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TO THE POLLS WE GO!



General Election 2025 set for September as current Council to dissolve in June "at Chief Minister's request"



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Donna Crowie, SAMS

Two months into 2025, and it still feels like 2024!

Recently I saw a post which did make me smile it said "January is a trial month, I've decided my 2025 will start on 1st February," and guess what? It's the 13th Feb now and I still haven't got my act together! Oh well, I will get there one day :)

Today is Thursday, 13th February, which means it's World Radio Day - and 12 years since the official launch of SAMS Radio 1. I have been working for SAMS since 2015, I can tell you so much has changed since back then, less staff for one, and I would say more radio content.

For me, it's great to see the listeners growing locally and internationally.

It's not easy trying to please all listeners but we try and cater for a wide variety, like we recently included a classical music show to the schedule. So I hope the classical music fans will enjoy.

Someone said to me "you'll don't play country music" – but we do, and for those who know me, I love bringing most of the country music shows to SAMS, from the Country Classics Show to the Country Chart Show. So it's always something for the country music fans.

A programme we introduced back when we had COVID restrictions in place was the Sunday Church Service, and since then we still offer our listeners a weekly service for various denominations.

There are still things I'd ideally like to include to the programming but, with limited resources, I think we do well – even if I say so myself.

I would like to thank those who help SAMS Radio 1; our presenters for continuing to entertain our listeners and our listeners of course for tuning in and allowing us to be a part of your day-to-day lives.

Continued to stay tuned to SAMS Radio 1 and have a Happy World Radio day!!!

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ST HELENA NEWS

"A Significant Achievement"

Barbara Joshua becomes 50,000th passenger to pass through St Helena Airport



Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Airport Ltd (SHAL) reached a "significant" milestone over last weekend, when Barbara Joshua, arriving on the flight from Ascension on Sunday, 9 February, became the 50,000th passenger to pass through the airport – receiving a commemorative mug from SHAL to mark the occasion. This number "is based on both inbound and outbound passengers from the first flight to date," as explained by SHAL's Business Manager, Tavonga Chikwenhere.

St Helena Airport has been in operation since 2016, and reaching the milestone of 50,000 passengers has been described as "a significant achievement" for SHAL.

"This accomplishment serves as a powerful reminder of the vital role the airport plays in providing access to our remote island," commented Tav. "It makes it easier for residents to travel for business, pleasure, education, and medical purposes."

Tav went on to add that this milestone "highlights the crucial role the airport plays in the local economy by providing a convenient and reliable means for visitors to reach our beautiful island, whether for the first time or to reconnect with loved ones" while "the weekly service by Airlink also ensures that critical supplies reach us promptly."

Reflecting on the milestone reached, Tav expressed gratitude to all who have contributed to making this possible, while he looks ahead with optimism.

"Firstly, behalf of SHAL I would like to congratulate Barbara Joshua on being our 50,000th passenger," he said. "I also want to extend my gratitude to all the passengers who have travelled through our airport over the years."

"SHAL remains committed to being a gateway to the island," he added. "On a personal note, to the staff of SHAL, I say well done and thank you for your dedicated service to both the company and the island. Finally, we would like to thank our various stakeholders who have made this achievement possible, with special mentions to Airlink, Titan Airways, Guardian Air, and the other aircraft operators that have flown passengers through our airport as we look forward to the next 50,000 passengers."

Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Mark Brooks, was also pleased for SHAL to have reached such a milestone. "I am pleased to be able to celebrate this fabulous milestone with colleagues at SHAL," he told The Sentinel. "The airport has been instrumental in increasing tourist numbers and enabling St Helenians to return home to visit family and friends, which was not possible for many during the days of the RMS, because of the travel time."

Minister Brooks added that "not only have we facilitated increased numbers of visitors, but the airport has saved countless lives through giving the island access to rapid medical evacuation services."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who work in aviation on St Helena and who have contributed to helping us reach 50,000 passengers - including the staff at SHAL, the Met Office, Puma, SHG Civil Aviation, and all the other supporting services who work at the airport to ensure a positive and safe experience for its users."

Congratulations to St Helena Airport Ltd!

"A legend in the family"

Descendants of Dr Arnold reflects on the commemorative event held for the 100th Anniversary of his death on St Helena



Demy Herne, SAMS

Dr Wilberforce John James Arnold, who was appointed a CMG, is fondly remembered on St Helena as a father figure to the island's people. A dedicated medical professional, he selflessly aided the poor without charge and served as Governor on at least two occasions. Dr Arnold devoted the best years of his life to the island, making a lasting impact. Sadly, he passed away in 1925.

As the 100th anniversary of Dr Arnold's death approached, a commemorative event was organised by the Museum of St Helena. The event took place on 29 January at 4pm, with a good number of attendees, including descendants of Dr Arnold as special guests – John Arnold (and his wife) from Dorset, and Regina Arnold from California. Both are the grandchildren of Dr Arnold's first cousins.

The event marked the centenary of Dr Arnold's death with contributions from his descendants and the institutions with which he was involved. The commemoration began with a short speech by Museum Director, Adam Sizeland, followed by a speech from John Arnold, who shared insights into Dr Arnold's life, his family, and a few commendations from people and organisations overseas. The ceremony concluded with a closing address by Regina Arnold and the placement of an island bouquet on the monument.

Following the event, an interview was held where Dr Arnold's descendants spoke about their connection to the local legend, and shared stories of his family.

John explained, "Doctor Arnold has been a legend in the family and I was certainly told many times about his exploits and I knew about him from my grandfather, his first cousin."

He went on to explain that he probably first heard about St Helena when he was very young because of the family connection, though he had no idea where it was, except that it was extremely remote. "It wasn't until the internet age arrived, facilitating communication, that we learned the full extent of Dr Arnold's contributions to the island. It was maybe 20 years ago when we learnt about how highly he was regarded, and the difficulty also was that he wasn't married, so he had no descendants himself."

Regina, meanwhile, shared how she had always known about St Helena, likely through her father, who had a strong desire to visit the island. "I remember going to the Google Museum when they first invented Google Earth, and one of the fun things you could do was sit in a chair and toggle the map around the world. The first place I went to was St Helena. It was incredible to see the island, and I think that was the first time I said, 'I'm definitely going there.'"

John remarked on the pride they all felt in knowing that Dr Arnold had been described as the greatest friend of St Helena. "I think we all share enormous pride in knowing that our relative has been described with those words. I think it's very rare for a person anywhere in the world to have words attached to them like that. It tells you about the dedication, community service, and most of all the love of the people of St Helena."

Regarding the ceremony itself, John expressed that pride was the overwhelming emotion and concluded the interview with. "We had no idea who would be attending or how many would be there. We barely knew what a Saint looked like, and it was extremely pleasing to see a cross-section of the community, some young and some elderly, including the Governor himself. I was pleased by this occasion!"





To the Polls we go!

General Election 2025 set for September as current Council to dissolve in June "at the Chief Minister's request"



Liam Yon, SAMS

In big news for Island politics, St Helena Government (SHG) have announced the date that the current St Helena Legislative Council will be dissolved and further, when a new General Election will take place to decide who will form the Island's Legislative Council for the next four-year term.

"Following discussions with Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, HE Governor Nigel Phillips CBE, has agreed, at the Chief Minister's request, that the St Helena Legislative Council be dissolved on Monday 30 June, with a General Election scheduled to take place on Wednesday 03 September 2025," announced SHG on Monday morning.

Within section 76 (b) of The St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order, 2009, as amended in 2021, the Governor is required to dissolve Council "at the expiration of four years from the date when Council first meets after any dissolution, unless it has been sooner dissolved."

SHG explain how "25 October this year will denote four years since the Inaugural Meeting of the current St Helena Legislative Council took place following the October 2021 General Election" which they add "means that 25 October 2025 is the last day that Council may be dissolved to enable a General Election to go ahead."

As announced, the official date chosen for the dissolution of the current Council – comprising the Chief Minister, four Ministers, and seven Councillors, is 30 June 2025 – "at the Chief Minister's request".

SHG add that "publicity regarding the General Election and information about how the ministerial system of Government operates will follow in the weeks leading up to the dissolution of Council."

With the date now set for the 2025 General Election – 3 September - SHG are reminding the community that "if you wish to participate in this year's General Election, either by sponsoring a candidate, nominating a candidate, casting a vote or standing for election, your name must be included in the Register of Electors."

Amendments to the Register, effective from 1 July 2024, can be made at any time. However, the cut-off date by which to make any amendments prior to the publication of the 2025 Register will be mid-May according to SHG. There will be no further opportunities beyond this date to have names included in the Register before the General Election takes place.

