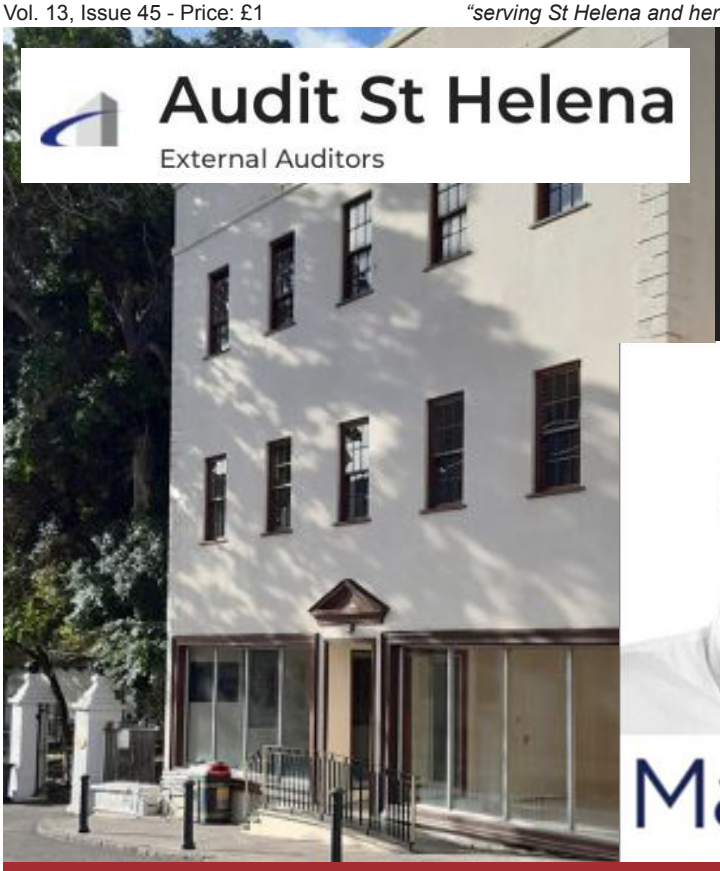
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SENTINEL

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From a "clear vision" to "contract termination"



Audit St Helena release "comprehensive value for money report" on St Helena's fibre optic cable network project and outlays the reasons for the "failure" of the project's third phase by Government and preferred bidder, Maestro

"The crew thoroughly enjoyed their visit"



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

So, how is 2025 treating you so far?

As for me, it's going good. I've finally started making positive lifestyle changes; cutting out bad eating habits, introducing healthier choices, working out regularly (thanks to Wellness Holistic Therapies – especially my mates, or as I like to say, my torturers, Nigel and Albert), while I've also curbed back on the alcohol-driven outings (and those who know me will know how much I like a good night out). The only thing I'm still struggling with is giving up the old 'nails in the coffin' –I will continue to try though, even if it means cutting down as a first step, then going from there.

I think that's the key for me – small steps. I'm someone who always struggled with consistency. I know what the right thing to do is, and I even do it (sometimes), but the flame always seems to burn out and I find myself back at square one. This time feels different though. This time I'm trying not to overload myself, thinking in small steps as opposed to the bigger picture right away. So, for example, upping water intake – just making sure I take a litre bottle of water to work every day and that I fill it at least once throughout the day to hit two litres – nothing major, simple but effective.

If I was to give any advice, it's one that you may have heard before, and that is to 'Just Show Up!' as the rest will sort itself out. Nervous about going to the gym? Show up and you will enjoy it. Thinking about skipping that reception for your work colleague as not sure if you can make small talk? Show up and you will be chatting away with the workmates before you know it. Remember the actor Woody Allen? Well, he once said that "Eighty percent of success is showing up!"

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

Please see below my Adjournment Debate speech from the latest Formal LegCo:

So Mr. Speaker it has been announced that this Council will be dissolved on the 30th June this year.

Where has the four years gone? But more importantly what has happen or not happen in those four years? Very soon the people will speak.

