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SENTINEL

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Duke Visits Ascension

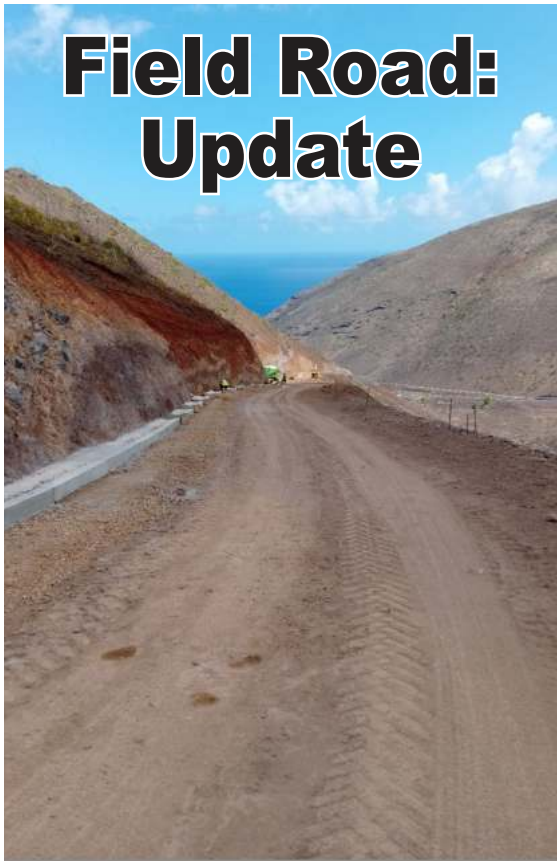


Coverage of Ministers Question Time

A Grand Donation



Field Road: Update



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

IT IS HOT! Beautiful, tropical, pristine, but HOT! I hope you all have been keeping hydrated. I do forget sometimes and then I find myself doing what I shouldn't and gulping down a nice cold Coke – not even the Zero Sugar one (sorry Minister Henry). It's funny how St Helena can change on a dime though. In typical fashion, when there are plans, the weather will throw a spanner in the works. On Tuesday, the flight had to turn back due to terrible conditions out at the Airport, and the Roads Team had to postpone their slurry paver demonstration at the Sea Front due to rain – but guess what? Wednesday comes around and the weather is bright and clear once again!

I was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Leon Crowie out at the Golf Course over last weekend – how sad. I didn't know Leon personally, but having worked at SAMS over two spells since over 10yrs ago in 2013, I have seen his name countless times in the Golf Report, more often than not as a winner or runner-up. He really is a legend in St Helena Golf and there is a fitting tribute to him on the back pages this week. To his family, my deepest condolences.

SAMS and The Sentinel have been on quite a roll off lately. We have been boosting our product with a much more interactive Social Media and online presence; we have launched the SAMS app and have also now made SAMS Radio One available on Alexa - a lot of this is thanks to our 'Fairy Godmother' who prefers to remain a mystery, but they know who they are! So big thanks to them.

We have also joined up with the legendary Tony Leo who has been bringing us the Wednesday 'Northward Sounds' show on SAMS Radio One. What a guy! So smooth and a true professional. I think he might be rubbing off on us as well because even Lukie sounding happier now – but don't worry, I'll sort him out on the 'Feel Good Thursday' show. Be safe everybody!

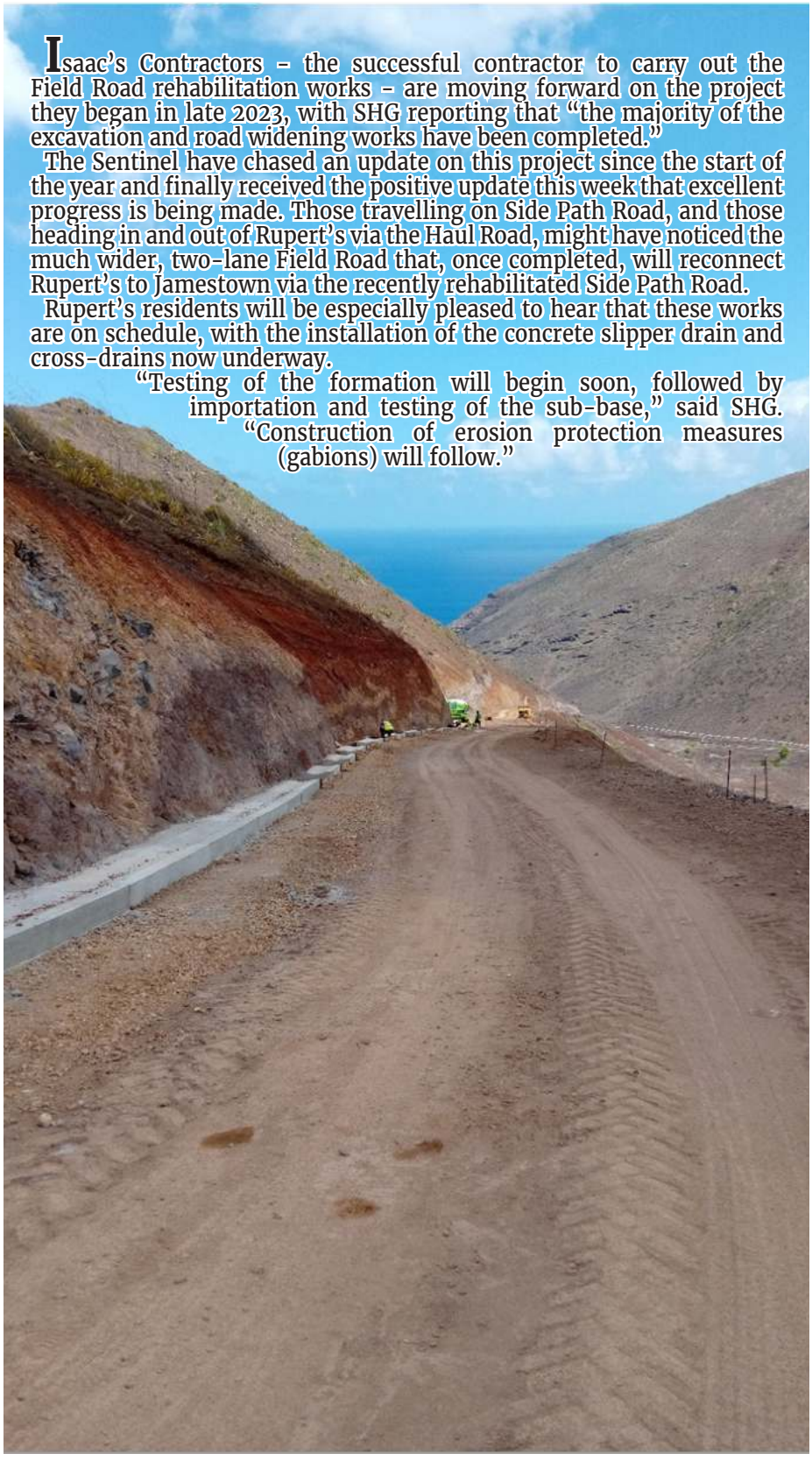
South Atlantic Media Services Ltd.,
The Media Centre, Castle Gardens,
Jamestown, St Helena, South Atlantic
Ocean, STHL 1ZZ. Tel: 22727
E: news@sams.sh, W: www.sams.sh
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ST HELENA NEWS

Big Project, Small Update

Works to Field Road progressing well

Donna Crowie, SAMS



Isaac's Contractors – the successful contractor to carry out the Field Road rehabilitation works – are moving forward on the project they began in late 2023, with SHG reporting that "the majority of the excavation and road widening works have been completed."

The Sentinel have chased an update on this project since the start of the year and finally received the positive update this week that excellent progress is being made. Those travelling on Side Path Road, and those heading in and out of Rupert's via the Haul Road, might have noticed the much wider, two-lane Field Road that, once completed, will reconnect Rupert's to Jamestown via the recently rehabilitated Side Path Road.

Rupert's residents will be especially pleased to hear that these works are on schedule, with the installation of the concrete slipper drain and cross-drains now underway.

"Testing of the formation will begin soon, followed by importation and testing of the sub-base," said SHG. "Construction of erosion protection measures (gabions) will follow."

Get Well Soon Your Majesty

King Charles begins treatment after being diagnosed with cancer



Liam Yon, SAMS

Buckingham Palace has confirmed that His Majesty King Charles III has recently been diagnosed with a form of cancer.