St Helena's current Council – Chief Minister, Julie Thomas; Ministers Mark Brooks, Martin Henry, Christine Scipio and Jeffrey Ellick; and Councillors Andrew Turner, Robert Midwinter, Gillian Brooks, Karl Thrower, Dr Corinda Essex, Ronald Coleman, and Elizabeth Knipe – were elected by the people of St Helena to represent the Island as Members of Legislative Council back in October 2021, with the exception of Councillor Knipe who only joined in 2024 through a by-election following



the resignation of Rosemary Bargo.

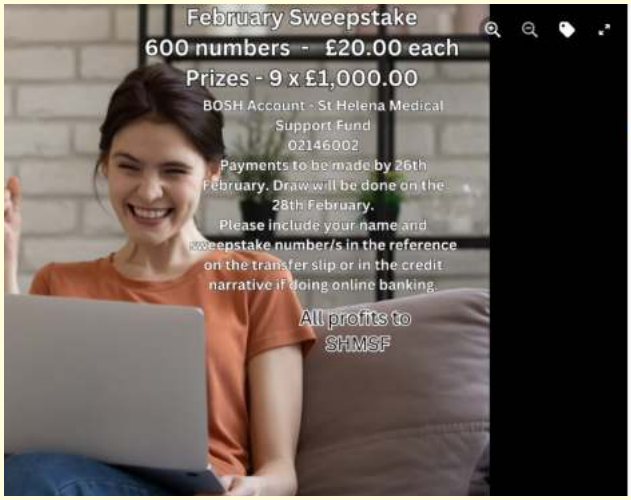
Together, they form the first Council under St Helena's first Ministerial Governance system. Whether all, or some, of these Elected Members will run again this year is yet to be seen.

The General Election in 2021 was historic with the largest number of candidates standing for election in recent history – however the recent by-election drew only one candidate – and therefore it is difficult to gauge what numbers will look like as the Island prepares to go to the Polls once again in September for the St Helena General Election 2025.



"Fastest Finger First"

600 numbers gone in no time for SHMSF February sweepstake





Liam Yon, SAMS

The February sweepstake by the St Helena Medical Support Fund (SHMSF) was launched last Friday evening, 7 February, at 6pm; with 600 numbers up for grabs once again at £20 each, all in order to raise money to support medical referral patients from St Helena.

In January, the SHMSF offered five cash prizes – one £5,000 (won by Evette Bowers) and four £1,000 (won by Kelsey Henry, Michael Gaga-Hale, Austin Fowler and Alex Henry). This time around, the recently registered charity are offering nine cash prizes, all totalling £1000 each, giving more people the chance to win.

It was always the intention of the SHMSF to change up the cash prizes for each month of their sweepstake fundraisers and this will continue to be the case moving forward.

Having only completed one sweepstake in January so far – with the winners drawn and announced live on SAMS Radio One at the end of the month – this initiative is quickly becoming one of the most popular and attractive activities within the community of St Helena, both on-Island and abroad.

This was evidenced when, on Friday evening, all 600 numbers were gone within just 150 minutes following the launch of this months' sweepstake via the St Helena Medical Support Fund Sweepstake Facebook group.

"It was definitely the case of fastest finger first," commented Chairperson of the SHMSF, Susan Knipe, to The Sentinel. "The tickets were sold in two and a half hours."

After announcing that "all numbers were gone," Susan asked those who missed out to indicate whether they would want a number if any were to become available – again this received huge interest with loads of names being added to the resale list.

The draw for February's sweepstake can only be held once all numbers have been paid for by their respective holders. It is hoped that this can be done by Wednesday, 26 February, to allow the draw to take place on Friday, 28 February.

Good luck to all participants!



Nest Stop, Ascension

Green Turtles nesting season underway on Ascension Island



Demy Herne, SAMS

The Green Turtle nesting season is now in full swing on Ascension Island, with tracks covering the beaches every night. But what makes Ascension such an important nesting site for these incredible marine creatures?

Well, satellite tagging has revealed that Green Turtles migrate an astonishing 2,000km from the coast of Brazil to lay their eggs on Ascension's sandy shores. Throughout the season, each female will return to the beach multiple times to nest, laying an average of six clutches of eggs. Some turtles have even been recorded up to ten times in a single season.

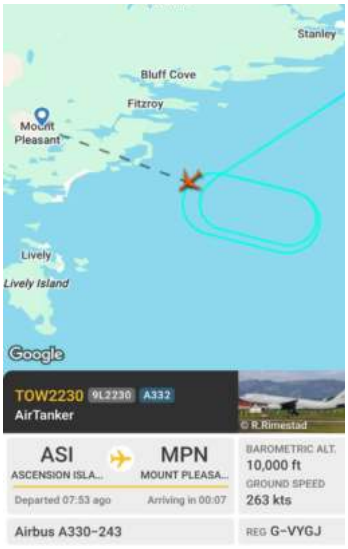
Unlike other parts of their life cycle, Green Turtles do not eat while they are on Ascension. Instead, they rely entirely on stored energy to sustain them through the exhausting nesting period. Once work is done, they embark on the long journey back across the Atlantic. To recover, they take a well earned rest for 3-4 years before making the incredible migration once again.

With so many turtles nesting each year, Ascension remains one of the most important breeding grounds for Green Turtles in the South Atlantic Ocean , helping to ensure the survival of future generations of turtles.



"The Next Best Thing"

Saints travel to Uruguay as Falkland's flight diverts due to bad weather





Liam Yon, SAMS

Last weekend, many Saints from both Ascension and the Falkland Islands said their goodbyes to family and friends on St Helena as they headed back to their place of work following visits to the Island.

For those destined for Falklands, this was only part one of their return journey, with another connecting flight needing to take them from Ascension down South. This FIC Airbridge flight was expected to arrive at Mount Pleasant Airport on Monday evening at around 7pm St Helena time.

However, those following the flight on any flight tracker would have observed the flight, similar to what has happened at St Helena Airport previously, making several failed attempts to touchdown at MPA, rumoured to be around eight attempts.

In the end, despite the best efforts of the Pilots, landing at MPA had to be aborted due to weather, with the flight having to divert to Carrasco International Airport in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Sentinel spoke to one of the passengers, originating from St Helena. "For someone who hates flying, this was an experience for sure! That on-edge movie-like feeling was definitely intense," they commented. "It was a bumpy ride heading into the Falklands, the turbulence worsened as we got closer. Our pilot tried several times to land as he was so determined, but the weather conditions were definitely against us as it was extremely bad, there was no way we would've touched down safely."

The same passenger described the diversion to Uruguay as "the next best thing" and admitted that the majority of passengers found it "exciting" to be going to a new country, even if understandably nervous.

"It was such a smooth landing in Montevideo. Weather was humid at roughly 24 degrees which was a good sign for us all onboard," she updated. "Cheers to the pilots and their team for making such difficult, but cautious, decisions to keep passengers safe, not just on this occasion, but each and every day."

"Fundraising for a vital cause"



Friends of the BOTS hold St Helena fundraising reception in London

Liam Yon, SAMS

The Friends of the British Overseas Territories (FOTBOT) - a UK-registered charitable organisation which aims to promote the Overseas Territories and their interests, and strengthen the UK's deep historic links to them, including St Helena - held a special fundraising reception in London on Tuesday in support of the St Helena Disabled Person's Aid Society.

"This year, we launched our 'No Place Like Home' project, an initiative to provide essential equipment such as wheelchairs, ramps, shower chairs, and hoists to help patients remain in their homes for as long as possible," said FOTBOT. "With only one small hospital and an overstretched care home, this support is crucial for improving quality of life on the Island. Our goal is to raise £8,000 to fund these vital resources."

As part of this fundraising initiative, an event was held on Tuesday, 11 February, from 6:30pm to 10:00pm at Walkers of Whitehall, a public house in London, UK. A special guest and a long-term supporter and multiple-time visitor to St Helena was also in attendance.

"We are delighted to welcome Michael Binyon OBE, distinguished journalist and long-standing friend of both FOTBOT and St Helena, as our guest speaker," said FOTBOT ahead of Tuesday's event. "With a remarkable 52-year career at The Times, covering global events and interviewing world leaders, Michael has developed a deep connection to St Helena, visiting the Island on multiple occasions, including with a FOTBOT delegation in 2023. He will share his experiences and insights into the unique challenges facing St Helena - one of the world's most remote territories."

