Official review of the Police

World Tourism Day celebrations

Concerts, sponsored walks and more

Bradley’s escapee fined £2,000

UK Government ‘exploring idea’ of using Ascension, St Helena to house asylum seekers

New National Trust Director

Mule Yard to reopen, new managers confirm
**Comment**

Andrew Turner, SAMS

Recently, while researching a news story I found myself visiting the Museum of St Helena. For the first time since I was a child, I took the chance to really have a gander at the displays and truly soak up the history of this fascinating island of ours. I want to take a line or two this week and really thank the Museum staff for preserving the history of St Helena and Saints.

The history of St Helena is more than just Napoleon and Governors. It’s a history of slaves, of fisherman and farmers. It’s a history of people who, without any recognition, have worked and struggled to build this island into the community we are today.

With the recent launch of Napoleon 200, the island’s main spotlight and funding are once again focused on commemorating just a few specific, whitewashed aspects of this island’s whiter history of real Saints as something to be proud of. Great displays that recognise the history and relevant history? Respects have a far more interesting story I found myself visiting the Museum.

I was one of the 100 men who left the UK. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that Reg will be 90 years young on 2nd October 2020.

Reg (known to me as Grampy), was the husband of Barbara. Reg and Barbara sadly passed away in 2005. They also have four grandchildren: Lisa, Sharon, Lee and Charlene; and five great-grandchildren: Ellie, Hollie, Alexandra, Yasmin and Bethany. In December 2019, Grampy and Reg celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with their family and friends.

Reg was both quite frail and up to a few weeks ago, Grampy was in hospital; I did not think we would see him home again. But Grampy’s a feisty character and whilst his body is not as robust as he would like it to be, he remains sharp-minded, with good humour. Grampy will also still go fishing if he can! Covid-19 has placed some rather challenging restrictions on us all here in the UK; this includes the fact that I cannot actually hug my grandparents. For several months, I could only watch them through a window. I will probably never get to hug him again, which is incredibly saddening fact. However, our family remain grateful that we have had many years of love and warmth from our grandparents. We are incredibly proud of them.

Whilst Grampy has lived in the UK for many years, his home remains in his heart as St Helena. Having visited myself in 2005 I can understand why! We cannot celebrate Grampy 90th birthday, so we are trying to make his birthday as special as we can. If you are reading this please raise a toast or tip your hat to Reg, as we partake in socially distanced celebrations in the UK. My best wishes to family and friends on St Helena. Stay safe and well.

**Lisa Retford**

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**YOUR LETTERS**

**Dear Editor,**

I am the eldest granddaughter of Reginald Benjamin, who lives in the UK. I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that Reg will be 90 years young on 2nd October 2020.

Reg (known to me as Grampy), was the husband of Barbara. Reg and Barbara sadly passed away in 2005. They also have four grandchildren: Lisa, Sharon, Lee and Charlene; and five great-grandchildren: Ellie, Hollie, Alexandra, Yasmin and Bethany. In December 2019, Grampy and Reg celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with their family and friends.

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**Lisa Retford**

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**Thank You**

Cyril Alexander Benjamin 10/08/1942 – 10/09/2020

Son Patrick, Stepdaughter Delly, Brother and Sisters of the late Cyril Benjamin together with their families would like to express their sincere thanks to the medical staff for their care and attention during his underlying illnesses and especially during the last two weeks before his death. Special thanks to the staff of Deason & Cape Villa for the help and care given to Cyril whilst he resided at the respective residential homes.

Thanks are extended to Bishop Dale, Cannon Clive, Deacons Ernest, Jonathan and Bobby for conducting the funeral service, Joy George the organist, Roy Williams and his team and Davina and Colin Lawrence for the lovely wreaths.

Special thanks to brother Hayward for his invaluable support, colleagues on Ascension and in the Police and all family and friends who gave support, attended the service, paid floral tributes and sent messages of condolences through cards, emails and phone calls. This was very much appreciated and touched our hearts at this sad time. God bless you all.

Cyril will be greatly missed, but his memories will live on in our hearts forever.

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**Mule Yard officially under new management, opening soon**

DonnaCrowie, SAMS

The Mule Yard, Jamestown is now officially under new management. Gasteen & Buchanan Enterprises has been awarded the contract for the Mule Yard, The Sentinel can now confirm.

“We will be open for business shortly, hosting and serving the community in addition to having fun-packed nights and entertainment for all ages,” Paul Gasteen, who represents the new venture, told The Sentinel.

“We will also continue to work with Get Carters to offer quality food at affordable prices. “We will publicise forthcoming events very soon, so watch this space.”

The change in management follows St Helena Government a few months back having put the complex out for tender. 

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**Bradley’s escapee fined £2,000**

Andrew Turner, SAMS

In the St Helena Magistrates’ Court Thursday, Sept. 24 Mr Andrew Clingham was fined £2,000 for breaching isolation at Bradley’s. Mr Clingham arrived to St Helena on the July 30 charter flight from Ascension Island and was deemed by a Proper Officer to be fit for quarantine at Bradley’s. Mr Clingham on Aug. 2 got past security at the camp, telling them that he “had enough of this place.”

Mr Clingham went to his home in Woody Ridge, Levelwood, where Police found him and escorted him back to Bradley’s. Mr Clingham’s representative said Mr Clingham “felt he was not imposing any risk to the community” and “felt SHG was not looking after his best interests.” Mr Clingham had in a previous appearance pled guilty to breaching isolation, but sentencing had been delayed while the prosecution gathered projections on the impacts, both financial and otherwise, if Covid-19 had been introduced to the community.

During sentencing last Thursday Chief Magistrate Duncan Cook said: “The reasons you left were a combination of circumstances that led to distress at being in the camp. These included poor-quality facilities and food, limited diversion and hunger. The Court does not dismiss these reasons for leaving, believe them to be genuine.”

The Chief Magistrate also said that “actual harm was low, but serious harm was foreseen and the very purpose of isolation was to reduce that potential harm.”

The Chief Magistrate was clear to state that the sentence for anyone committing this manner offence would normally be imprisonment. “However, in Mr Clingham’s case there are a combination of factors that allow us to step back from that,” the Chief Magistrate said. “Taking into account the very strong personal mitigation and credit for plea, we find we can impose a financial penalty [rather than imprisonment] in this case.”

The Chief Magistrate made clear that Mr Clingham having avoided imprisonment was “no indication of how the court will view any subsequent breaches of isolation.”

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**St Helena news**

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“We will also continue to work with Get Carters to offer quality food at affordable prices. “We will publicise forthcoming events very soon, so watch this space.”

The change in management follows St Helena Government a few months back having put the complex out for tender.
Police Review report released

Andrew Turner, SAMS

A 76-page report that reviews the services and efficiency of the St Helena Police was on Friday released to the public.

The report makes 24 recommendations and highlights 22 "areas for improvement."

The report, produced by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, is split into 10 key areas, each of which is given a brief overview below.

"Investigating crime, caring for victims and managing vulnerability"

The quality of the Police Service’s record-keeping is of concern within the report.

"The quality of the force’s incident and crime files is an area for improvement. Many incident and crime reports don’t record all actions, or don’t record when or where actions were done, or by whom."

The report recommends that the St Helena Police “should implement a robust crime and incident record management system.”

"Responding to calls for service"

The capabilities and staffing of the Police’s Emergency Control Room were also of concern within the report.

The report recommends better record-keeping of emergency calls. Control room operators aren’t consistently recording comprehensive, accurate information about the calls they receive,” the report says. The report also provided ideas about how Police could improve dispatch speed for officers; and how control room operators could better interact with the people making emergency calls.

"Operations don’t risk assess incidents or deploy officers, because they lack the requisite knowledge. Instead, they contact the duty sergeant, who conducts these roles. This could delay the despatch of officers to incidents.”

The report recommends that the chief of St Helena Police should make sure that all control room operators receive the appropriate training to enable them to risk assess the calls they receive.

The report also pointed out that the Police do not record response times to see if they are achieving adequate response times.

"This is an area for improvement and the force should make sure that it forms part of its performance regime.”

The report also said the staffing rota for the Emergency Control Room was “an area for improvement.”

