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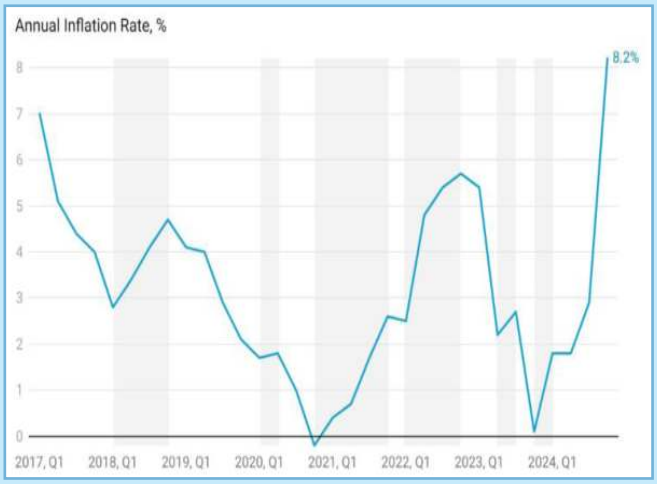
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SENTINEL

Vol. 13, Issue 42 - Price: £1 *"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"* Thursday 30 January 2025

"SIGNIFICANT INCREASE"

Prices up as Stats Office measure "Highest Inflation in 15 Years"





Lifestyle & Culture
Steve Thomas

Sincere Apologies

SHG issue apology to Event Organisers for "incorrect wording" in Head of Tourism TC Job Advert, with £67,000 p/a wage offered, and negative public reaction









OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Demy Herne, SAMS

This month has been nothing short of amazing for me! I had the incredible opportunity to witness the arrival of the first yacht in the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race, which was such a thrilling experience. I also had the privilege of attending the prize presentation event at Plantation House, which was another first for me. The weather was absolutely perfect at the beginning of the month, and the sea was calm, making it ideal for swimming and enjoying a few of the most beautiful sunsets I've ever seen; sunset watching is definitely one of my favorite things to do here on the Island.

Living on St Helena truly feels like a blessing. The Island's natural beauty never ceases to amaze me. Not many places in the world offer the same clear skies and lack of pollution. Here, you can stargaze at night without the interference of city lights, and swim in the sea without worrying about pollution or waste. We really are fortunate to be surrounded by such pure nature.

This month, I also got back into an old hobby of mine, photography. I've always loved how a single picture can capture so many memories and stories. If you've ever had a hobby you put off, or if you're looking to start something new, I really encourage you to try it. Sometimes you never know how much joy it can bring until you dive in. So yes, this is your sign to try something new! ;)

Before I wrap this up, I want to leave you with a quote from a Natasha Bedingfield song, "Live your life with arms wide open." It's a great reminder to embrace life fully and make the most of every opportunity. That's all from me for now; I hope you're having an amazing month as well!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

This week's announcement that inflation is at 8.2% (its highest for 15 years) came as no surprise. It has long been apparent that published inflation figures were being held down by the large decrease in internet costs in 2023, which has now worked its way out of the system.

The poorest members of our society did not benefit from reduced internet costs because they could not afford internet in the first place. So, these people have been suffering these higher amounts of inflation for more than a year, without the benefit of any saving.

While the review of minimum wage and a long overdue review of tax thresholds is very welcome and will assist those in low paid work, the EHRC was disappointed that the press release did not include provision for a significant increase in benefits, basic island pension and the carers allowance that many must subsist on, to compensate for this higher inflation.

What does our government propose to do for this significant number of people?

The Equality & Human Rights Commission

Perfect Christmas Present



Alona Indianna Knipe

On 12 December 2024, proud parents Karla Williams and Nathan Knipe were blessed with their beautiful baby girl, Alona Indianna Knipe, weighting a healthy 6lb 8oz.

Mummy says that Baby Alona "is doing fine and has got into a routine" humorously adding that while she "loves her milk" she also "hates bath time."

Mum of three, Karla, is also doing fine and enjoying the new addition to her little family.

Dad Nathan, on the other hand, is currently on Ascension Island and cannot wait to meet Baby Alona very soon. Big Brother Logan and Big Sister Aria – loves their baby sister.

Both Karla and Nathan would like to extend their thanks to Midwife Rosie Mittens and the nurses at the General Hospital for the care given before, during and after the birth of Baby Alona – their perfect Christmas gift.

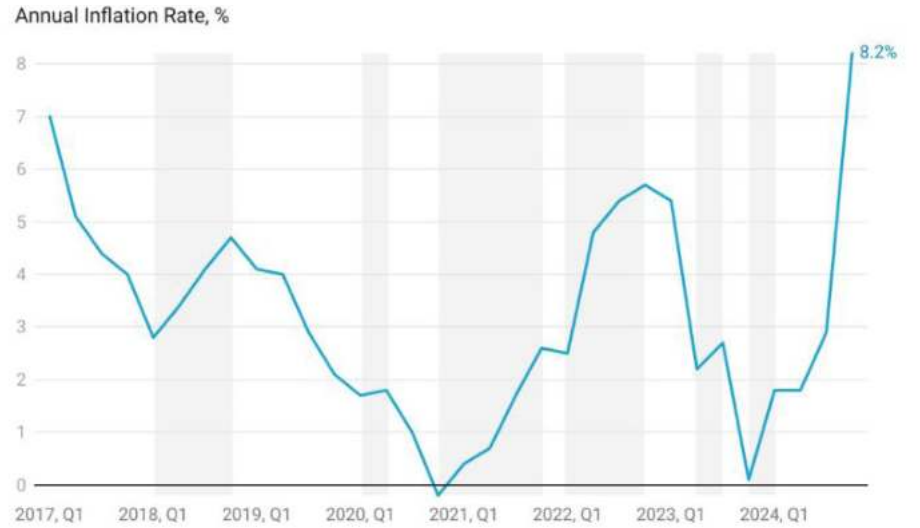




Donna Crowie, SAMS

"A Significant Increase"

SHG responds to highest inflation in 15 years with "options being considered to lessen the impact"



Liam Yon, SAMS

One of the main hardships in residing on St Helena, especially for low-income individuals and families, is the high cost of living. On Monday, the SHG Statistics office released their latest estimates of Consumer Price Index (CPI) – formerly Retail Price Index (RPI) – as well as Annual Inflation, which they found to be the highest it has been in 15 years, with SHG having since responded, recognising the impact this will have on the community of the Island.

"The Statistics Office has released new estimates of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the annual inflation rate," read the latest Stats Bulletin. "For the fourth quarter of 2024, the CPI has been measured at 103.1; in Q4 2023, the CPI was 95.3, which results in an annual inflation rate of 8.2%. This is much higher than the annual rate for Q3 2024 (which was 2.9%), and is the highest annual rate since 2009."

When looking at price changes over the year, the Stats Office found that, on average, all broad groups of items saw rises in price compared to a year ago. They detail that "some of the most significant changes were increases in electricity prices in January and July, increases in the price of telephone tariff and mobile data packages in July, and increases in the price of bread, local meat, and public transport in December."

It was also noteworthy that the "substantial drop" in the price of broadband internet and mobile phone data packages back in October 2023 "no longer affects the rate of annual price inflation."

According to Stats, "this has resulted in annual average price increases of 28.1% in Household Energy, 18.4% in Communications, and 9.7% in Food" adding that "the annual increase in average food prices is the highest since Q2, 2017."

St Helena Government have since responded to what they recognise as "a significant increase" in inflation, by informing that Ministers are conscious of the impact this rate of inflation is and will continue to have on the community, and say they "wish to reassure the public that options are being considered to lessen the impact on the most vulnerable, such as raising the minimum wage substantially and looking at raising the personal tax allowance from April 2025."

They also remind that Ministers have made it clear to the UK the financial pressures on the island and, as reported, have requested an additional £16m in funding as part of the zero-based budget submitted during the Financial Aid discussions ahead of the upcoming financial year.

Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Marks Brooks, said that Ministers "fully recognise the impact inflation is having on all aspects of community life" adding that "in normal situations, governments would use monetary policy to influence the rate of inflation," though with St Helena being dependant on financial aid, "normal policy tools are limited."

"In addition to continuing the reduced customs duty on essential food items, subsidising the cost of utilities, public transport service and providing a subsidy to transport freight from Rupert's into Jamestown, policy options are being considered to increase the minimum wage and to look at increasing the personal tax allowance which will lessen the impact of the higher inflation rate," Minister Brooks added. "The success rate of such policy options however, will be heavily dependent on the outcome of our annual budgetary aid from the UKG, which is not likely to be known until late March/early April 2025."

In a further input to this discussion, the Equality & Human Rights Commission has had their say (via a letter to The Sentinel on page 2), where they acknowledge that while increasing the minimum wage and personal tax allowance "is very welcome and will assist those in low paid work," they also express disappointment that the options being considered by Ministers, according to the recent press release, "did not include provision for a significant increase in benefits, basic island pension and the carers allowance that many must subsist on, to compensate for this higher inflation," questioning St Helena Government on what they "propose to do for this significant number of people?".



We "sincerely apologise"



SHG issue apology to Event Organisers for "incorrect wording" in Head of Tourism Job Advert, following negative public reaction

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government have been forced to apologise to a number of local and international event organisers following the publishing of a job advert that included "incorrect wording" which could be perceived as offensive to the lead organisers of popular local Island events.

Currently, SHG are seeking to recruit a new Technical Cooperation (TC) Officer to fill the role of Head of Tourism for St Helena Tourism, tasked with managing and further developing the tourism industry on the Island.

"Creating and managing a comprehensive programme of tourism development and promotion for St Helena, you will grow tourism-related revenue along with evolving tourism practices," read a section of the vacancy advert. "In doing so, you will facilitate a quality and value-for-money visitor experience delivering improved visitor numbers and satisfaction with increased export income, stimulating economic development."

As far as SAMS are aware, the role of Head of Tourism is still occupied by Matthew Joshua, a local resident of St Helena and not a TC Officer. However, SHG are now advertising the role as a TC post, with a mouth-watering salary of £67,000 per annum being offered, depending on experience and qualifications, plus an International Supplement, for a fixed-term contract of three years which is, as stated, available immediately.

Since posting, the recruitment has garnered a negative response from residents of St Helena, who took to Social Media to air their grievances, both at the large salary being offered for the role and questioning why the role cannot be filled locally – with locals having formally filled this post, including at this current time.