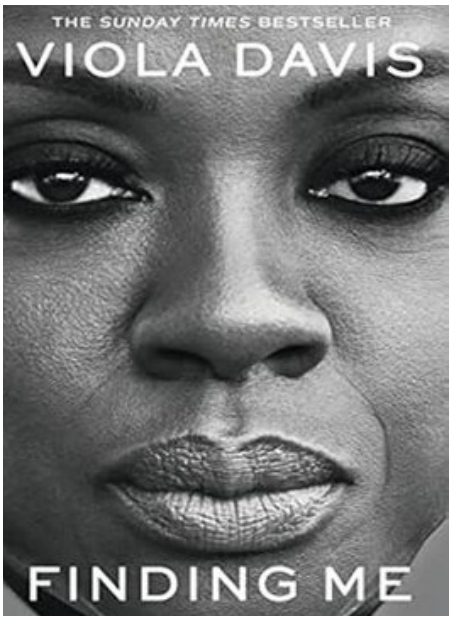
The charity said guests could look forward to "an evening of insightful discussion, networking, and fundraising for a vital cause."



FOTBOT 'No Place Like Home' fundraising campaign launch in April 2024

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



Finding Me by Viola Davis

THE DEEPLY PERSONAL, BRUTALLY HONEST ACCOUNT OF VIOLA'S INSPIRING LIFE.

In my book, you will meet a little girl named Viola who ran from her past until she made a life changing decision to stop running forever.

This is my story, from a crumbling apartment in Central Falls, Rhode Island, to the stage in New York City, and beyond. This is the path I took to finding my purpose and my strength, but also to finding my voice in a world that didn't always see me.

As I wrote Finding Me, my eyes were open to the truth of how our stories are often not given close examination. They are bog rated, reinvented to fit into a crazy, competitive, judgmental world. So I wrote this for anyone who is searching for a way to understand and overcome a complicated past, let go of shame, and find acceptance. For anyone who needs reminding that a life worth living can only be born from radical honesty and the courage to shed facades and beyou.

Finding Me is a deep reflection on my past and a promise for my future. My hope is that my story will inspire you to light up your own life with creative expression and rediscover who you were before the world put a label on you.

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LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

"It's always good to come home"

A journey from St Helena to Super Yachts



Demy Herne, SAMS

Ross Leo, son of Jackie Leo from Longwood Gate, has long been known for his energy and adventurous spirit. Eight years ago, he left St Helena in search of new horizons, embarking on a journey that has taken him from Ascension Island to the luxury super yacht industry.

Like many Saints, Ross began his adventure on Ascension Island, where he spent two years before moving on to the United Kingdom. From there, he found his way into the world of super yachts, gradually working his way up the ranks. Today, Ross works as a Bosun on a 60-metre motor yacht, managing the deck crew and overseeing everything from yacht maintenance to water sports.

When asked about life aboard a super yacht, Ross explained how "they're basically like normal yachts, but just really big luxury yachts, often with both a sail and motor."

"I work on some, I work on the deck, I'm a Bosun," he added. "So I manage the deck crew, we deal with exterior stuff, so tender driving, the water sports and just maintaining and stuff like that."

While Ross couldn't disclose the name of the yacht due to non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), he did share some fascinating details. His yacht is typically chartered by billionaires and celebrities. "Mostly the size that I am on, it's usually billionaires, celebrities and millionaires, that tend to charter," he said.

These luxury vessels travel to some of the most exclusive destinations around the world. "So my boat normally travels between the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, but at the moment we're down in South America," Ross explained. His yacht is currently docked in South America, but the itinerary frequently includes the Mediterranean and the Caribbean.

Super Yachts have very specific regulations regarding the number of people they can carry. "Most of them are twelve," Ross explained. "You can only take up to twelve to be classed as a yacht, if not, there's different classifications and you go into passenger ships and stuff like that, and then there's a lot more regulations and requirements."

When it comes to qualifications, Ross's background in diving and fishing from St Helena and Ascension proved useful, but there were additional certifications required. "You have to get like seafarers medical and do basic STCW, which it's called. So like sea survival training, fire fighting, medical training and all that sort of stuff," he explained.

While St Helena may not have provided formal qualifications for this line of work, Ross believes his experiences on the island were invaluable. "Not necessarily with the qualifications, but definitely with experience in boats and diving and that sort of thing," he shared.

Life aboard a Super Yacht is demanding and Ross works on a permanent basis with only a few months off each year. "Leave and stuff depends on your position, but you can get jobs where you do two months on, two months off kind of thing, but mine is permanent," he explained. "So I get a couple of months a year leave." Crew accommodations are comfortable, with chefs and laundry services provided. "The condition is pretty good, obviously there's separation between guests and crew accommodation and stuff like that, but it's a pretty good standard. We get chefs, get laundry done for us and everything as we're obviously super busy all the time," he added.

Ross confirmed that life on board is 24/7. Although conditions on the high seas can sometimes be rough, the yachts are built to handle such challenges. "Well it depends on the weather really and where we're crossing and sometimes down in South America we sometimes had some bad weather but the boats handle it pretty well," Ross explained.

The crew on these yachts is often international, and Ross works alongside people from many different countries. "So the crew is pretty multinational, we've got Australians, British, a couple of Swedish, South African and I. I don't come across many St Helenians, but there are a small handful of us," he said.

Ross has travelled extensively since working on the yachts, visiting around 40 countries. "I've also travelled on my own as well," he said.

His next stop after leaving St Helena was Uruguay, where he rejoined the yacht. "So I go back to Uruguay to join the boat and then we'll go to Rio and Brazil for a few days and then we'll cross the Atlantic again back to Europe," he said prior to leaving the Island.

One of the highlights of his upcoming travels is the Monaco Grand Prix, where he believes the yacht will be chartered for the event. "I believe somebody's chartering us for the Monaco Grand Prix so we'll be there for the Formula One," he shared.

Despite his globetrotting lifestyle, Ross always enjoys coming home. "Yeah, it's been good, it's always good to come home," he said, reflecting on his time back on St Helena.

Ross Leo's journey from St Helena to the world of Super Yachts serves as an inspiring example of how far hard work, skill, and a sense of adventure can take someone. His story highlights the unique opportunities available to those with the drive to pursue them.

"Mr Jeffrey's expertise will be instrumental"



Liam Yon, SAMS

Education Consultant, David Jeffrey, is currently on the Island as work on St Helena Government's Education Review continues.

One of the big ongoing work streams within SHG's Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio (ESE), is the comprehensive review of education on St Helena; which aims to assess the delivery and structure of education on the Island (*see more in our In Scope: Recapped article this week*).

The review is focussing on a wide array of areas from school buildings to education standards, from teacher training to inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision – with the view of formalising a final Education Review Report which will inform improvements to the delivery and structure of education going forward on St Helena.

As part of this, a team from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) conducted a visit to St Helena in October 2024 to, among other related engagements, assess the current suitability of primary school education buildings on the Island and inform the decision-making process for the Primary Education Review.

This was then followed up with a visit from two experienced education consultants from Hampshire Local Authority in November 2024. Their primary focus was to conduct a comprehensive review on SEND provision – looking at the current provision for SEND learners and identifying areas for improvement. They also delivered a series of continuing professional development sessions on phonics, inclusion, quality first teaching, and SEND.

Now, SHG have informed that Education Consultant, David Jeffrey, will be on-island until 18 February, again to support the ongoing Education Review.

"Mr Jeffrey's expertise will be instrumental in producing the final Education Review Report," they said. "During his visit, Mr Jeffrey will also be visiting Career Access St Helena, the Public Library, the St Helena Research Institute, the St Helena Community College, all four schools, and the Inclusion Section. These visits will provide him with a comprehensive understanding of the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio, how each sector functions, and how they contribute to the decision-making process."

The Sentinel had made attempts to procure a photo of David Jeffrey however, despite approval being given by ESE via the SHG Press Office, unfortunately a member of the ESE decided to push back our efforts to take a photo of the visiting consultant for reasons unknown.

In other related news, SAMS and The Sentinel recently broke the story on a change of name for our only Secondary School to remove the "controversial ties" associated with Duke of York, Prince Andrew.

Since initially being reported on exclusively by The Sentinel and SAMS Radio 1, this story has gained attention beyond the shores of St Helena, with international media organisations, including The Guardian, having also reported on the imminent change of name for Prince Andrew School, as St Helena looks to move forward with a secondary school that is, as put by SHG, "free from contentious associations."

