THE South Atlantic Media Services, Ltd.

www.sams.sh

SENTINEL

Vol. 12, Issue 37 - Price: £1 *"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"* Thursday 14 December 2023

"We realise we fell short"

Meihuizen International admits to "challenges" in St Helena Shipping





Come Dine with Dan



Travel St Helena
One Year On



The Scipio's are Back in Town

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Donna Crowie, SAMS

Are you all ready for Christmas? Decorations up, tree decorated?

How on earth did this happen so quickly as it feels like I was just packing the Christmas items away and now they are out again.

It's starting to look like Christmas in town now, with the Christmas tree outside of Solomon's office, homes light up at night with those Christmas lights and not forgetting the orange cones are out (suppose to be stopping people from parking in the area, unfortunately that not happening) ☒

Also good to see new faces around and it's nice that people are arriving to spend Christmas on the Island. For Christmas I don't think St Helena will disappoint, with loads of events coming up. It's the time of year I think the calendar gets tired with holding all the events.

I am not sure if age kicking in or what, but as you get older I think we appreciate things more, as kids all we think of is presents under the tree, and if Santa did bring what you been busting to have but now it's spending time with family and friends that makes it a perfect time (now I am not saying I don't want presents) but yeah, time is precious also, so spend it the way you want to and enjoy every minute of it.

I hope are website users will enjoy the early Christmas present SAMS has given this year, with some hard work and dedication in getting our website up and running and making it user-friendly and now adding a podcast page where anyone can go and listen back to interviews and live broadcast we have done from anywhere and anytime you wish. Fingers crossed there will be another Christmas surprise coming soon!

I would now like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024.

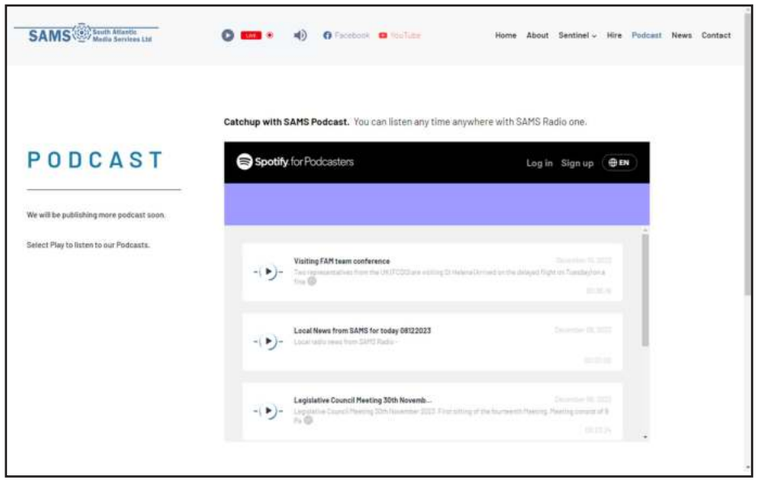
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ST HELENA NEWS

Listen Again – Anywhere, Anytime

SAMS Podcast Page now available on our Website

Donna Crowie, SAMS



Since the announcement of faster internet on-Island, SAMS have been exploring different ways to get our content out to the public in more ways than ever before on the platforms you are using.

We have already updated our website to make it more user-friendly, and we are now pleased to announce that, as of this week, SAMS have launched a new podcast page where you can catch up on all of the interviews and live broadcasts put out on SAMS Radio One.

This is something we have been eagerly looking forward to because now anyone, anywhere, can enjoy listening to our engaging content whenever and wherever they like just by visiting our website at www.sams.sh and going to the new podcast page.

This is not all we have been working on though, so watch this space for more good news coming soon to all our customers from SAMS!



ST HELENA NEWS

"We realise we fell short"

Meihuizen International admits to "challenges" but is thankful for support and hopes for the "opportunity to service St Helena in the future"



Liam Yon, SAMS

As we approach the New Year, St Helena prepares to embark on a new venture in terms of the provision of the Islands ocean freight service with the expectation that SHG will soon announce MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping GmbH & Co. as our new Shipping Service Provider from around February 2024.

Following the end of service of the MV Helena and Andrew Weir Ship Management Ltd (AWSML), SHG had to source another option quickly and therefore entered into an interim arrangement with SA-based Meihuizen International to operate the Island's shipping service for a 12-month period via their vessel the MV Maria da Paz.

The interim contract was for the MV Maria da Paz to arrive to St Helena every six weeks starting March 2023, with a total of nine voyages for the year. "This we have managed to do albeit with the challenges of having to start up at very short notice and with no hand over assistance," said Meihuizen in a recent Press Release. "We have our last and final voyage scheduled to arrive in St Helena in March 2024."

The interim service has received criticism during the past year, mostly due to numerous delays being experienced and the almost constant changing of sailing schedules, however the vessel did regularly supply St Helena with goods - even if late at times - to ensure that stocks on the Island remained sufficient in most cases. "We realise we fell short in some areas of our shipping service and must admit servicing an Island can be more challenging than operating in an established commercial trade route," they said. "We adapted as we went along, we found it difficult to have arrival dates on a fixed named day basis, because of external intervening factors, but on average we met our obligation of having our vessel call at Rupert's Bay every six weeks."

Looking ahead to the New Year and the eventual conclusion of Meihuizen's service to St Helena, the company have provided details on their final voyage to the Island. "In order to remove any ambiguity and potential loss of continuity affecting possible food security we can confirm our last sailing will be Voyage 9, which will commence from Thamesport UK on 16 January 2024, and from Cape Town South Africa on 3 March 2024, with estimated time of arrival at St Helena on 11 March 2024," they explained. "With this last voyage, we will have our vessel the MV Maria da Paz call at Cape Town directly and thence straight to St Helena."

Meihuizen went on to make an appeal to importers "to please try to have our containers unpacked as quickly as possible" following her last arrival to St Helena as the vessel will be "standing by to return our empty containers on this same voyage." They add that "containers not ready to be returned could be available for purchase at reasonable cost."

In concluding, Meihuizen thanked the Island for all the support they received throughout the time servicing our shipping needs and hinted at the possibility of a future partnership with St Helena. "We take this opportunity to thank you for the support we have received throughout this year," they said. "We trust that the opportunity to service St Helena in the future might again occur."

Formal Legislative Council Meeting

On Thursday, 30 November, a Legislative Council meeting was held in the Council Chamber. The Sentinel will be covering the stories stemming from the questions posed in the House. This week, issues being covered from LegCo include why ExCo is closed to the public, the primary school review and the developing competition policy.

Competition Policy

Policy to address competition between SHG and Private Sector



Hannah Braff, SAMS

Cllr Dr Corinda Essex posed questions to Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Mark Brooks, on a policy addressing competition between SHG and the Private Sector.

"I am advised by the Economic Development Portfolio that work is progressing on the development of a very comprehensive competition policy for St Helena," stated Minister Brooks. "Although, progress to-date has been limited due to the other pressing priorities within Portfolio."

"While the development of the policy is written into the Economic Development Portfolio strategy plan, which I have shared with Elected Members, a lack of resources has meant that development of this quite complex policy has progressed slower than I wanted it to," Minister Brooks further stated.

"The policy that is being developed will... provide for overarching competition rules on St Helena," Minister Brooks explained. "This will include powers to deal with specific sectors that require special rules because of their monopolistic nature (... someone offering a service on the Island that nobody else is offering), and it also applies to SHG whenever we engage in activities where there is an actual potential competitor."

"The policy... has considered whether the Commonwealth model bill on competition provides a suitable base for competition rules on St Helena," Minister Brooks further explained. "In other words, the team is looking to other areas in the Commonwealth to help design this competition policy, and seeing and learning from what other areas of the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions are doing to help address this issue."

"All portfolios are encouraged to act within the principles of this government's vision and strategy, which includes establishing an enabling environment for the Private Sector to thrive," continued Minister Brooks. "To that end, if any member of the Private Sector feels that SHG is acting in direct competition with them, then please do not hesitate to contact me or contact any of the Councillors through their local reps... This government has set its vision now a little over two years ago, or just on two years, and every sector of the public service should be working in principle to that vision."

Cllr Karl Thrower then asked if this policy encourages divestment of government equities and sectors that compete with the Private Sector.

"That will be included, but also as a separate piece of work, we are, as a government, looking at areas that can be divested into the Private Sector," Minister Brooks responded. "We have, in the past, talked about the Tourism function of St Helena Government and I have given assurance to this House that, eventually, we do want to move to having that function delivered by the Private Sector, but... right now isn't the best time."

Cllr Dr Essex asked if an indicative timeline for the completion of this policy could be provided.

"It is hard for me to stand here as a Minister and give specific timeframes when I know these timeframes will all depend on the capacity within the Portfolio, which is not in my control," explained Minister Brooks. "I will do my best to push this forward, bearing in mind that there's other competing priorities within our Portfolio... Right now we are struggling with those resources within our Portfolio."

"We can give an indicative date of the second quarter of the next financial year," Minister Brooks stated. "However, I will emphasise again that it is this government's vision and strategy to support the local Private Sector and we want to be an enabling government."

"It really needs to be highlighted how much pressure is on the public service at the moment to deliver on a lot of the big projects," Chief Minister Thomas added. "Unless Minister Brooks now has more information, I would be a little reluctant to [give a definitive timeline]."

Openness and Transparency?

Cllr Turner Questions why ExCo is closed to the Public



Hannah Braff, SAMS

Cllr Andrew Turner questioned what steps Chief Minister Julie Thomas has taken towards "openness and transparency" in SHG.

"The Ministerial Code, which was approved by this Council in December 2022, is the framework which guides how this government operates," Chief Minister Thomas responded. "The principle of collective responsibility set out in the Ministerial Code requires the Minister to act in accordance with decisions taken collectively with the other Ministers and also requires the Minister to be able to express a view frankly in a private setting, so as to maintain unity in respect of a decision reached."

"Pursuant to this principle, the private [nature] and confidentiality of the business of Executive Council and any other ministerial forum and any correspondence in relation thereto must be maintained," Chief Minister Thomas further stated. "Whilst the business of government through Executive Council is conducted in private, my government takes every opportunity to ensure that policy decisions are communicated to the public, as soon as practical, via press releases and by radio."