"Investigating crime"

The report says that the St Helena Police provide a “very good investigatory service to its community.”

However the report lists areas for improvement.

The first related recommendation focuses on initial investigations into crimes, and particularly an issue that many uniformed officers are inexperienced.

The report therefore recommends that only the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) detectives should attend to the more complicated incidents.

For instance, the report recommends that "Police response to domestic abuse cases" was an area for improvement, and the cases should mainly be handled by CID officers.

"The quality of the force’s investigative procedures also came into play in this area, with the report recommending ways for the Police to improve their currently lacking investigative procedures."

"For example, officials aren’t consistently updating victims about progress with investigations or continually offering victims the opportunity to make a victim personal statement (VPS)."

"There are all areas for improvement, as is the force’s limited understanding of victim satisfaction."

"Protecting vulnerable people"

The report says officers understand the need to protect people from harm and protect vulnerable people.

However, it says “few (officers) know the range of factors that could cause a person to become vulnerable.”

The report says officers conduct good initial safeguarding for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence. But given officers’ limited knowledge about what constitutes vulnerability, this may not occur for all incidents involving vulnerable victims."

While the St Helena Police Service has adopted UK procedures on domestic abuse, stalking and harassment the report recommends that the Police “should improve the efficiency” of these procedures and also develop a “vulnerability risk assessment” for other cases.

"Supporting victims"

The report recommends that SHG develops an organisation to help support victims of crime in St Helena.

"Officers can’t refer victims to an organisation that supports victims of crime, because St Helena Police don’t support organisations, the report says. "Our recommendation is that the St Helena Government should develop a victim support scheme.""

"The lack of policies and procedures also came into play in this area, with the report recommending ways for the Police to improve their currently lacking victim support procedures."

"For example, officers aren’t consistently updating victims about progress with investigations or continually offering victims the opportunity to make a victim personal statement (VPS)."

"There are all areas for improvement, as is the force’s limited understanding of victim satisfaction."

"Community policing and public engagement"

"The St Helena public wants police officers to be in its neighbourhoods, delivering community-based policing.”

"In this respect, the report recommends that CID could aid the process by working with uniformed officers and showing them investigative techniques."

"Also of concern to crime investigators, was that the Police handle investigations, was that the Police receive, “The report says the investigative unit would be of concern within the report."

"These are all areas for improvement, even if the Police have begun attempting improvements.”

"The advice was announced in March, with the promise that “the outcome of the survey results will be provided in due course.” The outcome is yet to be published."
uniformed officers time to learn about their communities, hone their conflict-resolution skills, patrol their districts, engage with communities, and carry out problem-solving policing in consequences. The report recommends the Chief of Police develops a “community policing strategy” that includes policies, procedures, training, and guidance in order to “set the vision for what the force wants to achieve through community policing.”

“Armed policing”

Armed policing is one of the largest sections covered in the report. The report states that “because of its remote location,” St Helena does need armed policing. This is because St Helena’s police forces in the world have access to specialised armed response units from nearby areas if/when necessary; but this is not possible in St Helena.

Additionally, the St Helena Police Service has said that armed response is necessary because “Air Safety Support International (ASSI) ... be able to provide an armed response at St Helena Airport.”

While “some of the force’s armed response structures and practices work well,” the report lists areas for improvement. Many of the recommendations, again, surround implementation of policies and procedures. At the time of our inspection, the force’s armed policing policies and procedures hadn’t been signed off, the report says. “The force should develop these in line with its structure and practice.” Our recommendation is that the chief of St Helena Police should amend policies and procedures to reflect the changes that the force makes to structures and practices recommended in this report. The report also recommends policy for armed policing also came ‘under fire’ in the report: “The force doesn’t have an effective armed policing command structure. It has limited tactical firearms command capability and one unqualified operational firearms commander (OFC). Such a gap in command could have serious consequences.” The report also recommends reducing the Police’s arsenal from three types of gun to two. This is in order to “bring efficiencies through less maintenance and ammunition purchase, and fewer training costs.”

Indemnity and insurance for firearms officers was another issue the report found. “The force is aware that indemnity cover may not be in place to support AFOs if a firearms commander, should they become involved in an armed confrontation that results in the discharge of a police firearm, and that the level of life insurance coverage for AFOs is too low.”

Our recommendation is that the St Helena Government should resolve the issue of indemnity and life insurance for firearms officers.

The report also found an unspecified “problem with key security arrangements” at the armoury; this issue needed resolving “immediately.” The report recommends the Chief of Police ignore requirements issued by the Governor’s Office to “assess risk and then carry the devices and store the devices in lock boxes in vehicles in certain situations.”

These measures were introduced because of public concerns raised by elected members; however the report recommends the Police Service should “continue without these public safety measures.” The report did recommend that the use of Tasers was reviewed and the data shared. “Our recommendation is that officers comply with the chief of police’s operational policy on the use of Tasers.” In March this year the HMICFRS visited the island to meet with Police Officers, the Governor and councillors. “The HMICFRS also had one meeting with the public, which was arranged by the St Helena Police Service.” The 76-page report is the result of this HMICFRS review. SHG on Friday said the Police Service has already begun implementing the findings, changes and recommendations, “through a plan of action and implementation.”

The recommendations

The police review report listed 14 recommendations in the areas outlined within this story, and gave target dates for the recommendations to be implemented.

1. By 1 August 2021, the chief of St Helena Police should implement a robust crime and incident record management system.
2. By 1 August 2021, the chief of St Helena Police should make sure that all control room operators have received appropriate THRIVE training.
3. By 1 August 2022, the chief of St Helena Police should develop the necessary policies and procedures for managing firearms-related incidents, including the use of firearms, applying for funding for a new short-term technical assistance policy officer.
4. By 1 August 2021, the Government of St Helena should develop a victim support scheme.
5. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police should have resolved the issue of the indemnity and lifetime assurance for firearms officers.
6. With immediate effect, the chief of St Helena Police should address the identified key security issue.
7. With immediate effect, St Helena Police should ensure that all control room operators have received appropriate THiVE training.
8. By 31 December 2020, the Government of St Helena should have resolved the issue of the indemnity and lifetime assurance for firearms officers.
9. With immediate effect, the chief of St Helena Police should address the identified key security issue.
10. The force should review the use of such devices and share data with interested parties.
11. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police should amend policies and procedures to reflect changes the force makes to structures and practices recommended in this report.
12. The chief of St Helena Police should document any deviation from authorised professional practice. And the St Helena Government should address the associated risks.
13. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must make sure that the force’s custody officers act in compliance with all aspects of the Police and Criminal Evidence Ordinance and its codes of practice.
14. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must publish an overarching policy for the whole custody process to counter the threat of high public ownership of firearms. The requirement to develop tactics for aircraft entry should be removed.
15. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must have a facility for the USE of firearms.
16. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must make sure that the force’s custody officers act in compliance with all aspects of the Police and Criminal Evidence Ordinance and its codes of practice. This involves: • providing all custody officers with appropriate training and guidance about their obligations under the ordinance and codes of practice; and • instigating regular audits of custody records to assess compliance.
17. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must make sure that the force’s custody officers act in compliance with all aspects of the Police and Criminal Evidence Ordinance and its codes of practice. This involves: • providing all custody officers with appropriate training and guidance about their obligations under the ordinance and codes of practice; and • instigating regular audits of custody records to assess compliance.
The public fisheries petition, signed by 40% of the island's voting-age population, was last week discussed by the Economic Development Committee (EDC).

The decision to dismiss the petition's position was made by the EDC Chairperson, who used his power of a deciding vote during a three-person EDC meeting Thursday, Sept. 24.

The petition was led by the St. Helena Commercial Fishermen’s Association (SHCFA) and had asked SHG to stop the current investment process (with PQ Trading) and begin with a renewed investment framework that would stop conflicts of interest and to engage in a more open, community and science-based fisheries process.

The EDC’s decision means it has advised ExCo to continue facilitating SHG’s chosen investor, PQ Trading, in taking over the island’s fishery.

Two of the five voting members of the EDC were not present during Thursday’s meeting.