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Chief Minister Julie Thomas had Marie Horton as her guest on In Scope this week to give listeners an overview of what was included in the recent budget proposal to the visiting FAM team as well as the motivation behind the additional funds requested for Education, Skills and Employment (ESE) as part of the Minister's zero-based budget with the added £16million request.

As stated in previous In Scopes on this topic, the reasoning behind the additional money request was to accurately indicate to the UK government the realistic level of financial support needed for St Helena Government to operate sustainably at a reasonable level of service provision, effectively creating a realistic baseline.

The priorities of the ESE Portfolio regarding the modified zero-based budget will be focused on making education the engine of change for St Helena, its children and their future. This will require a provision of good quality education that will bring about the required outcomes to realise their full potential to achieve their dreams and goals. These goals are what the ESE Portfolio aspires to achieve if additional funding is approved.

The recurrent budget for the ESE Portfolio this financial year is £3.7million. The uplift required in addition is £2.85million. In addition to these funds, Education will also receive £2million as part of the BIOT agreement in the new financial year. It is envisaged that the £2.85million will fund one year of a five year plan to improve the education system to cater for all children's needs and conversely improve education outcomes. These two goals sit under an education standards framework. St Helena does not have a formal education standards framework at the moment. Prompted by the UK's standards framework (OFSTED), St Helena is exploring to set up education standards within the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) framework for schools on the island with the funding requested. COBIS is the overarching framework that will include various aspects of education, among others, a curriculum standard which is based on the British National Curriculum. Under COBIS, there is two groups of standards that will need to be adhered to - the compliance standards and accreditation standards.

Under the compliance criteria there is five different standards - safeguarding and safer recruitment; student welfare; facilities; governance and ethos and values. Under accreditation, there are four standards - learning and teaching; school leadership; communication and extracurricular enrichment and engagement.

Marie spoke on the breakdown of individual aspects covered in the additional budget request as they relate to the different COBIS requirements. An amount of £21,000 will be applied to support safeguarding and safer recruitment. This will be used for staff training as well as the purchase of software systems. It is essential that staff members with important safeguarding roles be trained and supported to effectively fulfil their roles. For student welfare, the amount requested was £53,900 to improve the pastoral care system (ensuring children's welfare) and update health and safety practices in line with regulations and best international practice. With regards to facilities, the need for additional funds is quite high for improvements necessary during the first year of the improvement plan as all schools will need to meet the required standards. An amount of £400,000 is needed to improve aspects like lighting, temperature, noise as well as the improvement of learning spaces over time to meet the needs of all children including the ones with special educational needs. The aim is to ensure that every classroom is attractive to create a positive learning environment, inspiring and motivating children to come to school and be excited to learn. Under ethos and values an amount of £120,000 was requested to develop an inclusive educational approach. This process is enhanced and supported by the strong partnership that has been developed with Hampshire Local Authority. A big part of the focus will be on careers education and raising aspirations of pupils with a key improvement priority to develop a strong careers program supported by staff qualified at an international level.

Looking at standards under the accreditation criteria the following amounts form part of the requested funds - £2.187million is required for teaching and learning as this is the number one development priority. A long-term concern has been staff retention, appointment and recruitment. There are critical posts in schools that need to be filled to effectively run the school system. To address staffing issues, training needs to be a big focus and a salary increase will also be done in line with government's increase in minimum wage. The bulk of this money will be utilised in reviewing the curriculum. The provision of bespoke online education is another avenue that will be explored to cater to all needs of students, but this often comes at a high cost. Schools are a data rich environment and a system is needed that can effectively store and process this data. These systems are quite expensive but it is necessary to support an effective school system. It is also critically important that users of the system be trained to keep the data system up to date and to utilise it to produce the required reports. Leadership will also be an important part in staff development as some funding needs have been identified to train especially middle leaders. For this area, an amount of £22,500 will be needed. In schools, there are already a fairly good provision for enrichment and extracurricular activities, but an additional £10,000 will be used to further enhance this provision.

These standards will take the Education Section in the region of five years to achieve if the required funds can be sourced. As part of this transformation process, Hampshire Local Authority will visit St Helena once a year to review the progress made within the standards framework and make recommendations. Once it is determined that St Helenian schools are ready for assessment, a COBIS representative will come to assess compliance and accreditation. Feedback will then be provided and once all standards are met, the schools will be certified as complying with COBIS standards. Following this, annual visits will ensure that the standards are maintained. If the additional funds are not approved, the ESE Portfolio will still aim to work towards achieving these goals, but because of limited resources this process will take a lot longer than five years to be realised.

The next topic discussed was the Education Review. The goal of the review is to evaluate and review the education provision on St Helena. From this review, the lack of an education standards framework was identified as one of the key areas that would need to be addressed to improve education on the island. Another goal of the review is to ensure that the education offered will future-proof the children of the island as well as the island itself. The long-term goal would be to meet UK standards in education. This is a big goal, and as a stepping stone, the first steps would be to meet standards in places similar to St Helena. Ascension Island is similar to St Helena and they have succeeded in securing COBIS accreditation. This was used as a guide to formulate St Helena's own five year development plan to work towards attaining the nine required standards. Another area that is a focus of the review is to ascertain how to improve educational attainment and learning outcomes for all children on St Helena. To explore the way forward, the review first had to compile a detailed data set to assess where the education system is at the moment to serve as a future benchmark. This data framework was then used to inform, and will continue to inform, priorities and decisions to be made in the future.

The ESE Portfolio is in the process of purchasing and using standard educational software to track outcomes that can be used to determine where gaps are and how to best support children in the learning process. The key performance indicators of the portfolio have also been changed as part of the review process.

The reviewing of the curriculum provision is an ongoing process. It is anticipated that the National Curriculum of the UK will be amended within the next 12 months, so no big changes will be implemented on St Helena until this has been finalised. At the moment, smaller changes will be made to the curriculum to improve learning and education provision in the interim. A lot of work has specifically been done at Prince Andrew School to employ sufficient skilled staff to enhance the secondary education provision on island. One of the biggest challenges on island remains staffing and stability within the staffing cohort. Regular, consistent, high-quality training is a critical requirement to equip staff members to enable them to provide a high standard of education to pupils.

The importance of data management cannot be underestimated. As part of the data analysed, an area identified as critical to successful education is school attendance. All carers and parents were urged to encourage their children to regularly attend school as this is one of the determining factors in successful learning. It is really important in securing the future of the island to cultivate a culture of lifelong learning.

The Portfolio is looking at improving the standards of provision and how these standards can be met without additional funding. Work is ongoing in improving the education provision for three and four-year olds with a focus on play, speaking, listening and decision making while a broad range of post-16 options are also being explored. There is a small provision for supporting students in their journey to obtain a higher education and the graduate scheme is also taking off where graduates are being provided with opportunities and routes to return to St Helena and apply their knowledge and skills here on island.

As part of the review, various representatives of the Department of Education, Hampshire Local Authority and the FCDO conducted numerous consultations with stakeholders, pupils, staff, school leaders and parents. The aim of these consultations was to do an options appraisal to enable the ESE Portfolio to make a decision about primary education provision on St Helena. The message that came through very clearly was the need to improve the standard of education on the island and this will be the focus of the education review. Hampshire local Authority looked specifically at the provision of special needs education and have produced a comprehensive report on this, but they have also shown their willingness to support the island in moving forward with training and guidance specifically aimed at inclusive education. Currently, the Portfolio is working with the heads of the schools on island to identify training needs and collaborations with Hampshire is ongoing to design bespoke training packages to address the needs and gaps identified. There is an urgency to implement these improvements as it affects the education of every child here on St Helena and it is critical to address needs to provide better education as soon as possible.

The next step in the process will be to have three meetings for the different groups involved. The first meeting will be for PTA's and the education review stakeholders, while the second meeting will be aimed at providing information to parents of pupils of all four schools. Lastly, a meeting will be held where all interested members of the public will be invited and encouraged to attend to access the information that will be provided.

The final topic of discussion was the BIOT agreement and the funds that will be secured for Education under this agreement. The £2million provided through this funding will be applied towards delivering COBIS standards and preparing for this five-year plan of development and improvement. Training of staff and securing sufficient staff will form the basis for the start of this process and will be one of the focus areas of this funding. Another area that will receive some funding is transport of students as the costs have increased drastically due to global pressures. The last area that will be supported by this funding stream is the rebranding and name change of Prince Andrew School.

Other funding has also been secured and utilised over the past year to improve science provision at PAS as well as obtaining some new maintenance equipment and a new floor for the hall at PAS. Some more funds are being explored as part of the EDIP micro-projects to support the potential Primary reorganisation and also improving the Secondary School facilities to comply with COBIS standards in the future.