"Ministers also give regular updates via their In Scope radio programme (on SAMS Radio One) that has now been running, believe or not, for nearly 18 months," Chief Minister Thomas continued. "In addition, Ministers meet weekly with all Elected Members to update them on key policy work streams, and Elected Members are able to invite officials to provide technical detail whenever this is required. Other forums include Legislative Council and Ministers Question Time, both of which provide opportunity for Elected Members to question Ministers on policy in an open setting, and Scrutiny Committees provide a process whereby Elected Members can play an influential role in the shaping of policy and decisions that will have a real benefit on behalf of the community they represent."

"I know there is a review of the government website and I know that there's a lot going on there, whereby we hope to be able to engage with the community now that we have better connectivity," Chief Minister Thomas added.

Cllr Turner inquired as to why ExCo needs to be closed to the public.

"We're all human and we see it within the twelve, we don't always have the same opinion, but we must come out to the public with a decision," Chief Minister Thomas explained. "When the decision is taken, we need to stand by that decision and take the Island forward because, at the end of the day, all decisions taken are for the betterment of St Helena."

"We have enough unrest on the Island in certain areas already and... to have the opportunity then to almost play one Minister against the other I don't think would be helpful to take this Ministerial Government forward."

Cllr Turner then questioned why ExCo was open to the public in the past, but is now private.

"St Helena... voted for a Ministerial Government and now we're having to operate in a Ministerial Government but we're still trying to make it work like a Committee System and that's not going to happen," Chief Minister Thomas responded.

"In Scope was my idea, so if I didn't want to be open and transparent, I wouldn't do such things," Chief Minister Thomas continued. "We make ourselves available... I have not known any of the Ministers to decline a meeting.... we share what we can. We do go out in the public domain as much as we possibly can to talk about the work that we do."

"I think we need to honour our own Ministerial Code, which is for us to be able to have those discussions in closed forums," Chief Minister Thomas concluded. "As soon as decisions are taken, we put them out in the public domain."



"Wider review" of Education needed

Chief Minister gives update on Primary School Review

Hannah Braff, SAMS



Cllr Midwinter asked Chief Minister and Minister for Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio, Julie Thomas, for a progress update on the ongoing Primary School Review.

"On 26 July, a preliminary workshop was held with the consultant contracted to undertake preparation work on the Primary School Review," Chief Minister Thomas stated. "In attendance were Education personnel, representatives from all schools, and invited stakeholders which included the Children's Champion, PTA Parent Reps and myself. Data collected has been shared with the consultant and we are now awaiting feedback."

"In the meantime, we are progressing the following work streams," the Chief Minister continued. "Determining the most cost effective and efficient school bus routes for the different Primary School site options – we have initiated work with GIS to undertake this piece of work; assessing school capacity and capability to accommodate potential class sizes; and obviously we are also looking at this when we talk about the growing concern regarding our Special Educational Needs and also our Social, Emotional and Mental Health."

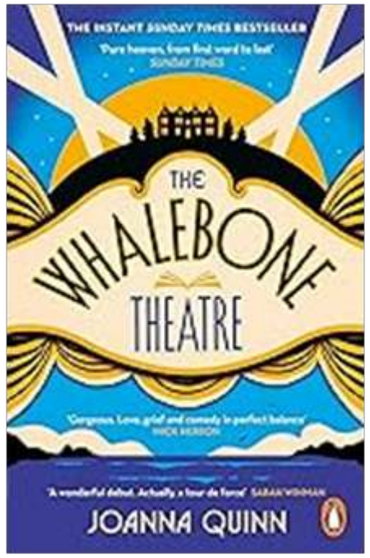
Chief Minister Thomas listed some of the challenges the Portfolio have been experiencing including "the increasing concern regarding recruitment for key teaching roles and support services, and having to do more with less, and constantly having to review how we maintain our educational standards, while doing all we can to retain our overstretched staff and working collaboratively with our strategic partners."

"It has been identified that there is need for a wider review of the Portfolio and education provision on St Helena," Chief Minister Thomas explained. "We are therefore proposing to undertake an Education Review Project, of which the Primary School Review will be a part, but this review will also include... Secondary Education, Inclusion, Teacher Training, Adult Education, and Training and Development, and it is anticipated that this work will progress from January 2024. Elected members and key stakeholders will be updated as the project develops and progresses."



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Whalebone Theatre by Joanna Quinn

Cristabel Seagrave has always wanted her life to be a story, but there are no girls in the books in her dusty family library. For an unwanted orphan who grows into an unmarriageable young woman, there is no place at all for her in a traditional English manor. But from the day that a whale washes up on the beach at the Chilcombe estate in Dorset, and twelve-year-old Cristabel plants her flag and claims it as her own, she is determined to do things differently. With her step-parents blithely distracted by their endless party guests, Cristabel and her siblings, Flossie and Digby, scratch together an education from the plays they read in their freezing attic, drunken conversations eavesdropped through oak-panelled doors, and the esoteric lessons of Maudie their maid.

But as the children grow to adulthood and war approaches, jolting their lives on to very different tracks, it becomes clear that the roles they are expected to play are no longer those they want. As they find themselves drawn into the conflict, they must each find a way to write their own story...

Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.
www.sainthelenabank.com

Festive Season Openings

Date	St Helena Branch	Ascension Branch	Accounts & Payments	Lending
Monday, 25th & Tuesday, 26th December	Closed			
Wednesday, 27th December	09:00 - 13:00			
Thursday, 28th December	09:00 - 13:00			
Friday, 29th December	Closed			
Saturday, 30th December	09:00 - 12:00	Closed		
Monday, 1st January	Closed			

Please Note: International Remittance Services will be accepted up to an hour before closing on 27th and 28th December 2023.

Normal Bank opening times will resume on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024.

Bank of St Helena Ltd takes this opportunity to wish all our customers a Happy Festive Season and a Prosperous New Year.

"Powers to Enforce"

SHG issue reminder on illegal use of Starlink and Unlicensed Telecoms Equipment

Liam Yon, SAMS



Most will remember earlier this year, prior to the agreement between SHG and Sure South Atlantic Ltd to connect with Equiano - bringing the community a mix of fibre and copper internet connectivity, boasting faster speeds and unlimited allowances - there were many people on-Island that had procured, or were in the process of procuring Starlink Terminals.

Starlink was the talk of the town at the time, offering much-improved connectivity when compared to the then SURE offering, which it should be noted was via an exclusive telecoms license on St Helena. This meant that, despite their growing popularity, Starlink and use of their terminals were in contravention of the exclusivity of current telecommunications licensing arrangements made under section 3(4) of the Telecommunications Ordinance 1989.

SHG therefore issued a warning back in July to those using Starlink, or any other terminal for the purpose of internet connectivity, that continued use could and would result in the issuing of a cease and desist order, and that any breach of this order may result in the confiscation of equipment.

A grace period was provided to allow persons using unlicensed equipment the opportunity to make alternative arrangements, with 1 November set as the date for the use of these to stop. Since then, on 1 October, a new era of internet connectivity was rolled out on St Helena by SURE, after SHG extended their exclusive telecoms licence by a minimum of 18 months, and therefore now, as we enter the festive season on-Island, SHG are reminding the public not to be using Starlink or other terminals for internet connectivity.

"Regulations have been drafted under the Telecommunications Ordinance 1989 and approved by the Executive Council," they said. "Whilst it has always been an offence to use certain telecommunications equipment without a licence, the new Regulations provide SHG with appropriate powers to enforce this."

"Given the significant improvements in internet services since 01 October 2023, in both price and offering, we are pleased to note that voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations in place has been encouraging," added SHG. "However, measures to enforce licensing provisions will be deployed if non-compliance is observed. This could result in confiscation of equipment and prosecution of individuals. Anyone that might be using unlicensed apparatus is therefore encouraged to cease use of such apparatus."

Cutting it Close to Christmas

Further delays for Maria da Paz for December Voyage



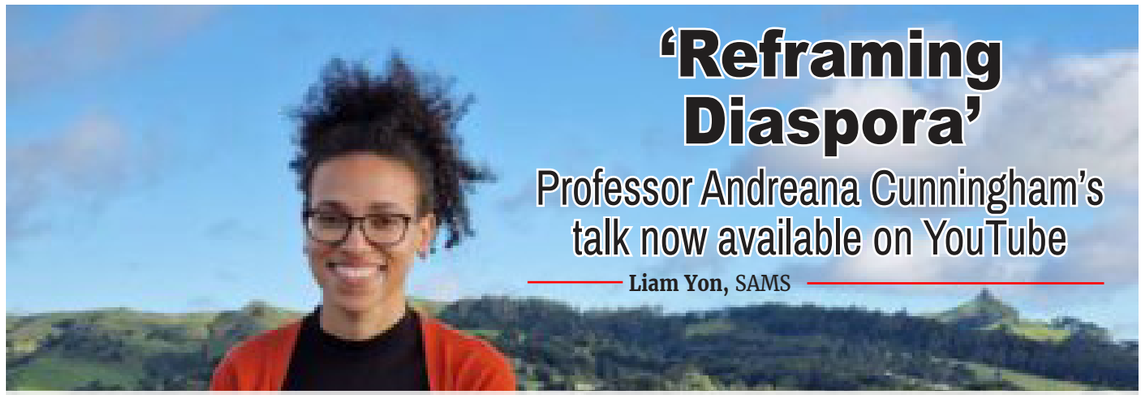
Donna Crowie, SAMS

What will come as disappointing (but not surprising) news on St Helena, the MV Maria da Paz is further delayed for her December voyage to the Island.

Meihuizen International confirmed that the Maria Da paz is "undergoing repairs in Luanda" and they continued by saying that "arrival at Walvis Bay is now planned for 15 December 2023 with sailing on 17 December."

In an updated schedule from Meihuizen International, they inform that the Maria da Paz will now arrive to St Helena on Thursday, 21 December, just a few days short of Christmas Day.

The vessel is due to depart for the final time in 2023 on Sunday, 24 December (Christmas Eve).



'Reframing Diaspora'

Professor Andreana Cunningham's talk now available on YouTube

Liam Yon, SAMS

On Monday, 4 December, Professor Andreana Cunningham gave a presentation at The Museum of St Helena at 6.30pm titled "Reframing Diaspora: Southeastern African Contributions to Biosocial Variation in Atlantic Afro-Descendant Groups."

Andree visited St Helena back in April—May 2022 to conduct research on the skeletal remains of the Liberated Africans in Rupert's Valley prior to their reburial. This research formed part of her PhD Anthropology study in understanding how certain African/Afro-descendant biological groups formed and changed over time, and investigating patterns of biological relatedness that may not be reflected in historic migration data.