Cllr Christin Scipio was participating in a different meeting; and Cllr John Elick, the EDC Chairperson Cllr Lawson Henry that because he had signed the petition, he had to declare a conflict of interest and would be unable to participate in the meeting.

The EDC therefore had only three voting members present Thursday – the Chairperson, Cllr Clint Beard and Cllr Cyril Leo.

Cllr Beard was in favour of starting a new investment process that would involve all stakeholders – in line with requests of the petition.

Cllr Leo preferred to go ahead with the PQ Trading investment process. It was not stated whether his decision would include Cllr Leo’s support for the SHCFA representation in the process. Cllr Elick after the meeting told the Sentinel he did not agree with the decision of the EDC.

“Th process was flawed from day one,” he said.

The EDC’s recommendation will now go to ExCo, on which Cllrs Henry and Beard both sit alongside Cllr Crayff Buckley, Cllr Tony Green and Cllr Derek Thomas.

Prior to the EDC meeting, voting members had received an “advice” note drawn up by SHG officials who have been working to facilitate the PQ fishing investment.

The officials were Chief Economist Nicole Shamer, ENRP Director Darren Duncan, Financial Secretary Dax Richards and Deputy Financial Secretary Nicholas Von.

The SHCFA criticised the advice note, saying it was one-sided and lacking statistical information.

“[It included] a letter from John Meliss Fishing Limited (a company owned by PQ Trading’s local representative) but makes no reference to any opposing letters,” the SHCFA said. “Including one of these letters gives an indication and it sets the tone for the content of the advice given.”

The SHCFA, prior to Thursday’s meeting and after having sight of the advice note, had asked the EDC to find the advice “invalid, as it did not acknowledge or address the claims made within our petition.”

Conflicts of interest?

Perceived conflicts of interest have been featuring heavily within the fisheries process from councillors being told to abstain from meetings, to questions raised about SHG officials and petitioners.

Within the past weeks, SHG officials raised issue with a perceived conflict of interest of a St. Helena National Trust employee who was also serving on the board of the SHCFA; the employee this month stepped down from the board in order to avoid the further public perception of conflict of interest.

SHG is meanwhile also facing questions about conflict of interest. Cllr Beard during last Thursday’s meeting questioned the advice note that was written by SHG officials.

“How fair is the option paper,” he asked, considering it was written by the very people who have been doing the work to facilitate PQ Trading?

“The process must be done properly,” he said.

The Chief Economist responded by saying “if elected members want to ignore the advice note, they can.”

“It might be difficult for councillors to ignore the advice provided, however, as SHG officials are the only ones who provide official advice to councillors.

It was a main concern listed in the EDC’s recommendation that could have conflict of interest when providing advice to councillors and the public, that when advice was regarding items they or their spouses were working to progress.

Specifically for the SHCFA, conflicts of interest were raised about scientific/environmental concerns surrounding fisheries, and the economics of the current investment process, was questioned.

Meanwhile,SHG is also facing questions about SHG’s Chief Economist having influenced every stage of the investment process – sitting on the Investment Enabling Group; advising the EDC; advising ExCo; and being married to the SHG employee who serves as liaison for the valuable and endangered Estate.

The SHG’s Chief Economist, Dax Richards, did not respond to the Sentinel’s request for SHG about the conflicts of interest questioned in the petition.

“SHG strongly refutes this allegation,” SHG said. “SHG officials are not decision makers. Similarly there is no evidence to suggest that the SHG officers are members of an association that is lobbying government on this subject and therefore cannot be considered as decision influencers.”

Where we stand with Covid-19 preparedness

Ascension isolation measures, new phones at Bradley’s and more

— Donna Crowie, SAMs

St. Helena’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic was discussed during an SAMS Radio 1 interview last week.

Five SHG officials attended the Thursday’s Meeting when Committee Chairperson Cllr Derek Thomas, Senior Medical Officer Dr Kamar Tamyar, Senior Environmental Health Officer Georgina Young, Acting Chief of Police David Price and Operations Manager for Bradley’s Camp Matt Joshua.

The interview on Thursday, Sept. 24 began by focusing on the recent dissolution of SHG’s Incident Executive Group (IEG). The IEG has been replaced with a different command structure.

The new command structure is split into three categories. Gold is the Chief of General Staff. Silver is mostly made up of heads of directorates and bronze is mainly comprised of the “workers.”

Once a charter flight arrives, the Silver command level getting lead responsibility for the economy. Exclusive Council (ExCo) is now in primary charge of the island’s handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This includes ensuring St Helena is prepared for upcoming charter flights and maintaining flight procedures; and making sure the island has enough PPE and other equipment.

However, officials said that if there was a crisis situation, the IEG would be reactivated.

To address public questions about why people from Ascension Island can now isolate at home instead of at the otherwise “low risk” location, Dr Kamar said Ascension Island has confirmed cases and that no community transmission has occurred, making Ascension a “low risk” location.

Officials also said that arrivals from Ascension still have to abide by the rules and regulations.

For instance, being confirmed with the Sept. 17 charter flight passengers had to fill out questionnaires, which included where they had been in the past 14 days, and if they would like to isolate, how many people would be in quarantine and where they would be isolating.

During their isolation, the passengers were provided with a mobile phone and a telephone. Environmental Health went to each property to assess whether they were suitable.

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People were advised to be no more than 5 meters from the phone and isolation houses needed to be otherwise unoccupied (if a person’s own home was occupied, they could rent another location at their own expense).

Matt Joshua and his team at Bradley’s have been doing daily check-ins with those passengers in self-isolation to make sure they have everything they need and to see if they were experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.

Any person who showed any symptoms (like sore throat, cough, fever) would be taken to the fully equipped hospital at Bradley’s.

Matt told SAMs that after every cycle at Bradley’s, the staff and homes used were wiped down from those who were quarantined. Most recently this has resulted in each room at Bradley’s now catching a deep clean cycle at Bradley’s, the staff and homes used were wiped down from those who were quarantined.

Matt told SAMs that after every cycle at Bradley’s, the staff and homes used were wiped down from those who were quarantined. Most recently this has resulted in each room at Bradley’s now catching a deep clean cycle at Bradley’s, the staff and homes used were wiped down from those who were quarantined.

ST HELENA NEWS | Thursday 01 October 2020 | www.sams.sh
Potential for 75-85 new parking spaces at the top of Jamestown

Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell, SAMS

Potentially, 75–85 new parking spaces could be created at the top of Jamestown. This is providing that budget is available, important SHNT and Heritage Society concerns are addressed, and plans are approved.

The parking spaces would include the 20 potential spaces at the Quarry, reported on in previous Sentinels. Additionally, the areas to the North and South of the band room near St John’s Church are now also being looked at for increased parking – and the newly installed rockfall netting on the hillsides could help the health and safety aspects of such development.

Increased parking at the top of Jamestown has for years been crucial for alleviating congestion in front of the General Hospital; but people have been asking why this “is taking far too long;” so The Sentinel queried progress with a member of the Highways Authority, Cllr Russell Yon.

The Quarry – approximately 20 vehicles

Cllr Yon said a few problems need to be overcome before the Quarry area could be developed into parking spaces. A main one is improved access onto the highway – which is being “continuously explored.” Currently access to the new parking lot would be between the water tanks and Drummond Hay Square. Connect St Helena uses only one of their two water tanks, so could the other one be removed? This would prove costly but is being looked into.

“Ideally I would like Connect to erect a new tank at the Quarry and then remove both tanks, which will enable the area to be laid out for parking area,” Cllr Yon said.

“And it would be great if the mortuary and chapel could be moved from within the Hospital boundary. That too would alleviate the traffic congestion when there is a funeral.”

The South end of the band room – approximately 20–40 vehicles

The area from the band room to China Lane potentially could be available for parking, again depending on design and costs.

“There is high voltage line and pole in the area so this adds safety risks,” Cllr Yon said. “To have it removed and placed underground comes at additional cost, which would have to be borne by the Roads Section and they don’t have that kind of spend. With the pole and line still in place approximately 20 spaces could be managed; removing the pole and line could realise 30–40.