Julie concluded with reminding the public that in the event SHG is unsuccessful in securing the additional funding, the status quo will most likely be maintained as limited funding will slow the improvement process considerably, but the ESE Portfolio will nonetheless strive to implement as many improvements as possible even though the process will prove to be much slower without the additional funding.

NOTICE BOARD



CAREER ACCESS ST HELENA

CALLING ALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Do you have an exciting Career Opportunity and would like to showcase it to the Islands Community On Careers Fair Day?

Get in touch now to book a stall!

The Career Access St Helena Team can be contacted on **25832** or

Glen.Yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Sherrilee.Phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh

Careers Fair

DATE:
Thursday, 20 March 2025

TIME:
11.00AM - 7.00PM

LOCATION:
New Horizons, Leisure Park & Mule Yard

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 14
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am: American Connections (Repeat)
- 2pm: Echoes from the Rocks: Valentine's Special w/Arnie
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. FEB 15
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 1pm: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie (Repeat)
- 6-8pm: Echoes from the Rocks: Valentine's Special w/Arnie
- 8:30pm: OUT OUT! with Liam (repeat)

SUN. FEB 16
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita & Deon
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Seventh Day Adventist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations

MON. FEB 17
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 5:30pm: Country Classics
- 7:30pm: Sound of the 80's with John Turner

TUE. FEB 18
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 9am-11:am Midmorning show with Demy
- 11am-1pm: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: In Scope
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: Uk chart Show with Demy Herne
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations

WED. FEB 19
- 7am-8:30am : Sunrise with Deon
- 8:30am-10:30am: Our Show
- 11am-1pm: Northward sounds with Tony Leo
- 1pm-3pm: 1548 with Ferdie
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Vibes

THU. FEB 20
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 1pm: Lunchtime vibes with Demy
- 4pm: Sounds of the 80's
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: In Scope

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





Tune into the Sunrise show on Friday mornings at 7am, where Luke will be getting you in that Friday mood with a wide variety of music ranging from Rock to Pop, Country to Reggae, and so much more for everyone to enjoy.

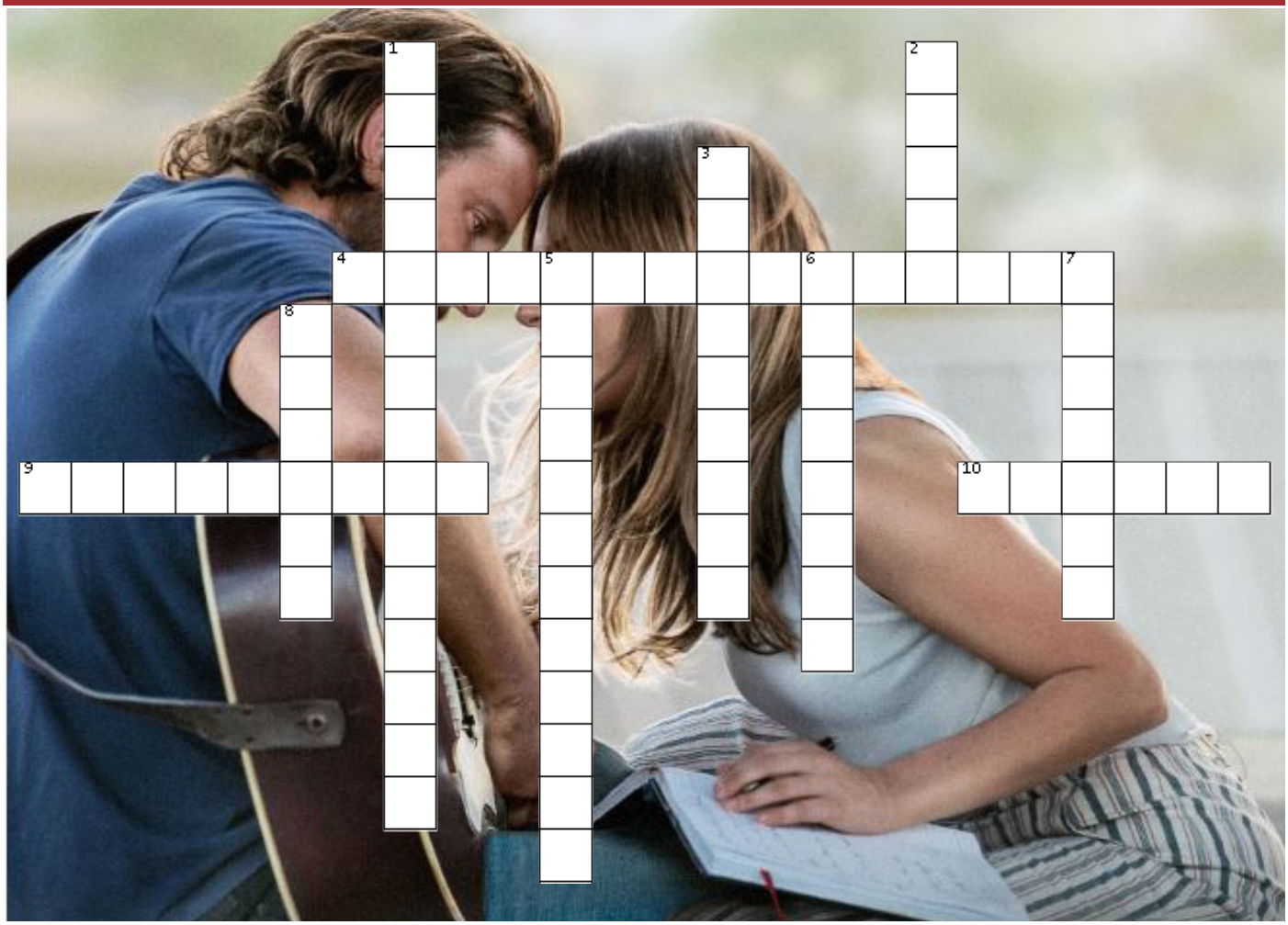
Exploring the world of music through featured artists or genres, so start your Friday off on the right foot and get ready for the weekend with SAMS Radio One.

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: Romance on the Silver Screen



DOWN

1. What female actress stars alongside Adam Sandler in the movie 'Just go with it' (8,7)
2. In which country is 'Slumdog Millionaire' set?
3. Who is the father of 'Bridget Jones' baby? (4,5)
5. Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan starred together in what romantic comedy? (5,3,4)
6. Bella, Edward, and Jacob are love interests in what popular vampire saga?
7. In 'A Star Is Born', which song do Jack and Ally perform together?
8. What is the name of the group of friends that Danny belonged to in popular romantic musical 'Grease'? (1,5)

ACROSS

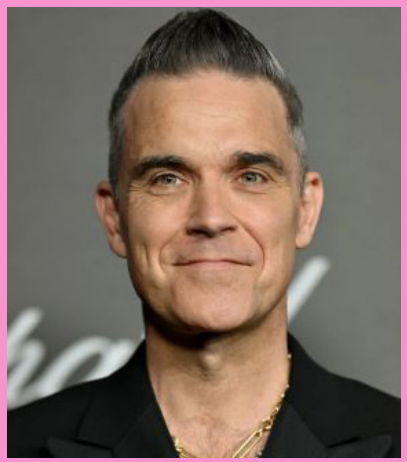
4. In which romantic movie does a character named Lucy have a brain injury that results in short term memory loss? (5,5,5)
9. Which film features a classic upside down kiss between a masked hero and his lady-love? (6,3)
10. In Marry Me, starring Jenifer Lopez, which famous singer plays Kat's cheating fiancé, Bastian?

Sentinel Joke of the day

What's the difference between love and marriage?

Love is one long, sweet dream, and marriage is the alarm clock.