SHG have since confirmed with The Sentinel that "the vacancy for the Head of Tourism post was advertised locally in December 2024" adding that "no suitable applications were received, hence the reason for going via the TC route." This backs up the claim by one unnamed local resident who was open in admitting that she had "applied locally" for the Head of Tourism post, which was then advertised "at £22,000 per annum" – less than a third of the current offered salary for a TC Officer – adding that she was "not even selected for the interview process" and did not receive any reply even after "asking for feedback" from SHG.

Another topic of conversation that garnered plenty criticism is a controversial statement made within the job advert for a new Head of Tourism, which read at the time, "You must work with the tourism and marketing teams to develop and deliver immersive familiarisation programmes for trade partners, media associates and industry professionals creating a year-round events programme. You will also manage established events, such as the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race, St Helena's Day, Festival of Lights, Carnival and the Festival of Walking."

It is widely known that the annual Festival of Lights Parade – undoubtedly one of the most popular night's on St Helena – is an event organised and managed each year by Pilling Primary School, with Pilling's Head Teacher, Elaine Benjamin, even clarifying this on Social Media. "Just to clarify re Job description," she commented, "the Festival of Lights is organised and managed by Pilling Primary School".

Similarly, Carnival – another big event which takes place biennially – is organised and managed by the St Helena Cancer Support & Awareness Charity. Likewise, St Helena's Day is an event that has historically been managed by the New Horizons Youth Club, with St Helena Tourism only being involved last year when the St Helena National Trust took the lead on St Helena's Day as part of Culture Month.

Arguably, even the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race is not managed by St Helena Tourism, with the Royal Cape Yacht Club being the main organisers, supported by Tourism and the St Helena Yacht Club this side. The only event listed in the job description which is a St Helena Tourism-led event is the Festival of Walking.

Those commenting and posting to Social Media have called out SHG for allegedly giving credit to St Helena Tourism, specifically the Head of Tourism, for managing events which is, in fact, organised and managed by other Island organisations.

Picking up on this, The Sentinel on Friday enquired with SHG regarding the wording of their job advert for the position, specifically the section receiving the negative feedback. SHG responded by issuing a Press Release later in the day, apologising to local event organisers.

"With reference to the TC Job Vacancy advert, for the Head of Tourism, St Helena Government wishes to issue an apology to the organisers of the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race, St Helena's Day Celebrations, Festival of Lights and Carnival for the incorrect wording used within this advert," they stated.

They go on to add that "as can be seen from the Job Description" a requirement of the Head of Tourism role is to "develop and manage - or support through partnerships -

established events, such as the Cape to St Helena Yacht Race, St Helena's Day, Festival of Lights, Carnival and the Festival of Walking." SHG then acknowledged "the valuable contribution made by the organisers" of these events and said "this job role ensures a commitment to providing these events with support, such as international promotion or logistics" and that "it was not the intention to discredit the event organisers, or their hard work."

"I sincerely apologise to everyone affected by the mistake made in the recent advertisement for Head of Tourism," said Carolyn Nutkins, Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development for SHG. "As soon as it came to our attention that it had been worded incorrectly, we have corrected it publicly. We all recognise and appreciate the huge amount of work and effort put into arranging all of the community events such as those listed, by schools, groups and individuals, and are sorry to have caused any concern or offence to those responsible."

According to SHG, a corrected version of the advert has now replaced the original through all advertising channels.







You can bank on it!



SHG seek feedback on the use of banking services to assist policy development

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government and the Bank of St Helena are currently seeking feedback on the use of banking services on St Helena through the launch of a survey, accessible both online and in hard copy.

The data being gathered will form part of the evidence to allow SHG to develop a banking policy for St Helena which they say will allow both Government and the Bank of St Helena to "have a clear strategy and action plan for improving banking services for St Helena's residents, businesses, and investors."

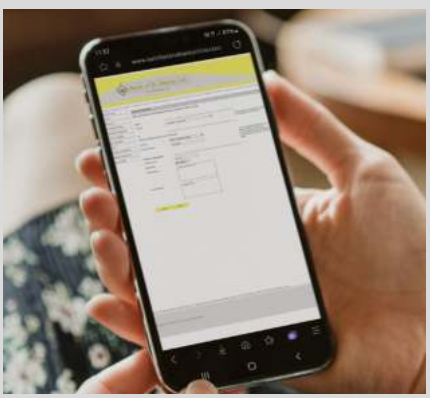
According to SHG, "St Helena's Sustainable Economic Development Strategy 2023-33 outlines the modernisation of the Bank of St Helena (BOSH) as a key work stream required to enable the modernisation of St Helena's financial services and company law – a sector identified by the Government as one that can enable future transformation of the economy."

To this end, a survey has been launched, which can be accessed online via www.sainthelenabank.com/survey or can be filled out in person at the Bank of St Helena branch in Jamestown or the Ascension branch in Georgetown.

"To assist in developing the policy and associated strategy, BOSH and SHG are seeking feedback on the use of banking services by residents, the diaspora, and other users of banking services," they explain. "It is essential that we gather as much data on banking activity as possible in order to have a complete and full understanding of the needs of businesses and individuals, so that future investment can be targeted at the most critical areas."

Supporting this work, identified as "critical" by SHG, are independent professional advisors for both Government and BOSH. These advisors are scheduled to visit the Island in late February this year to follow up on feedback received.

SHG are asking anyone who wishes to speak to the team in person to contact the Economic Development Portfolio, through Portfolio Assistant Alexandria Thomas, with all feedback set to be "kept strictly confidential."



It's Your Tern



St Helena National Trust launch third annual Bird Watching Survey

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena National Trust (SHNT) are appealing to the community to get involved with their third annual Bird Watching Survey; an initiative that encourages people to go outside to enjoy and observe nature, while familiarising themselves with St Helena's local bird species.

The Trust explained that their survey mirrors their partner organisation, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), who annually holds their 'Big Garden Birdwatch' – essentially a garden wildlife survey where nature lovers help build a picture of how garden birds are faring in the UK. In addition, the RSPB also extends this initiative to schools with the 'Schools Garden Watch'; engaging children to discover the birds present in their school grounds.

The idea for the SHNT to raise awareness about local bird species began back in 2021 when, at the time, focus was solely on St Helena's endemic Wirebird, later expanding to include other local birds.

"In 2021, it was found that not every primary school-aged child had encountered a Wirebird in the field," they recalled. "To address this, the team undertook the significant task of organising Wirebird tours for all primary school children, totalling 356 students and their teachers, and beginning with assemblies in all four schools."

"While the Wirebird is St Helena's flagship species, and regular outreach materials are produced to engage the community around them, there are other bird species on the island that also deserve attention," continued the Trust. "We undertook the task of increasing the community's knowledge and understanding of land birds on St Helena; the annual Birdwatch encourages people to go outside to enjoy and observe nature, which is known to benefit overall well-being. It also helps islanders become more familiar with the bird species in their local area whilst letting us know about the abundance and distribution of these species."

As part of this work by the SHNT to increase awareness and understanding of local bird species within the community, they have revealed the development of a St Helena Mini-Education Pack for distribution to schools and youth groups; the aim being to inspire young people to learn more about local birds.

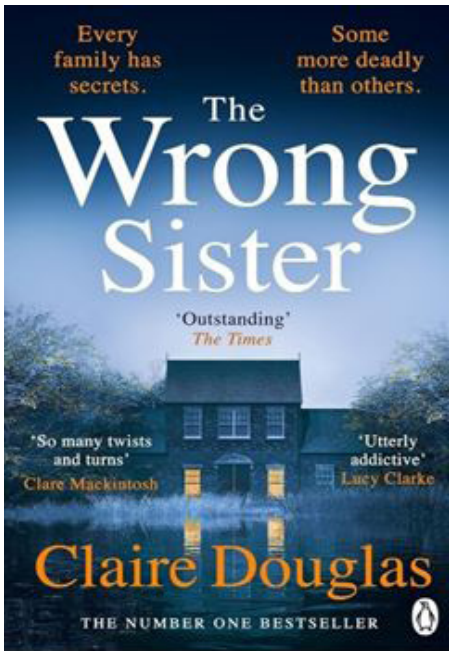
In terms of the Bird Watching Survey however, an observation sheet was included in last week's edition of The Sentinel (Vol 13 Issue 41, pages 16-17) where readers can pull out the two-page spread and participate by marking down the number and species of birds you see during a day out in nature, wherever that may be across the Island.

The Trust is encouraging everyone to participate and "give it a go!"