When we came in to Council, the Government was working on a few issues:

Fisheries – Where is our fishing industry? St Helena is surrounded by sea which I thought was a big advantage and we would have fresh fish all the time. But what has gone wrong, an outside contractor was chosen to run our fish factory but where is the fish? What has happen to our fishermen who has worked there souls for years. Are they still out there? How much longer are we – St Helena is going to have a Fishing Industry and it bothers me and the people of St Helena - is very concern that they cannot get a piece of fresh fish and the industry is about to disappear soon if nothing is done to revive it. Can we afford to lose our fishing industry? It is one of the industries that we could with help, grow our economy. So who is responsible for growing or saving our fishing industry? Who decides if it is worth saving? Or do we need more consultants to come and tell us? What is government doing about saving our fishing industry?

Communications – When we were first connected to the cable, the internet was working faster than me – now I am faster than the internet. Who is working on the promise of larger, faster and cheaper service? Who is to blame? As prices are now moving up and services slowing down. When are we going to choose a long term provider and do away with the monopoly?

Minimum Wages – The consultation on the minimum wage was launched recently. So both the minimum wage and the increase in the tax threshold need to be considered hand in hand.

And finally Mr. Speaker – I cannot end without mentioning the **High Cost of Living** now that we know that inflation is at or was at 8.2 % which was attributed to local products.

I hope that the FCDO will honor their commitment of supplying St Helena with their reasonable assistance needs which is the UK's Long Standing policy and provide St Helena with their submission of the zero base budget for 2025/26 and hope we can assist all the people of St Helena and improve their quality of life.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

Councillor Ronald Coleman

Dear Editor,

Doesn't time fly on this little rock? It hardly seems a year since we were expecting to see a new, 21st century, Tuna Canning factory rise up on the old Wallace cannery site and now it actually seems to be happening. After looking at a blank canvas for so long, in the last week Johnny Isaac and his men have broke ground and poured extensive concrete foundations for the new build. Let's hope that building work can now proceed uninterrupted and make one enterprising Saint's dream a reality. It takes a rare kind of courage to retire early from a highly paid profession and invest your life savings into any business venture on this island.

Driving on past the cannery site one passes the islands built for purpose and fully refurbished fish factory which looks more like the Marie Celeste every day. Once the bustling centre of processed fish production for the island and its export markets, it stands forlornly as a reminder of how a few misguided politicians and inept government personnel can screw things up.

We are left today with a seemingly unsolvable situation where the tenants are still paying a token rent, producing little or no fish for the island, and whose tuna export plans have been at a standstill for years.

In the words of their principal director when writing to all local commercial fishermen concerning frozen tuna exports – "current international price indicators show very low prices without realistic margins".

Granted, that was in August 2022, however in recent weeks that well-known skipper of "The Tunny Boat" approached the local island

director of STC on the subject of buying his tuna and processing them for the local market. After an initial positive reception, Darker was then informed, sorry, but no deal as "STC is preparing for exports".

Could it be that there has been a sharp upturn in world prices for frozen Tuna and the arrival of the MFV Albatross is imminent to rescue the future prosperity of this failed venture? On the other hand, is it more likely that the magpie will still be sitting in the nest in another year's time while hard earned private investor cash is poured into an enterprise that actually has some hope of succeeding.

Alan Nicolls



"There are no plans to change"

MV Karoline to continue service to Ascension post-March, despite rumours



Donna Crowie, SAMS

The Sentinel recently caught wind of a rumour that the MV Karoline - St Helena's current freight service vessel - would cease to operate to Ascension Island following her planned voyage to our Sister Island next month, with this trip allegedly being the last of her voyages to Ascension.

To find out whether this was correct or not, The Sentinel reached out to both MACS Shipping and Ascension Island Government (AIG) for confirmation.

AIG responded by stating that "there are no plans to change the Ascension Island Government's charter arrangements with the operators of the MV Karoline," admitting that currently "AIG has not made bookings beyond March 2025," however they "will do so based on the recently published 2025 voyage schedule."

MACS also echoed this statement by AIG, and explained how they "get advised by Ascension Island Government when the vessel is required" which is "usually about two months in advance."