Famous Birthday on 13 Feb



Robbie Williams (50)

Rebus Puzzle:

Figure out the phrase





Last week's Crossword Answers

Love Songs

ACROSS

3. WetWetWet
6. Love
7. TheLionKing
8. ElvisPresley
9. WhitneyHouston
10. PhilCollins

DOWN

1. Grenade
2. NewYearsDay
4. MichaelBolton
5. Foreigner

Rebus Answers: *1.Spearhead, 2. Open*

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Forestry Services Officer
(£12,049 per annum)

The Forestry Services Officer will help to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive through leadership of the Forestry and Facilities Section's forestry services for the SHG National Forest Estate and building maintenance programme for the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio's properties. The Forestry Services Officer will Manage the Forestry and Facilities Management Section's (F&FM Section) tree harvesting and extraction programme to meet public demand for raw material, including firewood, saw logs, fencing material and miscellaneous forest products.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Myra Young on Tel No 24724 or Email myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **19 February 2025**

Marine & Fisheries Conservation Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)

This interesting role is important to enable ENRP to deliver the work programmes (some seasonally) in order to provide the evidence base used to conserve and protect St. Helena's marine environment. The duties are generally split between marine related field work, administration, data and laboratory based work. Some out of hours working is necessary.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Elizabeth Clingham on Tel No 24724 or Email elizabeth.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **19 February 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, 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

Waste Management Services Operator
(£7,960 per annum) (Fixed Term)

Waste Management Services is seeking to employ a highly motivated individual to join their dedicated team. Successful candidates 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 0600 hrs to 1330 hrs 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.

As this is a fixed term role and due to the time restriction, we are only accepting applications from on island candidates. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Karl Martin on Tel No. 24724 or Email: karl.martin@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **19 February 2025**

Veterinary & Livestock Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)

The Veterinary & Livestock Assistant will be responsible for the implementation of the routine veterinary programme across the Island, Including treating and deworming of farm animals, diagnosis and treatment of both farm and domestic and to ensure that client cards and data records are kept up to date. The Veterinary & Livestock Assistant will also need to be prepared to undertake certain basic surgical operations for domestic and farm animals as specified by the Senior Veterinary Officer and other miscellaneous surgical operations to include castrations of pigs, goats and sheep.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Andrea Timm on Tel No. 24724 or Email: andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **19 February 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Marine & Fisheries Conservation Officer (£15,033 per annum)

The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section are seeking to recruit an organised, passionate and highly effective marine and fisheries manager with experience in leading high level projects and teams. The post holder will lead on all elements of the operation of the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section and deliver the marine and fisheries conservation programme, this will include assisting with setting the strategic direction ensuring it remains adaptable to the changing marine environment needs and uses. You will also be responsible for both recurrent and project based work areas, including team management, strategic and financial planning and reporting, report writing, communications and outreach activities, and building links between relevant stakeholders that are important to, and associated with, the work of the Section.
Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Elizabeth Clingham on Tel No 24724 or Email: elizabeth.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **19 February 2025**

Kitchen Assistant (CCC) (£7,280 per annum)

Responsible to the Head Cook and Cooks for the provision of high quality domestic and catering services at the Community Care Centre, to include all cleaning, kitchen duties, assisting the Cooks with food preparation and delivery of meals, and responsible for ensuring the kitchen unit areas in the Community Care Centre are maintained in line with the cleaning schedules

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Diana Chambers on Tel No 23090**
Closing date: **27 February 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Carpenter

(£8,266 to £8,725 per annum, based on ability and experience)

If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, the Building Maintenance Section has an opportunity for you to join their team.
Working as part of the Building Maintenance Team, you will assist with delivering daily operations and maintenance services within the building maintenance section.
Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Decorator

(£8,266 to £8,725 per annum, based on ability and experience)

Would you like to become a Decorator? If so the Building Maintenance Team have an opportunity for you to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by delivering painting and decorating related tasks and maintenance services within the building maintenance section.
Contact us for more information and a discussion on the above posts

Enquiries: **Rex Young on Tel No 22054 or Email: rex.young@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 24 February 2025

Joint Emergency Services Control Centre (JESCC) Operator

(£10,747 per annum)

Do you want to make a difference to your community and be of service when it is needed the most? The St Helena JESCC is looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual to form part of their small, but busy team. This role will require you to have excellent communication skills with the ability to deal with vulnerable and distressed members of the public.
Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Mark Coombe on Tel No 22626 or Email: mark.coombe@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 18 February 2025

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, 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.

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NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

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We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Tourism Officer (1- year Fixed Term) (£14,378 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 22158 or**
Email: matthew.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 February 2024

Emergency Care Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)

The Health Services, Emergency Services team are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to undertake an exciting development post as an Emergency Care Assistant, to join the team in providing an Emergency Ambulance and Emergency Department service under the direction of the Paramedics. The role will see the successful applicant undertake the Level 3 and Level 4 QA First Response Emergency Care qualifications (A UK recognised and regulated course), receive training in emergency driving, and on-the job mentorship and training. The role will require participation in an on-call rota to provide an efficient, responsive, and reliable emergency service. Contact us for more information.

Enquiries: **Michael Gaga Hale on Tel No 22500 or Email michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **26 February 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, 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.

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ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT
~ TWO BOATS SCHOOL ~

VACANCY NOTICE

Secondary Mathematics Teacher & Secondary English Teacher

Total package value up to £37,715 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £23,488 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

Two Boats School is a delightful primary and secondary school on the beautiful and tiny island of Ascension in the South Atlantic who has recently achieved COBIS Accredited member status (July 2024). We have approximately 75 students between the ages of 3-16 (Primary 50, Secondary 25) and we offer a range of subjects up to IGCSE level.

What you'll do

Due to current post holders reaching the end of their contracts, we have two separate vacancies for secondary teachers, both required for an August 2025 start;

- A mathematics Teacher to teach Maths up to IGCSE level
- An English Teacher to teach English up to IGCSE level

The ability to teach French and Art to IGCSE level would be desirable. As we are a small all-through school the willingness to teach across the key stages and outside of your specialism would be advantageous.

What you'll bring

With ideally 2-3 years' of experience teaching your subject (Mathematics or English) up to IGCSE level, you'll hold qualified teacher status. You'll have strong interpersonal and communication skills (oral and written) and you'll be excited and passionate about working as part of a small team of professionals making a big difference to the education and development of children on Ascension Island.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of **between £21,853 and £23,488**, dependent on qualifications and experience (taxable on Ascension), both roles attract accompanied status contracts and the following benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,560 pa accompanied, or Single status £3,780 pa
- An electricity allowance worth £938 p.a.
- A water allowance worth £2,729 pa accompanied, or £1,360 single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with 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
- Free primary dental and medical care and off island, with medical referral if required including medivac arrangements in an emergency.
- Free schooling for dependent children from 4 to 16 years.
- Free annual travel insurance
- Death in Service insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check and Teacher Status checks
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependents)

Closing date: Monday 03 March 2025.
Interviews: Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and interviews [by MS Teams or Skype] may be scheduled before the application deadline. Early applications are encouraged.
Required start date: August 2025.

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

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

Introducing the St Helena Pension Plan

The long-awaited St Helena Pension Plan is finally here! Approved by St Helena Government (SHG) and the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), this plan provides a simple, transparent, and investor-friendly solution to help residents secure their financial future.

Why Join the St Helena Pension Plan?

Pensions are the foundation of financial security, and our plan offers numerous benefits, including:

- Online Access & Flexibility – View real-time valuations, switch investments, and update beneficiaries with ease.
- World-Class Investment Management – Your funds will be managed by leading global firms such as BlackRock and Vanguard, as well as ETFs at competitive rates.
- Life Stage Investing – Not sure how to invest? Our Life Stage Investing portfolios are tailored to your retirement timeline, offering a structured and professional approach to growing your savings.
- Comprehensive Financial Tools & Education – Members gain access to a Financial Wellness Portal & Knowledge Hub, featuring tools and courses on budgeting, debt management, and an interactive pension calculator.
- Competitive pricing – Finally, the pricing of the total offering is very appealing that compares favourably which can be accessed via much larger markets.

This initiative has been years in the making, with Maxlife, SHG, and the FSRA working tirelessly to develop an all-encompassing solution designed to support residents in saving for retirement and for financial milestones such as buying your first home.

Want to Meet the Team & Learn More?

Graeme Kaplan and Etienne Bosch will be on St Helena during the week of 17 February. Employers are invited to book an appointment with Maxlife St Helena via Cherie Dillon to learn more about how the plan can benefit their employees.

Join from as low as £25 per month and
take the first step toward a brighter financial future.

ENCOMPASS

VACANCY NOTICE

Power Station Shift Operator

Job Description

Encompass has a vacancy for a full-time Shift Operator on Ascension Island. The post holder will form a key part of the Ops Team of the Power Station that controls and monitors the Power Station's outputs whilst ensuring cost-efficiency, safety and appropriate standards.