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



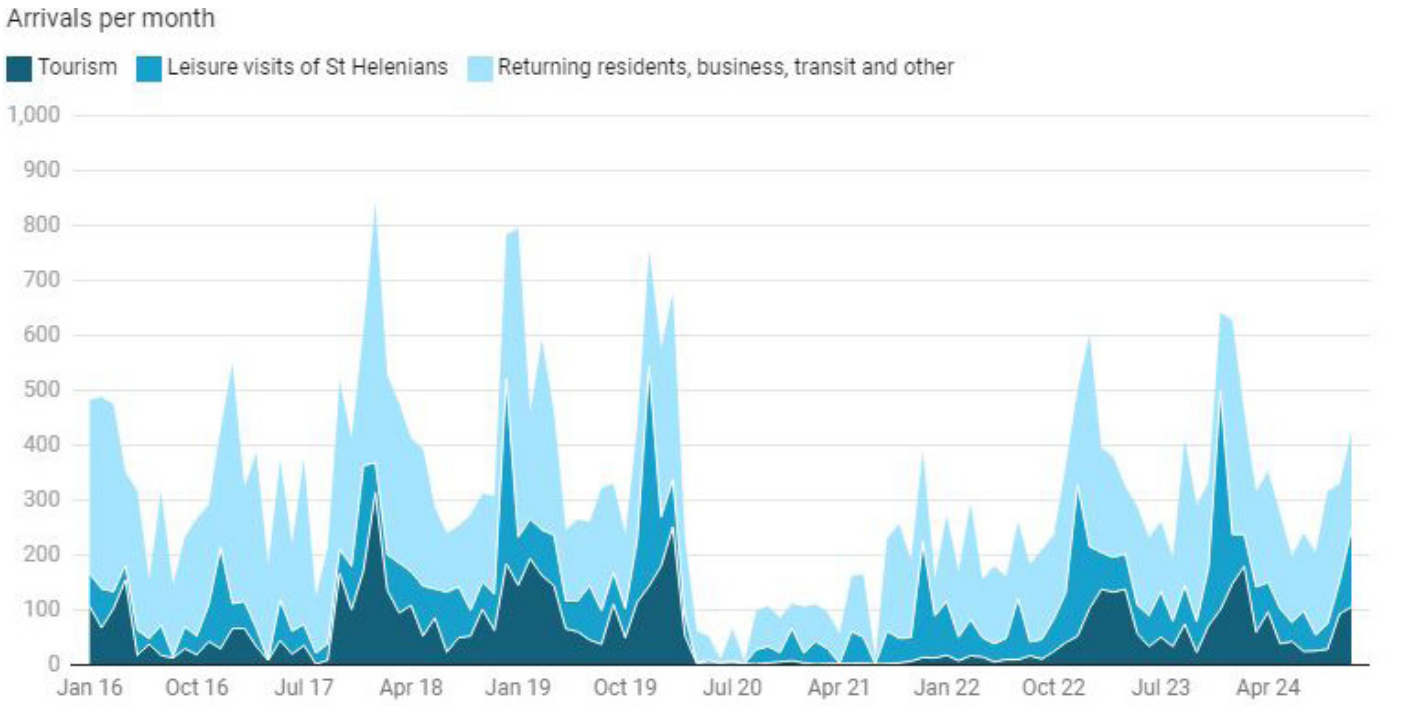
The Wrong Sister by Claire Douglas

You've known her all your life.
Or have you?
Tasha and Sister Alice look alike, but couldn't be more different.
Tasha's married with kids, settled near their home town of Bristol.
While Alice travels the world with her husband. Yet each trusts the other with her life.
So when Tasha wants a break,Alice offers to stay in her home with the kids, so her sister can have a holiday. Tasha knows they're in safe hands.
She couldn't be more wrong.
The call sends Tasha rushing home.
Alice is in intensive care.
Her husband is dead.
The police are hunting for suspects and motives.
But Tasha can't think why anyone would hurt her sister.
Then the note arrives, addressed to Tasha:
It was supposed to be you.

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

Arrivals outweigh Departures, but only slightly

Arrivals up by 4%, departures up by 3.2%, as Stats release latest estimates



Liam Yon, SAMS

Arrivals to St Helena during the period of December 2023 through to the end of November 2024 has just edged the number of departures, by around 40, as the SHG Statistics Office release latest provisional estimates for the number of passenger arrivals and departures to and from St Helena, up to the end of November 2024.

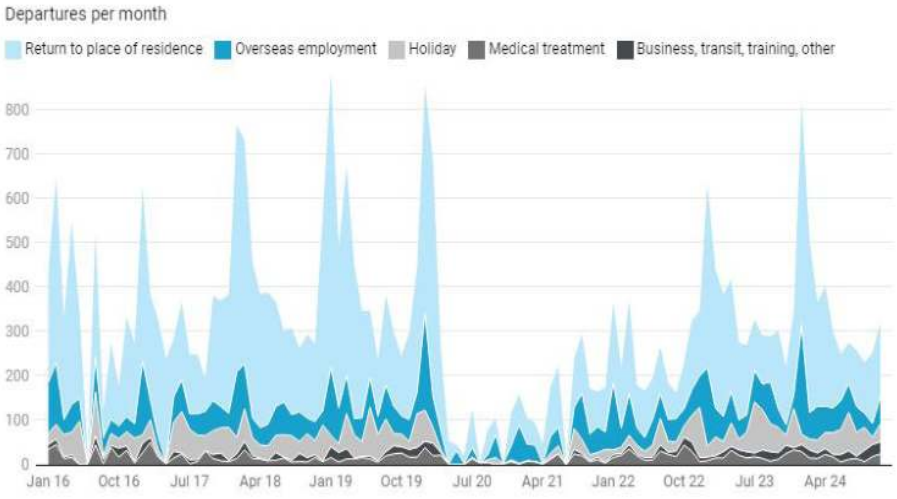
According to the data, there were an estimated 421 arrivals to the Island during November last year with 373 of these arriving by air. "This compares with 332 arrivals in November 2023, with 315 arriving by air," reported the Stats Office. "245 people arrived for leisure, including 104 non-St Helenians and 141 St Helenians visiting family and friends on the island."

Looking more broadly, Stats report that during the period of December 2023 to November 2024, "there have been 4,365 arrivals, compared to 4,196 in the same period a year ago – a 4.0% increase." They add that, of those arrivals, 2,052 were for a leisure purpose – representing a 5.8% increase when compared to the same period in the previous year, when arrivals for leisure purposes totalled 1,940. Additionally they detail that there were 923 tourists arriving – representing a 3.9% increase on the 888 that arrived in the same period during the previous year.

In terms of departures, the data suggests that there were 319 departures from the island during November 2024, 102 less than the number of arrivals. When increasing this scope to the twelve months, between December 2023 and end of November 2024, the estimated total number of departures was 4,328, compared to 4,195 in the same period a year ago – representing an increase of 3.2%.

Overall, arrivals to the island outweighed departures from the Island by an estimated 37 people during that twelve month period.

This data suggests that travel both to and from St Helena is on the rise; however, the gap between arrivals and departures is still insignificant and does not suggest a major increase in the resident population of St Helena.



"So much more to be discovered"

New unique endemic plant species discovered on-Island



Demy Herne, SAMS

A new endemic plant species has been identified on the island, adding to the list of rare and unique plants found only on St Helena. This discovery marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to preserve the island's natural heritage, thanks to the tireless work of Vanessa Williams MBE and Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks has been a driving force in the restoration and conservation of St Helena's endemic species. Her partnership with Vanessa Williams, who has been working on the island for the past 16 years, has proven invaluable. Vanessa, who returned to St Helena after working at Kew Gardens in the United Kingdom, initially took on the role of Nursery Officer, focusing on propagating and saving our native plants from extinction.

Reflecting on her return, Vanessa shares, "I came back as a nursery officer to propagate endemics and save them from extinction. The main reason I came back was because of the Bastard Gumwood and the other 40 plus species that go with it as well."

Through their collaboration with experts like Professor Quentin Cronk and Dr. Alan Gray, both Vanessa and Rebecca have worked extensively to understand the genetic diversity of St Helena's plants to help and ensure their survival. As Rebecca explains, "the conservation unit works to collect seed and propagate rare endemics and then plant them back out as part of restoration work," with the ongoing UK-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project aimed at restoring and safeguarding St Helena's cloud forest habitat for water, wildlife and people on St Helena.

After years of research and fieldwork, the team recently identified a new endemic plant on St Helena, an exciting discovery that adds to the island's list of rare species. Initially thought to be a variety of grass, the plant was later determined to be a sedge, a type of plant commonly used in crafting materials like baskets. Vanessa, with her deep knowledge of the island's plant life, explains, "it is a sedge, not a grass! Sedge is like what in the olden day's people used to use to make baskets. It is a family of grasses and sedges, but we call it Diana's Peak Grass because it looks like grass."

The new species has been found in three distinct locations on the island – Diana's Peak, High Peak, and Longwood Barn. These locations are spread out across the island, each with its own unique environmental conditions, making the discovery even more intriguing.

One of the key aspects of this discovery is the genetic analysis that revealed significant differences between the populations. While the plants at Longwood Barn were found to be distinct from those on Diana's Peak and High Peak, the genetic divergence between them is noteworthy.

Dr. Cairns-Wicks explains, "Populations that may have become separated over time because of the changes in vegetation structure over the last 500 years, or in fact beyond that over the millennia, may have become both geographically isolated and genetically isolated."

This genetic separation means that the new species found at Longwood Barn is distinct, not only in its appearance, but also in its genetic makeup. Vanessa describes the differences between the populations. "The one on the Barn has a paler leaf and is shorter, and the leaf structure is completely different to the one on the peaks," she says.

This new discovery has brought to light the fact that St Helena is home to yet another species that is found nowhere else in the world. "Just on St Helena, yes and we're very proud of it actually, finding the species," says Vanessa with pride.

So why is this discovery such a big deal? St Helena has a long history of rare and unique plant species, but this new sedge adds to the island's already rich biodiversity. Dr. Cairns-Wicks points out the importance of this discovery in the broader context of conservation. "This is Saint Helena's endemic plants. These are the plants that make up the island's flora and fauna," she commented. "Historically these are just amazing plants, they're completely unique, and the island has a responsibility to itself to keep these species alive and thriving for future generations."

The fact that this new species is only found on St Helena means it's now even more important to protect it. With its population confined to just a few areas on the island, the Barn grass is at risk if not properly managed. "Now it's a species that's only found at the Barn. It's a very rare population," Dr. Cairns-Wicks explains. The conservation team is taking steps to ensure the new species is kept separate from other populations to avoid hybridisation, which could lead to the loss of the plant's unique characteristics.

Vanessa and Rebecca are now working towards having the species formally described and recognized.

"The next step is to basically put a case forward for it to be described as a new species," Dr. Cairns-Wicks explains. "We can then put action in to try and save it and make sure it's separate from the other plants."

This effort will not only protect this new species but also help guide future conservation work on the island. With over 50 endemic species currently recognised, including ferns and flowering plants, St Helena's flora continues to be a treasure. Vanessa notes, "We've got 50 now, that includes endemic ferns and flowering plants as well."

The discovery of this new sedge is just one example of the incredible biodiversity found on island. "There is still so much more to be discovered and new species are being discovered and described all the time." Rebecca stated.

For those working in conservation, like Vanessa and Rebecca, these discoveries are not just about adding new species to the list, they're about ensuring that St Helena's rich natural heritage is preserved for generations to come. "Once something becomes extinct, there's no coming back," Rebecca adds. "The island has seen enough extinctions, and we now need to make sure that we are proper guardians and make sure that the place is left a little bit better for the next generation."

The island's unique plants are part of the island's identity, and the discovery of this new species is a verification of the hard work and passion of those dedicated to preserving them. As we celebrate this exciting discovery, we are reminded of the importance of caring for our island's natural wonders and ensuring their survival for future generations.