While MACS are anticipating around three voyages to Ascension Island during 2025, AIG say they "expect to continue with the present arrangements and frequency going forward, which has been a voyage to Ascension at approximately quarterly intervals."

With that rumour put to bed, the community of Ascension will look forward to the first arrival of the MV Karoline for 2025 at the end of March, plus further voyages later in the year.



From a “clear vision” to “contract termination” all “in less than one year”

Audit St Helena release “comprehensive value for money report” on St Helena’s fibre optic cable network project and outlays the reasons for the “failure” of the project’s third phase by SHG and preferred bidder, Maestro



Liam Yon, SAMS

The Sentinel have long sought answers from SHG on the circumstances surrounding the contract termination between Government and Maestro St Helena - the company chosen by SHG to design, build and transfer a full fibre network for the island which would ultimately see high speed fibre optic internet connectivity delivered to the majority of households and businesses on St Helena.

Unfortunately, clarity on why the Maestro full-fibre venture failed has never been forthcoming, with the Island having since moved forward with a Plan B, provided by SURE SA Ltd, for improved broadband packages, including unlimited allowances for the first time, back in October 2023, utilising a mix of fibre and Sure’s existing copper network.

Now however, Audit St Helena - the external body responsible for financial and performance audits on the island - have released a comprehensive value for money report on St Helena’s fibre optic cable network project, where they detail not just the success of the Equiano cable landing and commissioning of the cable landing station, but also the “failure” of the project’s third phase and, in their words, the “various reasons SHG’s chosen contractor for the fibre network was not able to perform.”

Summarising the Fibre Project, Audit explains how it “consisted of three phrases: a subsea cable that branched off of Google’s Equiano trunk and extended more than 1,100 km to Rupert’s Bay, a landing station at Rupert’s to receive the fibre optic cable and integrate it with the island’s existing network, and an ambitious plan to service nearly all existing homes and businesses with a dedicated fibre line.” They then indicate that their “report details the success of the first two phases and the failure of the third.”

Touching on the success of the first two phases, Audit admit how “some benefits of the fibre cable have already been delivered, such as business and residential broadband customers paying less for greater access at faster speeds relative to last year; significant improvements for SHG, including the hospital, community care centre and the schools; and one satellite ground station under construction with a second being negotiated.” However, they were keen to stress how “the full realisation of the subsea cable’s benefits requires upgrading the island’s telecommunications network,” hence the importance of phase three of the project.

As such, SHG signed a £3.27 million contract with a local subsidiary of Maestro in November 2022; after identifying Maestro Technologies Ltd as their preferred bidder during the tender and procurement process to design, build and transfer St Helena’s first full fibre network.

The report states however how “network construction encountered trouble from the start.”

Within the first two weeks, concerns



Charlie Ruddy (inset) arrived on the Island with a clear ambition to head up the exciting fibre network build for Maestro St Helena, but things didn't go to plan

were raised about a potential conflict of interest during the tender process. "First, 11 days after the contract signing, a bidder raised concerns with SHG about a potential conflict of interest in the DBT tender process," detailed the Audit Report. "In response, SHG sought legal advice and commissioned an investigation into the alleged conflict of interest and its potential impact. While awaiting the outcome of this procurement challenge, SHG was unable to fully commit to the DBT project. Certain officers were advised not to have conversations with Maestro nor to share information with the public."

The Audit report then shared how, in its tender, SHG had offered to coordinate with local contractors on behalf of the winning bidder, "but when Maestro arrived in St Helena it was told to deal directly with them (local contractors)."

Similarly, there was also a confusion surrounding the obtainment of planning permissions. "Both the tender and contract stipulated that the contractor shall support SHG in obtaining all necessary planning permissions, suggesting a supporting role for Maestro," detail Audit. "But, once the contractor was on island, SHG said this was Maestro's responsibility."

Another discrepancy detailed was how the contract stated that SHG would take the lead in agreeing access to utility poles for Maestro's cables, however it was found that SHG did not convene discussions between Maestro and Connect St Helena until "after the contract was awarded" leaving Maestro "underprepared" for the necessary permission process. "Maestro, who had not visited the island prior to bidding on the project, was underprepared for a permission process that required technical documentation of how the contractor would work safely around Connect's high-voltage wires and other hazards," outlay the Audit report.