Following her visit to the Island, Andree continued her studies and in September 2023 completed her dissertation.

She was therefore keen to share her results with the community of St Helena, in particular focussing on her study of the remains of enslaved Africans and Afro descendants and her research here on the Island last year.

Andree did just that on 3 December via a zoom presentation to those in attendance at The Museum.

The St Helena National Trust, who hosted the event, are now pleased to announce for those who could not make it to the presentation live, that the full talk given by Andree has now been made available via their YouTube channel.

The video is around 50mins in length and can be viewed by anyone interested on the popular video sharing site - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1LBd6D4RnA.

'International Gateway to St Helena Island'

St Helena Celebrates International Civil Aviation Day 2023



Liam Yon, SAMS

Last Thursday, 7 December, was celebrated around the world as International Civil Aviation Day, with SHG observing the international day with a Press Release.

"We recognise the development of global aviation and the social and economic benefits this realises around the world, and is realising here on St Helena," they said. "The aviation industry has a major influence on modern life, providing fast transportation across the world. This has been particularly true for St Helena, where aviation has had a significant impact on our lives since the first flights to and from the Island commenced in 2017."

The theme for Civil Aviation Day this year was 'Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development'.

In their release, SHG recognised the many technologies that have been introduced in the aviation industry over the years to both airports and aircrafts themselves, all with the aim of making travel more effective and efficient. They add that ongoing innovation is needed to keep current with the demands and expectations of the modern traveller and to also broaden the benefits to the industry.

Looking ahead, SHG recognises how travel will continue to change in the coming decades as global priorities shift and new innovative technologies become available, redefining efficiencies in travel. They allude to new cutting-edge technology such as drones, AI, biometrics, advanced robotics, and aircraft using alternative fuels, and how this will all have a positive impact on travel and airport experiences.

"As this evolves, we can expect to see some of these innovative solutions and new technologies deployed to St Helena too," SHG concluded. "Our airport remains the 'International Gateway to St Helena Island', providing welcoming, compliant and efficient airport operations for St Helena."

To celebrate the day, St Helena Airport launched a short video on all the various flights that have made St Helena a landing station since the opening of the Airport.

The Scipio's are Back in Town

Skipp's officially reopens with a popular new service on offer

Demy Herne, SAMS



On Friday, 8 December, Skipp's officially reopened, with Paul and Craig Scipio providing St Helena with a blast from the past to Saints who remember their famous soft serve Ice Cream caravan.

Situated in front of the Jamestown Swimming Pool, the revived Skipp's has taken on a new look with two colourfully designed caravans with designs on each trailer showing what will be served, a green matting reminiscent to grass, and sheltered seating areas for customers.

Along with their popular ice creams and hot food, Skipp's have also introduced a new service that has gone down overwhelmingly well so far – that being the serving of beer from the tap.

Covering hot food, sweet treats, and cold beer meant that Skipps was a busy and lively venue on the day of their reopening with customers mingling down at the seaside from the afternoon well into Friday evening.

"We would just like to say a huge thanks and gratitude to all who came to support the reopening, the positive vibes and heartfelt feedback were truly amazing and greatly appreciated," commented Craig Scipio. "We look forward to seeing you all again over the coming weeks."

Photos courtesy of Island Images







"We congratulate Deacon Clarence and are very proud"

Deacon Clarence Roberts passes Higher Certificate in Theology with a Distinction

Office of the Bishop of St Helena, Contributed

The Anglican Diocese of St Helena has its first successful student passing a theology course using the Theological Education by Extension College within the Province of Southern Africa.

Bishop Dale Bowers, with the advice of Ven Allan Williams, approached Fr Craig Dunsmuir at the Theological Education by Extension College to see what was available for clergy to study, when he was attending Provincial Synod in 2019. After making all the arrangements, Deacon Clarence Wellington Roberts was enrolled into the Higher Certificate in Theology in 2020. The course was a distance learning course where the student would receive course material and be supported by a mentor or mentors and is also ideal for those who are already carrying out a Ministry, as it allows the course to complement their practical Ministry within the parish they are serving. The deadlines for submitting work were very strict and also the citation format to be used in assignments.

Deacon Clarence was at first a bit anxious, like all of us are when we have to study, but with determination and dedication and the willingness to learn and accept positive criticism he started his course.

The course consisted of the following: Introduction to Theological Study Skills, Introduction to the Old Testament, Introduction to the New Testament, Introduction to Church History, Introduction to Theology, Introduction to Spirituality, Introduction to Christian Ethics, Called to Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Christian Proclamation: Preaching, and Introduction to Christian Worship.

Deacon Clarence passed all of his assignments and his overall course grade is a Distinction. This is a great achievement for Deacon Clarence who has also grown in his Ministry as he started to link his practical Ministry with what he was learning from the course, his mentors and his course moderators. He has also carried this out whilst carrying out a fulltime Ministry, in the last part looking after the parish of St James, with the Hospital and Prison chaplaincies. As the saying goes, behind every man or woman is a great man or woman, and his wife Pamela has been exceptionally supportive of Deacon Clarence's Ministry and studies. As a Church, we know that a Ministry can only work when both husband and wife is called to that Ministry, so that support through the challenges is given by the spouse. This is evident with Deacon Clarence and Pamela.

Deacon Clarence will attend his graduation in Johannesburg on 20 April 2024 along with his wife. This will be a very proud moment for Deacon Clarence, them as a family, and also for us as a Diocese, as it is the first time that we have had a student successfully completing theological education remotely. On behalf of the Diocese of St Helena, we congratulate Deacon Clarence and are very proud of his achievement. May God continue to pour out His grace upon you and bless you in your Ministry.



Princess Amara-Grace

Amara-Grace RoseAnn Thomas



An adorable baby girl was welcomed to the world by her proud parents Cherilee Thomas-Yon and Jamie Thomas on 14 September at 12.53 weighting a bouncing 6lb 13ounces.

Baby Amara-Grace is doing really well and has settled well. Mummy and Daddy love having their baby girl around.

Amara-Grace is blessed with her two big brothers and her 16-month old sister Jayla Rose who have all bonded well with her. Big Sister Jayla is a bit jealous, but is very protective of her baby sister.

Cherilee and Jamie would like to thank midwives Erika Bowers, Rosie Mittens and the theatre team for their support and being there on the delivery as well as Dr Francisco and his team for the safe delivery of their baby girl.

Extended thanks go to Nanny Wendy for being there and Papa Anthony for taking care of Jayla-Rose during this time. A big thank you to nurse's Maureen Ellick and Latoya Thomas for their care during the stay at the Hospital.

Donna Crowie, SAMS

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

SHG SERVICES OPENING HOURS - CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2023/24

All SHG Portfolios and services will close on 25 and 26 December 2023 and on 1January 2024. The following table provides details of opening hours between the 22 and 29 December 2023. Normal business will resume on 2January 2024.

Unless otherwise stated, the following Services will close at 4pm on 22 December 2023

SHG Portfolio	Service	Details
Central Support Service	The Archives	
	Judicial Services	
Treasury	Income Tax Office	
	Social Security Office	
Economic Development	Civil Aviation	On-call for emergencies only.Please call: 51461or51936
	Housing Section	On-call services will be provided for emergency repairs only
	Land Registry Office	
Education, Skills & Employment	St Helena Research Institute	
	Careers Access	
	Administration	Enquiries can be made to Angela Benjamin on 24544 or 62331
	Public Library	Closed from 1pm on 23 December 2023 until 2January 2024
	All Schools	Closed from 18 December 2023 until 15 January 2024
Environment, Natural Resources &Planning	Planning Office	
	Scotland Office	
	Veterinary Service	On-call for emergencies. Please call: 62039 or 26162
	Forestry Service	On-call for emergencies. Please call: 65394 or 24202
	Waste Management	Enquiries can be made to the Waste Management Services Supervisor onmobile: 66380 (AM only)
	Marine Centre	Closed from 4pm on 19 December 2023 to 2January 2024
	Marine Enforcement	Closed from 1pm on 23 December 2023. Please call: 64642 for enquiries outside of opening normal opening hours
Health & Social Care	Environmental Health Service	Staff on-call can be contacted via the Hospital Switchboard on tel: 22500
	Administration	Staff on-call can be contacted via the Hospital Switchboard on tel: 22500
Safety Security and Home Affairs	Port Control	The Harbour Master can be contacted in an emergency on VHF channel 14/16 or mobile numbers: 67383 or 61827 or tel: 24817 or via the Police Control Room on tel: 22626
	Immigration Office	Any queries can be directed to Coleman's House on tel: 22626
	HM Customs	Closed from 4pm on 23 December. An Officer will be on-call during this time.
	Prison Services	HM Prison remains operational over the festive period, however there will be no social visits on 25 and 26 December 2023 and 1 January 2024
	Royal St Helena Police and Fire Service	Services will operate as normal. For any emergencies call telephone number 999, for non-emergencies call 22626

The following Services will operate the 27,28and 29 December 2023

SHG Portfolio	Service	Details
Central Support Service	The Castle Reception	8.30am–12noon
Economic Development	Tourist Office	8.30am–12noon
Health &Social Care	Mental Health Services	8.30am–4pm
	Dental Department	8.30am–10am (Emergencies Only)
	Community Nursing	27, 28 and 29 December - Jamestown Outpatient Clinic - 8.30am–12noon
		27 December - Longwood Clinic - 9am–12noon
		28 December - Levelwood Clinic - 9am–12noon
		29December - Half Tree Hollow Clinic - 9am–12noon
	Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy	8.30am–4pm

ST HELENA NEWS



Spreading the Spirit

Pilling Primary School entertains with Christmas Carols at The Canister

Demy Herne, SAMS

On Tuesday, 12 December, at 12noon, Pilling Primary School students could be seen and heard throughout the town performing popular Christmas carols in front of The Canister.

The beginning of this event started with Head Teacher, Elaine Benjamin, giving a short speech explaining that they would be keeping various watchers and by-passers entertained as they did their daily routine throughout the afternoon. Various Christmas carols were sung and people were encouraged to sing-along and spread the Christmas spirit through the town with Pilling Primary.