Indecent Exposure



Undersea cable pipework exposed at Rupert's as SHG asks for caution to be taken

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government have advised that, due to the recent unsettled sea conditions experienced around the Island, the undersea fibre optic cable pipework, located at Rupert's beach, has become exposed.

While they confirm that "the cable itself is undamaged" they add that "a small amount of the protective housing encasing it remains exposed on the beach, with some of the casing in the waters leading away from the beach detached from the seabed and exposed."

After having noticed the exposed cable casing, SHG carried out a risk assessment which found that it presents a low risk to the community, and vice versa. "Authorities are satisfied that the general public pose little risk to the piping and, with suitable precautions observed, the piping poses little risk to the public," they commented. "Whilst it is expected that the regular movement of sand at the beach is likely to naturally rebury the piping in time, the public are advised to take caution when on Rupert's Beach or when swimming in Rupert's Bay."

SHG then gave some advice to those visiting Rupert's where they state that "there is no risk of electric shock or electric exposure" to beach users, however "the piping does have metal bolts and joins which could cause injury" and could be a trip hazard, therefore people should be mindful when near the cable.

Swimmers have been asked to "avoid swimming near the areas of exposed piping in the water" with SHG adding that "whilst it may not look dangerous, swell and waves can quickly drag or push you into the piping, which could then result in injury."

Lastly, boat operators are advised that "no anchoring is permitted inside of Rupert's Bay between the end of the Jetty and Birddown ... as anchoring could pose a risk to the underwater piping." SHG add that "outside of this area, anchoring should be avoided within 100m either side of the piping."

It was back at the end of August 2021, described as a "ground-breaking day in St Helena's digital history" by SHG, when the Island's branch of Google's Equiano Subsea Cable was landed at Rupert's Beach; signalling the first shore landing of the cable in the entire Equiano Cable Project.



LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

"St Helena is always going to be my home"

Mark Constantine shares a glimpse into his life of discipline, service, and new beginnings



Demy Herne, SAMS

Come years ago, the Kingshurst Community Centre was a hub of activity, operating three nights a week during skittle leagues, attracting a large number of people each time. Amongst the players was Mark Constantine, a cheerful man known for his impressive skills on the skittle lanes, along with his equally talented team.

However, Mark's journey took him far from the island. Venturing to the UK, he joined the Army and served with dedication for 24 years. The Sentinel had the privilege of interviewing Mark, where he shared insights into his career and much more.

During his younger years, Mark was a member of the Church Lads Brigade, an organisation that instilled discipline, marching, and drilling. When asked whether his time in the Brigade influenced his decision to join the Army, he explained, "I wouldn't say it did but then, looking back, the structure of what we did in the Church Lads Brigade and when we would go camp and stuff like that, looking back, it is the fundamentals of having that discipline and respect for people and stuff like that."

Reflecting on his time away from the Island, Mark shared, "Oh it's been a really long time, it's been 10 years." Currently living in Southampton, Mark resides in the small village of Marchwood. His military career, which spanned over two decades, ended just over two years ago, marking a new chapter in his life.

When asked what he does post-Army, Mark explained how he now works for a company called Mitie as an Area Operations Manager. "So I manage the contract for sort of looking after naval sites," he detailed. "So still connected, and I think that was sort of a nice transition, coming from the military and running the contract for another company for the military. So I have a workforce, I have 200 people on six sites and I look after some top secret sites as well."

He went on to explain more on his varied role, "mainly some of the naval bases, we do all their logistics, administration support, medical support, you pretty much name everything the navy needs to function, they're now getting contractors in to do that for them, and the whole idea is that to have more people on the front line, so contractors can do what, so the military in its entirely is getting smaller but the ideological about that is that if people, contractors like ex-military coming in and doing that service for them, they can then have more people on the front line."

The demands of his job also require considerable travel. "I spend a lot of time on the road," he said. "People management can be challenging, I have such direct reports to me, and so I don't really get involved with the day-to-day stuff."

While Mark has made the UK his home for now, his heart remains with St Helena. "I would say St Helena is always going to be my home, I'm quite tearful today actually because I have to leave," he shared.

Despite the busy nature of his Christmas here on Island, Mark found moments of joy, particularly with his son. "Oh it was busy, I felt like I did one of everything, I met a friend, I didn't do everything I wanted to do, three weeks isn't sufficient to do stuff, especially at Christmas time. I wish I had another two weeks. My son, he's eleven now, and seeing how happy and free he was actually swimming over to the eye and climbing up and I don't think he's going to realise what he is going to miss until we get back to the UK," he shares.

Mark Constantine's journey from St Helena to a distinguished 24-year military career and now into the world of operations management is one of continuous growth and transition.

"It's not always easy, but the rewards are great"

Steve Thomas speaks about his years in the military and the experiences he has had whilst serving for his country



Demy Herne, SAMS

Steve Thomas, son of Linda and Robert Thomas (Butcher), recently returned to St Helena with his wife and daughter to spend Christmas on-island. He is a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy, and his story is one of hard work and service to his country.

Steve's journey to the Royal Navy began on island, where, at the time, he was working as a Teacher Trainee for Primary Schools (1996-1998). In fact, Steve nearly completed his two-year teaching qualification, but a recruitment drive by the British forces changed the course of his career.

In 1997, the Army, Royal Air Force (RAF), and Navy all sent representatives to St Helena to recruit young people, and Steve found the opportunity hard to resist. "I was drawn to the Navy because of the ships, the frigates, and the excitement of it all," he recalls. He wasn't the only one, as many other young people from the Island also saw the services as a path to greater opportunities.

In 1998, Steve left St Helena aboard the RMS St Helena, first traveling to Ascension Island before flying to RAF Brize Norton in the UK. He then began his basic training at HMS Raleigh, where he was joined by other islanders including Lester Fowler, Leroy Caswell, and Leroy Yon. Together, they embarked on a new chapter in their lives with the Royal Navy.

Steve's initial goal was to become an Aircraft Engineer, and the Navy offered him the training and opportunities to fulfill that dream. After completing basic training, he moved on to HMS Sultan for engineering school and chose to specialise in Sea King Mark 4 helicopters, which were used in the Commando Helicopter Force.

Over the next few years, Steve's career took him too many different locations, from the war zones of Bosnia and Iraq to the more peaceful shores of the Far East. His first deployment was over Christmas to Croatia and Bosnia, following the breakup of Yugoslavia. Steve recalls how "it was an eye-opening experience, and it wasn't without its risks. We sometimes flew back with bullet holes in our helicopters."

As the years passed, Steve's career continued to evolve, and he found himself deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq. He remembers the tension after the 9/11 attacks. "We were deployed in 2001, and after the attacks, everything changed," he recalled. "We were given the task of supporting the Special Forces in Afghanistan as they went after Al-Qaeda and Bin Laden."

Throughout these years, Steve earned promotions and further responsibilities, including becoming a Lead in Hand in the Royal Navy and overseeing engineering units. His deployments took him in and out of conflict zones, including Iraq, where he witnessed firsthand the effects of war, both the welcoming reception when Saddam Hussein fell and the increasingly hostile environment that followed.

Steve's military career allowed him to travel the world, but after nearly three decades of service, he found himself looking for more stability for his family. "When I married and had a daughter, I knew it was time for a change," he admits. "The opportunities for my daughter in the UK far exceed what she would have here on St Helena."

Despite this, Steve still feels a strong connection to the Island and acknowledges the hold that St Helena has on him; even after living in the UK for so many years. "St Helena will always be home, no matter where I live," he says. However, his priorities have shifted towards providing the best opportunities for his daughter.

Steve is passionate about the future of St Helena, especially regarding the Island's airport and tourism potential. He has been vocal about the issues with the airport, particularly the limitations on flights and the lack of facilities for tourists. "The airport was meant to bring St Helena into the modern world, but it's not working as expected," he says. "We need to fix these problems and make St Helena a place where people can travel freely, whether it's for business, tourism, or for the Saints who want to return home."

Steve sees tourism as a vital part of the Island's future, suggesting that St Helena could benefit from the cruise liner industry if there were better infrastructure in place. "There's a huge opportunity here, but it's not being fully realised," he reflects. "With the right investment and support, St Helena could thrive as a tourist destination."

One of Steve's key messages to young people on St Helena is the value of joining the armed forces. He encourages them to pursue a career in the Navy, Army, or RAF, emphasising the life skills, confidence, and opportunities they will gain. "The military offers qualifications, leadership skills, and a chance to see the world," he says. "It's not always easy, but the rewards are great."

Steve's own journey, from a young man on St Helena to a Senior Officer in the Royal Navy, is a testament to the opportunities available through hard work and dedication. "If you're willing to put in the effort, the military will give you so much in return."

Now, as Steve approaches the final years of his military career, he is beginning to think about his future post-Navy. "I've done 27 years in the Royal Navy, and it's been an incredible experience," he says. "But there will always be a link to St Helena. I can see myself returning here in the future."

For now, Steve is focused on enjoying his time with his family and doing what's best for his daughter.

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED



Focus on FAM Budget Proposal

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Minister for H&SC, Martin Henry, had Dr. Peter Moss (Chief Medical Officer) and Helen Lawrence (Head of Service -Non-Clinical) as his guests 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 Health and Social Care as part of the Minister's zero-based budget with the added £16 million request.

Martin started off the show by stating how important it is to keep in mind that no matter how much funds is allocated to health, there would always be more areas where funds are needed due to the constantly changing nature of healthcare. The Senior Management Team worked towards putting together a strategy providing a framework to determine how much funds would be needed and reasonable to add to the additional amount requested from the FAM team. This would ensure that the funds requested could be motivated on evidence based information. Working within the strategic framework also provides a clear direction to deliver on. Some areas that the strategy will focus on is attracting more staff and retaining staff as well as increasing some services provided.

Dr. Moss reminded the public that all the discussion is based on funds that the health department requested from the FAM team and that the financial aid settlement is still to be determined by the FCDO. No state-funded healthcare system has unlimited funds and, as such, cannot provide unlimited services. Medical science progresses rapidly but new treatments often come at great cost. In healthcare there are always difficult decisions to be made as to what is the best way to spend the available resources. Some very complex and expensive treatments like dialysis, some treatments for heart disease and some of the newer cancer treatments will probably never be available on St Helena due to the ongoing cost and complexity of these treatments. The team is working with a Director of Public Health in the UK with the Health Security Agency to look at the best ways to spend the limited resources on St Helena to achieve the best possible outcomes for the greatest number of people on-Island.