In addition, current monopolised telecommunications provider for the island, Sure, "was unwilling to allow Maestro to string its cables on or through Sure's poles or ducts, respectively, noting that it was under no obligation to share its privately-owned network."

Continuing, Audit explain how "project facilitation across all dimensions limped along as SHG did not settle on a dedicated project manager until several months after the first signs of trouble, while the project-specific governance board began meeting about five months into the project's 12-month term and almost a year after the project tender," with SHG, according to the report, indicating "that the bidder's procurement challenge was a key reason a governance board was unable to be formed during the initial months of the contract."



In addition, "financial security requirements within the contract also stalled Maestro's progress" according to the Audit report, which described the type of construction contract SHG chose for the work as "one which seemed familiar to neither SHG nor Maestro" and being "known to be fairly rigid and prescriptive in practice."

They explain in this regard how "because Maestro (after consulting with SHG) formed a locally registered company to execute the project after contract award, it was required by the contract to provide an ultimate holding company guarantee that would hold the parent company liable if its subsidiary failed to perform."

Continuing, Audit recognised that "an even bigger obstacle" related to a performance bond required by SHG; "which is an insurance policy wherein a third party agrees to compensate the employer a percentage of the contract price if the contractor fails to perform." In this case, SHG's "chosen performance bond was 30% of the contract price and would not decline as the project progressed," which Audit explain gave "SHG extra assurance given its history of troubled capital projects," however they also recognised that this performance bond would "put financial pressure" on Maestro.

Sticking with this aspect of the contract, Audit found that "despite the clear requirement in the contract for both the holding company guarantee and the performance bond (with the latter to be provided within four weeks of the 17 November 2022 contract signing), neither had been delivered to SHG by the middle of 2023."

They do however see how this performance bond contract clause could be perceived from Maestro, where they state that "from Maestro's perspective, it was being asked to provide a bond against non-performance while also not being allowed to perform (i.e. to begin construction)," due to the various reasons stated.

The report then confirms how "ultimately, SHG cited the lack of a performance bond as the reason for its October 2023 notice of termination to Maestro."

However, as detailed, there

were a series of breakdowns, miscommunications and discrepancies that contributed to this decision and the failure of this crucial phase of the Fibre Optic Project.

The Audit report also sought to explain the current state of affairs with "no further procurement underway" for a new contractor to carry out this phase of the project as it stands, as they summarise the decline of this "crucial" project phase, from "a clear vision for a fibre optic cable network" with "a contractor that was eager to build it" at the end of 2022, to contract termination and a lack of further progress made since.

"At present, SHG is deciding on its way forward and prioritising the development of a more robust legal and regulatory framework for telecommunications with no further procurement underway," they explain. "Meanwhile, Sure's licence has been extended until December 2025 subject to a 6-month notice period for further extensions or other changes."

Audit summarises how "at the end of 2022, SHG had a clear vision for a fibre optic cable network, a contractor that was eager to build it, and sufficient grant funding for a contract worth more than three million pounds," before adding that "less than one year later, the contract was terminated, and as we are now two years past contract signing, the funding to procure a replacement is uncertain."

Today, "while the public has seen faster speeds and more access to data at lower prices because of the subsea cable, it is enjoying only a fraction of the cable's potential benefits."