	Pharmacy Services	27, 28 and 29 December - Jamestown - 8.30am–12noon
		27 December - Longwood Clinic - 10am–12noon
		28December - Levelwood Clinic - 10am–12noon
		29December - Half Tree Hollow Clinic - 10am–12noon
	Laboratory	8.30am–12noon
	Doctors Clinics	27, 28 and 29 December - Jamestown Outpatient Clinic - 9am–12noon
		27 December - Longwood Clinic
		28 December - Levelwood Clinic
		29 December - Half Tree Hollow Clinic
		Note: The Medical Records Office/Appointments will be open from 8.30am to 12noon on each of these days
	Children's Social Care, Adult's Social Care and Probation Services	8.30am–4pm
Safety Security and Home Affairs	Emergency Planning and Sea Rescue Service	8am–12noon
Treasury	Post & Customer Service Centre	The Post & Customer Service Centre will open from 8.45am–12noon on 23, 27, 28 and 30 December.

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

102.7 (Jamestown) • 90.5 (High Knoll) • 105.1 (Sunberry) • 105.3 (Blue Hill)
Streaming live via www.sams.sh/radio.html

FRI. Dec 15
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 2pm: Our Show
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam

SAT. Dec 16
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Hannah Braaf
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 6-8pm : Vibes with Annika
- 8pm: Mixed Tape Show with Hannah Braaf

SUN. Dec 17
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke Bennett
- 1pm: Interveiw Hour
- 3-4pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm : In Scope
- 7pm: Seventh day Adventist Church Service

MON. Dec 18
- 7am-10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 2-4pm: DNA Show

TUE. Dec 19
- 8am-10am- In Scope Christmas edition
- 2pm: Afternoon Show with Donna
- 5-7pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 7:30pm: Life is Still Beautiful

WED. Dec 20
- 7am: Sunrise Show
- 9-11am: Our Show
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm- Mixed Tape Show with Hannah Braaf

THU. Dec 21
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett & Liam Yon
- 11am: Midday show with Hannah Braaf
- 1pm : Afternoon show with Demy Herne
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: In Scope (Repeat)

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

sure
Bringing you the
BBC World Service
100.7 (Briars)
88.1 (High Knoll)
102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this week



Tuesday morning with a difference!

Why not join all five Ministers (Julie, Christine, Jeffrey, Martin and Mark) for a christmas edition of In Scope, live on SAMS Radio 1 .

Ministers will entertain listeners from 8am with Christmas music and talking about achievements throughout the year.

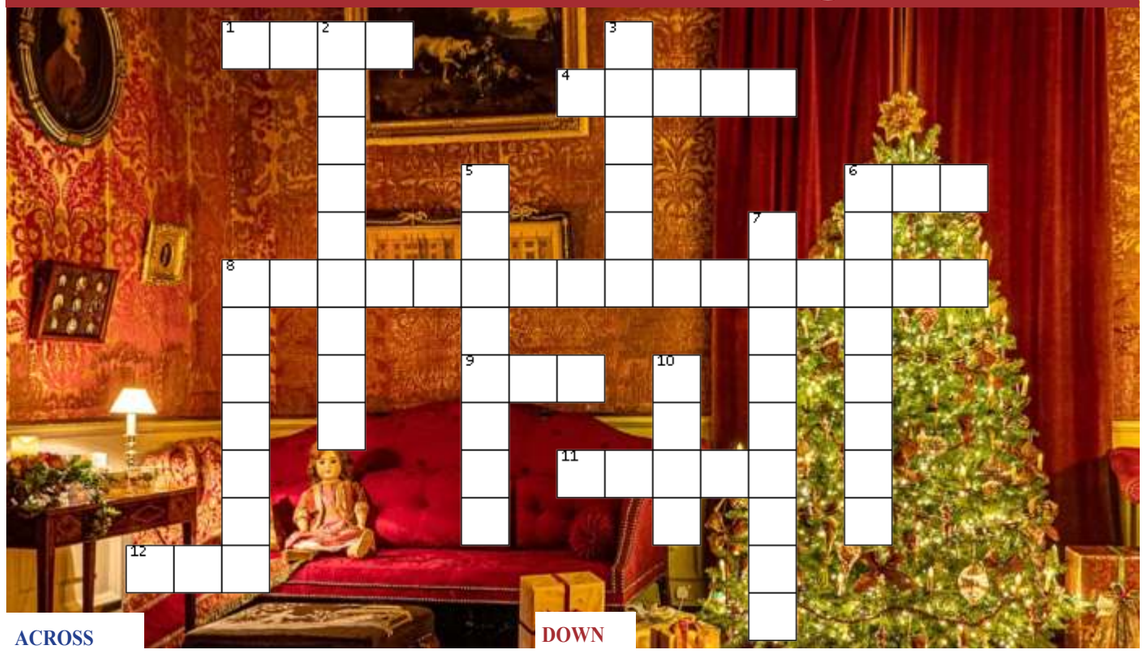
So, tune in Tuesday morning from 8am, for a special Christmas edition of In Scope.

Local news and notices:
7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

TIME OUT

Crossword: Christmas Songs



ACROSS

1. According to the song, Santa Claus is gonna find out whether you're naughty or?
4. According to the song, you deck the halls with Boughs of ?
6. In the song twelve days of Christmas, How many geese were laying?
8. In which song is there a snowman named Parson Brown?
9. What does Mariah Carey want for Christmas?
11. Last Christmas I gave you my what?
12. Who released 'Lonely This Christmas' in 1975?

DOWN

2. According to the Christmas classic, what are 'roasting on an open fire'?
3. What was Brenda Lee doing around the Christmas tree?
5. What looney tune character sang blue Christmas?
6. In the Chris de Burgh song, who came travelling?
7. According to Frank Sinatra, what is the weather like outside?
8. What band originally sang wish it could be Christmas everyday?
10. Who originally sang 'Last Christmas'?

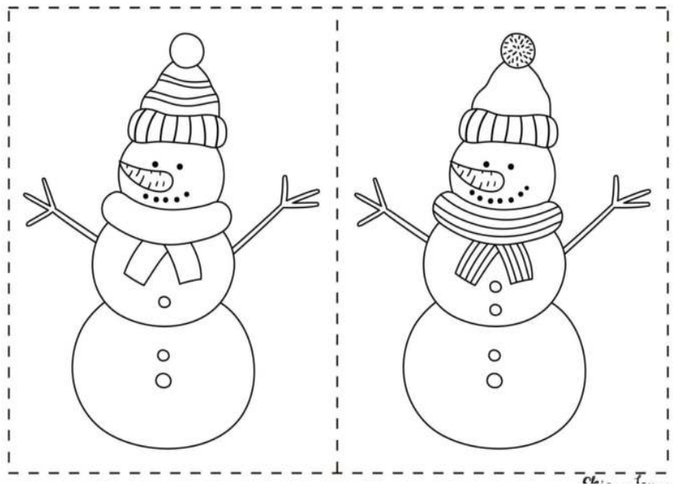
PRIZES TO BE WON

Solomons sure.

Compete in Christmas competitions where you can stand a chance to win an awesome prize. For the kids, spot five differences and stand a chance of winning a £10 gift voucher from Solomon's. For the adults, this is a two-part competition where you complete last week's and this week's crossword to stand the chance of winning a £50 gift voucher from SURE

Either cutout and return this page to SAMS to enter, or take a photo of your answers and send them into SAMS by no later than lunchtime on 19 Dec

Spot 5 difference



All winners will be announced next week!



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Chief Minister Julie Thomas welcomed Devlin Yon (Geographic Information System Manager) as her guest on In Scope this week to feature a newcomer to Central Support Services (CSS) - the GIS team. GIS joined CSS just over two months ago as part of the Public Services restructure of Portfolios.

Recently, the Island celebrated International GIS Day, showcasing what they do and what benefits of the GIS section entails. This took place at the Jamestown Community Centre and attracted more than 100 visitors (adults and students). There was a lot of positive feedback from the visitors about the displays and the different techniques of analysing data.

Devlin went on to explain some of the techniques of data analysis that was on display on the day and their various uses. The first map he explained was 3D visualisation mapping. This map/technique is used to enable the viewer to see parts of the island from different perspectives. This technique works similar to Google Earth and enables the team to overlay different layers of information to create a visual 3D effect for the user.

The next technique is referred to as constraints mapping. With this map, the user is left with an image after several constraints/parameters have been blocked out. The example that Devlin had in the studio showed a map of the remaining crown land available to utilise for residential building. The constraints that were added to the parameters of this map included only intermediate zone areas (areas demarcated for residential building); only slopes from 0-25° (in line with building regulations); no areas demarked for forestry or agricultural use; and only crown land. This created a map with only the areas that fall within these parameters to be highlighted. The other parts of the Island were blacked out on the map to create a very vivid picture of how limited this resource of land truly is.

The participatory mapping technique was up next where a map is created by layering data collected regarding specific questions. On a previous GIS Day, children were asked what their favourite place on St Helena was and why. A map was created that show these as hot spots with a word cloud on the side capturing key words. This kind of mapping can be very useful when capturing data for public consultations as this reflects the data whilst ensuring anonymity to contributors. This year the GIS Team asked what terrestrial features and areas on-Island the participants thought were the most important in ensuring sustainability on St Helena. The team is still in the process of mapping this information out and this will soon be on display at either Porteous House or the Tourism Office.

The GIS Team want to communicate more with the public and other sections of SHG to make everyone aware of the assistance and services they can offer. As part of this, they will be utilising the communications team at the Castle, but also want to put more project and outcomes on display for public viewing. The time it takes to convert data into mapping depends on the format and amount of data that has to be captured. If the information is in paper format it usually takes a lot longer that digital data. Once the data is in the correct format and structure, it is easy to convert into a map. This is another reason the GIS team are encouraging the different departments of SHG to involve them in data capturing projects as this will ensure that data is captured in the correct format for easy use and access. Currently, there are four members in the team as one team member has recently left the Island. They are however hoping to recruit to fill this post soon.

Another mapping technique displayed on GIS day is the contamination risk map. This map shows the locations of areas that are at higher risk of contamination. These hot spots include areas where there are sewerage works, automotive garages, roads, slaughterhouses and other high risk areas of contaminants. This map was created for the Marine Team to indicate areas that could potentially cause marine contamination. This map can also be used in conjunction with a weather map to identify potential areas for building new reservoirs. On the map there are grey lines that look like branches indicating the water courses and valleys, while yellow lines indicate the water catchment areas. This will be a useful map to utilise in planning mitigations if contamination in one of the risk areas were to occur.