While the type of cancer has not been revealed, it has been confirmed that the diagnosis is not prostate cancer despite being discovered during his recent treatment for an enlarged prostate. "It was during this intervention that a separate issue of concern was noted and subsequently diagnosed as a form of cancer," said the Palace on Monday.

The King chose to go public about his cancer treatment as he had been a patron of a number of cancer-related charities back when he was Prince of Wales. "In this capacity, His Majesty has often spoken publicly in support of cancer patients, their loved ones and the wonderful health professionals who help care for them," said Buckingham Palace.

According to the Palace, His Majesty began "regular treatments" for his diagnosis on Monday and will postpone public duties during this time, following the recommendations of his doctor. The King however "remains wholly positive about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible."

No further details are being shared on the stage of cancer or a prognosis.

It is said that King Charles informed both his sons personally about his diagnosis and The Prince of Wales, Prince William, is said to be in regular contact with his father. The Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, who lives in the United States, has spoken to his father and will be travelling to the UK to see him.

Although he will refrain from public duties, The King will continue with his constitutional role as Head of State. It is understood his weekly meetings with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will continue in person, unless doctors advise that he limits such contact.

With that said, the Prime Minister himself has wished the King a "full and speedy recovery", as did Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer and Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

The King and Queen are scheduled to visit Canada in May, and Australia, New Zealand and Samoa for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October. The Palace has yet to confirm whether these tours will go ahead, with no date suggested for the King's return to full public duties.

The Sentinel joins all in the Commonwealth in wishing King Charles a speedy recovery.

‘Creating an enabling environment for economic development’



A look at the Ninth Meeting of Ministers Question Time

The ninth meeting Minister’s Question Time was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 30 January, from 10am. All questions were directed to Minister for Treasury and Economic Development Mark Brooks, although all Ministers had the opportunity to contribute. This week, The Sentinel covers questions concerning St Helena’s declining working-age population; the development of a new Immigration Policy; and the Land and Building Disposal Policy review.

“This will not happen overnight”

Tackling working-age population decline

Hannah Braaf, SAMS



The first question posed was by Cllr Ronald Coleman regarding progress made in growing the Island’s working-age population. This question was directed at Minister for Treasury and Economic Development Mark Brooks.

“This government recognises that the most critical issue facing the Island at the moment is that the working-age population is in decline,” Minister Brooks stated. “The new development strategy is focused on solving this issue.”

“The two main objectives under the economic sustainability strategy is to grow the working age population and to grow the proportion of government revenues collected through increased activity in the economy,” Minister Brooks explained.

“This is a cross-portfolio problem,” Minister Brooks stated. “We have targeted marketing in sectors to help this, to try and improve production on the Island to grow the working age population... We are looking at various means and ways that we can increase wages on the Island to make it a more attractive place to work and retain our working age population.”

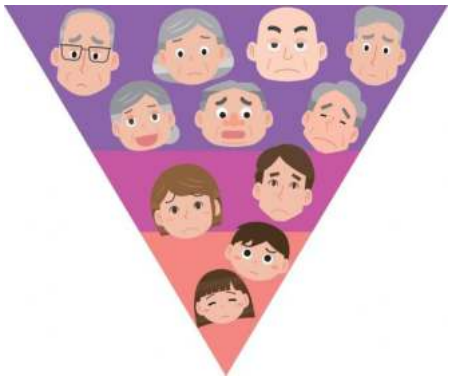
“This will not happen overnight,” Minister Brooks added. “The last population boom occurred around the time of a large construction on the Island, and without capital projects like this, it is going to be a slow increase.”

Cllr Coleman then questioned whether or not wages was the only issue.

“No, wages is not the only issue,” Minister Brooks responded. “I would say opportunities to do different forms of work and follow different career paths is also lacking on the Island. But, obviously, with the introduction of faster telecommunications, that does reduce those barriers. Now if you own an internet business, you can target a global audience.”

Cllr Coleman asked if the Island’s current working-age population was successfully carrying out all essential services.

“It would be hard for me to say that all posts across all portfolios



are being filled with the critical roles to help address this," Minister Brooks explained. "I know Health is suffering big-time with retention of staff at the CCC and other care settings. I also know that Education, at the moment, is suffering with lack of professional staff for various key posts within the Portfolio."

"There will be a debate around how we go about moving this forward, but I think we also need to recognise that the population decline started over 20 years ago now and it pretty much started around when we had our British citizenship back," Minister for Health and Social Care Martin Henry added.

"We also need to recognise that the airport was an artificial boom because it created that type of opportunity," Minister Henry continued. "If we didn't have the airport construction with that artificial boom, the decline would have been much worse now. This is not a problem that started yesterday, during our term, or two years ago; this is something that started ages ago.... Some of the solutions to these problems may have to vary across the board, [there is] not just one targeted avenue."

Cllr Coleman also inquired as to any up-skilling that could allow for the greater provision of essential services.

"Career Access is available and since they have restructured, social security is doing more of looking at the unemployed, as to signing off so that you can get your benefits, etc," Chief Minister Julie Thomas stated. "The restructure of how Career Access works is to a point now, whereby, we see a decline in the people that utilise the services being provided."

"Due to the decline in the working age pop, businesses are at a point at the moment - to include government no doubt - whereby they can't afford to have so many [employees] out doing training at this present time because they need boots on the ground," Chief Minister Thomas explained.

Cllr Robert Midwinter entered the conversation here, asking about the progress made so far.

"I would say that Career Access is set up to do what needs to be done, but the throughput has definitely seen a decline," Chief Minister Thomas stated. "I know the staff are working hard now to be able to restructure and then to be able to promote the services that they can see is required."

"We were without a Career Access manager for a long period of time," Chief Minister Thomas added. "There has now been a recruitment, so no doubt now we'll obviously see Career Access get motivated and start moving in the right way again."

"Staff within education is multitasking constantly at the moment, because of numbers not being there in key positions," Chief Minister Thomas explained. "For instance, I know with Career Access, for a long period of time, the manager of the College, Career Access, etc, was actually sitting in the office herself, just because we didn't have staff there to be able to man the station at that level."

"We're trying to ensure that we have as much support to keep the primary and secondary schools standards up where they should be," Chief Minister Thomas continued. "We still have major gaps."

Cllr Dr Corinda Essex then posed questions on when the new development strategy came into existence and its availability to the public.

"The new development strategy, which is now the sustainable economic development strategy replacement, has been presented to the advisory board last year," Minister Brooks stated. "It also has been to cabinet, it also has been to the Attorney General."

"It is due to come out for public engagement, but we're taking into account the other priorities in the policies that will also be soon coming out for public engagement and also the current round of constituency meetings," Minister Brooks continued.

"We are pretty much on track for delivering the immigration policy by April '24," Minister for Safety, Security & Home Affairs Jeffrey Ellick added. "Within, there will be various things that, hopefully, will be palatable and be able to attract people in terms on the working-age population in St Helena."



"It is definitely a priority"

New Immigration Policy to be delivered by April?

Hannah Braaf, SAMS



Cllr Robert Midwinter asked about the development of the new Immigration Policy and assurances about its delivery by April 2024 with Chief Minister Julie Thomas and Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, Jeffrey Ellick, first adding their input.

"It is definitely a priority for this ministerial team," Chief Minister Thomas stated. "It is actually Minister Ellick to, obviously, continue working towards the timelines."

"Progress is being made and documents were shared with Elected Members," Minister Ellick stated. "Progress is going quite well at the moment."

"I will be trying my best to make sure we have the policy delivered by April '24," Minister Ellick continued. "Once we are finished agreeing on options, we will go out to the public with the draft policy."

"Everything needs to work together," Minister Ellick added. "The Immigration Policy will not be a magic bullet."

Cllr Midwinter also questioned the impact on St Helena's economic environment if the new Immigration Policy is not delivered by April.

"It will be business as usual," Minister Brooks responded. "It doesn't stop all forms of economic development, we can still continue to look at long-term shipping contacts... we can continue to work with Airlink."

"Economic development runs so widely across the board [it is not halted] because we don't have the immigration reforms in place," Minister Brookes concluded.

"It does its rounds, just like any policy"

Minister Brooks updates on "long-awaited" Land and Building Disposal Policy

Hannah Braaf, SAMS



Cllr Rosemary Bargo questioned the Minister for Treasury and Economic Development Mark Brooks on the "long-awaited" Land and Building Disposal review and subsequent concessions to aid economic growth.

"The review of the Land and Building Disposal Policy has been in development for some time now," Minister Brooks stated. "It's a piece of work that the Head of Properties started, John Holman, when he first came into post. John Holman's post is finished, but he did leave behind quite a bit of documentation and research into how this policy can be improved."