The strategy that the team worked on before presenting the budget to the FAM team was to meet somewhere in the middle between expectations and a reasonable budget. To determine what a reasonable budget would be they had to formulate a realistic plan of which services can be offered and to determine what the cost of providing these services would be before requesting the funds. There are a number of areas within health that need investment but one of the big areas is the replacement of ageing equipment and the maintenance of existing equipment. An example of this is the x-ray machine that recently broke down and could not be repaired due to its age; a new machine had to be acquired. Things like this unexpected expense, places a lot of strain on an already limited budget. To avoid this from recurring, a planned replacement budget has to be put in place to make

provision for the timely replacement of equipment. There is also the maintenance cost for buildings and other infrastructure that has to be taken into consideration as well. The cost of the drugs that is needed for treatments has been steadily increasing over the past couple of years, especially for people with serious illness like cancer and heart disease, among others, which adds additional pressure on the budget. Dr. Moss again stressed that the Health section does not even have enough money in the recurrent budget to do deliver the basic services and this is one of the reasons they are requesting additional funds from the UK Government.

The other dimension of healthcare involves preventative and early treatment. This is an area that really needs to be a big focal point as this is the only way to improve the health profile of the island and move away from a reactive approach, as is currently the case. An essential part of this approach will be the effective management of chronic diseases as early in life as possible. It is always more cost effective to prevent serious illness than to treat it once it has progressed to a full-blown condition. There has been very little funding available to address this area of treatment in the past. The ideal would be to not only invest in effective ways to treat chronic illnesses but to also lower the incidence of these diseases developing by preventative lifestyle changes like increasing exercise, healthy diet and clamping down on the use of alcohol and tobacco-products. All this will require additional funds, contributing to the reason for requesting the funds from UKG.

Helen then spoke about the funds allocated to health in the past years and how these funds have not even been keeping pace with inflation causing deficits in the resources needed on numerous fronts. After looking at the strategies, the team put together an amount of £4 million as part of the £16million additional amount to the zero-based budget presented to the FAM team from FCDO. Of this £4 million, £3 million is for health services and £1million for social care. A whole variety of things is included in these amounts. One of the big expenses that form part of the £3 million is overseas medical referrals coming to a total of £1.7million. £250,000 is included in the requested amount for the replacement of capital equipment, mentioned by Dr. Moss. The medication budget also has to be increased by a further £500,000, included in the £3million. This leaves about £500,000 that will cover a variety of other additional expenses. Among these will be the implementation of a training program to make provision for the development of skills on island to fill vacancies within the Health and Social Care Portfolio. In addition to medical referrals, provision also needs to be made for bringing in specialists and their equipment to St Helena to provide specialised treatments for larger numbers of people here on the island. Another area that is part of the Healthcare Section is Environmental Health. This section has been trying to implement a rodent blitzing programme for a number of years now. To implement this, additional funds will be needed for rodenticides as well as funding for short term casual workers.

The additional £1 million requested for Social Care will mainly support the efforts of the section to support and encourage the work that is already being done to promote domiciliary care. This initiative aims to enable people to live at home safely for as long as possible with support. Included in this will be small adaptations to living areas as well as providing support to the CCC and Child Care Services for necessary additions. The reason for not requesting a bigger amount for social care is that most of the care facilities are at capacity at the moment. To resolve this issue, the section is looking at increasing capacity in some of the facilities as well as staffing. These improvements will come under capital projects and cannot be requested directly under the recurrent budget. The social care team will provide listeners with details of this strategy at a later stage. The section is also in the process of a policy review based on the ageing demographic to provide a holistic approach for future strategies and funding.

Another area they are looking to provide more support for is the mental health team and to make provision for more capacity in this area. Mental health is an area that needs to get more support as there are a lot of people on island suffering from various mental health conditions.

In conclusion, Martin reinforced that the aim of the strategy is first and foremost to stabilise the department by curbing the constant need for reactive actions by moving towards a more pro-active and planned approach to healthcare on St Helena. With this being said, the future does hold a lot of uncertainty and very real issues when taking the ageing demographic and increasingly poor health of the population on the island into consideration. This will pose a lot of challenges for the Health and Social Care Portfolio that will have to be managed as best they can with the funds available in the future.



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. JAN 31
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am: American Connections (Repeat)
- 2pm: Our Show (Repeat)
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. FEB 01
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 1pm: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie (Repeat)
- 5-8pm: DNA Show (repeat)
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. FEB 02
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke Bennett
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service

MON. FEB 03
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 5:30pm: Country Classics
- 7:30pm: Sound of the 80's with John Turner

TUE. FEB 04
- 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 (NEW)

WED. FEB 05
- 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 06
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 11am: M&M Show with Jeremy Johns
- 1pm: Lunchtime vibes with Demy
- 4pm: Sounds of the 80's
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: In Scope

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

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week

NEW TO SAMS RADIO ONE!

Do you enjoy classical music or would you like to learn some more about this genre and broaden your horizons a bit?



Tune in next week for the very first edition of 'Classical Compilations' where we feature a mix of classical pieces from various composers.

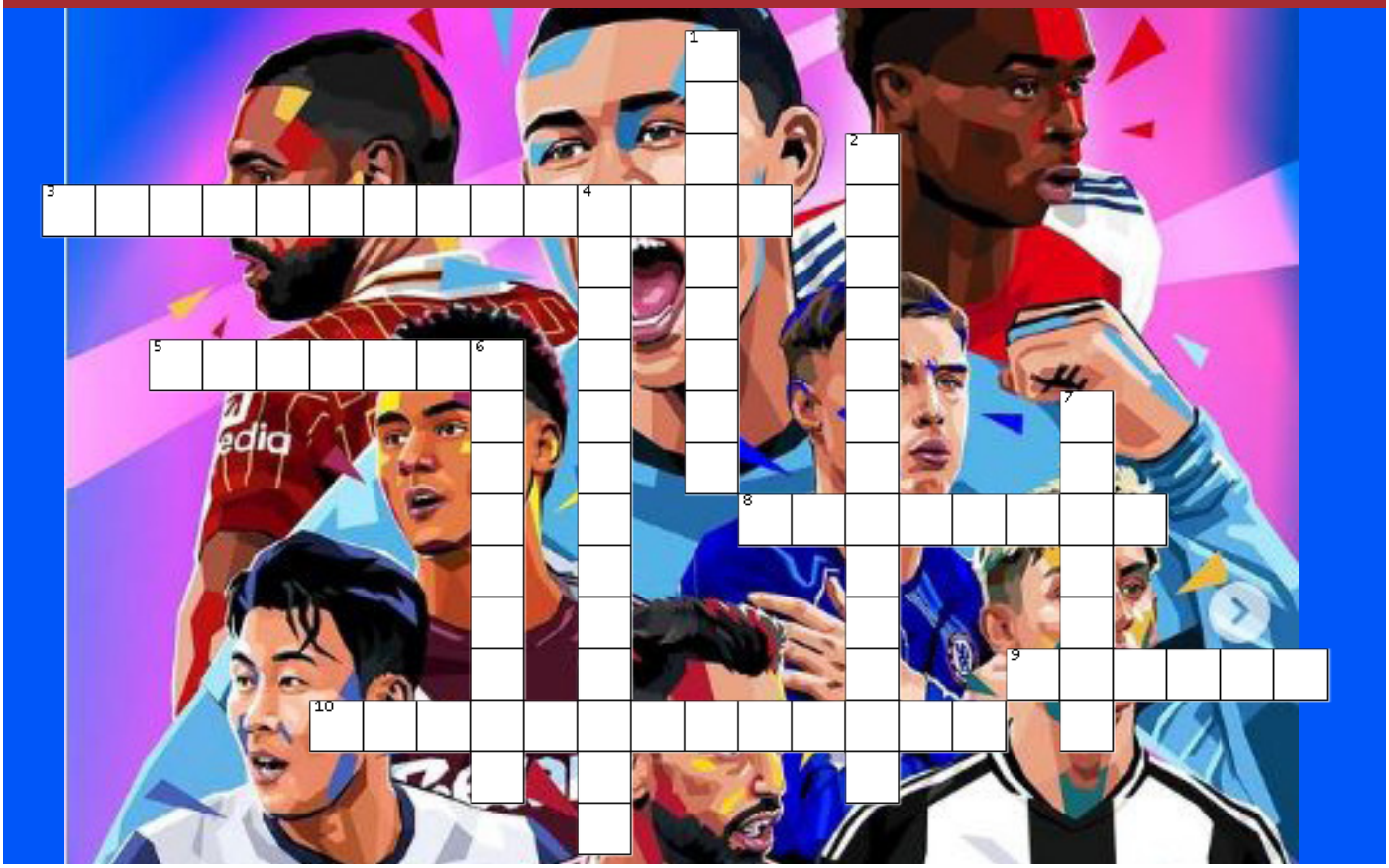
Be sure to tune in on Tuesday from 7:30pm for a lovely hour of classical music, repeated on Sunday evenings at 8pm.



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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Crossword: Nicknames of English Football Teams



ACROSS

3. A treble wining team known as the Cityzens? (10,4)
5. Newcastle's nickname comes from a bird that is believed to steal shiny things?
8. AFC Bournemouth nickname comes from a fruit that's similar to the colour on their home kits, what is it?
9. Manchester United's nickname is The Red… what?
10. The Hammers play at the London Stadium. Can you tell us their official team name? (4,3,6)

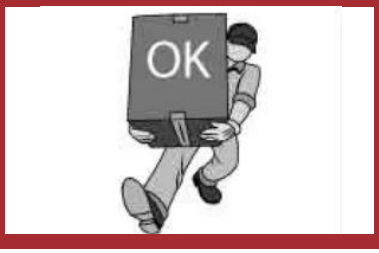
DOWN

1. Fulham's nickname comes from the builder of the original stadium, Lord Cottage. What's their nickname?
2. Which football team are known as The Foxes? (9,4)
4. Which football team are known as The Eagles? (7,6)
6. This Staffordshire squad are sometimes called The Potters. What's the real name of this football team? (5,4)
7. Sometimes they're called The Blues or even The Pensioners. Which London club is this?

Rebus Puzzle:

Figure out the phrase





Famous Birthday on 30 Jan



Becky Lynch (37)

Sentinel Joke of the day

My wife stuck a map of the world on the wall and handed me a dart
"Wherever the dart lands is where we go on our next holiday."