Devlin also had a visibility analysis map which shows views of the Island from a specific location, for example out in a certain area at sea. These maps have been used by the Maritime section to depict the location of the undersea cable for local fishermen when informing them of areas to avoid when fishing in order not to cause any damage to the cable. The map can be used to identify the landmarks that can be seen from certain locations for the fishermen and ocean users to orientate themselves as to the location of the cable and fishing grounds.

The weather and precipitation map is another mapping technique that can be used to provide information on the weather on St Helena in a visual way. A lot of this information used was collected from ENRPP provided by the weather station. This huge amount of data was used to disperse the information onto a map representing the rainfall recorded on the Island for a specific month and year. Dark blue areas represent areas of high rainfall while areas coloured yellow are drier parts.

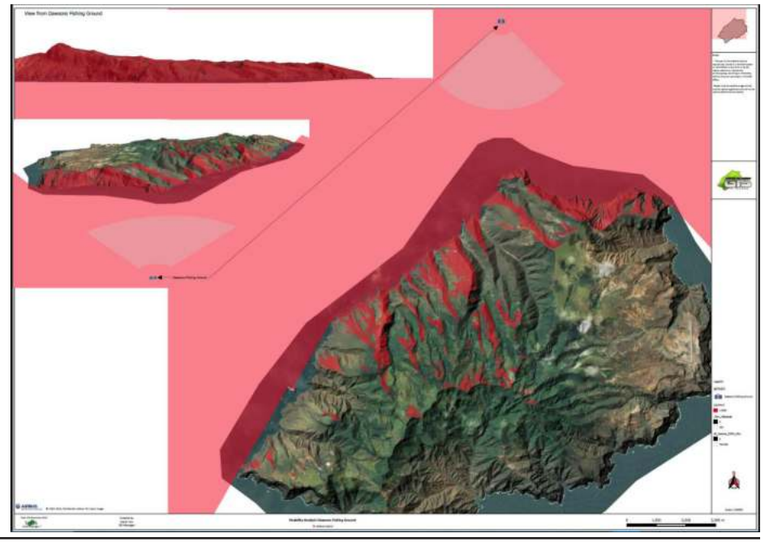
The last mapping technique that was explained by Devlin was the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index or NDVI. This map shows vegetation with dark green areas representing healthy plant life and yellow areas contain plants that are in need of help. Red areas are where there are no plants or plants that used to grow here are mostly dead. This infrared data is collected from the use of satellite images. Other satellite images can also be obtained from the Land-Sat launched by NASA. Although this data is useful and free, it is more suited for bigger parcels of land for data collection as the pixel quality is only 10m. It can however be useful when depicting change over a period of time as the satellite passes over St Helena approximately every 8 days. The GIS team have started looking at the use of drone technology when doing NDVI mapping as this provides much higher pixilation. For this data collection, a multi-spectral drone will be used. Images from this kind of drone can show how well a plant is growing and if various images are combined, you can even determine which specific areas need more water, fertilizer or spraying for pests. This information can help farmers to avoid blanket spraying and save money in the process through targeted and precision farming. The Cloud Forest Project is especially interested in this kind of mapping to assist them in mapping data about the pathogen problem that they are currently dealing with in the Cloud Forest. Another use for NDVI mapping is the creating of crop calendars and precision agriculture. Devlin stressed that it is important to capture as much agricultural and vegetation information as possible to guard against the loss of knowledge and experience data. Once data is captured and mapped, it will greatly improve access to this data, assisting in creating food-security and self-sustainability. From all of the information provided by the mapping, it is clear that we need to utilise the limited resource of land on St Helena as best as possible. With all the information that is at the tips of the GIS team's fingers, it is evident why this team should play a role in decision making processes on-Island, especially when it comes to the Land Development Control Plan.

The reason why the GIS team moved from the TISD portfolio to Central Support Services (CSS) relates to the comprehensive service and support they can provide to all the sections of government. The move has placed the team more strategically to interact with all Portfolios and also to set a clear strategic direction and objective. In the past, most of the focus of the GIS team's work used to be on property, but this represents but a fraction of what they can do. Being part of CSS opens more doors for the team to market their services to other portfolios and sections. They can assist sections in efficiently capturing data to streamline work flow and make data more readily available. This approach of data capturing and mapping can combine data from various sections to integrate the connections and create a centralised data base.

The South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) has partnered with the GIS team in the area of data processing, providing them with training on the Post-Gres admin system. The information mapped by the team can also be accessed through the St Helena Data Portal available on the internet. Through this portal the public can have access to all spatial data available. Weather maps are also available and have been used to create graphs to reflect the changes and trends that have taken place over the past five years. All this mapping and data collection makes it possible to visually see the impact of things like climate change and changes in plant growth, precipitation and even fishing seasons.

Currently, the GIS team are doing a lot of work with the land registry section where they are instrumental in mapping out parcels of land, defining and recording boundaries and co-ordinates as well as sub-dividing land. The team is keen to reach out to other sections in SHG and the public and are looking forward to engage in more promotional activities and 3-monthly training sessions. There are also plans for other promotional activities and monthly clinics to be held at different sections to create awareness. During these clinics the team will show how data can be captured more efficiently and in the correct format to ensure easier access and utilisation for mapping in the future. The services provided by the GIS section is free to all SHG departments but come at a cost for use by the public.

In 2024, the GIS section will engage in a new project, the Selena project, which is similar to the Move-On project of the past. The project will entail a spatial data analyst coming to the Island to bridge the gap between policy and decision making. This project will be funded by the EU and will take place for 11 months in the Falklands and 11 months on St Helena. It will be a very useful tool in supporting the decision-making processes in the future. The GIS team is constantly working to improve and broaden their skills and knowledge to work towards capturing data more efficiently and providing government and all on St Helena easier and more visual access to recorded data and the representations thereof.



Come Dine with Dan

A Fine Dining Experience with Dan Flory



Donna Crowie, SAMS

"Amazing" was the word used to describe last Friday evening at Dan's Courtyard Tasting.

Dan Flory, known to many as Dan from Dan's Baked Goods, held his second courtyard tasting session on Friday when approximately 30 people gathered in for an exotic four-course dinner menu.

"Launching the courtyard tasting experiences was firstly about being able to provide a new and unique dining experience for the Island, offering something refreshingly different from the well established dining spots in Jamestown that we all love. A new venue for those special occasions!" commented Dan. "Secondly, for me, it's a return to what I have always done - having spent 15 years in high-end dining, both running Michelin-guided kitchens and as General Manager of award-winning restaurants, it's very exciting to be able to offer great hospitality of my own on this friendly little Island that I now call home."

Chef Dan and his team of the night - Cindy, Michael and Ella - showed great hospitality and service to all guest on the evening in a welcoming and pleasant atmosphere.

The menu consisted of Wooky Hole Cheddar Gougere, Seared Tuna, Honey Mustard and Ale-Glazed Ham Hock, and White Chocolate and Cinnamon Bread and Butter Pudding, to name just a few out of the fourteen dishes served on the night.

The majority of Dan's dishes used fresh local produce including local tuna and accompanying salads.

"I have been delighted by the wonderful response to our courtyard dinners so far," said Dan. "It's been a pleasure seeing our guests' reactions to the variety and number of dishes presented to them, and discovering their favourites throughout the evening as we talk them through the courses. After an initial trial dinner with friends, we refined the experience based on their feedback, creating an exciting event for future guests."

One person present at the courtyard tasting experience described the night as "fabulous," saying that while they are "not really a person for trying new foods, I thought why not and all dishes were amazing." Similarly, Susan O'Bey, another guest on the night, commented that "the food and service were excellent and the courtyard setting created a lovely ambience. I loved the idea of the sharing plates and the combination of flavours provided a unique experience. I will definitely be revisiting Dan's restaurant." A third guest told The Sentinel that "it was very informative with Chef Dan talking thoroughly through each dish, so we knew exactly what was presented. I will have to say Taco of Seitan, Pickles and Coriander was delicious and I always enjoy chicken but the Char Siu Chicken Thighs were the best ever and, as a dessert person, I thoroughly enjoyed the different take on a Bread and Butter Pudding with the cinnamon twist. All I can say is that it all was delicious."

After two successful tasting sessions, Dan will be introducing fine dining meals from his courtyard on a fortnight basis during the summer period; the next date has been planned for 22 December.

"We have a number of dates ready to put out over the Christmas period and into the New Year, with the next upcoming event being the evening of 22 December and then 29 December, where we will offer a 12pm sitting and a 6pm sitting. Bookings can be made directly with myself, either pop in to the bakery, message me or call on 25424 and I will take it from there. I'm looking forward to sharing the event with more people!"

The Sentinel will like to wish Dan all the best in his new venture.



Travel St Helena – *One Year On*



Darrin & Sharon Henry, Contributed

After almost two years of rejections, the long-awaited 'yes' answer came through late into Wednesday night, 21 December 2022. The elusive payment system – the final piece in the puzzle – was approved and our vision of an ecommerce solution for the Island's tourism accommodation sector was, at last, a reality. Travel St Helena (www.travelsthelena.com) was up and running. A reliable and secure booking service, operating in real-time, for international customers.

Now we're a few days away from celebrating Travel St Helena's first birthday, already reflecting on a 12-month period that's been full of firsts. Our very first online booking, first payment received, first remittance to a business on St Helena, first customer arriving on Island! The first booking for each of the different accommodations has been especially exciting.

Each little milestone reached was a little test passed; another question answered.

How would our system handle currency transfers from different countries? Turns out, really easily! Whether it was Euros from France, South African Rand or Singapore Dollars, international transactions have been seamless, including to businesses on St Helena.

Maintaining a 'live' booking calendar for each property felt slightly ambitious at the start. Touch wood, but in year one, all rooms/properties booked have been successfully confirmed. Long may it continue. Right now, we have capacity to book 127 guests, across 23 different properties, listed on Travel St Helena.

It's felt like an intense 'boot camp' year, getting to grips with the global travel industry workings. Taking advantage of extended time in the UK, we've seized on a range ofonline and in-person training opportunities, with a strong emphasis on digital marketing.

Nine years ago, in 2014, we startedour first digital platform, What The Saints Did Next, an experience that's proving priceless with rolling out Travel St Helena. Facebook has been our biggest source of web traffic, by a mile, and then some! Don't knock Facebook!