“This would also [mean] removing the white wall and cutting back the bank then rebuilding the wall, but we would need some archaeological works done prior and during the excavation if approved as this is a known burial site [human remains were removed from this site in the mid-1970s].”

The North end of the band room – approximately 30 vehicles

Now that additional rockfall protection has been erected, a business case (subject to design and costing) has been submitted to the PMU team overseeing the EDJP spend, Cllr Yon said in regard to increased parking near the band room.

“There might be potential for a micro-project to clear the area from the band room to Maldivia. Because there are significant historical walls in the area, a planning application will need to be submitted.”

Cllr Yon thought this would likely come with objections, but he is in the process of writing to both the St Helena National Trust and the Heritage Society to get their views on the proposed project.

Human rights groups respond to draft communications policy

Andrew Turner & Emma Weaver, SAMS

A lack of experts used in drafting the policy; a lack of data protection; and the potential for human rights violations

These are main concerns of two letters recently submitted to SHG, as part of the consultation process for the new Draft Communications, Networks & Services Policy.

The policy is meant to ready the island for the arrival of the Equiano fibre optic undersea cable and the changes that it might bring. The two human rights groups that submitted the letters – the St Helena Equality & Rights Commission (EHRC) and A Human Right (a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing free basic internet and phone access to developing countries, and which has worked with SHG to secure access to a submarine cable) – have also released their letters to the public.

The EHRC expressed concern that certain aspects of the draft policy could prevent the full benefits of the policy/cable.

“Where the EHRC is concerned is in the areas relating to surveillance and the line management of the Regulator.”

Specifically the EHRC expressed concern that people’s right to consultation points will be recorded, comments will be provided, and any recommended changes will be provided to the EDC to preside over, the SHG Press Office told The Sentinel. “The recorded points and comments will be made publicly available, as this will be discussed in an EDC open session.

So what should we look for the EDC to discuss, when the meeting occurs?”

EHRC

The EHRC starts its six-page letter by highlighting the good intentions of the communications policy in preparing St Helena for the long-awaited Equiano cable.

Specifically, the EHRC stated recognition of the importance of the policy in increasing internet access for less well-off community members. A positive impact this could have for work and schooling opportunities and for upholding other human rights.

But the EHRC expressed concern that certain aspects of the draft policy could prevent the full benefits of the policy/cable.

“Where the EHRC is concerned is in the areas relating to surveillance and the line management of the Regulator.”

Specifically the EHRC expressed concern regarding the Regulator.

Right to privacy

The EHRC details two reasons they are concerned that the human right to privacy might be violated, and that a conflict of interest in the Regulator could mean a lack of independent oversight.

The first reason is the amount of power granted to a sole individual, based upon vague grounds.

“The most concerning part of the policy is the policy handed to a single individual to breach our right to privacy, i.e. the Governor. For example section 3.11 says the Governor acting at his or her discretion may require a retention notice.

“First of all no matter what the circumstances, there should be more than one person involved in a decision of this importance. The Governor is the Queen’s [representative] on-island; neither the Queen nor the Prime Minister have such powers in the UK.

“The public interest grounds are very vague and too open to misapplication to be useful.”

The second reason is that without enacting data protection legislation alongside the policy, SHG could inhibit the island’s ability to benefit from the cable and could leave citizens’ and tourists’ personal data from the cable and could leave citizens’ and tourists’ personal data at risk. Online banking has been a great step forward, but how safe will the information be once the cable arrives?...”

“A cross-section of a fibre optic cable, showcased by Christian Von Der Ropp of A Human Right during a working visit to St Helena two years ago.”
of online hacking and malicious software. The ECHR, therefore, has become common to turn off security updates on our computers and phones because the amount of data they can use without our consent and the costs involved. This already leaves a lot of devices open to attacks when high speed internet access.

The ECHR also notes the EU’s GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations), which aims to protect citizens no matter where they or where their data is stored. Failure to fulfill these obligations can result in penalties as high as 20 million Euro, or 4\% of the company’s annual turnover.

“Anyone visiting the island, knowing St Helena is a UK territory, will expect a reasonable level of data protection. Especially when we [are] entrusted with an individual’s personal data such as credit card numbers, passport information, home address, medical information and any other data required for staying on the island.

The ECHR posed two specific questions to SHG within this section:

1) The Policy is to encourage the setting up of ground stations on island, which begs the question about what sort of regulations you want to do that when there is no data protection legislation.

2) Misconceptions and Misassumptions – is the data the Regulator requires to be able to protect personal data on their customers?

The Regulator

In general, the ECHR said that having a regulator for the island’s communications could enhance and protect human rights.

The ECHR said however that the report made no effort to present its concerns about the potential conflict of interest in the Attorney General or himself as line manager and temporary Regulator. The Attorney General is essentially a lawyer advising Government’s decision-makers to advise Government but also to act as its advocate.

The ECHR’s direct question to SHG was:

1) What if SHG wanted something and the Regulator wanted something which conflicted with that?

A Human Right’s letter from A Human Right is a 55-page document that deals not just with the draft policy but the wider implications therefore. The EHRC’s concerns about the current state of telecommunications and its future with the cable project. It states that St Helena currently lacks the opportunity to develop communications for the island.

“Due to the nearing end of the monopoly’s license, St Helena has the once-in-a-decade opportunity to reform its telecoms landscape - St Helena must unlock the many opportunities its EDF-sponsored submarine cable will offer.

A Human Right says the draft policy in its current state would be detrimental to the cable’s potential. The draft policy also fails to protect the status quo rather than bringing new demands to St Helena to enable a digital transformation, thus hampers the many opportunities the submarine cable could unlock and risks islanders to remain. It is not elaborated from global Information Society.

The letter says the policy was clearly drafted without “true expert advice” and that it therefore fails to protect St Helenians, UK taxpayers who continue to fund St Helena and EU taxpayers who through the EDF’s sponsorship the submarine cable.

A Human Right says there is great disappointment to read this policy which... fails to explore alternatives to maintaining a private monopoly but strives to justify the same instead. It supports all its very own principles and by this weakens SHG’s authority, undermines the EDF’s credibility and regulatory effectiveness and generally shows insufficient consideration of the many technical, economic and regulatory complexities of modern telecommunications.

“We therefore urge SHG to seek true expert advice and follow our recommendations,” the letter says. The letter is split into six sections, with an overview of each provided below.

The importance of internet access

The first section of A Human Right’s letter highlights the importance of accessible internet for St Helena.

“Broadband Internet is not a luxury, but a new form of digital infrastructure for participation and progress in any twenty-first century society,” the letter says.

“You therefore urge SHG to seek true expert advice and follow our recommendations,” the letter says. The letter is split into six sections, with an overview of each provided below.

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Could St Helena or Ascension become a home for UK asylum seekers?

Andrew Turner, SAMS

The UK’s Home Secretary Priti Patel has considered building an asylum processing centre on Ascension Island or St Helena. “Priti Patel asked officials to explore the construction of an asylum processing centre on Ascension Island, a British overseas territory 4,000 miles from the UK in the south Atlantic, for migrants coming to Britain,” Financial Times reported this week. “The home secretary’s officials also looked at the possibility of building an asylum centre on St Helena, part of the same island group.” It appears these plans might have been abandoned after initial explorations, but no final decisions seem to have been made.

The Home Secretary is expected to address the issue at the “virtual” Conservative party conference on Sunday.

What’s happening with Airlink flights?

Donna Crowie, SAMS

International flights were due to resume this week, Oct. 1, from South Africa - but SA Airlink is yet to respond as to whether and when flights might resume between Johannesburg and St Helena. However, it now seems flights won’t be resuming in the near future. So far, St Helena isn’t listed alongside the destinations Airlink has released as ‘to look forward to.’ And in a recent interview on SAMS Radio 1, Public Health Committee Chairperson Cllr Derek Thomas said no decisions have yet been taken on resuming flights to South Africa. “The position we are in is very much a waiting game,” he said. “We will need to see what new regulations are produced in South Africa when they open up.”

If St Helena is included, obviously we have to look at the demand for travel to South Africa - because we have a 14-day isolation/quarantine period, so that will be off putting to the travelling public,” Cllr Thomas said. However that arrangements for medivacs will be an important factor.