Turns out we're gonna be spending a week behind the fridge!

Last week's Crossword Answers

Harry Potter

ACROSS

5. September
7. GiantSpider
9. Fang
10. TomRiddle

DOWN

1. Badger
2. HogwartsExpress
3. Gryffindor
4. SortingHat
6. DeathEaters
8. Silver

Rebus Answers:

1.seasoning, 2. Karaoke

End of the Gasteen Era





Community turns out to show appreciation for The Mule Yard's final opening under the management of Paul Gasteen

Liam Yon, SAMS

Friday, 24 January, was a sad day for customers of The Mule Yard Bar in lower Jamestown, as the popular venue opened for the final time under the management of Paul Gasteen.

Paul, also known as DJ Tall Paul when on the decks, took over the management of the Mule Yard back in September 2020 and has been credited with reviving the much-loved location – holding a number of well-attended events for the whole family over the past four years – supported by his dedicated staff, including daughter Tamara.

According to Paul, some of The Mule Yard's "most memorable events" include the Feb-fest, which was "a huge success," as was other events such as Ocktoberfest, Search for a Star, The Masked Singer, "and of course, the Johnny Dillon Tribute Night."

The Mule Yard also held a number of other unique events, like Thursday Movie Nights and St Patrick's Day celebrations, while they also provided a platform for many local artists and bands to perform; from established groups like the 'Big Easy' to newly-formed bands like 'Dirty Deeds' and future talents in the 'Next Generation' among many other local bands and DJs.

Catering to the sporting fans on the Island, The Mule Yard also did big screen showings of popular international sports events, such as the FIFA World Cup, Rugby World Cup and the European Championship









– while they also regularly stocked new beers, ciders, wines and spirits for customers to try, along with a range on non-alcoholic choices – ensuring something for everyone.

In an evidence of the popularity of The Mule Yard under Paul's tenure, large crowds gathered at the venue on Friday, 24 January, for its final opening, where free punch was on offer and top-tier entertainment was provided by the 'Big Easy'; while also giving many regulars the chance to have one last chat over the bar with the always friendly and engaging, Paul and Tamara.

"We feel privileged to have served the community over the last four and a half years and are very proud of what we have achieved," commented Paul, speaking to The Sentinel. "It's been great to work with so many talented people. We would like to thank all our staff, entertainers, customers and the media who have supported us along the way. Wishing the new custodians all the very best whoever that may be."

Many thanks Paul and team for the memories, wishing you all the best of luck for the next chapter!













Goal-den Job



Cllr Knipe updates on initiative to install new football nets at Longwood Green, with support from New Horizons

Demy Herne, SAMS

On Tuesday, 21 January, Councillors Corinda Essex, Elizabeth (Betty) Knipe, and Ronald Coleman joined SAMS Radio 1 for a live broadcast, offering the public an update on their recent activities and ongoing community initiatives.

During the discussion, Councillor Knipe highlighted her commitment to improving a local recreational space; stating that she is actively working on a project to enhance the football goals on Longwood Green.

A week later and Betty was pleased to share progress on this initiative. "Thanks to the sponsorship of New Horizons and the efforts of Manager Scott Crowie, assisted by Jay Scanes, the goalposts have now been fitted with new netting," she informed The Sentinel.

This project is part of a broader effort to improve community facilities, ensuring they remain safe, functional, and enjoyable for all. Councillor Knipe expressed her gratitude to those who contributed to the upgrade and encouraged continued collaboration to enhance public spaces across the island.



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

Vacancy

Baker

Salary for the post will commence at £13,500 per annum (£1,125 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Bakery for a Baker.

As the Baker you will be required to carry out duties related to the production and packaging of high-quality Artisan and Bread products and to ensure the agreed production is met in adherence to agreed quality standards, along with deputising in the absence of the Senior Baker (Operations).

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess 3-5 years proven experience as a Baker in the preparation & production of Artisan Bread and Bread Products
- Proficiency in baking techniques, including knowledge of various bread, pastry, and dessert recipes.
- Have knowledge and be proficient in the use of baking equipment.
- Be self-motivated, organised, innovative and able to motivate and lead the team.
- Have capacity to develop new recipes and innovate existing ones to enhance the bakery's offerings.
- Have certification in RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Hygiene in Catering or equivalent
- Possess Grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent and possess a qualification or professional competence in Baking
- Be able to achieve the delivery of commercial scale production plans
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Be able to work unsocial hours and undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

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

Miss Daryl Legg, General Manager (Productions) 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 **06 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

Vacancy

Senior Baker - Operations

Salary for the post will commence at £14,508 per annum (£1,209 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within The Bakery for a Senior Baker (Operations).

As the Senior Baker (Operations) you will be responsible for overseeing the daily operations of commercial bread production, ensuring that all products are produced to the highest quality standards while maintaining a safe and efficient work environment. You will also be responsible for supervising staff, managing production schedules, ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations and you will deputise in the absence of the Bakery Manager.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be accredited and / or have 5 years proven experience in Bakery Management, with strong interpersonal, organisational, communication and leadership skills
- Have at least 5 years proven experience as a Baker in the preparation & production of Artisan Bread and Bread Products
- Proficiency in baking techniques, including knowledge of various bread products, pastry, and dessert recipes.
- Possess Grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent
- Have certification in RSPH Level 3 Award in Supervising Food Safety in Catering or equivalent. In-depth knowledge of food safety regulations and best practices, including proper handling, storage, and sanitation procedures
- Have strong attention to detail with the ability to maintain high standards of quality control throughout the baking process.
- Have the ability to create and develop new recipes that align with current trends while maintaining quality and consistency.
- Be able to manage the delivery of commercial scale production plans, familiarity with commercial baking equipment and production of artisan breads.
- Have experience in managing inventory levels for ingredients and supplies, including ordering and stock rotation practices.
- Proven experience in leading a team including training, mentoring, and performance management.
- Be able to work unsocial hours and undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

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

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

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- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

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Feel connected to your future.



We're looking for an

IP/Networks Technician

Join our team in supporting the operation and maintenance of our network infrastructure used to deliver a range of services to our customers, including fixed line, broadband, mobile and television rebroadcast services.

An ideal candidate should possess:

- a high standard of written and oral communication
- a high degree of computer literacy
- have a good knowledge and understanding of computer networking and experience and understanding of a variety of different systems
- experience in the operation and maintenance of electrical systems
- a good understanding of safety procedures and safe working practices
- Cisco or CCNA or other network equivalent certification is desirable

Due to the nature of this position, the post holder must hold a satisfactory police disclosure and a valid class C drivers licence.

Join us and you will enjoy some of the many benefits that Sure provides, including but not limited to: Incentive Bonus Scheme, Staff Discount, entitlement to join the Retirement Benefits Plan and opportunities for continued professional development.

The starting salary for the new post-holder is dependent on qualifications and experience.

Further information regarding the responsibilities of the post may be discussed with Deon Yon, Senior Networks Technician on Tel no: +290 22440 or E: Deon.Yon@sure.com

Application forms may be obtained from Bishops Rooms or contact Keirah Wade, HR & Finance Administrator on T: +290 22800 or E: Keirah.Wade@sure.com

Applications to be submitted to the HR & Finance Administrator, Sure South Atlantic Limited, Bishops Rooms, Jamestown by 4pm on Monday, 3 February 2025.

SHAPE
St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise

Has an exciting opportunity for a Part Time Technical Trainer Assistant - Recycling/Craft (3 days per week)

Purpose of Role:

•To assist the Co-ordinator in the planning and preparations of work tasks to inspire, enthuse, and train disabled and vulnerable adults in the field of recycling processes of paper and card, and providing them with knowledge, skills and experience in the world of work, with a view to some eventually obtaining full time employment.
•Assist with the making of products from recycled paper and card as well as undertake upcycling projects for sale to the public as directed by the Co-ordinator in an effort to increase revenue to assist in covering operating costs of the Recycling Centre.
•To maintain all machinery and tools used within the Recycling Centre for sustainability.

Responsible to SHAPE Manager (Work tasks set by Recycling Co-ordinator)

Permanent - Part-time (3 days per week)







For a full job description and requirements of the role please contact
Mrs Marianne Young-Crowie (Manager) on **24690** or email shape@helanta.co.sh

Application forms can be requested from SHAPE Sandy Bay Main Office by phone **24690** or email shape@helanta.co.sh

Please submit your application form **no later than 4pm on Friday 7th February 2025**

We look forward to hearing from you!

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

METER READER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) is seeking the services of a self-employed contractor for the provision of Meter Reading services for a period of one year. The suitable contractor will form part of a team of Meter Readers who will be expected to provide readings for both water and electricity usage from customer premises in accordance with issued routes lists, and submit the readings to the Connect Billing Office by a specified deadline.

Reading of Meters will need to take place from the 1st – 12th of each month between Monday and Sunday within specified time frames as set out by Connect, hours of work may vary to suit own contractors/customers schedules. The successful candidate must provide their own transportation.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- The ability to organise their own schedule, meet deadlines and record accurate readings is essential.
- The Meter reader will interact regularly with Connect's customers and will be expected to act professionally and with integrity and in accordance with Connect's Code of Practice.
- Effective communicator with good time management skills.

For further information contact Phanual Shangwa on +290 22255 or email Phanual.Shangwa@connect.co.sh. Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Lisa.Bailey@connect.co.sh by **9:00am Wednesday, 05 February 2025.** To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html | connectsainthelenaltd | https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/



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/

NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

"The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, 13th February 2025, at 10 am in the St Helena Community College Main Hall, Jamestown**.

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted version of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page of the SHG Web Site. Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 24724.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting".