Developing a brand and an identity takes time, a clear vision and a lot of work.

Our journey with WTSDN has been invaluable training in that regard. As Saints with a public platform, we're constantly reminded of the huge responsibility we've chosen, to be good ambassadors for St Helena. Not a day goes by without us answering comments and questions about St Helena, across our channels, and it's been that way for almost a decade now. Only last week we met a couple from the US, here in the UK, who told us they are big fans of WTSDN, while a day earlier a follower from Scotland shared their 'plo' pictures, having tried the recipe from our blog, and only this week, the BBC contacted us about the African burial ground in Rupert's.

We have invoked the ethos of an old 'friend'in shaping our own approach to Travel St Helena's customer service. Officers and crew on the RMS used to liken the ship to an extension of the Island, making the five-day voyage a wonderful introduction to St Helena. Today, when a customer books accommodation via our site, we see it as though we are their introduction to the Island, so it's up to us to make it wonderful.

For Travel St Helena customers, we have also been organising car hire, airport transfers, tours, arranging appointments, connecting them to locals with shared interests, making dinner reservations, providing weather and travel updates, and even advising on transfers through Johannesburg. None of this is charged, it's all part of the service.

So, on we go into Year Two. The mission to 'do good for St Helena' continues.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

INVITATION TO TENDER

CONSTRUCTION OF RAMP AND SAFETY RAILS AT THE BIG ROCK RECREATION SITE

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts:

CS-1798-SHG – Construction of Ramp and Safety Rails at the Big Rock Recreation Site, Scotland

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown by telephone on 25932 or via email tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday18December 2023at 10am, meeting at the Big Rock Recreation Site, Scotland.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact Procurement Services by telephone on 25932 or via email throughtiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on theTop Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Friday5January 2024, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG, 8 December 2023

Thorpes

W.A Thorpe & Sons Ltd.

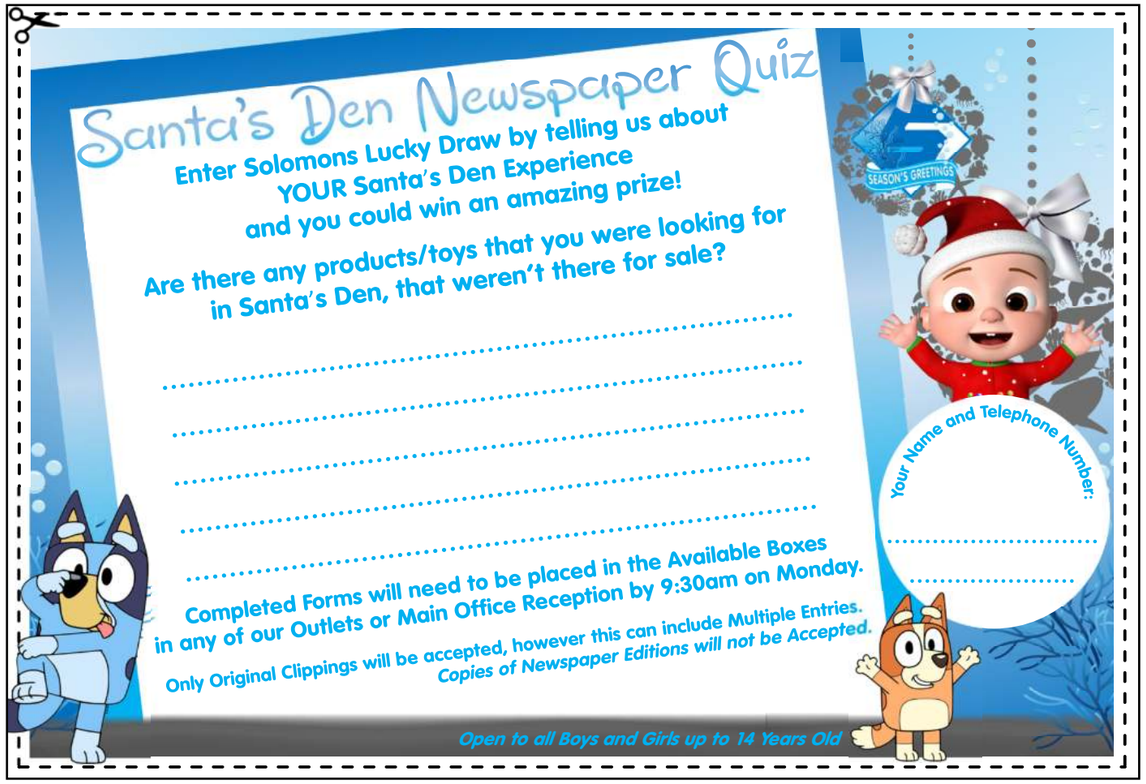
A family business since 1865

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS 2023

	Grocery Shop	Tinkers	Wholesale Store	Emporium
Monday 18th	8 am - 6 pm	9 am - 6 pm	9 am - 4.45 pm	8 am - 6 pm
Tuesday 19th	8 am - 6 pm	9 am - 6 pm	9 am - 4.45 pm	8 am - 6 pm
Wednesday 20th	8 am - 5 pm	9 am - 5 pm	9 am - 12.45 pm	8 am - 5 pm
Thursday 21st	8 am - 6 pm	9 am - 6 pm	9 am - 4.45 pm	8 am - 6 pm
Friday 22nd	8 am - 8 pm	9 am - 8 pm	9 am - 4.45 pm	8 am - 8 pm
Saturday 23rd	9 am - 1 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	9 am - 1 pm 6 pm - 9 pm	9 am - 12.45 pm	9 am - 1 pm 6 pm - 9 pm
Sunday 24th	9 am - 1 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday 25th	Closed			
Tuesday 26th	Closed			
Wednesday 27th	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 12.45 pm	9 am - 1 pm
Thursday 28th	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 12.45 pm	9 am - 1 pm
Friday 29th	Closed			
Saturday 30th	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 1 pm	9 am - 12.45 pm	9 am - 1 pm
Sunday 31st	Closed			
Tuesday 2nd Jan 2024	Back to normal			

We wish all our customers a Very Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year!

NOTICE BOARD



St Helena Government

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR LEASE

This unit is being advertised as open market tender, the terms of which will be subject to negotiation between SHG and the preferred bidder.

1 BUSINESS UNIT FOR LEASE

Known as Unit 9 situated within the Market, Jamestown on the ground floor (formerly the Fish Market).

This unit offers a great space for a first time business being within the busiest part of town.

Main conditions of the unit are:

Minimum operating hours of 20, which shall include at least one peak interval for example:

07:00-09:00. 12:00-14:00 and 16:00-18:00

Lease term: 5 years

Rent per month to be paid on the first of every month are:

Year 1 - £53.49
Year 2 - £66.20
Year 3 - £78.91
Year 4 - £91.63
Year 5 - £104.33

The Closing date for the **Business Units** is Friday 5 January 2024 at 12:00.

For more information, please contact:

Head of Trade and Investment, Michael Ormrod or Investment Coordinator, Kyle Snow via telephone on 22470 or via email:

Michael.ormrod@sainthelena.gov.sh or kyle.snow@sainthelena.gov.sh

Alternatively, you can collect the forms from The Castle, Jamestown.

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 17th December 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Advent		
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/ Church Parade	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
7.30 p.m.	**Carol Service**	**Court House Steps**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 17th December 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Advent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
7.30 p.m.	**Carol Service**	**Court House Steps**
	Thursday 21st December	
6.30 p.m.	Youth Christmas Worship & Praise/Church Parade	St James
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 17th December 2023 – 3rd Sunday in Advent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
7.30 p.m.	**Carol Service**	**Court House Steps**
	Tuesday 19th December	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mark

Annie's Launderette

Closure for the

Christmas/New Year Holiday

Last day of business will be on

Wednesday 20th December

closing @ 4pm.

We will Re-open on

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

@ 8am.

Wishing all our customers a

Happy Christmas and

A Happy & Prosperous 2024.

We Thank you for all your

Continued Custom and Support.

St Helena Government

INVITATION TO TENDER

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts:

SSHA-1793-SHG – Electrical rewire of Longwood Clinic
SSHA-1797-SHG – Upgrade of Fire Alarm System at Main Office, Scotland

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown, on telephone no: 25932 or via email: tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

A site visit to view the works will take place on Friday, 15 December 2023, at 10am, meeting at Longwood Clinic and at 12pm, meeting at Scotland.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date, 15 December 2023, will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact Procurement Services on telephone no: 25932 or via email: tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building, by 12noon on Thursday, 4 January 2023, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG, 7 December 2023

St Helena Government

INVITATION TO TENDER

DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND LAUNCH OF NEW CORE GOVERNMENT WEBSITE

Reference:CS-1754-SHG

St Helena Government (SHG) has issued a tender for the procurement of the design development and launch of a new core government website.

The website will replace the current SHG website and will be the central point of reference for information, news and updates, policies and legislation, and access to public services. It will essentially be the face of government and the first point of interaction with the public.

The main target audience base for the website is everyone who uses St Helena's public services or engages with government institutions. This ranges from those who use or rely on SHG services, to visitors, the media and investors.

Full documentation and the specifications can be found on the St Helena Government e-procurement system and can be accessed via https://in-tendhost.co.uk/sainthelena, following registration on the system.

User guides are available via the 'Supplier Information' tab to assist prospective suppliers registering on the e-procurement system.

Copies of the tender documents can also be obtained from Procurement Officer, Nicola Young, at Essex House, Jamestown by telephone on 22270 or via email through nicola.young@sainthelena.gov.sh.

All communication, clarifications, general questions and submissions of your responses must be made via the e-Procurement Portal.

The deadline for submissions is 16:00 GMT on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

SHG, 6 December 2023

NOTICE BOARD



CUSTOMER REMINDER - ONLINE BANKING REFERRAL LIMIT

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to remind all Online Banking Customers to please contact the Bank if you make a transfer that is higher than your set referral limit, as it will not be processed until a confirmation has been received.