"The policy has already been to my advisory board... around the middle of last year," Minister Brooks further stated. "It has also been to cabinet... sometime around November."

"It does its rounds, just like any policy," Minister Brooks explained. "With regards to this policy, obviously the Attorney General would be a key stakeholder... We've been in contact with the Attorney General's Chambers; there is progress, they are looking at the policy, they are asking questions."

"It is unfortunate that we have a few policies in our portfolio, and through different portfolios, that is due to come out for public engagement," Minister Brooks stated. "This [policy review] is also one of them that is due to come out, but the timing of that has to be so that we don't have consultation meetings or constituency meetings all in one go, because we won't get the attendance from the community as we would like."

"The expectation is that it will be ready in March, but we have to look at the calendar to see when is the best time for this to go out for public consultation," Minister Brooks continued.

"It will assist with economic growth, but also assist with better access to land, because that is what the policy is designed to do," Minister Brooks stated. "It's designed to clarify and streamline the disposal process, including introducing a disposal register and disposal plan."

"All the properties that Crown Estates would class as surplus will go onto the register, and then from that register, a plan would be developed for the selling or the leasing of land available," Minister Brooks explained.

"There's an element in the current policy that talks about disposable plan, although there hasn't been a plan that's been designed," Minister Brooks stated. "I'm developing a plan so that we can continue to sell and dispose of land in a way that meets the objectives of this government, but also develop a policy so that the whole process gets more streamlined and... easier to navigate."

"In terms of concessions, the policy changes SHG's definition of a first time buyer, making more affordable access to land for more people," Minister Brooks concluded. "We also will be continuing to look at subsidised rents and charges that are available for businesses that meet the objectives of the sustainable development strategy."

Two Sisters, One Ship



AIG negotiate March voyage with MACS as discussions continue for further voyages in 2024

Liam Yon, SAMS

Ascension Island Government have successfully negotiated a charter contract with St Helena's new shipping provider, MACS, to provide a cargo freight voyage between Ascension, St Helena and Cape Town, via the MV Karoline, in March 2024.

"In December 2023, SHG announced an agreement with shipping provider MACS to provide ocean freight services to St Helena," said AIG in a recent Public Notice. "Following this, AIG have negotiated an extension of the March 2024 voyage under that contract to include a service to and from Ascension."

Similarly to St Helena, Ascension's new arrangement with MACS follows the end of the interim service provided by Meihuizen International. The MV Karoline is expected to arrive at Ascension on 20 March. "The March voyage is timed to enable the arrival of freight before the Easter period," said AIG, who add that it is also to "bridge the gap" between the February and May voyages to Ascension of the Falkland Island Resupply Ship.

AIG say they have "worked closely with the Island Council" to agree the provision of this service and, as with the interim arrangement with Meihuizen, the cost of the St Helena-Ascension-St Helena legs will be subsidised.

"I welcome our agreement with MACS for the MV Karoline's March voyage," commented Ascension's Administrator, Simon Minshull. "This service will help to preserve the important freight shipping route between Ascension and St Helena, as well as facilitating cargo movements to and from South Africa."

AIG add that further scheduled sailings are subject to ongoing discussions with MACS as they "hope to announce two additional voyages for later in 2024, once the March voyage has taken place."



Short and Sweet Stay

Duke of Edinburgh visits Sister Island and presents MBE



Donna Crowie, SAMS

On Friday, 26 January, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh departed St Helena after an official visit to the Island. Not long after, he arrived on St Helena's Sister Island of Ascension.

During The Duke's visit to Ascension, he met with Island councillors and leaders, as well as key employing organisations and members of the community.

Similarly to St Helena, during his very short time on Ascension, Prince Edward also learnt about some of Ascension Island's conservation efforts.

Despite only being on Ascension for around two hours, The Duke did have the opportunity of presenting Dr William Hardy with his 2023 New Year's Overseas and International Honours Award.

Dr Hardy, Ascension Island's Senior Medical Officer, received an Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) award for his service in health and well-being on Ascension Island.

"I am delighted and deeply honoured to have received this wonderful award, which I consider to be a recognition not only of myself, but of the entire medical team at Georgetown Hospital," commented Dr Hardy. "To all of you, I offer my own congratulations and heartfelt thanks. This is truly a reflection of your own contributions to the work we all share here. I should also like to express my appreciation to our Administrator and the staff of AIG who have been wonderfully supportive of me and my family at this time."

"Dr Hardy has served the Island's community as SMO for the last decade, leading the AIG's healthcare team, dealing calmly and professionally with all that has come his way, including two shark attacks in 2017 and throughout the coronavirus pandemic," added AIG. "From delivering babies to dealing with heart attacks, Dr Hardy has showcased an incredible ability to adapt and respond to the fullest range of medical issues."

Other than his role as SMO, William Hardy is also a member of the island's statutory child safeguarding board. However, AIG state that his commitment to the island's well-being goes beyond his obligations in that role and includes going out of his way to counsel and support those who suffer from emotional or mental health difficulties.







A Grand Donation



Public Solicitor Office supports Yellow Fins with donation through Wills Aid

Liam Yon, SAMS

Through their Wills Aid initiative, the Public Solicitors Office (PSO) have over the past years made welcome donations to a number of local charities, with the beneficiary this year being the Yellow Fins Swim Club who received a £1,000 donation from the PSO on Friday afternoon at the Jamestown Swimming Pool.

"Wills Aid has been running in England and Wales since 1988 and was adopted on St Helena in 2017," explained the PSO. "Wills Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and charity. The idea is that, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, clients are invited to make a donation to charity for the cost of the will."

"The Public Solicitor Office had nominated Yellow Fins Swim Club over the past 12 months and are pleased to have donated £1,000 to this worthy organisation," they added.

The Yellow Fins Swim Club is a local organisation for people of all ages who are interested in competitive swimming. Training is carried out by UK-qualified swim coach, Derek Pedley with training taking place on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The club has been successful in sending away four swimmers in the last five years to both Island and Commonwealth Games tournaments, while a number of St Helena Island records are currently held by club swimmers.

Join the Flossy Possy

Dental Department launches Flossuary 28-day Challenge



Liam Yon, SAMS

With Thursday marking the first day of February 2024, the Dental Department of St Helena's Health Services have launched their February flossing challenge, known as the Flossuary 28-day Challenge.

To this end, the Dental Department are encouraging everyone on the Island to try and clean between their teeth at least once per day for 28 consecutive days, starting 1 February. According to the team, successfully completing this challenge will improve gum health, with those doing it both being able to see and feel the difference by the end of the month.

"Participating in the 'Flossuary' challenge helps prevent tooth loss, reduces your risk of heart disease and strokes as well as reducing your risk of diabetes," they said.

To assist those interested in taking on the challenge, the Dental Department have made available a limited number of free 'Flossuary' packs which they say includes guidance on how to correctly clean between the teeth, while it also provides a 28-day chart to track progress and includes samples of relevant products to try.

Contact the team at the Dental Department to collect a free pack.

Whether the extra day of February 2024, due to it being a leap year, makes a difference or not, the Flossuary 28-day challenge is still a step in the right direction to a better healthier lifestyle in 2024.

"Exciting next chapter!"

British Napoleonic Trust, now UK-St Helena Heritage Trust, changes name to reflect "a widened focus that encompasses all aspects of St Helena's built and cultural heritage"



Liam Yon, SAMS

The former British Napoleonic Trust has gone through a period of transition and is now moving forward and taking a wider look at the significant history of St Helena beyond the Napoleonic Heritage – the main focus of the Trust since it formed in 2019. As such, they have renamed the organisation to the UK-St Helena Heritage Trust.

Executive Director, Martyn Weeds, recently announced the change of direction of the Trust in a letter to supporters. "Following the passing of the Bicentenary of Napoleon's death on St Helena – the original focus of the Trust's activities – and completion of the Jacob's Ladder Restoration Project, the Trustees decided that it was time to take stock and consider the Trust's future role in preserving and championing the unique built and cultural heritage of St Helena," he said.

Martyn added that "while the period of Napoleon's exile is a vital continuing part of the island's story, the history and heritage of St Helena – and its significance for UK and world history – is much broader, and going forward our activities and events will reflect this."

As an example, Martyn spoke about St Helena's role in the abolition of slavery, giving a brief history lesson on the Island's significance in ending Trans-Atlantic slavery, something he described as "pivotal – but relatively unknown" while stating that the Island's unmarked burial grounds are "considered among the most significant physical remaining traces of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in the world."