NOTICE BOARD

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

St Helena Government

1. **Application 2025/03:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Two Wireless Bridge Antenna's,** Rear of Post Office Building & Government Landlord House within the Post Office Car Park, Jamestown on Parcel JT050024 & JT050030. Applicant: Waste Management Services, St Helena Government

2. **Application 2025/04:** FULL Planning Application for **Construction of a 2 Bedroom Split Level Dwelling,** Lower Cleughs Plain, St Pauls on Parcel NG0429. Applicant: Dave Stevens

3. **Application 2025/05:** FULL Planning Application for **Construction of a 2 Bedroom Dwelling,** Nr Ex-Rifle Range, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH1225. Applicant: Telita Knipe

4. **Application 2025/06:** FULL Planning Application for **Replacement of Lights on Jacobs Ladder comprising construction of 92 new concrete bases to facilitate the vertical installation of new bollard lights,** on Parcel JT170076. Applicant: St Helena Government – Streetlight Section

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 jane.roberts@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 to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email jane.roberts@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 13th February 2025

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest'

News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Welcome to another 'news bite' from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Today we remind you about the re-opening of two previously closed areas of St Helena's Peaks National Park that are now once again accessible to the public following the receipt of soil testing results by St Helena Government.



As part of work to better understand the plant pathogens affecting tree health within the Peaks National Park - and to inform management going forward - soil testing in sites across the Peaks National Park was carried out to determine whether or not the plant pathogen *Phytophthora kelmanii* was present.

In December, it was confirmed that two popular walks where soil testing was found to be negative for *Phytophthora kelmanii* were being re-opened. These were the High Peak Post-box walk, now open along a shorter route than the previous circular one, and the Hardings & Casons Forest nature trail, also now open.



It is important that care is still taken to protect our precious endemics and therefore all signage and biosecurity measures for footwear cleaning must be adhered to when visiting these sites. Please note that the High Peak walk is now via a shorter route and that access to the George Benjamin Arboretum and Diana's Peak remains prohibited!

Be sure to follow the St Helena Peaks National Park on Facebook, and @StHelenaPNP on X, to stay up to date with all the latest news and information on the FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Scan the QR Codes below for quick access to:

Website Facebook Twitter/X

NOTICE BOARD

Community Development Organisation

Appeal to form a Committee

The Community Development Organisation (CDO) was established in 2013 to support St Helena's civil society through a Community Grant Scheme.

SHG funding for the Grant Scheme was suspended in 2020. Nonetheless, the organisation continued to operate, offering match funding grants up to £1,000 from reserves. These grants acted as a vital source of support for local organisations, many of which are solely reliant on volunteers.

At the last AGM, held Tue 14th January 2025, there was failure in forming a committee. The outgoing Chairperson is taking forward another attempt to form a committee and is appealing to all of the community for support.

Outgoing Committee

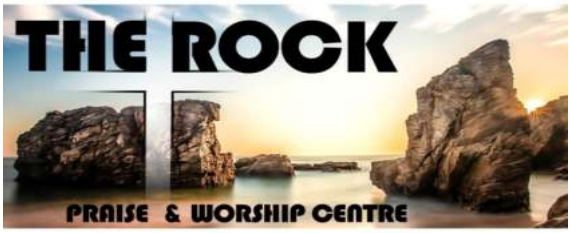
Chairperson: Mia Henry
Vice Chairperson: Bramwell Bushuru
Treasurer: Danielle Anthony
Secretary: Tara Wortley
Committee Members: Cynthia Bennett
Shayla Ellick

The Bank Balance at 31 March 2024 was £22,818.44.

If you are passionate about and believe in the value of St Helena's voluntary organisations, charities, Community Centres, clubs and Non-Government Organisations, please do come along and meet as follows:

Date: Tuesday 11 Feb| **Time:** 7:30pm | **Where:** Jamestown Community Centre

For more information please contact Mia Henry on 22699 / mia@helanta.co.sh



Church Notices

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 1st February 2025 at 8:30am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.
~
We warmly invite you to join us for:

Praise and Worship service

Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 11:00am
Longwood Avenue, Kid Zone (Sunday School) at 11:00am
~

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 4th February 2025
At the Jamestown at 7:00pm (Contact: Cathy on 64352)
Wednesday **5th 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



VACANCY ADVERT

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit person for the following post: **Security Training Lead** effective 1 April 2025.

We are seeking a keen individual to take over the to coordinate lesson plans and other training materials that respond to the training needs of security staff and non-security staff, to ensure they are appropriate to the learning needs and prepared accordingly.

The individual will maintain and review our training program to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable policies and procedures.

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- ICAO Aviation Security Training qualification or demonstrated relevant aviation experience or willingness to work towards it
- Experience of providing quality customer service
- Proficiency in using Microsoft applications (essential) and security systems and software (desired)
- Strong communication skills and able to communicate effectively with staff, visitors, and external stakeholders.

Applicants must be of a professional manner and also be able to provide the following:

- A full medical assessment
- A 5-year verifiable employment history check and be able to show proof for periods of unemployment in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.
- Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- A Criminal Background Check.
- A clean and valid St Helena Drivers licence categories A and C

For more information, please contact Suelaine Crowie, Security Manager, on email Suelaine.crowie@sthelenaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 Ext 127.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and skills to suit this role, and would like to receive the job description and application form please contact Tavonga Chikwenhere at the St Helena Airport on Telephone number 25180 Ext128 or email address recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero

The closing date for this position is **07 February 2025**.

NOTICE BOARD

DRAW YOUR WASTE MANAGEMENT SUPERHERO!

CAN YOU CREATE ST HELENA'S NEWEST SUPERHERO?



RULES

YOUR HERO MUST BE INSPIRED BY RECYCLING

COMPETITION OPENED TO 4 - 11 YEAR OLDS

CLOSING DATE 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

TOP THREE DESIGNS TO RECEIVE ART AND SUSTAINABILITY PRIZE BUNDLES VALUING BETWEEN £50 - £80

- Designs must be done on A4 paper in any medium, with your name, year group & school written on the back.
- Please submit your design to a teacher or drop it off at the St Helena National Trust building in Jamestown.
- ***Waiver***: On entering this competition we automatically reserve the right to use the picture for promotional materials, purchased profitable merchandise, online and print publication.
- ***Disclaimer***: Your entry might not be used in its entirety, but elements may be used to complement a design.
- Any further questions please contact: info@trust.org.sh or call +290 22569
- Winners announced on 18th March 2025 for World Recycling Day

DARWIN PLUS

EMD "Our Island. Our Environment. Our Responsibility."

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

ZSL

Delivered in partnership with the South Atlantic Plastics Project

Festival of Walking
Walks of the Week

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Longwood Boundary

Date: Saturday, 1 February 2025
Start Time: 08:00
Meeting Point: Outside Longwood House (Main gate)
Duration: approx 4 hrs

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

French Consul, Michel Martineau, will guide you along the Longwood boundaries within which Napoleon was authorised to walk or go on horseback without being accompanied by a British Officer. From Longwood House to Fishers Valley, along the outskirts of the Millennium Forest and Mulberry Gut, returning to Longwood House; this walk is suitable for experienced walkers only.
Please wear sensible walking shoes, wear sun protection and bring at least 2L of water.

Mackintosh

Date: Sunday, 2 February 2025
Start Time: 10:00
Meeting Point: Cason's Car Park, Blue Hill
Duration: approx 1hr

Walk grade: Easy | 1 - 2

Join the Tourist Office on this new Post Box walk - a gentle stroll through the woodlands makes for an ideal family morning activity.
Pathway can become slippery when wet. Wear sensible shoes, bring sunscreen and water.
This walk will be led by Dianne Venning

Date	Upcoming Walks
Saturday, 08 Feb 2025	Sandy Bay Barn
Saturday, 15 Feb 2025	Flagstaff - Sugar Loaf - Banks - Ruperts - Jamestown
Saturday, 22 Feb 2025	Lot - Peak Dale - Blue Point

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

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Senior Human Resources Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)

Here is a great opportunity to start your career in HR! Central Human Resources is seeking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our HR Transactional team. In this post, you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high quality HR service. Keys areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Sharina Williams on Tel No. 22470 or Email sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **12 February 2025**

School Support Officer – Prince Andrew School
(£9,781 per annum)

This diverse role will give you the opportunity to be a part of a small, but busy team providing administrative support to ensure the smooth running of Prince Andrew School and to deliver a high quality, customer focused service.
We are seeking to recruit an individual who is confident in using ICT systems including Management Information Systems and MS Office, has experience of working with budget and finance, demonstrates attention to detail and works methodically, and have excellent organisational skills to meet the busy demands of the service.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Phil Toal on Tel No. 24290 or Email phil.toal@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: **12 February 2025**

Benefits

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

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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

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

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

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

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Programme & Project Coordinator (£12,049 per annum)

A Market Enhancement of £3,500 per annum will apply and be reviewed after a 2 year period

Do you have an understanding of project and programme management aspects – e.g. lifecycle, project proposals, procurement and stakeholder management? If so, this could be an opportunity for you! In this role, you will be required to collaborate with all functions of the Programme Management Office, including elements of project planning and delivery, as well as work to improve overall project and programme capacity.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Paul Cherrett on Tel No 22270 or Email: Paul.Cherrett@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **7 February 2025**

Support Workers - Children's Residential Home (Available for local interest) (£10,361 per annum)

3 Month Fixed-Term Contracts or Casuals

Children's Residential Home is seeking suitable persons with experience of working with young people with the ability to communicate and interact fully showing commitment and dedication to safeguarding to join their team. You will also be required to maintain a high quality of care and support which meets the physical, emotional, intellectual, social and cultural needs of young people within the care setting.

Why not contact us for further information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Annabel Phillips on Tel No. 24386 or Email: Annabel.phillips@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **6 February 2025**

Benefits

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

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Crown Counsel

Total package value up to £65,742.00 per annum

Comprising salary of up to £51,515 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role

We're looking for a Solicitor or Barrister to take a full and active role in ensuring the good governance of Ascension Island.

What you'll do

You'll provide a full range of legal services to the Ascension Island Government (AIG) and be an active participant in the government's Senior Management Team. Through the provision of strategic legal advice, you'll support the AIG's Directorates to achieve their objectives, and contribute to the good governance of the island by taking a proactive approach to the identification, mitigation and management of legal risks.

You'll be responsible for managing any litigation brought against or by the Government, including civil and employment litigation, as well as acting as the prosecuting authority in respect of criminal matters. You'll also provide legal support for the government's legislative agenda, in particular providing legal advice on policy development, liaising with external lawyers on legislative drafting, and supporting post-legislative implementation.