Referral limits restrict straight through processing of individual transactions to a limited value. Any transaction exceeding the referral limit will be delayed until confirmation is provided. E.g. Set referral limit of £2,500 and a transfer request of £3,000 will need to be confirmed.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

info@sainthelenabank.com +290 22390

www.sainthelenabank.com Market Street, Jamestown

@sainthelenabank Bank of St Helena Ltd

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
17th December
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 19th December
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 21st December
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

ALL ARE WLCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

SURE SA LTD

Festive Season Opening Hours

DATE	TIME
Sat 23rd Dec	9am to 1pm
Mon 25th, Tues 26th Dec	CLOSED
Wed 27th Dec	9am to 3pm
Thurs 28th Dec	9am to 1pm
Fri 29th Dec	9am to 1pm
Sat 30th Dec	9am to 12pm
Mon 1st Jan	CLOSED

Discovery Equipment Limited is a Wholly owned subsidiary of Sure (South Atlantic) Limited registered in England and Wales No. 2672811

SURE SA LTD wish all our customers a Happy Festive Season!

NOTICE BOARD

CUSTOMER EMAIL STATEMENT CHANGES

EFFECTIVE 01 JANUARY 2024



At Bank of St Helena, customer safety and security is a priority. Due to the rising number of email scams, cybercrimes and email account hacks globally, Bank of St Helena will be ceasing emailed statements as of 01 January 2024. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you, however, we hope you understand why your personal data and account activity privacy is important to us.

Make the Switch to Secure Free Online Banking

Online Banking can be used to view, download and print your statements for up to two years of activity. You can also check your account balances, make local and international payments and more - all from the comfort of your home at no extra charge.
Apply online: www.sainthelenabank.com/online-banking



Alternatively you can request to replace your emailed statement with one free printed statement. Please contact our Customer Service Team on (+290) 22390 or customerservices@sainthelenabank.com and we will make amendments to your account and post your statement. Please contact us by ***Wednesday, 20 December*** *to ensure you receive your next statement by post. Any requests for additional statements will be charged at the Bank's rate.*

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated in St Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 and 2017, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017, the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004

info@sainthelenabank.com
www.sainthelenabank.com
@sainthelenabank
+290 22390
Market Street, Jamestown
Bank of St Helena Ltd

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week

Date: Saturday, 16 December 2023 **Start Time:** 9:30am

Meeting point: Casons, Blue Hill (at the Fairyland signpost)

This walk passes through flax, pasture and woodland along the hillside below the Sandy Bay Ridge, with views across Sandy Bay.

Walk grade: Post Box Walk, suitable for families

3-4 Fairly easy

Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, bring lots of water and sunscreen.

Upcoming walks

Date	Walk	Host
Wednesday 27/12/23	Lot's Wife's Ponds	Rock Mount Walking Tours (Tom Wortley)
Thursday 28/12/23	Plantation Forest Trail	Tourist Office
Saturday 06/01/2024	Flagstaff & Sugar Loaf	Rock Mount Walking Tours (Tom Wortley)

To register your interest and receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' contact Dianne Venning via dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh (M: 67245) or the Tourist Office T: 22158

NOTICE BOARD

Protect Yourself from Cybercriminals This Holiday Season



***Verify** information before sharing on social media.*



Only shop from trusted retailer websites.



***Confirm** purchases before opening delivery notification links.*



Only download apps from your device's certified app store.



***Monitor** bank account and credit card activity.*

KnowBe4

St Helena Government

SHG CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Isolation Connected

NOTICE BOARD

ENCOMPASS

VACANCY NOTICE

General Maintenance Assistant

Job Description

Located at English Bay, Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a full-time **General Maintenance Assistant** at the Power Station on Ascension Island. The post holder will form part of the team that is responsible for the Maintenance of HV Diesel Engines for Electricity Generation, Water Production & Distribution and other mechanical maintenance related duties.

Requirements

- Good understanding of Safety procedures and Safe Working Practices.
- Competent in the use of hand tools, power tools and workshop machinery
- Basic Knowledge of Vehicular maintenance.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to role.
- Knowledge of working with hazardous substances used as part of function.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours and be available for call-outs and faults outside of working hours.
- Possession of current driving licence up to B category.
- Basic Computer/Keyboard skills including Word, Excel and email applications.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

- Experience of Power Stations' operations and maintenance work.
- Experience in Diesel Generators Engines overhaul and maintenance.
- Basic working knowledge and understanding of RO Plants Operation and Maintenance.
- Operation of vehicles such as Cranes or Fork Lift Trucks.
- Competent in corrosion control
- Experience of civils works, such as brick/block building and concrete work

Remuneration and Package

We are offering a two-year contract with either Single or Accompanied status. The salary, dependant on experience, starts at £11,031 (taxable on Ascension). You will also be entitled to:

- Rent-free accommodation
- A food allowance of £3905 [(or £7329 if joined by eligible dependants)]
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including a personal vehicle
- One paid return journey to country of residence during your contract period

Please note that any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal and professional vetting, valid travel documents as well as satisfactory medical clearance.

For a **Job Application Form**, full **Job Description** and for any further information, please contact Administration Officer, Krystal Phillips at KPhillips@encompass.tv

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, no later than **Friday 5th January 2024**

NOTICE BOARD

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

Christmas Opening Times

	Thu 14-Dec	Fri 15-Dec	Sat 16-Dec	Sun 17-Dec	Mon 18-Dec	Tue 19-Dec	Wed 20-Dec	Thu 21-Dec	Fri 22-Dec	Sat 23-Dec	Sun 24-Dec	Wed 27-Dec	Thu 28-Dec	Sat 30-Dec
The Star Tele: 22683	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-4pm 6:30-8.30pm	CLOSED	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5pm	9am-7pm	9am-7pm	9am-1pm 6:30-8.30pm	5-9pm	9am-1pm *BREAD ON SALE*	9am-1pm	9am-1pm *BREAD ON SALE*
Greenlands Tele: 22137	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-4pm 6:30-8.30pm	CLOSED	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5pm	9am-7pm	9am-7pm	9am-1pm 6:30-8.30pm	5-9pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
DIY Store Tele: 22104	8am-6pm	8am-6pm	9am-4pm 6:30-8.30pm	CLOSED	8am-6pm	8am-6pm	8am-5pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	9am-1pm 6:30-8.30pm	5-9pm	9am-1pm *BREAD ON SALE*	9am-1pm	CLOSED
Special Orders Tele: 22059	8am-4pm	8am-4pm	9am-1pm	CLOSED	8am-4pm	8am-4pm	8am-1pm	8am-4pm	8am-4pm	9am-1pm	10am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
Warrens Wholesale Tele: 22422	9am-4.30pm	9am-4.30pm	9am-12.30pm	CLOSED	9am-4.30pm	9am-4.30pm	9am-4.30pm	9am-4.30pm	9am-4.30pm	9am-12.30pm	CLOSED	9am-12.30pm	9am-12.30pm	9am-12.30pm
Half Tree Hollow Supermarket Tele: 23559	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5pm	9am-7pm	9am-7pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	9am-1pm *BREAD ON SALE*	9am-1pm	9am-1pm *BREAD ON SALE*
Half Tree Hollow Hardware Tele: 23225	8:30am-6pm	8:30am-6pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	8:30am-6pm	8:30am-6pm	8:30am-5pm	8:30am-7pm	8:30am-7pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
Silver Hill Shop Tele: 24606	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5pm	9am-6pm	9am-6pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm	9am-1pm
Jamestown Fuel Station Tele: 22259	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	9am-1pm 6:30-8:30pm	CLOSED	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-5pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	9am-1pm 6:30-8:30pm	CLOSED	9am-1pm	9am-1pm	CLOSED
Half Tree Hollow Fuel Station Tele: 23170	8:30am-6pm	8:30am-6pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	8:30am-6pm	8:30am-6pm	8:30am-5pm	8:30am-7pm	8:30am-7pm	9am-5.30pm	10am-1pm	9am-12noon	9am-12noon	9am-12noon
Cash Office Tele: 22380	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-12noon	CLOSED	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-12noon	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9am-12noon	CLOSED	CLOSED
Shipping & Travel Tele: 22523	8am-3pm	8am-3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8am-3pm	8am-3pm	8am-3pm	8am-3pm	8am-3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9am-12noon	9am-12noon	9am-12noon
Insurance Agency Tele: 22682	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-12noon	CLOSED	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-3pm	9am-12noon	CLOSED	9am-12noon	9am-12noon	9am-12noon

All Outlets will be closed during the Public Holidays; Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 December 2023 and Monday 1 January 2024 and also on Friday 29 December 2023 and Sunday 31 December 2023

Normal Opening Hours will resume on Tuesday 2 January 2024

UTILITIES TARIFFS COMMENCING 01 JANUARY 2024

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) has authorised increases of 15% in electricity charges and 10% in water and sewerage charges. These changes will take effect from 01 January 2024 and will apply for a 6 month period.

In August 2023, Connect Saint Helena Limited (Connect) submitted a tariff proposal to the URA. The key driver behind this was to raise revenues to close the funding gap created by the significant increases in the cost of goods that Connect uses to provide electricity, water and sewerage services, particularly the cost of fuel as a consequence of worldwide events such as the war in Ukraine.

Following public consultation and a review by the URA, the tariff proposal was originally rejected by the URA. However, the URA sought further proposals from Connect in the meantime.

Connect noted that electricity tariffs were last adjusted in 2016 and water and sewerage tariffs were last adjusted in 2021. It is clear that Connect's revenues have not been able to keep pace with increasing prices and that the funding gap continues to grow. The recent fuel price increase announced in December 2023 has worsened this picture.

To address this, the URA has given approval for a 15% increase in electricity tariffs and a 10% increase in water and sewerage tariffs to take effect from 1 January 2024 up to and including 30 June 2024.

By setting a 6 month deadline, the URA and Connect recognise that there is more work to be done on tariffs. Further review is planned to give consumers certainty as to how external forces will impact costs and to ensure that Connect is on a stable financial footing so that it can plan for the future in the knowledge that incomes will be at a certain level.

During the same period, Connect will also continue work under its *Energy Delivery Plan* to increase the proportion of electricity generated through renewable energy. This work is now entering final design stage.

Further details on the decision taken by the URA can be found in the *URA Report Tariffs 2023* on the Connect website www.connect.co.sh. A *Utilities Tariff Calculator* can be found at http://www.connect.co.sh/tariffs-and-other-charges.html for those consumers wishing to calculate their utilities bills from January 2024.