“Shadow Home Secretary Nick Thomas-Symonds said this idea is inhumane, completely impractical and wildly expensive - so it seems entirely plausible this Conservative government came up with it.”

Liquid water found underground on Mars

Andrew Turner, SAMS

Scientists have found evidence of four lakes buried deep underground near the south pole of Mars. As liquid water is considered essential for life, the discovery has thrilled researchers who are studying the possibility that life exists elsewhere in the Solar System. However, the lakes are believed to be extremely salty, which could reduce the chances of microbial life. “[These lakes] could still retain traces of any life forms that could have evolved when Mars had a dense atmosphere, a milder climate and the presence of liquid water on the surface, similar to the early Earth,” Dr Roberto Deon Du Toit, the principal investigator for the experiment, told the BBC.

Doctor who sterilised local women found dead before charges could be brought

Andrew Turner, SAMS

Deon Du Toit, 51, spent years evading police investigations, has been found dead. A social media post from Brits Tune into SAMS Radio 1 at 1pm for the experiment, told the BBC. Du Toit was for years at the centre of public and court attention after he sterilised two local women without consent in 2013, while serving as Senior Medical Officer at the St Helena General Hospital. He disappeared soon after the incident and managed to evade ongoing police investigations. The Chief Justice, at an interview on SAMS Radio 1, Public Health Committee Chairperson Cllr Derek Thomas said no decisions have yet been taken on resuming flights to South Africa. “The position we are in is very much a waiting game,” he said. “We will need to see what new regulations are produced in South Africa when they open up.”

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“Shadow Home Secretary Nick Thomas-Symonds said this idea is inhumane, completely impractical and wildly expensive - so it seems entirely plausible this Conservative government came up with it.”
Meet and Greet: New National Trust Director

Andrew Turner, SAMS

Mike Jervois has recently taken up the role of Director of the St Helena National Trust.

Mike arrived from the Falkland Islands, where he worked with the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI). Prior to his time in the Falklands, Mike worked in St Helena. He worked first on terrestrial conservation with SHG, and then on invertebrate protection with the National Trust.

"Mike always knew he might end up back in St Helena," the Association said. "I'd always said that if an interesting job popped up, I'd love to come back," he said.

With the National Trust needing a director, Mike thought that it was the perfect opportunity to return to the Island and take on a leadership role.

"I was looking for a leadership role in that kind of capacity," he said. "Working with the Trust previously, I saw lots of things that I thought could be done really well and I've always really liked what they do. The Trust has always been a really nice place that I wanted to come back to."

Although Mike's background is mainly in terrestrial conservation he is keen to ensure that all aspects of the Trust's "huge" remit, including the cultural, natural and built heritage, are developed.

"Further, he wants to keep focus on the core functions of the Trust, and there is so much more than we can ever possibly do built into our remit," he said. "I would really like to get back to the core of what we were doing, focusing on really high-profile conservation projects; as well as taking on the things that we are able to take on, so we are not over-extending ourselves." The built heritage section of the National Trust was disbanded in recent months, partly because historic structures such as Bertrand's Cottage and High Knoll Fort were handed back to SHG. However Mike is keen to redevelop a built heritage team.

"I am pretty keen to continue that area," he said. "We still have lots of things we can continue with leases, like High Knoll Fort... we're still discussing those with government and just trying to work out how we can do them and if we can possibly do them."

Currently the National Trust is dependent on project funding. Mike is hoping that the Trust can find some more stable sources of income to help stabilise the funding base. "Grants and short-term funding, we will continue to chase those when they pop up," he said. "We do have a need, and have been trying to move away from grant funding so we have less restrictive funding and can be more sustainable."

Mike said that his key goal for his time at the National Trust will be to finalise the Trust’s Strategic Plan and then to focus on the purpose of increasing awareness of all conservation efforts happening across various endemic habitats, and improving habitat restoration and community outreach works, and fostering a sense of community ownership.

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This year, New Horizons will host another Food Bank Appeal, to assist those in St Helena who felt a financial strain during the festive period.

This year, New Horizons will host another Food Bank Appeal. The registered charity is looking for donations of groceries, cleaning products, toiletries, vegetables, confectionaries and anything else that could help a family or individuals overcome a financial pinch this Christmas.

Last year over 30 food parcels were distributed to families around the island.
LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

World Tourism Day marked with Farmers Market
— Cyril (Ferdie) Gunnell, SAMS

World Tourism Day 2020 in St Helena was marked with a Farmers Market at the Jamestown Market. The theme was Tourism & Rural Development.

It was a dull day in town Sunday, windy with rain threatening; even so, a large gathering patiently waited outside The Market for the advertised two-hour event to open at 3pm.

Tourism Director Helena Bennett welcomed everyone and gave a short speech, describing what was on offer to view and to purchase.

A nice variety of goods were on offer, from vegetables of all description to arts/crafts, eggs, rooted plants, popcorn, sweets and Scotch eggs to name just some of the local produce available.

The residents businesses both upstairs and down were also trading.

Stevens Family Butchers among other meats had a new line on display – lamb sausages.

It turned out to be a successful market, with a good attendance and a jovial atmosphere about the place. People asked for these activities to be more frequent, and the Tourism Director said they would consider quarterly events.

“It was a good turnout from what I saw, although we arrived late,” one community member told The Sentinel. “Having these events is beneficial to the community and it also goes to show what products are available. Sometimes the smaller producers can have a better variety of goods on the table than the larger producers, simply because they don’t want to mass-produce to pay bills.”

Similar events in recent years were held in Longwood, Guinea Grass and Francis Plain.

250th birthday celebration for Beethoven
— Creative St Helena, Contributed

You probably know that it will be Beethoven’s bicentenary in 2021 – but did you know that this year, the well-known German composer Ludwig Van Beethoven’s 250th birthday celebrations were due to be held all over the world?

Unfortunately, due to the devastating Covid-19 pandemic, events and concerts worldwide have been cancelled, postponed or being held virtually (online) or with no audiences.

Creative Saint Helena is very fortunate that the local concert in celebration of Beethoven can continue.

This Saturday, Oct. 3 18 singers and instrumental players will be getting together to play and sing some of Beethoven’s short pieces. The concert will include some well-known tunes that most people would recognise, sung by the St Helena Singers choir with James Fantom on guitar, Joe Hollins as solo vocalist, Gay Marr and Ivy Elick on piano, Jenni Ratcliff and two Prince Andrew School students on violin, Graeme Beckett on trumpet, Teeny Lucy on recorder and Kerry Lawrence and Lisa Joshua on flute.

What is classical music all about? The concert will take place at 7pm at the Catholic Church in Upper Jamestown, with the kind permission of Father David. Entry is free, with voluntary donations welcome.

Stargazing St Helena
— St Helena Astronomy Club, Contributed

After a total wash-out month for stargazing in September, here’s hoping for clearer skies as we officially enter springtime.

This month’s first full Moon will be Oct. 1.

If you find yourself beneath a dark starry sky in the evening, you’ll find the bright planet pair of Jupiter and Saturn high above in the constellation of Sagittarius.

Jupiter and Saturn will make their way progressively towards the west as the month goes on.

Once the bright Moon disappears below the horizon on Oct. 3 or Oct. 4, you’ll be able to see Mars beginning to rise in evening sky towards the East (look for a bright, reddish point in the constellation of Pisces – the fish). Mars will be at its brightest around Oct. 13.

The other interesting object to keep your eye out for is the Small Magellanic Cloud – a faint, fuzzy patch of stars just starting to become visible by about 9pm in the far southern sky. Before the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds were named after the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, they were known as the Cape Clouds (as they’d be spotted as ships headed towards the African Cape). In fact, they clouds are small galaxies of stars about 120,000 light years away.

The new Moon will be Oct. 16. If you’ve ever thought something would happen once in a blue Moon, this is your month. There will be a ‘blue Moon’ Oct. 31, which is Halloween night to boot! A blue Moon is when there’s a second full moon in one calendar month.

Wishing you a spooky Halloween and many dark, starry nights.