Requirements

- A good standard of numeracy and literacy, and basic computer skills.
- Excellent timekeeping
- Comprehensive knowledge of current safe working practices and safety procedures.
- Experience in producing and maintaining accurate technical and administrative records.
- Ability to communicate well, verbally and in writing, with internal and external customers.
- Proven knowledge of all aspects of Power Station Operation, including Diesel Generating Plant, Reverse Osmosis Plant, Wind Turbines and HV distribution network.
- Willingness to work shifts and flexible hours, at short notice, when required.
- Strong self-motivation and the ability to work with a degree of autonomy.
- Full driving licence.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

- Experience of working in a Power Station or similar environment.
- Electrical or Mechanical Work Experience
- High Voltage authorisation.
- GCSE English and Mathematics or equivalent.

Remuneration and Package

We are offering a two year contract with either Single or Accompanied status. The salary, dependant on experience, starts at £13,000 (taxable on Ascension). You will also be entitled to:

- Rent-free accommodation
- A food allowance of £3,905 (or £7,329 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
- Utilities (Water, Electricity and Phone) Allowance

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 28th February 2025**

NOTICE BOARD

PRESS RELEASE

CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF UTILITY BILLS

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is excited to announce an important update regarding utility bills. Effective January 2025, all customers will notice changes on the back of utility bills aimed at enhancing transparency.

As shown in the image below, the information provided will include a detailed breakdown showing the cost per kilowatt-hour for electricity and per cubic metre for water. The new layout is designed to help customers better understand how their charges are calculated and provide greater clarity on usage costs.

Breakdown of the cost of a unit of Electricity and Water

Electricity Cost per Billed Unit	
Power Station Diesel	£0.33
Administrative Cost	£0.08
Employee Cost	£0.07
Maintenance	£0.07
Depreciation Charges	£0.05
Premises Cost	£0.02
Total Cost per kWh	£0.62
Subsidy	£0.10
Average cost after Subsidy	£0.52
Average Tariff	£0.48

Water Cost Per Cubic Meter Billed	
Depreciation Charges	£2.21
Employee Cost	£2.13
Maintenance	£1.77
Administrative Cost	£1.00
Premises Cost	£0.87
Total cost per Unit	£7.98
Subsidy	£2.86
Average cost after Subsidy	£5.12
Average Tariff	£3.88

What each cost means:

- Power Station Diesel relates to the fuel and related costs for the diesel generators for electricity generation.
- Employee costs include salaries, pensions, training and other employee-related expenses (e.g. uniforms).
- Administrative costs include insurance, stationery, telephone and internet charges.
- Depreciation charges cover wear and tear of current infrastructure to ensure funds are available for future replacements.
- Maintenance costs relate to repairs and servicing of current infrastructure.
- Premises include rentals, repairs to properties and other property-related charges.

What's changing?

- **Cost per Unit Displayed**: Each bill will now show the specific cost per billed unit of electricity and water.
- **Other Information**: In addition to unit costs, the bills will include:
  - The subsidy per billed unit of electricity and water.
  - The average tariff per billed unit of electricity and water.
  - Explanation of each cost head in simple terms
- **Customer-friendly format**: The information will be presented in a user-friendly format to help you easily understand your consumption and costs.

NOTICE BOARD

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

Why Are We Making This Change?

We understand the importance of keeping our customers informed and the need to provide greater visibility into how your charges are determined. Going forward, the release of this information will become standard so that over time it will be possible to see how we arrive at our costs and how the Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) arrives at the tariff.

What Do Customers Need to Do?

There is no action required from customers. These changes will be reflected automatically on your bill starting from the January 2025 billing cycle. Should you have any questions about the new format or wish to learn more about understanding your bill, our customer service team is available to assist.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact us on tel. 22255 or email: enquiries@connect.co.sh or visit our website at www.connect.co.sh.

We thank you for your continued support as we work to improve our services and provide greater transparency to all our customers.

06 February 2025



What's On

Mantis St Helena

18 January: CURRIES OF THE WORLD
Savour a selection of curries from all corners of the globe.
£22.50 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

25 January: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS
Immerse yourself in an Arabian Nights experience with live music.
£25.00 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

1 February: LITTLE ITALY
Savour dishes and delights inspired by the Italian Peninsula.
£22.50 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

9 February: HIGH TEA SUNDAY
Indulge in a delightful high tea with bottomless tea and coffee.
£10.00 per person · 14:00 – 17:00

14 February: VALENTINE'S DAY
Celebrate with a curated set menu featuring a romantic sharing dessert. Gifts and bubbles included.
Lunch and dinner service available · Price upon request

15 February: CURRIES OF THE WORLD
Explore a selection of curries from all corners of the globe.
£22.50 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

22 February: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS
Enjoy tropical-inspired dishes paired with live music.
£25.00 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

28 February: ST HELENA AROUND THE WORLD
Experience traditional local cuisine with a unique twist.
£25.00 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

For all enquiries and bookings, please call 25505

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 16th February 2025– 6th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/ Church Parade	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 16th February 2025 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 20th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 16th February 2025 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 18th February	
7.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Alpha	St Mark



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Praise and Worship service

Sunday 16th February 2025 at 11:00am
Longwood Avenue
Kid Zone (Sunday School) at 11:00am
~

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 18th February 2025
At the Cape Villa at 5:00pm
(Contact: Cilla on 51672)
Wednesday 19th February 2025
At the Rock Christian Fellowship Centre,
Longwood Avenue at 6:00pm
(Contact: Tav 51727)

Christian Gift/Bookshop & DVD Rental

The Christian gift/bookshop & DVD rental
(as well as second-hand goods shop) will be open this week
on Monday - Wednesday from 9.00am to 1.30pm

For further information phone 25324 or 64521



ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

Games will be played over a five week period – each week a different set of numbers will be published

This week the "lilac" bingo sheet will be used.

Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner

Claims to be made to Karen Henry on 23401
by Saturday, 15 February, at 12noon.

Prize - £20 per week

There were no claims for last week.

85	32	55	20	2	6	29	80	5	22
74	27	56	7	68	52	83	86	48	26
24	39	78	82	25	58	59	45	4	9
43	69	46	36	72	66	51	10	42	23
37	90	81	40	15	44	79	67	17	28
73	11	35	54	88	14	19	50	89	62

St Helena Government

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MEMBER OF NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The National Honours and Awards Committee is seeking Expressions of Interest for a new member. This committee plays a vital role in recognising individuals who have made significant contributions to our community through national honours and awards.

The position will become vacant on February 16, 2025, and the appointment will be made by the Governor. Candidates must be individuals of integrity and high public standing.

The key responsibilities of the committee member includes:

- Reviewing and considering nominations for honours and awards.
- Conducting investigations to determine deserving recipients.
- Preparing a list of recommendations for the Governor.
- Performing other related duties as assigned.

If you are interested in contributing to this important process, please submit your expression of interest to the Information & Research Support Officer by Friday, March 21, 2025.

For further information and the relevant form to register, please contact Linda Benjamin by telephone number on 22470 or via email through: linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh

SHG, 4 February 2025

NOTICE BOARD



BAPTIST CHURCH

Gospel Outreach Service
Sunday 16th February
Kingshurst Community Centre 3.00 pm

No services will be held in the Sandy Bay,
Head O'Wain and Jamestown Chapels.

Bible Studies
Tuesday18th February
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 20th February
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENT
Ladies Meeting
Wednesday 19th February
Baptist School Hall J/Town 10.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME.

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

St Helena Government

INVITATION TO TENDER

Re-roof and decorate externally – Dental Building, Jamestown

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

SSHA11-2024/25–Re-roof and decorate externally - Dental Building, Jamestown

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday, 10February 2025at 10:00, meeting within the Car Park, outside the Dental Clinic, Jamestown.

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

Copies of the tender document and further details can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, Top Floor, Post Office Building, Jamestown on telephone no: 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 Tuesday, 18 February2025, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG, 03 February 2025

NOTICE BOARD

Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week- Flagstaff/Sugar Loaf/Banks/Ruperts /Jamestown

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Date: Saturday, 15 February 2025
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain or Jamestown (for bus pick-up 8.30am)
Duration: approx 4hrs

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7-8

Learn about the history of the fortifications from Adam Sizeland (Museum Director).

A woodland to coastal walk with fantastic views across the island, linking Post Box walks along the way. From Flagstaff, heading towards the coast via Sugar Loaf, Banks & Buttermilk Point (new Post Box Walk), Ruperts and ending at Jamestown.

This walk is suitable for experienced walkers. There are some narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water.

Date	Upcoming Walks
Saturday, 22 Feb 2025	Lot - Peak Dale - Blue Point
Sunday, 2 March 2025	Sharks Valley
Sunday, 8 Mar 2025	The Barn

Receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' contact Louis Youde louis.youde@shg.gov.sh or the Tourist Office T: 22158

Vacancy
General Assistant (Bread Production)

Since 1790

Salary for the post will be £10,248 per annum (£854 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a General Assistant within the Bakery.