With that said, Martyn was pleased to announce the first event of the newly named UK-St Helena Heritage Trust as an online webinar focusing on St Helena's role in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, taking place on Wednesday, 27 March, from 6-7pm. Speakers at the webinar will include Dr Andy Pearson and Helena Bennett from on-Island, as well as Chair of the Trust, Sir Brian Unwin KCB – an Author and former British Civil Servant.

"While the UK-St Helena Heritage Trust will continue to promote new perspectives on Napoleon's imprisonment and support projects that protect important Napoleonic heritage sites," explained Martyn. "Our new name reflects a widened focus that encompasses all aspects of St Helena's built and cultural heritage."

In addition, the Trust has redesigned their website to reflect recent changes and will be posting news and updates as and when they occur - www.uk-sthelenaheritagetrust.org.

"Thank you for all of your support over the last 4 years," said Martyn. "I hope you will join us for this exciting next chapter!"

UK-ST HELENA HERITAGE TRUST

"Water stocks are at normal levels"

No issues yet as Connect continue to monitor water stocks on sunny St Helena

Donna Crowie, SAMS



St Helena is experiencing very high temperatures at the moment with Jamestown and other areas around the Island reaching over 30 degrees Celsius on some days. The Met office stats report that even in Bottom Woods temperatures have reached over 26 degrees Celsius over past weeks.

Because of this, there have been concern among the community about the effect these temperatures, and the lack of substantial rainfall, has had on Island water stocks with St Helena having experience periods of drought in years gone by.

The Sentinel contacted Connect St Helena to enquire whether these extreme heat conditions being experienced are affecting the island's water supply, to which a response was received by Connect CEO, Janet Lawrence.

"Our current water stocks are at normal levels for this time of year and are well inside the tolerance levels within our Drought Management Plan," explained Janet. "We, of course, continue to monitor this closely."

The current weather patterns are reminiscent of the days when St Helena was subject to hosepipe bans and encouraged regularly to keep water supply to essential-use only. Thankfully, according to Connect, we are still far from these types of restrictions being imposed.



Jam Hearts

Show loved ones just how much you care with these gorgeous jam heart biscuits. Perfect as a Valentine's Day gift or for a special occasion, these simple chocolate biscuits are sure to hit the sweet spot with their vanilla frosting and raspberry jam fillings.

Ingredients

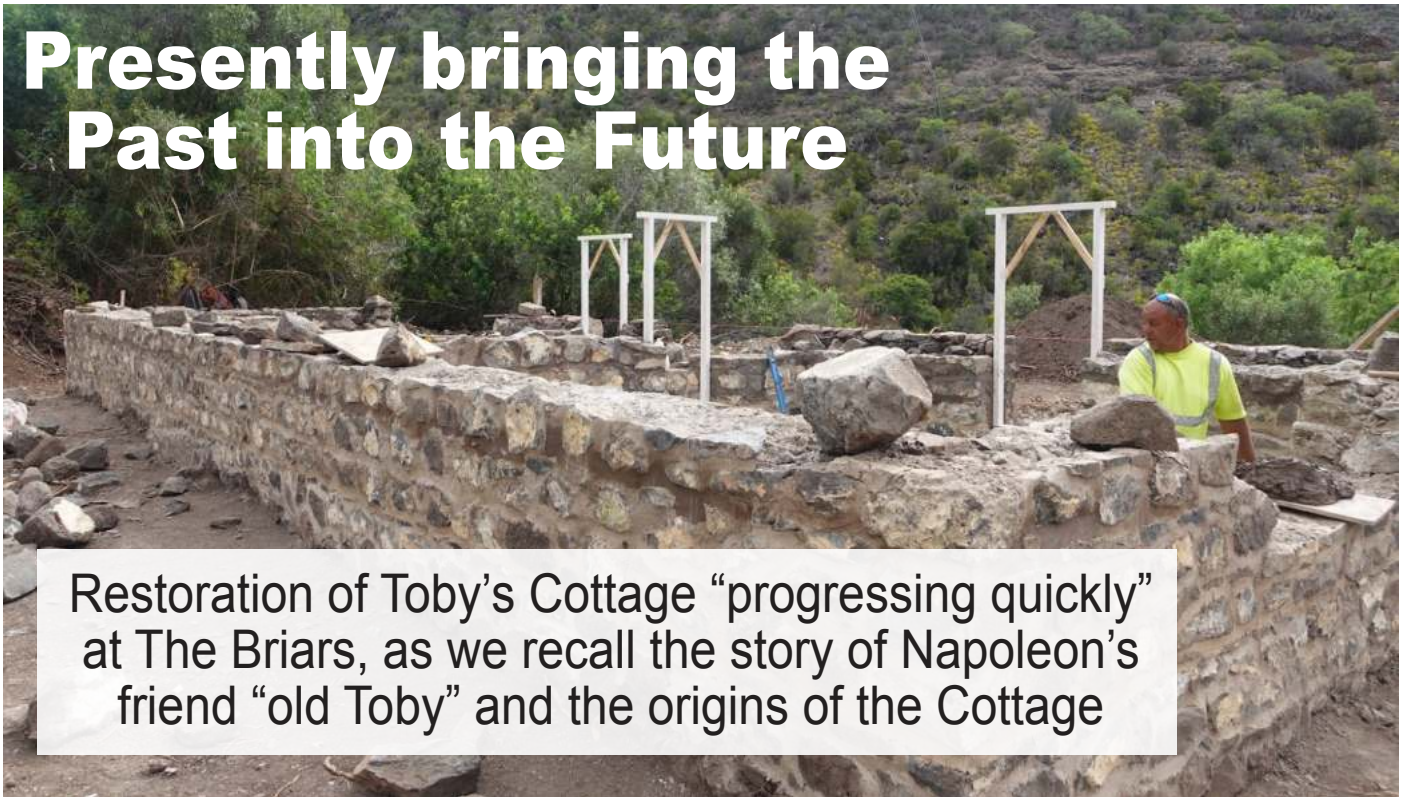
- 100g butter
- 75g caster sugar
- 175g plain flour
- 25g dark cocoa powder
- 2tbsp milk
- 16tsp vanilla-flavoured frosting
- 8tsp seedless raspberry jam
- 50g plain chocolate, broken into pieces.

Method

1. Line 2 baking sheets with non-stick baking paper. Cream together the butter and caster sugar, until light and fluffy. Sift the plain flour and cocoa powder into the mixture and combine, then add enough milk until a fairly soft dough forms.
2. Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C. Knead the dough well for 2mins on a lightly floured surface, then roll out to a thickness of about 3mm. Stamp out 16 x 8cm heart shapes and put onto the prepared baking sheets, making sure that there's plenty of space between each.
3. Take a smaller 3cm heart cutter and stamp out the middle of 8 of the hearts; remove. These can be baked separately, if you like.
4. Bake in the oven for 8-10 mins, until slightly firm. Leave to cool on a wire rack.
5. Once cold, spread the whole heart bases with 2tsp vanilla frosting, then gently spread 1tsp raspberry jam on top. Put the biscuits with the heart cut-outs on top and sandwich together gently so that the frosting doesn't squidge out.
6. Melt the chocolate pieces in a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water. Once melted, pour into a small piping bag, snip off the end and drizzle over the biscuits in a zigzag fashion. Chill in the fridge for 15 minutes, or until set. Serve straight away, or package in a box with tissue paper and give as a gift. They will keep for up to 5 days.



Presently bringing the Past into the Future



Restoration of Toby's Cottage "progressing quickly" at The Briars, as we recall the story of Napoleon's friend "old Toby" and the origins of the Cottage

Liam Yon, SAMS

A unique project is currently ongoing in the Briars Valley to restore a former slave residence – Toby's Cottage – duly named after one of the male slaves that lived there, who was recounted as being a friend of St Helena's most famous prisoner, Napoleon Bonaparte.

An East India Company and Colonial Administrator called William Balcombe took over The Briars property in 1811, where he established a brewery, as detailed by the UK-St Helena Heritage Trust. It was at this property that the exiled Bonaparte had lodged with the Balcombes whilst his permanent quarters at Longwood was being prepared.

One of the slaves during that time, who became renowned for having befriended the French Emperor, was named Toby. In the words of William Balcombe's daughter, Betsy Balcombe - another who befriended Napoleon during his time living in the Pavillion - Toby was, "an old Malay slave [...] who had been captured and brought to the island as a slave many years before, and had never since crossed its boundary. He was an original, and rather an interesting character. A perfect despot in his own domain, he never allowed his authority to be disputed; and the family stood almost as much in awe of him, as they did of the master of the Briars himself."