Our last attempt at a stargazing evening will be at 8pm Tuesday, Oct. 13 at High Knoll Fort. All welcome, including kids.
The Good ole days.

We talk about the good ole days. When growing up was different. My mum told me many stories. That made me stop and listen.

She said how life was harder. How some people were very poor. But they would always stick together. As family was core.

Schools were very different. No whiteboards or laptops. With a plate of fish and rice. And drank warm milk out of plastic cups. Going into town was a Saturday special.

Christmas Events
- Advent Service - 2nd December - St James Church - 12:30pm
- Caroling at the Canister - Tuesday 8th December - Time: 12pm
- Bonanza - Friday 11th December - Time: 6pm School Yard
- Festival of lights - Monday 21st December
- Starting from the hospital between 7:15 and 7:30pm

Families would sit around the dinner table. With a plate of fish and rice. You couldn’t say “I don’t want that.” But sometimes it tasted nice.

Those were the good ole days. Filled with love, fun and laughter. These stories will be forever told. So happily ever after.

By the Year 4 class
Pilling Primary School

New School Council

School Council - 2020-21
Head Girl - Georgia Bennett (Yr. 5)
Head Boy - Tyler Anthony (Yr. 6)

Class Reps:
- Cora Richards (Yr. 1)
- Mathew Mhize (Yr. 1)
- Tiarno Young-O’Dean (Yr. 2)
- Cruz Williams (Yr. 2)
- Gorri Alhazei (Yr. 3)
- Hugo Richards (Yr. 3)
- Halle George (Yr. 4)
- Ryley Bennett (Yr. 4)
- Aiden O’Dean (Yr. 5)
- Erin Thomas (Yr. 6)

New PTA Committee - 2020-21
Chairperson - Miss Kaylee Young
Vice Chairperson - Mrs Michele
Secretary - Miss Asita Obey
Treasurer - Mrs Julie Anthony
Ex-Officio - Miss Elaine
Members/Parents
- Morgan Stroud - Runner up (YR 1)
- Skylar Phillips Ellick - Winner (YR 2)
- Bethany Bennett - Runner up (YR 5)
- Nolan George - Winner (YR 5)
- Yara Alhazei - Runner up (YR 6)

International Coffee Day

As always, St Helena coffee is featured in various International Coffee Day articles this year for remaining one of the world’s most expensive and notable coffees, and comes in at about USD 75 per pound.

Did you know?
A coffee typically contains between 45-150mg of caffeine.

Happy Hour

Tired of bad news? Here’s your happy place.

Amazon One: Palm scanner launched for ‘secure’ payments

Amazon has announced a new payment system for real-world shops that uses a simple wave of the hand. Its new Amazon One scanner registers an image of the user’s palm, letting them pay by holding their hand in mid-air “for about a second or so.” The product will be trialled at two of Amazon’s physical stores in Seattle. But the company said it is “in active discussions with several potential customers” about rolling it out to other shops in the future.

“I must retail environments, Amazon One could become an alternate payment or loyalty card option with a device at the checkout counter next to traditional point of sale systems,” it said.

Amazon also said the system could be used for “entering a location like a stadium” or scanning yourself into work instead of using an ID card. “We believe Amazon One has broad applicability beyond our retail stores,” it added.

Sudoku

Happy Hour

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Sudoku
**BAHA’I FAITH**

**“Son of Being!”**

With hands of power I made thee and with fingers of strength I created thee; and within thee have I placed the essence of My light. Be thou content with it and seek naught else, for My work is perfect and My command is binding.”  

Baha’i Scripture

**DEVOTIONAL MEETING**

**BAHA’I CENTRE**

**Gumwood**

**THURSDAY EVENINGS**

8pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Phone 24342

**THE ROCK**

Prayer Meeting on Saturday 3rd October at 8am at the home of Anthony and Elaine Hopkins at Sapper Way. Praise and Worship on Sunday 4th October at 11am at No 3 Unit Longwood Enterprise Park.

Kid Zone at 11:30am (Sunday school).

Cell Meetings: On Tuesday 6th October at Sandy Bay Community Centre at 6pm and also at Cape Villa at 5pm.

On Wednesday 7th October at Unit 3 Longwood Enterprise Park at 7:30pm and also at the home of Anthony and Elaine Hopkins at Sapper Way at 7:30pm.

The Christian bookshop and DVD rental (quality second-hand goods also for sale) will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-12 noon and Saturday from 10am to 12 noon.

For further information phone 62552 or 23429.

Activities at the Army this weekend:

**FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2020**

‘QUALITY SECONDS’ SHOP OPEN FROM 10AM TO 1PM. COME AND GRAB SOME GREAT BARGAINS!

**SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2020**

MORNING SERVICE AT THE HALF TREE HOLLOW HALL AT 11AM. ALL ARE WARMLY WELCOME.

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY AT THE HALF TREE HOLLOW HALL AT 7.30PM. ALL ARE WELCOME.

There is always a warm welcome for you at the Salvation Army.

If you would like to know more about the Salvation Army’s activities, contact Majors Nilanlala and Priscilla Zippah on telephone Nos 23543/22470. Take care and God bless.

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**NOTICE BOARD**

**APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Application has been received in respect of the following proposal:

1. **Application 2020/76:** FULL Planning Application for Proposed Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling, Upper Cleughs Plain on Parcel SOT10626. Applicant: Martina Henry-Stevens

Copy of the Application and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Secretary on Telephone 22270 or email Karen.Isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Any person who wishes to make Representations on the above Application should make them in writing within 14 days to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email karen.isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 15th October 2020

Shane Williams
Planning Officer

**CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS**

**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

Applications for the 2021-2022 Chevening Scholarship Awards are now open. Applications will close on Tuesday, 3 November 2020.

St Helena Chevening alumna, Pamela Constantine, studied Business Administration at the University of Portsmouth in 2000 and encourages potential future scholars to take advantage of this opportunity. Pamela said:

“A Chevening Scholarship is not just all about study it opens you up to a vast network spanning approximately 50000 alumni members from more than 141 different countries allowing you to share knowledge, grow and be inspired through numerous events, online connections and forums very crucial for development of potential future leaders, innovators and exceptional individuals with exposure being key. In light of the current economic situations we are facing both globally and locally, do take advantage of these opportunities whilst they are still here. ‘Scholar for a year Chevenier for life’.”

To apply, candidates must meet certain criteria including:

• You must be a citizen of St Helena, Ascension or Tristan da Cunha
• You must have completed all components of an undergraduate degree to gain entry at postgraduate level
• You must have at least two years’ work experience
• You must not have studied in the UK previously with funding from a UK government-funded scholarship
• You must return to your country after your study in the UK for a minimum period of two years.

Further information on Chevening can be found by visiting www.chevening.org. You may also contact Chevening Officer, Kerry Lane, at the Governor’s Office on +290 22308 or email: Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your queries.

Governor’s Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
29 September 2020
Vacancy for Rigger or Trainee Rigger

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a Rigger or Trainee Rigger at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island.

The post holder will form part of the Rigging Team, primarily responsible for Antenna Maintenance of the Transmitting Station and other rigging & aerial maintenance related duties.

This post will be offered either on a single or accompanied status, fixed-term contract, with single en-suite room and shared catering facilities or bungalow accommodation, depending on personal circumstances.

Any offer of employment will be conditional on passing a medical examination.

Candidates short-listed for interview will be expected to pass a mast climbing test.

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- Good knowledge of Safe Working practices and Safety Procedures, especially relating to Working at Heights.
- Physically fit, able to pass a climbing medical and climbing test.
- An understanding of paint systems and preparation of surfaces.
- Good mechanical/electrical aptitude, with an understanding of basic mechanical/electrical Systems.
- Competent use and operation of hand, power tools and workshop machinery.
- Be industrious, proactive and work to a high standard.
- Able to prioritise tasks and work without supervision.
- Basic computer skills.
- Full Driving licence.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours

Further Qualifications/Experience requirements will be detailed in the Job Description. (If necessary, the successful candidates will receive complete training to fulfil the above requirements.)

Please contact the Administrative Officer on + 247 66800 (Extn 102) or email glen.yon@encompass.co.ac for a Job Application Form, Job Description and for further information regarding the post.

