garden Colouring Book is designed to spark children's interest in gardening. The book introduces young readers to the basics of planting, nurturing, and harvesting, fostering a lifelong appreciation for nature and sustainable living.

In the words of the authors Jeffrey and Arona Forbes, "The primary purpose of Johnny is to portray for all readers the important role that the rooster and chickens play in soil preservation, the provision of meat and eggs naturally, and the sustenance of our cultural heritage."

Deputy Director of Culture Ms. Anne Lennard said Jeffrey and Arona Forbes are well-known in the local farming community and bring a wealth of hands-on knowledge and cultural insight to their publications. She commended the couple's contribution and stated that their work underscores a deep commitment to education, environmental stewardship, and cultural heritage.

Ms. Lennard said, "The Forbeses are planting more than crops. They are also planting seeds of knowledge, pride, and sustainability. Their work reflects the heart of

our heritage, and these books will be valuable educational tools for generations to come."

The public is invited to attend the launch event which will feature readings, book signings, and an opportunity to meet the authors on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Transformation Church International, in Road Town.

The Department of Culture is committed to preserving, promoting, and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands. Through educational initiatives, cultural events, and strategic partnerships, the department supports artistic expression and the transmission of traditional knowledge to future generations.