Betsy recounted how "Napoleon took a fancy to old Toby, and told papa he wished to purchase him, and give him his freedom; but for some political reason it was not permitted. The old man retained ever afterwards the most grateful sense of Napoleon's kindness, and was never more highly gratified than when employed in gathering the choicest fruit, and arranging the most beautiful bouquets, to be sent to Longwood, to 'that good man, Bony'."

Toby's Cottage was a small two-





3D visual of the cottage before restoration



3D visual of the cottage once restoration is completed



Toby's Cottage before the restoration works began

room outbuilding to the rear of the main complex, sitting on the eastside of the Briars. The Trust say that "the space was likely inhabited by members of Balcombe's enslaved domestic servants" therefore Toby's Cottage "represents one of a few surviving dwellings of enslaved people on the Island."

With a view to restoring this historically valuable property, the Trust produced 3D scans of the cottage and developed plans for "restoring it as a faithful replica of the conditions Toby would have lived in at that time."

"In December 2023, thanks to generous donations towards the restoration project, works commenced under the direction of St Helena Napoleonic Heritage Ltd," announced the Trust.

Honorary French Consul, Michel Dancoisne-Martineau, is the Director of the French Domains on St Helena and has recently blogged that works to restore Toby's Cottage is "progressing quickly."

"The craftsmen are currently at the stage of installing the doors and windows," explained Michel. "This restoration work, entirely financed by Mr Ben Delo, co-founder and former director of BitMEX, is carried out in an exceptional manner by John I Isaac and Basil Francis."

Speaking on the ancient techniques being used, Michel told how "Johnny and Basil collect 19th century technical information from the island's elders to allow this reconstruction to become a showcase of ancestral construction techniques which, fortunately, have not yet been forgotten."

The Trust say that "once complete, the cottage will be an invaluable opportunity to further develop the recognition of the history of slavery on the Island, and to recount that history through the perspective of one individual whose story is little understood."



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. Feb 09
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 2pm: Our Show
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam

SAT. Feb 10
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Hannah Braaf
- 1pm-3pm: The Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 6-8pm: DNA Show (Repeat)
- 8pm: Mixed Tape Show with Hannah Braaf

SUN. Feb 11
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita and Deon
- 1pm: Interveiw Hour
- 3-4pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm : In Scope - Education
- 7pm: Seventh day Church Service

MON. Feb 12
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 2pm-4pm:DNA with Deon and Anita

TUE. Feb 13
- 7am-9am: Morning Show with Donna
- 9am - 11am: Midday Show with Demy Herne
- 2pm: In Scope
- 5-7pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne

WED. Feb 14
- 7am: Midweek Morning Show with Deon
- 8:30-10:30am: Our Show Valentine's special
- 11am-1pm: The Northward sounds with Tony Leo
- 1pm-3pm: 1548 with Ferdie
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm- Mixed Tape Show with Hannah Braaf

THU. Feb 15
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 11am: Midday show with Hannah Braaf
- 1pm : Afternoon show with Demy Herne
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie

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

Featured this Week



Our Show Valentine's Special!

Why not join Demy and Donna on Wedesday morning, when they will be sharing the love, this Valentine's Day?

There will be a competition on the show for all of our listeners to take part in, with a special prize kindly sponsored by to SAMS by Rose & Crown

So tune in on Valentines Day from 8:30am for a love(ly) edition of Our Show on SAMS R1!

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

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Crossword: Rom-coms



ACROSS

1. There's something about who in this popular romantic comedy from 1998?
8. In The Proposal, where do Andrew and Margaret pretend they're going to get married?
9. In Just Go with It, what does Danny (Adam Sandler) wear to lure woman?
10. Which US city serves as the backdrop for the film Sleepless in Seattle?
11. In Bridget Jones's Diary, who does Bridget Jones end up with?
12. Who stars as the female lead in the romantic comedy Knocked Up? (9,5)

DOWN

2. Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan were the leading actors in what movie? (5,3,4)
3. In 10 Things I Hate About You, who is Kat's younger sister?
4. In which US State was the movie 50 First Dates set?
5. What is the title of the first movie in this romantic comedy franchise where Ben Stiller plays a male nurse? (4,3,7)
6. Who was the lead actress in the film Pretty Woman? (5,7)
7. In Crazy Rich Asians where is Nick Young's family from?

Famous Birthday on 08 Feb



Paul White (Big Show) (51)

Sentinel Joke of the day

Why shouldn't you trust a pastry chef on Valentine's Day?

Because he'll dessert you.

Rebus Puzzle: *Figure out the phrase*





Pigeon suspected of being Chinese spy released by police in India after being detained for eight months



A pigeon accused of being a Chinese spy has been cleared by police and released back into the wild.

The bird was detained by officers after it was captured in May last year near a port in Mumbai, news agency Press Trust of India reported.

It was found with two rings tied to its legs featuring words that appeared to be Chinese.

Detectives suspected the pigeon was involved in espionage and took it in, before later sending it to Mumbai's Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals.

However, after eight months in captivity, it emerged that the creature was an open-water racing bird from Taiwan which had escaped and flown to India.

Police then approved the bird's transfer to the Bombay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where doctors set free the falsely accused avian on Tuesday.

Pigeons have been used in spying and combat throughout history, including by UK forces in the First World War and Second World War to deliver messages.

A pigeon called Gustav brought the first news of D-Day back to the UK, after a correspondent wrote a report and attached it to the bird while landing on Sword Beach in Normandy on 6 June 1944.

India has also previously detained the birds over security fears. In 2020 suspicious police in Indian-controlled Kashmir captured a pigeon that belonged to a Pakistani fisherman.

An investigation found the bird was not a spy, and had simply flown across the border between the countries.

In 2016 another pigeon was detained after it was allegedly found with a note that threatened Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Last week's Crossword Answers

The Duke

ACROSS
4.Lace
7.Shape
8.St Helena Airport
10. Chief Minister
12. BluePoint

DOWN
1.CommunityCare-Centre
2.CourtHouse
8.St Helena Airport
3.WhaleShark
5.Rosemary Plain
6.NewHorizons
9.TwentyThird
11. Jonathan

Rebus Answers:

1. You are too wise for me, 2.Center of gravity

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED

In Scope: Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio



Focus on the St Helena Research Institute

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Chief Minister Julie Thomas had members of the team from St Helena Research Institute (SHRI), managed and directed by Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, as her guests in the studio to share with listeners the developments that took place during the year, since this section was last on Inscope. During the previous program the focus was on the aims and objectives of the Institute and the work that was undertaken by this relatively new service. One of the subjects under discussion was the plans to develop a central database that would capture biological data and make this data more accessible for all users. Rebecca and two other members of the team, Zac Bargo and Selene Gough, were in the studio to update listeners on the progress made within this section. The SHRI is set up to promote, encourage and facilitate research on the Island. It also focuses on education where the information gathered can be presented to all users in an easily accessible way.

Biological data is observation and sighting data collected on anything that used to be or is alive including terrestrial and marine data. This data can help researchers understand and interpret nature on island better and can assist to determine and predict the impact of, for example, introduced species on endemic species. Public observations is a big help in building up this data base, as a lot more data can be collected if they record their observations, as opposed to recordings by only a handful of researchers. Protecting the biodiversity on St Helena is important, as it forms a large part (approximately 30%) of the overall biodiversity recorded in the UK and the overseas territories.

The team has grown over the past year and now includes two externally funded inaugural projects, with Selene in her role in data recording for the iRecord project and Zac working as a research assistant on the Cloud Forest and Peaks Pathogen Research projects. The team now also includes a support officer, with Sarah Iguna fulfilling this role. This role includes the reviewing of procedures and guidelines when reviewing applications received from researchers. The team works very closely in collaboration with other SHG sections, as well as the National Trust.

Zac worked closely with Tsvetoslav Georgiev, a PhD Student of Bryophyte-Microbe Interactions, that formed part of the Cloud Forest Project. Zac supported him during his project in researching and cataloguing bryophytes on the Peaks. He is currently closely involved with the Pathogens Project in trying to determine the cause of tree deaths in the Peaks National Park. Root, tip, bark and soil samples are taken from infected trees and these are used to isolate pathogens and transfer them to culture plates. These pathogens are then grown in gelatine, undergoing a process to isolate them until a pure culture is obtained containing only one species of pathogen that can be sent away for identification. Access to the Peaks National Park has now been restricted for almost a year to do more research into the cause of the tree deaths and dieback that have been observed. Zac has undergone training to work with the CABI team (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International), employing molecular research methods in the lab to assist in this project. The next phase in this project will entail the inoculation of healthy trees with isolated pathogens in a contained environment to determine the specific pathogen responsible for the tree disease that is being observed. Zac will play a vital role in recording data from the Peaks and tree health as well as pathogens that are identified.