For any queries regarding the new tariffs or utilities bills, please contact our Billing Section on telephone number 22255 or email enquiries@connect.co.sh

13 December 2024

NOTICE BOARD

UTILITIES TARIFFS COMMENCING 1st JANUARY 2024

	RATES PER QUARTER					
	DOMESTIC		AGRICULTURAL		COMMERCIAL	
WATER	*Consumption*					
	Treated water:		Treated water:	£2.44 per m^3	Treated water:	£4.81 per m^3
	First $15m^3$	£1.86 per m^3				
	16-25 m^3	£2.44 per m^3				
	Over $25m^3$	£4.81 per m^3				
	Untreated water:	£1.22 per m^3	Untreated water:	£1.22 per m^3		
	Standing Charge					
	£13.75		£13.75		£40.05	
	Connection / Disconnection / Reconnection (per visit)					£38.78

	RATES PER QUARTER	
	DOMESTIC	COMMERCIAL
ELECTRICITY	*Single Phase meter*	
	Units 1 - 1000 £0.35 kWh	£0.53 kWh
	Units in excess of 1000 £0.53 kWh	£0.53 kWh
	3 Phase meter	
	£0.53 kWh	£0.53 kWh
	Connection / Disconnection / Reconnection (per visit)	£44.75

	DOMESTIC	COMMERCIAL
SEWERAGE	*Standing Charge*	
	£23.96 per quarter	£37.83 per quarter
	Emptying of septic tank	
	£89.82 per visit	£144.28 per visit
	Unblocking private sewer line	
	£89.82 per visit	£144.28 per visit
	Connection / Disconnection fee (per visit)	£44.24

NOTE: Interest is charged at a rate of 0.75% per month (or part of) for overdue balances.
If you have any queries regarding the tariffs or your Utilities bill, please contact our Billing Section on telephone number 22255 or email enquiries@connect.co.sh

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Senior Human Resources Assistant
(£9,197 per annum)

Supporting the HR Transactional team, the Senior HR Assistant is responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high quality HR service. Keys areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Sharnell Benjamin on Tel No 22470**
Closing date: **27 December 2023**

Tourism Officer (part-time)
(£13,948 per annum) (Pro rata)

Tourism is one of St Helena's key economic drivers. Are you a highly motivated individual who is knowledgeable about the island as a tourist destination, friendly and approachable, with a strong customer service background? If so, the Economic Development Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join the team as a part-time Tourism Officer. You will be involved in promotions, marketing, providing information services to visitors, and product development. Applicants must be able to work weekends and flexible hours**.** Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Matthew Joshua on Tel No 22158**
Closing date: **20 December 2023**

Benefits

Leave – 25/30 days leave per annum, according to grade, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, betting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Food Technology Teacher - PAS
(£11,035 – 18,508 per annum)

Are you interested in working with young people and want to be a part of shaping their future? Then join the team and become a teacher in PAS. You will be responsible for planning, preparing and effectively delivering programmes of study in the specific subject(s) to a designated class(es) to cater for all abilities of students. You must have the required qualifications, be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, have good communication skills and be able to interact with students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Isabel Andrews on Tel No 24290**
Closing date: **21 December 2023**

Decorators x 2 (Casual Contract for 6 weeks with possibility to extend)
(£800 per month) No other benefits will apply

The Building Maintenance Team is seeking to recruit 2 individuals to carry out decorating and signage maintenance works within various locations around the island such as Longwood Gate, Ladder Hill Archway and public toilets. All materials/tools that are needed for works to be completed will be provided to the working team. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Theron Henry on Tel No 25722**
Closing date: **19 December 2023**

Benefits

Leave – 25/30 days leave per annum, according to grade, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

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NOTICE BOARD

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

Coxswain/Marine Mechanic

Total package value up to £29,267

(Single & accompanied status including allowances and dependent upon qualifications and experience)

The Ascension Island Government is currently looking for a Coxswain/Marine Mechanic. Working as part of the Marine Team, you will undertake general Coxswain duties and be responsible for operating and maintaining marine engines, outboard motors (including sea rescue craft) for AIG and its service users. You must be flexible to meet the demands of delivering an exceptional marine operations service to Ascension Island users and be willing to learn and develop professionally.

Please note that candidates must have working knowledge of health and safety, experience in Marine Operations (in particular in relation to operating Marine craft including Passenger launch) and a clean and valid driver's license of Classes A to J4.

What we offer:
In addition to an annual salary up to £13,600 per annum (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied or single status contract and the following benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth approx. £400 per month
- A food allowance of £7,200 a year accompanied or £3,600 single status per year
- An electricity allowance worth £938 per year
- A water allowance worth £2,729 accompanied or £1,360 single status per year
- 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
- Free schooling for children from 4 up to 16 years
- Free annual travel insurance

The appointment will be subject to:
- Basic Criminal Records Check
- Employment References
- Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: 29 January 2024 / Interviews: 02 February 2024 / Start date: As soon as possible.

For information, a job description, and to apply visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/.

If you have any queries about the role, please email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac .

SPORTS ARENA

Golf Report for 10 December



SHGC, Contributed

The gods of golf must be happy. Or maybe, they are just in a holiday mood. They rewarded us with yet another beautiful day of golf last Sunday as seven players teed off in the morning and nine players in the afternoon, making a total of 16 players. Considered to be the only time players get to play a different course on St Helena, participants enjoyed playing the course in reverse in the Cross-Country stroke play competition. This was the last turkey and ham competition for 2023. Three players - Keith Joshua, Bramwell Bushuru and Leon Crowie - tied on top of the leaderboard with net 69. On a countback, Leon Crowie emerged first to win the turkey and Bramwell second to win the ham.
The president Tony Green was the first to assure himself some golf balls in the two-ball pool after scoring the first birdie on the 7th. Neil Joshua chipped off the green on the 12th to hold out for a birdie. Bramwell Bushuru who was playing in the same group as Neil followed suit with an 11-foot putt to birdie the same hole, completing a total of three twos.
The last official competition of 2023 is coming up on Sunday, 17 December. All groups will tee off from 12 noon. Registration closes on Saturday at 3pm. All participants are requested to bring a gift for this novelty competition where everyone will be a winner.
Lastly, for those golf enthusiasts on short visits, we have temporary membership of £30 for 3 months of unlimited golf just for you. This is a great bargain compared to £15 for green fees for 18 holes. And for those looking to buy gifts for Christmas from our golf shop for that golfer in the house we have golf shirts, pullovers, umbrellas, golf balls, gloves, tees etc. Pop in on a Wednesday or Sunday evening after 4pm to make a purchase.
Happy holidays and happy swinging!

Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

Apologies to our juniors for cancelling their afternoons shooting - due to the workload involving other activities, it was the safest thing to do. We are so desperately low on ammunition supplies, it is uncertain when the next consignment will arrive to replenish our stock levels, I'm guesting it will most likely be after March next year providing there will be a cargo vessel connecting our supplies from Ascension Island. We were hoping to invite more visitors to the club to enjoy some entertainment shooting with family and friends who are home during this holiday period, but it's still a chance to conduct other events, we are so lucky and thankful for the activity richness we have here on St Helena.
Our Tuesday night medal competition didn't go ahead due to low numbers of attendance, however there were no long faces or lip-dragging, we understand how busy this time of the year can be, demanding preparation for the festive season. Nevertheless we had an exciting and enjoyable night, there were seven of us, we ignored the absentees and enjoyed shooting and feasting on the curry and rice and the amazing desserts made by Deirdre.
On the firing platform was Victor V, he shot 93.3 & 93.2, new entry Luke shot 89.1 & 91.2, our new lady Dr Annette for her first time to have a go at shooting did amazingly well shooting 83.1 & 79, Deirdre who haven't shot for some time still killed her target with 98.6 & 94.4, challenging her was Baker Dan always hitting high he finished with 98.4 & 94.4. Nice one guys, thanks to Deirdre and Rex for running the show and making sure all was in good order. Next week will be our last shoot before Christmas so why not pop down to the rifle club, you will not be disappointed.
An archery Xmas shoot will take place over the holidays so let us make it a good event, lots of fun targets to shoot at - will keep you posted.
Say a Prayer and remember those who are unable to be with us for this Christmas.

SHFA PRESENTATION DAY 2023

Bellboys Crowned Undefeated Double Champions

Following a one week delay, the SHFA held their much-anticipated Knockout Final and Presentation of Trophies on Saturday over at Francis Plain to bring to a close another successful season of local football action. The eagerly awaited final between the undefeated Bellboys and the then reigning champions Rovers kicked off at around 2.30pm. Rovers took the lead in the first half and looked set to issue Bellboys their first defeat of the season in the final game of 2023. Having already confirmed themselves as League Champions 2023, Bellboys were not ready to bow out however and turned up their game in the second forty-five to come back and win the Final by three goals to two, cementing themselves as Knockout Champions 2023.

In the afternoon, following the Knockout Final, the presentation of trophies were held with SHFA Chairman, Mike-e Williams, giving a few words before getting the presentation underway. Rovers, who are used to picking up trophies on presentation day, were called to the stage twice as runners-up in both the League and Knockout. On both occasions, they remained in line to shake the hand of the eventual double champions, Bellboys, who finished undefeated, after a dominant season in 2023.

Individual awardees were then announced with Blaze Baldwin from Rovers being named as the League Top Goalscorer and the Young Player of the Season, Andrew Yon of the Bellboys being crowned Goalkeeper of the Season, with Shane Stroud of Chop Shop picking up the coveted Player of the Season award for 2023. For the District tournament, Half Tree Hollow's Rico Benjamin was named the Player of the Tournament as well as the Top Goalscorer, with his young teammate Toure Osborne being named the Young Player of the Tournament. Finalising the Half Tree Hollow clean sweep, was Andrew Yon who was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament for 2023. Having been one of a few players who went undefeated for the entire season, it was Wayne Crowie of Bellboys who was chosen as the Knockout Final Man of the Match, taking home the match ball.

In a new feature this year, eleven players were also called forward to form the League Team of the Season. These included Andrew Yon in goal, Weston Clingham, Dane Wade and Sidonio Benjamin in defence, Alex Osborne, Ryan Benjamin, and Tyler Benjamin in midfield, Joey Thomas and Ronan Legg as wingers, and a striking partnership of Shane Stroud and Blaze Baldwin.

Congratulations to all the winners, and a special mention of the Bellboys, your League and Knockout Champions 2023.

Photos courtesy of Rhiann Joshua





















SPORTS ARENA



SHFA PRESENTATION DAY 2023

Bellboys Crowned Undefeated Double Champions