Applications to be sent to:
   Admin Officer
   BBC Atlantic Relay Station
   English Bay
   Ascension Island (or email glen.yon@encompass.co.ac)

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by Friday 9th October 2020.

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Ascension Island Government

VACANCY NOTICE

We are currently looking to fill the following vacancies to deliver essential work within our Operations & Facilities, and Resources teams:

- Refrigeration Mechanic £11,000
- Construction Operative - Mason £10,500
- Storekeeper £9,500
- Facilities Operative (Waste) – 2 posts £9,000
- Construction Operative – Painter and Glazier £9,000
- School Caretaker £9,000

Full job descriptions for each role, detailing the skills and experience required, can be found at https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/vacancies

All roles are offered as Single status, 2-year fixed-term contracts with the following benefits:

- Rent free accommodation
- A Single status food allowance of £3,350 per annum
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2 year contract
- 30 days’ annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care

All appointments will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance

Closing Date:   Monday 12 October 2020
Interviews:   w/c Monday 12 October (by Skype if off island)
For more information, job descriptions, and to apply visit: https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/
BANK DROPS INTEREST RATES FOR FIRST TIME HOME OWNERS / MORTGAGE APPLICANTS
OFFERS EFFECTIVE 01 OCTOBER 2020

Bank of St Helena Ltd are pleased to announce that as of 01 October 2020, the following will be implemented for first time home owners / mortgages:

**Offer 1:** For applicants who earn £8,500 per annum or less, interest rates of 5% will apply for a term loan up to 25 years.

**OR**

**Offer 2:** For applicants who earn £15,000 per annum or less, payment of the principal loan amount can be deferred for a period of up to 2 years. Interest payments will apply.

The interest only payment period will be at the commencement of the repayment term and the loan will be repaid over the remaining eligible loan term.

During this period of interest only payments, interest will be charged at a rate of 5%, reverting to the prevailing rate (currently 7%) once repayments of both principal and interest commence.

Applicants will not be eligible for both offers. Offers apply to applications received from 01 October 2020. Additional terms and conditions apply.

For more information, please contact the Lending section on 22390 or personallending@sainthelenabank.com.

New bug project for the Trust

Recently, it was announced that the St Helena National Trust (the Trust) was awarded two Darwin Plus funded projects. Here, the 'bug' team would like to introduce you to their project entitled, 'Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive invertebrate control' or 'Invertebrate project' for short.

This project was written to facilitate endemic invertebrate recovery through researching and implementing trial and control methods for suppressing and potential for eradication invasive (organisms which compete or cause harm) invertebrates on St Helena.

Our main focus for this project is the Common wasp (Vespula vulgaris), the Springbok mantis (Mhompitis caffer) and ant species (e.g. Big-headed ant, Pheidole megacephala) which are predating upon our endemic bugs, and out-competing them for food and shelter.

We are currently in the first phase of this three year project, conducting research into the focus species determining their behaviours, life cycles and habitat distribution. All of which will inform an appropriate control method.

Helping the team on this project, are both local (e.g. SHG) and international partners (e.g. Bug life, UK and NZ) as well as independent experts and consultants. This draws on a wealth of knowledge and experience from across the world.

There will be an upcoming information stall in the Jamestown Market for you, the public, so that the team can share the research gathered on potential controls. By attending and giving your feedback, you are helping us with decision making, and determining the next steps. More information about this coming soon!

You can also continue to be part of this project through our public engagement sessions or, Citizen Science programme, through which you can tell us the locations of where you have seen these selected bugs.

Please feel free to contact any of the project team members, Natasha Stevens, Liza Fowler, Daryl Joshua or Christy Jo Scipio O’Dean, on telephone 22224 or email Christy.scipioodean@trust.org.sh

Alternatively just pop into the Trusts offices at Broadway House and keep updated by visiting our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Buglife.

Photo credit: Denny Lee
Role Title: St Helena Project Manager

Salary: Competitive for management in non-profit sector.

Working Hours: Part-Time, Flexible (16 hours/week to begin with)

Contract term: Fixed-term 8 month contract, with intent to extend (subject to performance and funding).

To apply or enquire about this role please contact julie.provino@ipnlf.org with a succinct CV and cover letter, or your enquiry, by 15 October 2020

Job Description: The Project Manager will lead and ensure successful implementation of the Oceans 5/IPNLF one-by-one fisheries project in St Helena, with the goal of enabling the local one-by-one tuna fishery to thrive while strengthening the management, enforcement, scientific information, traceability, and marketability of the fishery for the long-term benefit of St Helena fishing families. The role holder will require a sound technical understanding and work experience in project management.

Key Responsibilities:
- Effectively manage and implement the assigned project, while monitoring and regularly reporting on progress to IPNLF
- Undertake research and develop project related concept notes, policy briefings, discussion papers and proposals to enable stakeholder engagement as part of the project and relevant communications efforts.
- Support the development of relevant communications and outreach materials for local and international stakeholders.
- Collaborate closely with IPNLF and project stakeholders to identify and implement project activities.
- Keep abreast of international fisheries management and operational best practice to ensure project activities are relevant to the global and local context.
- Provide and promote policy-related advice regarding national and local regulatory frameworks, international commitments and relevant opportunities.

Education and Experience:
- 5+ years of experience in relevant field.
- Sound technical understanding of marine fisheries.
- Experience with project management and stakeholder engagement

Knowledge and skills:
- Ability to think strategically and creatively.
- Excellent relationship-building skills and exceptional teamwork abilities.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills.
- Excellent proven stakeholder management and relationship-building skills.
- Ability to work effectively in multi-disciplinary and multicultural teams.
- Ability to set challenging but realistic goals and solve problems effectively.
- Produce high quality products/services with attention to detail.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

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- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
The Saint Helena Government wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the Refurbishment of Levelwood Public Toilets near Silver Hill Bar.

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Shelley Thomas
Executive Assistant
Programme Management Unit
The Castle
Jamestown
Telephone No: 22470 or Email: shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh

If you require any further details, please contact
Graduate Civil Engineer, Mr Kyle Shoesmith, on telephone number 25805 or email kyle.shoesmith@sainthelena.gov.sh

A hard copy of completed tenders should be submitted in the tender box located in the main Castle Foyer, Jamestown by 11am on Monday 5th October 2020.

Interested parties should note that this opportunity is not being advertised overseas.

SHG
17 September 2020

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation,

- Be analytical and have an aptitude for figures
- Be computer literate normally in Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word
- Have excellent communication skills
- Be analytical and have an aptitude for figures
- Have the ability to prioritise and work to deadlines
- Be well organised with a keen eye for detail
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude

Salary for the post will be $8,038.20 per annum ($669.85 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a

Buying Clerk

Within the Procurement Department

To ensure that a reliable and efficient service is provided for the sourcing and supply of overseas purchases.

Interested Persons Should:

For further information, including the Company’s attractive benefits package, please contact
Julie Lishman, Procurement Manager on telephone number: 23504 or via email address: procurement@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomon’s Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively on electronic copy can be requested via email address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Miss Doreen Lega, Human Resources Officer, Solomon’s Office, Jamestown, by 12 October 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Are you a highly motivated individual and willing to accept a challenge? A vacancy has arisen for the exciting and varied role of Customs Officer - helping to protect the borders of St Helena and assisting with raising important revenue for the island.

The post-holder must have the following qualifications and experience

- GCSE Maths, English and ICT at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a Functional Skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- Class A Drivers Licence;
- Cash Handling Experience.

Prospective candidates should have good customer service skills and a keen willingness to learn.

Please note that the successful applicant will need to be available for an immediate start.

Fixed term contract until 31 December 2020

Salary for the post is at Grade Level C, £8,613 per annum

For further information about the duties of the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons should contact Juliette O’Dean, Acting Head of Customs on telephone number 22287 or email: juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources or the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Vennin, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 6 October 2020

For further information, including the Company’s attractive benefits package, please contact
Julie Lishman, Procurement Manager on telephone number: 23504 or via email address: procurement@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomon’s Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively on electronic copy can be requested via email address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Miss Doreen Lega, Human Resources Officer, Solomon’s Office, Jamestown, by 12 October 2020.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance.

SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.
COMMUNICATIONS and NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS (CNS) and IT APPRENTICE VACANCY WITHIN ST HELENA AIRPORT LIMITED.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a professional team to undertake training in maintaining equipment and facilities which provide communications and navigational systems for a safe and compliant airport operation.

Education/Qualifications:
Applicants should have a good command of English, and have achieved English, Maths and IT GCSE at grade C or above. Although Science or Physics GCSE is highly desirable, the successful applicant can be released for further education during the programme to achieve the necessary qualifications. Previous IT experience would also be advantageous.

Responsibilities:
The Apprentice will be responsible to the CNS and IT Specialist, and will be trained in maintenance, fault finding and repairs in Ground-to-Air communication and Navigational Systems, Meteorological Systems, Airport Ground Lighting and IT Systems. Attention to detail is vital in order to provide maintenance, conduct tests and daily checks, and update records for critical calibrated equipment. The successful candidate should be able to work as a team member, be patient and able to remain calm under challenging circumstances, and work diligently in preparation for audits and visiting calibration aircraft. The Apprentice must be physically fit, will be expected to work both indoors and outdoors, and be confident to climb communication masts, carry out aircraft ground handling duties when required and any other duties to support airport operations.

Safety:
Comply with, support and promote SHAL Safety and Environmental Policies which includes:
- Operating tools, equipment, and machinery safely according to prescribed safety procedures.
- Follow established safety procedures and techniques to perform job duties including lifting, climbing, etc.
- Correct unsafe conditions in the work area and report any conditions that cannot be corrected immediately.
- Maintain good housekeeping of the work areas and equipment.
- Act according to emergency procedures and safety instructions.
- Undergo a Criminal Background Check.

The Apprentice must be flexible with their working routine; normal hours of work are from 08:00 to 16:00 Tuesday to Saturday and may include working on Sundays and out of hours to support scheduled and ad-hoc aircraft operations. The Apprentice must be physically fit, able to lift items weighing up to 20kgs, work in standing positions for long periods of time, and work indoors and outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather. The successful candidate must also be able to work in compliance with international regulations and adhere to the Airport Safety, Environmental and Health and Safety policies.

The Apprentice must be willing to attend all required training, have a professional outlook and able to provide the following:
- A full medical assessment
- A 5-year verifiable employment/education history check and be able to show evidence for periods of unemployment
- Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- Undergo a Criminal Background Check.

In this instance, the opportunity is being offered on a 12-month basis with the Apprentice’s performance monitored and assessed through the Company’s performance appraisal process.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and some skills to suit this role, or if you would like more information or to receive the Apprentice job description and application form, please contact Elaine Hopkins at the St Helena Airport on telephone number 25180 Ext 0 or via email address recruitment@shlehenaairport.aero. For information on the Apprenticeship programme contact Scott Standen, IT & CNS Specialist on Tel 25180 Ext 139.

The closing date for this position is Friday 9th October 2020.
Equality and Human Rights
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY SAINT HELENA EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

OCTOBER 2020

This month in Saint history for human rights.

1st October 1688: Elizabeth Cotherne pleads to Council she cannot pay her debt due to her slaves having died. Council concludes she killed her slaves by overwork and ill-treatment, but then debates only the debt and not her treatment of the slaves.

24th October 1906: Half Tree Hollow’s water supply dangerous to health with no finance for improvement.

25th October 1917: The St Helena Guardian is censored so the editor, Benjamin Grant, closes the paper for two years. http://sainthelenasland.info/

OUR CONSTITUTION

The constitution is seen as the highest legal guarantee of people’s well-being and interests, as well as a fundamental tool to shape the life of the society and to organise the State. Gaps in the implementation of human rights at the domestic level, often originate from shortcomings in the area of constitutional law. Therefore, constitutional amendments should appropriately reflect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Constitution-making presents moments of great opportunity to create a common vision of the future of the state, the results of which can have profound and lasting impacts on peace and stability. Our Constitutional reform has to be transparent and inclusive, embrace the essential elements of democracy, and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Children’s rights shall be respected, protected and fulfilled in the digital environment. Innovations in digital technologies impact children’s lives and their rights in ways that are wide-ranging, cumulative and interdependent. Meaningful access to digital technologies can support children to realise the full range of their civil, economic, social, cultural, environmental, political and social rights. However, if digital inclusion is not improved, already existing inequalities are likely to be exacerbated.

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Indigenous rights includes the rights over their land, language, religion, and other elements of cultural heritage that are a part of their existence and identity as a people. There is a need for governments to establish mechanisms and processes for comprehensive dialogue and consultations with indigenous peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent in relation to any project that will have an impact on their territories and resources; therefore respecting the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples and ensuring they are able to exercise their rights in accordance with International human rights standards.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can be a victim — or perpetrator — of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse, and economic deprivation. Report it, don’t suffer in silence.

This month

1. October, International Day of Older Persons
2. October, World Habitat Day
3. October, World Mental Health Day
4. October, World Food Day
5. October, International Day for the Elimination of violence against women
6. October, United Nations Day

MALCOLM X: HISTORY IS A PEOPLE’S MEMORY, AND WITHOUT MEMORY, MAN IS DEMOTED TO LOWER ANIMALS.
St Helena Golf Club

Last Sunday, Sept. 27 at 12:00 21 players teed off for the September monthly medal competition. It was fairly dry, but as the day progressed the weather took a turn for the worse. Good visibility in wet conditions is usually not an issue for golfers, but with reduced visibility due to fog it became dangerous. In the interest of safety, the competition was cancelled at around 14:45.

The abandoned September monthly medal will have a fresh start next Sunday, Oct. 4. Tee off at 12:00, and the groups and tee boxes will remain the same. Should any players who had not registered wish to add their names to the competition they should do so before 15:00 on Saturday, Oct. 3.

Members are reminded that the St Helena Open Championship will start Sunday, Oct. 18 at 10:00 and end Saturday, Oct. 31. On Friday, Oct. 9 St Matthew’s Parish will be hosting a quiz night fundraiser event at the Golf Club from 19:30, members are invited to support this event.

Wish you all a great weekend of great weather...!

SHFA match reports

Saturday, Sept. 26

Saturday saw Bellboys beat the Lakers 4-0. At halftime Bellboys had a two goal lead, with goals coming from Kyle Shoesmith and Andrew Yon. The Lakers had plenty of chances to score but were wasteful in front of goal. Andrew Yon would go on to complete his hat-trick in the second half with two more goals, and also win the Man of the Match.

Bellboys 4 v 0 Lakers

Sunday, Sept. 27

Sunday’s first game was a very close contest between Harts and Saints, with Harts eventually winning 3-1. Saints were defending well, restricting Harts to long-range shots that Young Player of the Match Reeddwaan Richards was equal to. Simon Scipio broke the deadlock with a tap-in late in the first half. In the second half Saints equalized with a goal from Musata. In the last 20 mins there were two red cards and two goals, including a penalty. Sean-lee Thomas converted the spot kick and Ross O’Dean came off the bench to seal the game.

Harts 3 v 1 Saints

The final game of the weekend saw Wirebirds score 7 goals against Axis. The boys in pink this year have been playing some good football, and have been solid at the back, but they were no match against a Wirebirds side striving for the league title. Goals for the Birds came from Man of the Match Tyler Benjamin (2), Shane Stroud (2), Cody Harris (2), and Ricardo Williams.

Wirebirds 7 v 0 Axis

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Crystal Rangers managed to put a team together to play their postponed match against Rovers on a cold Tuesday afternoon. Despite the best efforts of the Rangers, Rovers defeated them 29-nil.

Rico Benjamin strengthened his position on top of the Hotshots Chart, scoring a further 12 goals; Ronan Legg scored 7; Trystan Thomas and Dane Wade each scored a hat-trick; keeper Keith Yon scored a penalty; and Julian Henry, Aiden Yon–Stevens and Christen Yon all made the score sheet.

Rico Benjamin was named Man of the Match and Trystan Thomas picked up the Young Player of the Match.

Crystal Rangers 0 v 29 Rovers