Selene started at SHRI in November 2021 and was then responsible for the initial setup of a centralised database which records all biological data on record. The aim of this project was to collate all the available biological data from various sources on the island in one central database to make access to information easier, as well as using this data to make predictions and apply data to current research as well as in decision-making. Currently, there are over 10,000 records in the database and 46 recorders. It is hoped that more members of the public will get involved in recording biological data to increase

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED



the observations and available data. iRecord St Helena is the name of the open source software database created here on St Helena, in partnership with the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, and the Biological Recording Centre, using their database programmes as examples to provide guidelines for the establishment of iRecord St Helena. All data is available through a data portal (website), as well as on the App, and data can be added through these routes. The public is encouraged to participate in the recording program to increase the number of observations being recorded. Certain data is needed to make a good citizen bio-record entry, including the species being recorded, the date, location and - if possible - photographs. Using the App will make all of these recordings even easier. Benefits of the centralised database can already be seen with the work that is being done on recording data on tree health as well as the red listing of invertebrate species. Another critical part of Selene's role (and part of the new project funding) is how effectively manage the database to ensure that it is user-friendly. When users are accessing the database they have to be able to extract, apply and use the data that is available to identify patterns and trends.

Selene was interested in a career in IT but also loves the environment and this project combines both these passions. She received a Darwin+ fellowship to study in the UK and was based at the UK centre for Ecology and Hydrology to undergo training there. It was also at this time that she was exposed to the technology employed in biological data capturing on which the iRecord program is based. The current project she is working on is another Darwin funded project that will work towards embedding and applying the use of the central database on St Helena. Most current recordings are terrestrial bio-records, but in the future there will be a focus on marine species as well. The team have already submitted another application for funding through the Darwin project to secure funds to further develop and promote this project, as well as increasing the capacity of the SHRI. This new project will involve working with the Royal Society of the Protection of Birds and the National Trust. This area of research and data collection will (hopefully) soon become part of iRecord St Helena with the focus on seabirds and terrestrial bird species, like the Wirebird, to support future projects and planning through collating, extracting and interpreting relevant data.

The final part of the program focussed on how the SHRI has succeeded in providing opportunities for the young people of St Helena by providing guidance and securing funding to develop roles like these. It provides exposure to world-class scientists and develops their skills as well as challenging them to excel and exceed their academic training, gaining in skills and experience. Selene said that this opportunity has developed her professional skills, as well as life skills and knowledge. Young people should pursue their passion and opportunities that will help them grow and develop. Zac said that he really enjoyed meeting new people and learning from them while interacting. There are opportunities available on St Helena if you look around and keep an open mind. His advice to other young people on St Helena was to pursue happiness not wealth, as money does not guarantee contentment. Rebecca reaffirmed that young people on St Helena can do it. Give them the opportunity and the challenges and they will rise to the occasion.



StHelena iRecord



iRecord St Helena makes it easy for your wildlife sightings to be collated, checked by experts and made available to support research and decision-making. Become a member of iRecord St Helena to share your sightings with the recording community, explore dynamic maps and graphs of your data and make a real contribution to science and conservation.

Slurry About That



Slurry Paver demonstration postponed until next week

Liam Yon, SAMS

In November 2023, the Road Maintenance Section received a welcomed boost to their service with the arrival of a slurry paver, procured from VVS Macropavers - a company specialising in slurry equipment in the USA.

The new slurry paver, coloured black with yellow detailing, recently undertook trial operations in the St Paul's district on the road between Phillip John's Shop and the Scotland Roundabout, while they also worked on a section of road at White Gate, opposite the bus shelter.

Following these "successful trials", the Roads Section has planned to carry out some slurry demo works with the new paver at the Sea Front. "After successful trials with the new slurry paver in the St Paul's area, the Roads Section is planning to do a slurry demonstration section for the press, government officials and the public," explained Roads Manager, Deon Robbertse. "The demo section will be on the Jamestown Seafront, between the Arch and the Customs building."

Initially, the demo works were planned to take place this week, starting at 10am on Tuesday, 6 February. Unfortunately, in a contrast to the weather patterns in recent weeks, Tuesday was an unusually dull summer's day on St Helena, with the morning bringing spells of rainfall. Due to this, and with the surface needing to dry following the demonstration, the decision was made to postpone the works.

This demonstration has now been rescheduled for next week.









"Training like this is vital"

Maritime search and rescue training delivered on-Island by HM Coastguard



Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Joint Emergency Service Control Centre (JESCC), along with the St Helena Sea Rescue Service, recently received maritime search and rescue refresher training delivered by His Majesty's Coastguard as part of the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) led, UK Overseas Territories Search and Rescue Capability Project, with funding from the FCDO via the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF).

As reported by SHG, the training focused on providing assistance to persons in distress at sea and included the handling of distress communications and the planning and execution of maritime searches. This all culminated with a live search and rescue exercise off Jamestown to put what was learnt into practise.

Conducted by Phil Bostock, Head of International Liaison for HM Coastguard and Operational Lead for the Overseas Territories Search and Rescue Capability Project, the training covered topics including elements on distress call management and working with international partners and the global Search and Rescue System, while it also covered search planning based on the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue manual.

"This week has been a great opportunity to work with staff in the JESCC and the Sea Rescue Service, building on previous training delivered in 2018 and 2019," commented Phil. "Training like this is vital to maintain technical skills required for search and rescue and to keep up with new developments. Our focus is to share our knowledge and to learn from those we work with to continually improve how we save lives at sea. I have been really impressed by the skills, professionalism and dedication to save lives by all those involved in search and rescue in St Helena."

"It's been great having Phil on island again," commented Sea Rescue Manager, Simon Wade. "He's conducted training with the JESCC and Sea Rescue Service staff with both looking at different elements of search and rescue. Phil was also able to give a presentation to ministers and senior management in the public service. This covered search and rescue globally and what our state requirements are as per the conventions that have been extended to St Helena, such as Safety of Life at Sea and International Civil Aviation Organization."

In addition to delivering this vital training, Phil also carried out an Annex 12 Compliance Audit with St Helena Airport on behalf of Air Safety Support International (ASSI).









NOTICE BOARD



BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
11th February
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 13th February
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 15th February
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Ladies Meeting
Wednesday 14th February
Baptist School Hall 10.30 am

Outreach Service
Sunday 18th February
Kingshurst Community Centre 3.00 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

Property for Sale in Longwood



This house is built with rendered concrete block work with some galvanised metal framed windows and the more recent renovation with iroko wooden framed windows. The building has a footprint of approx. 1697 square ft and has a pitched roof of IBR (inverted box rib) galvanised iron sheets. Offers a patio, separate bathroom and toilet, small utility room/shower, kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms and a large, spacious room that spans the front facing side of the house.

The kitchen is fitted with locally made kitchen cabinets, along with a Rayburn wood burner which provides a hot water system to the kitchen and main bathroom and separate shower.

There is one corrugated iron and timber structure garages on either side of the house and a previously used block built garage exists at the back of the house.

The space surrounding the front of the property provides the opportunity for smallholding crop growing or the whole property for other options for development.

There is vehicular access leading from the main highway which is only metres away from the property front door.

For further information relating to the sale of this property or to view the property please contact Jacqui Williams:
Tel: 00290 23272 or Email: jacqui.lou@helanta.co.sh

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2023/34:** FULL Planning Application for **(Amended Drawings) Proposed New Roof & Covered Area**, Opposite Barracks Square, Jamestown on Parcel JT120018. Applicant: Anthony Essex

2. **Application 2024/07:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of Two Shade Houses,** Scotland, St Paul's on Parcel SCOT0138. Applicant: Director of Environment, Natural Resources & Planning Portfolio

3. **Application 2024/08:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Extensions to Existing House to form a Patio, Deck and Bedroom with En-suite**, Cow Path, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH0727. Applicant: Danica Ellick

Please note the following correction pertaining to advertisement of 26th January 2024 within the Independent Newspaper:

Application 2024/06: FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a One Bedroom Dwelling**, Coltsheds, Longwood on Parcels LWN0425 & LWN0435. Applicant: Michael Richards **(Parcel should have read LWN0325 & LWN0435)**

St Helena Government

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

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

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 22 February 2024

Shane Williams, Acting Head of Planning & Building Control

Upcoming Cruise Ships
Register of interest

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

St Helena will have two cruise ships calling back-to-back at the end of February: the MSC Poesia on the 27th, and Azamara Pursuit on the 28th.