The General Assistant will become a vital part of the day-to-day bread production and help ensure quality standards are achieved.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic numeracy and literacy ability
- Ideally possess knowledge and experience in this field, including Food & Hygiene and Health & Safety Awareness with the ability to carry out manual handling duties
- Have the ability to take on physically demanding duties and stand for extended periods
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment and follow instructions
- Be able to manage time effectively to ensure production deadlines are met
- Be available to work unsocial hours

Basic Applicable Skills include:

- Be able to carry out and understand basic measurements and follow written recipes
- Operating production equipment as required
- Packaging and delivering products
- General cleaning

Further details contained in job description

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Daryl Legg, General Manager (Production) via 22380 gm-productions@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **24 February 2025.**

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

MULE YARD







For Lease by the Property Division is the Mule Yard. This is a great business opportunity in a popular recreational area, located near James Bay and with a prominent view of the ocean.

Registered as JT020006 and measured at 0.31 acres. The lease term is 1 year in the first instance with an option for a further 2 years pending the performance of the business.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 21st February 2025**

CONTACT:

Gina Henry - Crown Estates Officer

Essex House, Jamestown

+290 22270

gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/portfolios/treasury-infrastructure-and-sustainable-development/property/

Vacancy

Watchkeeper

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £10,816 per annum (£208 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Bulk Fuel Installation for a Watchkeeper.

As the Watchkeeper, you will be responsible for undertaking regular checks of the Bulk Fuel Installation complex and equipment, and perform maintenance work when necessary.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic competency in Maths & English
- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
- Have Health & Safety awareness in a fuels environment
- Ideally be knowledgeable of the safe handling of fuels
- Be comfortable to work in a hazardous environment and deal with hazardous substances
- Ideally have the ability to perform general maintenance duties
- Preferably have a clean, valid drivers' license

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Mr Paul Ellick, BFI Manager via 22332 bfi@helanta.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **27 February 2025.**

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS – MARCH 2025

Constituents are invited to attend the district meetings to be hosted by Councillors next month. These will have a largely open agenda to enable constituents to make their priorities known, put forward suggestions and ask questions. Feedback will be provided on matters raised in previous meetings, if this has not already been given.

The constituency meetings will start at 7:30pm, and be held at the following dates and locations:

Date	Venue	Chairperson
Wednesday 5th	Guinea Grass Community Centre	Councillor Midwinter
Wednesday 5th	Blue Hill Community Centre	Councillor Turner
Monday 10th	Jamestown Community Centre	Councillor Brooks
Tuesday 11th	Sandy Bay Community Centre	Councillor Turner
Tuesday 11th	St Mary's Church, Briars	Councillor Essex
Wednesday 12th	St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Councillor Brooks
Wednesday 12th	Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	Councillor Coleman
Thursday 13th	Harford Community Centre	CouncillorKnipe
Wednesday 19th	Levelwood Community Centre	Councillor Thrower

Legislative Council
11February 2024

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers

Since 1790

Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be in possession of a clean & valid Drivers' Licence ideally in class D
- Be committed to delivering an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake repetitive Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment to meet tight deadlines
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment and remain calm in high pressure situations

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **27 February 2025.**

Golf Report: Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge Trophy



SHGC, Contributed

Last Sunday, 9 February, the "Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge Trophy" took place as a three-club stroke play competition. This event was well-attended, featuring a total of 30 players who participated in what turned out to be a highly competitive day on the course.

The format of the tournament required each player to select only three clubs to use throughout their rounds. This unique challenge often tested players' skills and adaptability, as they must strategically choose which clubs will serve them best for various shots over the course of 18 holes.

The competition yielded impressive scores from many participants, with three players managing to finish their rounds with scores in the 60s. The standout performer was Gerald George, who claimed the outright victory with an exceptional net score of 66. Following closely behind were Martin Buckley and Jeff Stevens, who finished in second and third places with net scores of 67 and 69 respectively. Larry Legg rounded out the top four with a solid performance, finishing with a net score of 70.

In addition to these remarkable scores, there were two notable "2's" recorded during the event. Peter Bagley achieved this on the 2nd hole, while Gerald George also scored a "2" on the 7th hole. Both players shared in the rewards from the two-ball pool due to their achievements.

A special thank you is extended to the Crowie Family (Annette, Natalie and Bradley) for sponsoring this event and providing wonderful prizes for the winners. Not forgetting a scrumptious meal laid on for all to enjoy. Their support not only enhances the experience for all participants but also honors the memory associated with this trophy.

Upcoming Events:

16 February - The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy Stableford competition

21 February - Annual Dinner Dance, see Notice board for details

23 February - Monthly Medal stroke play competition

Happy swinging!



Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

Another exciting youth session was held this week, with good displays and effort shown; but trying overly hard at times to shoot the highest score. Normally, this is the aim of the game when any sporting discipline is done on a competitive level, but it's still interesting to see these young people wanting to be the best in their shooting activities. They are good listeners with attention paid throughout when helping to enrich their minds to focus on the target alignment rather than trying to shoot the best scores. Hari shot 145, Daniel 181.3, Josie 85.1, Pippa 146, Josie 166 and Ryley 93.2 - their points will carry over to next week and will be added to see who shoot the most points over a total of four target cards - a reward will be presented to the three with the most points, this exercise will demonstrate how well their focus is in aiming from one session to another.

Our evening event attracted eight people; the weather was warm with fairly low wind that made conditions a bit sticky for those using a shooting jacket. We also welcomed three visitors who wanting to see the club and have a go at shooting. As for keeping everyone safe and comfortable, a safety briefing and demo exercise was given to ensure their experience was exciting, enjoyable and worth visiting. They were very much into this after being able to find the sight target picture with really impressive performances; Sandy shot 84.1 + 85, George shot 94.3 + 98.2, and Judge shot 84 + 98.2, really exciting like kids examining each other's Christmas gifts to see who had the best toy. Also joining us David Hume showing off with 93.2 + 91.1, it's good to have Dan back with us he shot 98.6 + 97.4, Pat H managed 97.6 and Simon H hitting 99.8. We discovered the target lightings require further slight adjustments. Huge thanks to everyone for their wonderful performance, we wish you a health and joyful weekend.

SPORTS ARENA

Thomas Brothers Deliver Deadly Blow

Challengers defeat Allstars to edge ahead in SHCA League Title race



Luke Bennett, SAMS

Another weekend of cricket action has taken place in the SHCA League 2025 with Challengers coming out tops against Allstars in the battle of the undefeated to place themselves firmly as title favourites for 2025.

In the first game of the weekend however, Jamestown Heat continued their form to pick up a win against Western A Mustangs. Heat elected to bat first and posted a healthy total of 258 thanks to Captain Jamie Essex with 86 runs. It was Player of the Match, Jason Thomas, however who would put Mustangs to the sword with a five-wicket haul, including three wickets in the first over, to help his side to victory by 114 runs.

On Sunday, Sandy Bay Pirates put in a destructive performance to defeat Levelwood Rebels. Pirates took to the batting crease first and put up a massive total of 301 runs, thanks to a brilliant batting performance from Player of the Match, Ronan Legg, with 113, accompanied by young Kieran Williams with 51. An all-round bowling performance from Pirates saw Rebels dismissed for just 36 runs, all out, with Pirates taking the win by 265 runs.

Then in the big one, it was all about the Thomas brothers, as they starred with the ball to help Challengers edge ahead in the title race, defeating Levelwood Allstars. Challengers batted first and got off to shaky start, however 69 from Andrew Yon and 41 from Player of the Match, Joey Thomas, along with some excellent batting down in the lower order, helped the reigning champions to produce a healthy score of 264 after 35 overs.

Allstars began the chase with Kristian Leo producing a hard fought 37 before he was dismissed. However, it was brother's Sean-Lee and Joey Thomas who would steal the show with the ball, accumulating seven wickets between them to take the game away from Allstars, with Challengers finishing as victors by 141 runs and putting them one step closer to retaining their league title.





Fixtures

Sat 15th Feb
13:15
Levelwood Rebels v Cobras
Umpires: Jamie Essex & Damian Burns

Sun 16th Feb
8:30
Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Allstars
Umpires: David Price & Gavin Ellick
13:15
Sandy Bay Pirates v Western A Mustangs
Umpires: Ralph Knipe & Western Clingham