What you'll bring

As a Solicitor or Barrister with at least three, years' post-qualification experience, including both litigation and advisory work, you'll be someone who is knowledgeable, adaptable and resilient with a high level of person integrity. You'll bring experience of managing the competing demands of a busy practice, the ability to prioritise effectively and work under minimal supervision, with responsibility for delivering to deadlines on key and often complex legal issues.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £51,515 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract and the following benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- A food allowance of £7,560 pa accompanied, or single status £3,780 pa (taxable benefit).
- 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
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays)
- 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
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: 18 February 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: 01 April 2025, or as soon as possible thereafter.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/vacancies
If you have any queries about the role, email recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Storekeeper (Accommodation)

Total package value up to £18,798.00 pa

(comprising salary up of up to £11,520 pa, plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

We're looking for a new member of staff to join our Stores team to assist the Team Leader with the daily operations in AIG's Stores and Accommodation.

What you'll do

You will carry out some functions associated with Stores including stock control, processing of stock issues and dealing with customer sales and queries on a daily basis, receiving and safekeeping of goods received into the stores. Duties will also include assembling and delivery of furnishings to AIG accommodation, preparation of accommodation including general cleaning of gardens and patios and carrying out minor DIY tasks in the Central Stores and Accommodation. You will be required to unload freight and cargo as well as pack goods for onward shipment. For more information please take a look at the Job Description available via the link given below.

What you'll bring

You will need customer service skills and some basic computer skills including use of Microsoft Word and Excel, knowledge of Sage accounting would be an advantage. You will need to have drivers licence classes A, B & J and recent forklift operating experience.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £11,520 (depending on experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a two - year single status contract and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free accommodation valued at up to £1,200 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance £3,780 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance paid in kind worth £938 pa
- A single status water allowance paid in kind worth £1,360 pa
- Relocation costs for your personal effects from your home country and assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of the 2-year contract
- 30 days paid annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free annual travel insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Basic Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: **07 February 2025**
Interviews: **from w/c 10 February 2025 (via video call if off island)**
Start date: **As soon as possible**.

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

Minimum Wage Consultation: What It Means For You

The St Helena Government is currently consulting on a new minimum wage trajectory for the next three year period. This started in December with employers and continues into January 2025 with sessions planned for employees and the general public.

Your Role in the Consultation
This consultation is an opportunity for your voice to be heard. Your participation ensures the best possible evidence is provided to Ministers when taking a decision on the forward trajectory for the minimum wage.

Clearing Up Misconceptions about Tax
A common misunderstanding emerging is that once you have earned above the personal allowance threshold of £7,000 you then pay tax on all of your income. This is not true. Tax is applied only to earnings above the threshold so most of your income remains yours to keep.

Here are some facts about paying tax in St Helena:

Do you know that for every £1 over the tax threshold of £7,000 (up to £25,000) you keep 74p? The same principle applies to earnings over £25,000, that you keep 69p for every pound above the £25,000.

Examples.

- For a person on the minimum wage of £150/week or £7,800/year for a 37.5 hour week this means only £800/year is liable to tax. Their pay for the week of £150, is £146/week after tax or £7,592/year.
- For someone on a wage of £192/week or £10,000/year this means £3,000 is liable to tax. Their pay for the week of £192, is £177/week after tax, or £9,220/year.
- For someone on a wage of £384/week or £20,000/year this means £13,000 is liable to tax. Their pay for the week of £384, is £320/week after tax, or £16,620/year.

Why Paying Tax Matters
Paying tax, if you are eligible, is a social responsibility. The government, any government anywhere, needs to raise revenue to pay for the delivery of public services which we all use and includes education, health and refuse collection to name but a few.

A Note on Penalties
Not declaring income that is liable to tax is an offence carrying a fine. In a worst case scenario, for example by a person knowingly giving false or misleading information to

the tax office and not paying the correct tax, the fine could be as high as up to 75% of the tax shortfall in addition to the amount that should have been paid. In less serious scenarios, this could result in a penalty equal to 20% of the tax shortfall.

Strengthening Tax Compliance
SHG is working to strengthen its tax compliance function and the team will be focussing on ensuring that those businesses and individuals who should be paying tax are doing so, creating a fairer, more robust system, which will go some way in helping improve public services for the benefit of all.

SHG looks forward to your continued participation in the consultation process. Contact Head of Strategic Policy, Ann Muir, at the Castle on 22470 for a one to one session. The closing date is Friday 31 January 2025.

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/

www.twitter.com/StHelenaGovt

#StHelena #MinimumWageConsultancy

SHG, 22 January 2025

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 2nd February 2025 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Baptism	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 2nd February 2025 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
	Monday 3rd February 2025	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	Thursday 6th February 2025	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 2nd February 2025 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 4th February 2025	
7.00 p.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
2nd February
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 4th February
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 6th February
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ an Accounting Technician.

The Accounting Technician will provide support to the Senior Accounting Technician and duties include: Project and Contract accounting; preparation of monthly bank and debtor reconciliations, posting of payroll journals and bank payments; checking and processing of payments; maintaining the purchase ledger and ensuring compliance to Financial regulations, Procurement procedures and Company policies and procedures for all payments and receipts.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- GCSEs including English, Maths/Accounts or equivalent
- Relevant experience in working in an Accounting environment
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office
- Experience of Access Dimensions Account Package or similar accounting Software
- Demonstrates understanding of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and accruals accounting

QUALIFICATIONS

- ACCA Certified Account Technician Qualification (CAT)/or ATT is desirable

BENEFITS

- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 25 days annual leave.

For further information contact Phanual Shangwa on +290 22255 or email Phanual.Shangwa@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 **9:00am on Monday, 3 February 2025.** To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html | connectsainthelenaltd | https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/

Golf Report

Charlie Ruddy sponsored 18 Hole Stableford



SHGC, Contributed

Last Sunday, 26 January, sixteen enthusiastic golfers gathered for the Charlie Ruddy sponsored 18 Hole Stableford competition. The round began under cloudy skies, but as the last two groups approached the 10th tee, fog rolled in, accompanied by showers. With no sign of the weather improving, the competition was called off. Players retreated to the warmth of the clubhouse before heading home in a huff.

Upcoming Events

2 February: Two-Team Texas Scramble, sponsored by Wilson Yon

9 February: A Three Club Stroke-play competition to celebrate the life of Leon Crowie, sponsored by Leon Crowie's family. Plenty of prizes to be won.

16 February: The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy Stableford competition.

Stay tuned for more updates and happy golfing!



Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club

Pat Henry, Contributed

We always find that January is a quiet month in terms attendances; it's known to us as a recovery period whereby after Christmas people use their time to refuel and wind-down, those of whom returns after the Christmas holidays settles in and get back to their normal routine and reality. However, last Thursday evening, pistol shooting was well addressed with good shooting improvements. It's a sport that you can get a liking and an addiction for, adding more targets and pellets than anticipated, giving a stronger mind-set, confidence, control and an excellent way to stay focussed. It doesn't matter if you're top-notch in a sport or just using your time to try something different; no matter what the reason is, it serves many health benefits to our everyday lives, so join us as usual Thursday evening. It will be fun!

The junior and youth group shooting was postponed again this week due to cargo operations, but we are hoping to start again next Tuesday at 4pm. Several maintenance recovery issues with our camera systems and lighting has taken place recently and a replacement of a new camera has been installed. Tuesday evening gave us a chance to run tests and make slight changes to the lighting systems; there's still some work to do, but overall the test shooting was rather interesting, not having a clear vision of the target and how it affects your alignment. This week Jodie-Scipio Constantine surprisingly struggled to find a sight picture of her targets through the sight on her rifle, she shot 94.2 & 96.1, which is actually bad shooting from her but, no fuss at all, she knows her quality and will recover from this issue during the next event. Pat H made a few errors with the trigger finger and shot 96.5, 98.4 & 98.5, however Tatelyn-Louise Royles made her mark with a comfortable 98.3 & 99.8 again this week; she hasn't lost her focus and skills and still has a passion and love for her shooting. Ryan also stopped by for one shoot as promised; he shot 86, with confidence to make improvement. So thanks guys for the night and helping to iron-out those teething issues, will see you all next week to see who can hit 100 plus, so until then, stay safe and have a healthy weekend.



SPORTS ARENA

Challenge Accepted

Challengers beat Pirates as Allstars and Mustangs also win in SHCA League 2025

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Saturday saw the highly anticipated matchup between last year's league champions Challengers and last year's knockout champs Sandy Bay Pirates. Pirates batted first with Ian Williams being the pick of the batsmen with a well played 41, however a brilliant bowling performance from the reigning champs, led by Player of the Match, Jordi Henry, only allowed Pirates to post a modest score of 130 all out. Although losing four wickets in their pursuit of the total, Challengers chased down the score within 18 overs thanks to another fine batting display from Andrew Yon, finishing not out on 58.

Onto Sunday, when Levelwood Allstars defeated Cobras in the first game of the day. Cobras batted first with Michael Bedwell being the pick of the batsmen with 43, though this was not enough to stop the Allstars bowling attack, led by Player of the Match, Clayton Leo, with Cobras being bowled out for 93. Allstars chased down the total with ease, reaching the required score within 10 overs and making a statement as serious contenders for this year's league title.

The final match on Sunday saw a batting masterclass from both Levelwood Rebels and Western A Mustangs. Rebels elected to bat first and thanks to a brilliant display from Delroy Leo with 154 and Western Clingham with 107, produced an impressive score of 295. Although a very imposing total to chase for Mustangs, the Rebels couldn't capitalise on their batting performance, with Mustang's Captain and Player of the Match, Gareth Johnson, turning back the years and putting up an incredible total of 153 not out, with Scott Crowie accompanying him with 104 not out, helping to chase down the required score with the loss of no wickets in 31 overs, thanks to 39 runs in extras, and giving Mustangs the win.

This exciting affair ended off another weekend of brilliant local cricket action with Mustangs registering their first victory, and Challengers and Allstars continuing to standout as emerging title contenders in this year's league.



Results:

Sandy Bay Pirates 130/10
Challengers 132/4

Cobras 93/10
Levelwood Allstars 94/2

Levelwood Rebels 295/3
Western A Mustangs 296/0

FIXTURES

Sat 1st Feb
13:15
Western A Mustangs v Levelwood Allstars
Umpires: Ralph Knipe and Delroy Leo
Sun 2nd Feb
8:30
Challengers v Cobras
Umpires: Dane Leo & Brendan Leo
13:15
Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Rebels
Umpires: Rhys Francis & Derek Richards