The Poesia is set to bring over 2,000 visitors to St Helena, the Azamara over 700. Collectively the island could experience around 3,000 visitors over two days, plus crew.

Both these cruise ships present fantastic opportunities for local businesses, and a chance for organisations to showcase their work.

The Grand Parade and Mule Yard will be set up to accommodate the sale of souvenirs, food, beverage and other items, and provide entertainment on the 27th and 28th.

If you would like to book a space under the marquee or gazebos on the Grand Parade or in the Mule Yard, or set up another stall (e.g. in front of the Canister, or in the Market), please register your interest with the Tourist Office no later than Wednesday, 21 February 2024 on 22158 or email matthew.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh. Spots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

St Helena Tourism would also like to hear from any bands, musicians and performers that would be interested in providing entertainment for the cruise ship visits, notably on the 27th for the Poesia.

For further information about the upcoming cruise ship visits, please contact the Tourist Office.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week

PROSPEROUS BAY
ST HELENA NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP

Date: Saturday, 10 February 2024
Start Time: 8:45am

Meeting point: Layby after the Cooks' Bridge on the airport road

Join Tom Wortley of Rock Mount Walking Tours on this coastal walk that takes you down the side of the valley to the remains of an old military building and a broad beach with pools for paddling (bring swimming gear).

Minimum 2L of water required, sensible walking shoes, hat and sunscreen.

Walk grade: This walk is not suitable for children or anyone that is not keen on heights. Loose gravel underfoot.

7-8 Fairly strenuous

Upcoming walks

Date	Walk	Host
Saturday 17/2/2024	Blue Point	Stedson Stroud & Selene Gough
Saturday 24/2/2024	Lemon Valley	Adam Sizeland

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

St Helena Government

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

St Helena Government is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably experienced contractors to undertake painting and maintenance jobs in a number of locations.

The works will include but are not limited to:

- painting of Pilling School's wall;
- the old mortuary at the seafront;
- painting of Ladder Hill houses (regarding the Yard) – road side only;
- Bellstone's wooden structure and sign;
- fabrication of gates at Ladder Hill;
- railings along the Tomb road;
- Millennium Forest fencing; and
- White Wall

For further information, please contact the Buildings Maintenance Manager, Theron Henry, by telephone on 25722 or via email through theron.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Interested parties must submit their expression of interest, listing their experience and hourly rate to undertake these works.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest to be submitted is 16:00 on Wednesday 14 February 2024. Submissions should be placed in the Tender Box located on the top floor of the Post Office Building, Jamestown, and clearly marked "EOI's – Miscellaneous Works".

SHG, 05 February 2024

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY – SENIOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ENGINEER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to support the Electricity Team in the delivery of Connect's Energy Delivery Plan. The Energy Delivery Plan sets out a roadmap for phased delivery of improvements in the energy sector on St Helena, particularly to support plans for energy transition on St Helena, with the objective of reaching 80% electricity generation from renewable energy sources by 2027/28.

The successful candidate should have the following qualifications and experience:

- BSc in Electrical engineering (preferably with focus on renewable energy technology or similar).
- Over 5 years previous experience in the energy sector, with experience in renewable energy being preferred.
- Over 5 years experience in project/programme management and delivery in the Renewable Energy Sector, including possessing Prince 2 Practitioner or equivalent.
- Experience of budget management and cost control.
- Have excellent written and verbal English skills.
- Possess a Class A Drivers licence.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits include 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 25 days annual leave.

For a full job description and/or further details on this position please contact Geoffrey Augustus on (+290) 22255 or email Geoffrey.Augustus@connect.co.sh.

Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh by 9am on Monday, 19 February 2024.

To be considered for this role please complete our application form: CV's will not be accepted.

St Helena Government

INVITATION TO TENDER

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

ENRP30-2023/24: Catch and tag semi-pelagic fish, almaco jacks, black jacks and cavalleyat inshore pinnacles

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 throughtiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Contract Officer, Kirsty Jones by telephone on 25966 or email kirsty.jones@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Friday 9February 2024, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG, 23 January 2024

NOTICE BOARD

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, the use of paint and rust treatment when maintaining equipment and structures
- 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 23rd February 2024**

Job Vacancy - HUMAN RIGHTSOFFICER

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)invites suitably qualified persons to apply for the position of Human Rights Officer.

As a Human Rights Officer (HRO) you will be responsible for assisting the CEO and Commissioners to achieve the objectives of the Commission as specified by the underpinning Ordinance and strategic plan.

Some of the functions will include but are not limited to:

- Planning and coordinating activities related to human rights.
- Researching and analysing human rights issues in St Helena
- Collecting and analysing human rights data
- Assisting with investigations of alleged violations of human rights law, including interviewing witnesses and collecting evidence
- Conducting educational programs to promote awareness of human rights issues.
- Monitoring legislation and legal decisions that may affect human rights.
- Representing the EHRC at meetings
- Preparing reports and briefings for Commissioners and the CEO

Interested persons should possess excellent written and verbal communication skills and the ability to communicate at all levels, have empathy, patience, be approachable, a good listener and have a flexible approach to the demands of the role. Persons must operate in strict confidence and be able to work independently, as well as in a team. Experience in Human Rights research would be desirable but not essential. Training will be given.

This is a full-time position attracting a salary of £10,118 per annum.

For further details and a full job description please contact Catherineor Carol on telephone 22133 or email catherine@humanrightssthelena.org. Applications anda CV should be sent to Carol Thompson, Executive Manager bymidday on Monday26 February 2024, email carol@humanrightssthelena.org.

Equality & Human Rights Office, Coles House, Napoleon Street, Jamestown. Tel: 22133

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Waste Management Services Operator (£7,341 per annum)

Waste Management Services is seeking to employ a highly motivated individual to join their dedicated team. The successful candidate will be responsible for delivering high standards of cleaning in public areas and toilets, waste collection from homes and businesses and other waste management tasks in line with Standard Operating Procedures. Normal working hours are 0600hrs to 1330hrs Monday to Friday, with weekends and Public Holiday working on a rota system. If you are physically fit and an effective team player then we would be interested in hearing from you.

Waste Management Services; working towards a cleaner and greener St Helena.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mike Durnford Tel No. 24724
Closing date: 16 February 2024

Receptionist (£6,643 per annum)

The Receptionist will be based at the St Helena Community College and will be the first point of contact for all visitors to the College providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Carol Henry on Tel no 22470
Closing date: 19 February 2024

GIS Topographical Surveyor (£9,197 per annum)

The GIS Topographical Surveyor will help the island thrive through the collection and organisation of topographic surveys for the development of geospatial data of physical infrastructure, utility services and topography. Support development of the St Helena Environmental Information System (SHEIS), including providing support to GIS Users and promoting the use of GIS throughout SHG.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquires: Devlin Yon on Tel no 22270
Closing date: 19 February 2024

Benefits

Leave – 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

Support Worker (Piccolo Hill)
(Fixed-Term 3 month contract with a possibility to extend)
(£7,341 - £8,946 per annum)

Do you have a genuine interest in providing one-to-one support to enable individuals to live independently? Social Care is seeking to recruit Support Workers to assist individuals so that they can live full, active and independent lives safely. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Nicole Hercules on Tel No 25936**
Closing date: **13 February 2024**

Tourism Officer (1- year Fixed Term)
(£13,948 per annum)

Tourism is one of St Helena's key economic drivers.
Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a career change or to progress your career? Do you have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to develop productive relationships with tourism stakeholders? If so, the Economic Development Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join their team. You will be primarily involved in providing island information to visitors, but also involved in promotions, marketing and product development, raising awareness about the island whilst ensuring its attractions and services are improved to help ensure a quality visitor experience.
Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Matthew Joshua on Tel No 22158**
Closing date: 20 February 2024

Benefits

Leave – 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.

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

General Teaching Assistant
(Harford Primary School)
(£7,823 - £8,114 per annum)

Do you have a passion for Education? We are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant to provide assistance to the class teacher by supporting teaching and learning in the school/classroom environment. The individual needs to be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and have good communication skills to be able to communicate between students, parents and colleagues. Experience in EYFs is desirable.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Carlean Crowie on Tele no. 24719
Closing date: 13 February 2024

Immigration/Customs Officers (18 years +)
(Permanent)
(£9,197 per annum)

We are looking to fill these important roles in our busy Customs and Immigration teams. Your role will be to undertake the duties and responsibilities to reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena. This is a critical role which requires experience of front line / customer facing responsibilities, an inquisitive mind-set and the ability to work well as part of a team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Juliette O'Dean on Tele no. 22287
Closing date: 14 February 2024

Benefits

Leave – 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.

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NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 11th February 2024 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Special Vestry	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Peter
	Ash Wednesday 14th February	
9.00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service - PAS	Cathedral
10.30 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service - SPPS	Cathedral
7.00 p.m.	Mass with Ashes	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 11th February 2024 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Special Vestry	St John
	Ash Wednesday 14th February	
10.00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service - PPS	St James
7.00 p.m.	Mass with Ashes	St James
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 11th February – 6th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade/Special Vestry	St Mark
	Ash Wednesday 14th February	
10.00 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Service - HPS	St Mark
7.00 p.m.	Mass with Ashes	St Mark

House for Sale



House situated on 1.17 acres of freehold property at Lufkin's, St Paul's.

For further information interested persons should phone: 23871

Mobile No. +290 66365

REDECORATING WORK – ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

St Paul's Parish wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to carry out redecorating works at St Paul's Cathedral.

A site visit to view the work will take place on Thursday, 15 February 2024 at 10 a.m.

Should you require any further information please contact Alan Hudson on Telephone 23568 or email alan.hudson@helanta.co.sh

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE 2 – TOPIC FOR SCRUTINY

Members of the public are advised that Select Committee 2 has selected Social Housing as their second topic for scrutiny. This topic sits under the Economic Development and Safety, Security and Home Affairs Portfolios.

The public are invited to submit information which might assist with this inquiry to Select Committee 2, through the Committee Secretary, Shanice Phillips via email through shanice.phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh or by letter, for attention of the Committee Secretary at the Legislative Council Office, The Castle, before 16:00 on Monday 18 February 2024.

Legislative Council, 05 February 2024

SPORTS ARENA

Challengers fall to the Pirates



The first match of the weekend began with league leaders, Challengers, receiving their first loss of the season, with Sandy Bay Pirates breaking the undefeated streak. Pirates batted first and posted a total of 180, all out. A brilliant bowling performance from the Pirates saw them bowl out Challengers for 131. Player of the Match was Pirates' Greg Coleman.

The second match on Saturday saw the Cobras put up a massive score of 370, for the loss of two wickets against the Lions. Man of the Match Scott Crowie contributed with 118 and three wickets. Despite missing out, in a plus for them, Lions did post their highest score this year with 97 all out.

On Sunday morning, Jamestown Heat were defeated by the Levelwood Allstars. Heat batted first and finished on a total of 226 runs for six wickets, with contributions from Damien O'Bey with 83 and Jamie Essex 70.

But it was Allstars who would chase the total, with help from an outstanding batting performance from Man of the Match Clayton Leo, with 98 to see Allstars win by five wickets.

The final match of the weekend saw Levelwood Rebels defeat the Mustangs. Mustangs opted to bat and produced a total of 169 all out with help from a brilliant bowling performance from Man of the Match Weston Clingham. The Rebels chased down the total with ease, losing just one wicket. Ultimately, the Rebels won by nine wickets.

SHCA 35 Over League Fixtures

Saturday, 10 February

8:45am - Challengers v Rebels
Umpires: Dane Leo and Dave Francis

1:30pm - Lions v Mustangs
Umpires: Gavin George and Matthew Benjamin

Sunday, 11 February

8:45am - Heat v Pirates
Umpires Jordi Henry and Trystan Thomas

1:30pm - Allstars v Cobras
Umpires: Alaisdair Bain
and Barry Stroud



Greetings from Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

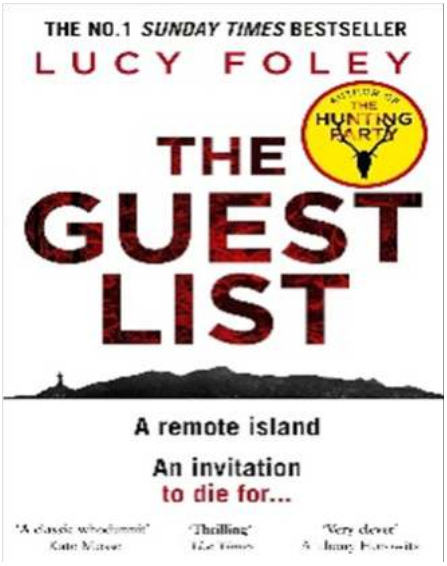
Another session was booked for a private shooting competition for a group of sporty people taking part in a variety of sports throughout their weekly schedule in a competitive friendly way. Some of whom haven't shot a rifle before but was willing to give it a go, after a few words of encouragement they were given a practice shot, concluding the practice run it became serious, knowing there were medals to play for. Final finishing results, Tara 70+75.1=145.1, Pete 82+64=146.0, Sven 93.1+64=157.1, Harry 88.1+90.1=178.2. Medal winners scores were in 3rd place, Tim with 86+97.5=183.5, in 2nd place was Alasdair Bain with 85.1+100.1=185.2 and winning Gold was none other than Simon D who carelessly made a bad shot on one target but came out on top with 99.6+88.4=188.0. Well played everyone and thanks for supporting the club.

Tuesday's activity saw low numbers, with eight of us in attendance, but only five having a shoot. Dr Nigel came along for the first time to give shooting a go and see what it's like. After giving him some help and encouragement, he easily grasped the idea and started shooting. On his first target card he shot 72.1 and his 2nd card shot 87, totalling 159.1. He was well pleased and enjoyed it, something new he did whilst on St Helena. Douglas was back again this week, he shot 94.3+94.3=188.6, Jason shot one card with 93.2, but Lee wanted to walk away with a bang, she shot 91.1+97.3=188.4, this is the last night at the club before they depart on the weekend. Flo, on top again this week with 97.6+97.3=194.9. Well done guys and thanks for your support. Our best wishes and thanks to Lee and Jason, safe travels and have a wonderful life.

Have a pleasant weekend everyone.

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Guest List by Lucy Foley

On an island off the windswept Irish coast, guests gather for the wedding of the year the marriage of Jules Keegan and Will Slater.
Old friends. Past grudges. Happy families. Hidden jealousies.
Thirteen guests. One body. The wedding cake has barely been cut when one of the guests is found dead. And as a storm unleashes its fury on the island, everyone is trapped.
All have a secret. All have a motive.
One guest won't leave this wedding alive.

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

SPORTS ARENA

Golf Report in Celebration of the Life of Leon Crowie







SHGC, Contributed

On a sombre Sunday, 4 February 2024, the St Helena Golf Club experienced a profound loss during the Charles Duncan Challenge Cup when one of its esteemed members, Mr Leon Crowie, passed away on the golf course. A dedicated golfer, Leon who was in the last group to tee off in the company of Gerald George, Neil Joshua and Martin Buckley was playing the 4th hole when he collapsed and succumbed to his condition at around 3pm.

Leon Crowie was an integral part of the St Helena Golf Club community, where he had been an active member for many years. His passion for the sport was evident in his consistent participation in various club events and his commitment to golf. As a testament to his talent, Leon held the course record at the St Helena Golf Club, showcasing his exceptional abilities on the greens.

What set Mr Crowie apart from many golfers was his innovative approach to the game. He was known for his exceptional skill in playing with just three clubs, a feat that not only showcased his mastery of the sport but also inspired others to explore alternative ways of improving their own game.

The untimely passing of Leon has left a significant void in the St Helena Golf Club community. His dedication, talent, and innovative approach to the game will be sorely missed. An annual memorial golf event will be considered as a fitting tribute to his life and golfing legacy, bringing together those who were fortunate enough to know and learn from him.

Following this unfortunate event, the competition was called off and players returned to the club house. We thank the Duncan family for their understanding and for sponsoring the meal for the day. The Annual Charles Duncan Challenge Cup will now take place on 11 February, tee off 12noon. Players who were not already registered and would like to take part in this event are required to do so by Friday, 9 February, at 3pm. Plenty of prizes to be won.

Saturday to Sunday, 17-18 February, the club will host the annual 36-Hole Solomon's Annual Challenge Cup. Tee off 12noon. Registration is ongoing until Friday, 16 February, at 3pm. Our prayers and thoughts are with Leon's family. We will always cherish the moments we shared.