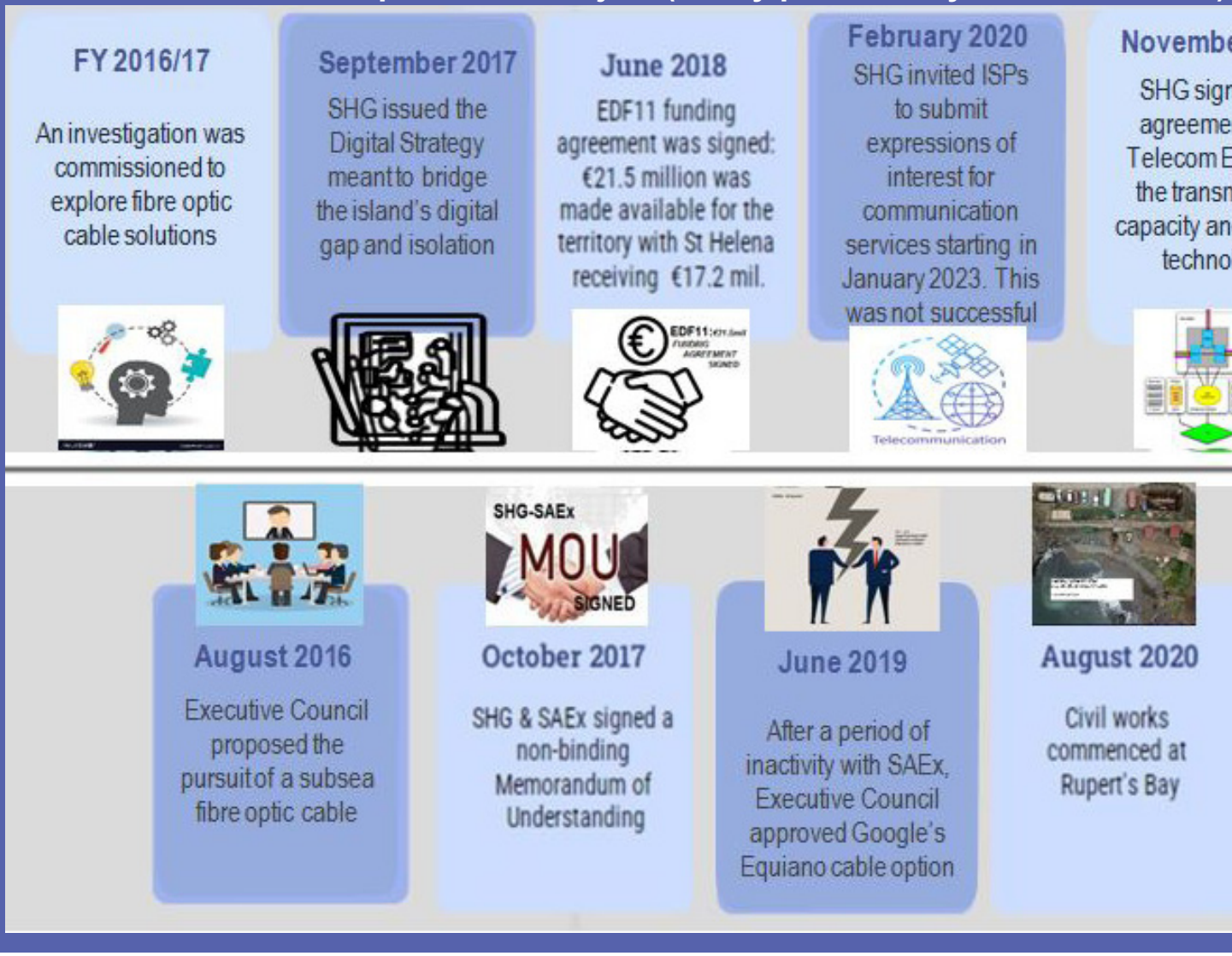
Looking ahead, Audit opinions that, "once SHG selects its preferred approach" for telecommunications on St Helena, and to properly utilise the benefits of the subsea cable, "it must do everything possible to ensure the success of this 'strategic' project – that is, one with an ambitious purpose and sizable benefits, but also significant risks."

"This means choosing a realistic delivery timeframe and assigning staff who are responsible for managing the project from before contract signing," they continue. "These staff should help to facilitate all aspects of the contract requirements, from planning permission to infrastructure sharing to coordination with local subcontractors, regardless of who is assigned to lead."

"The appropriate governance structure must be in place from the start, like what SHG's Programme Management Office designed for the DBT, but only after it was belatedly given this responsibility," add Audit. "SHG must engage all key stakeholders during the planning stage, and the type of contract must be appropriate for the experience and expertise of those who will be responsible for implementing it."

"Finally, SHG must commit to wielding its significant powers to clear obstacles in a manner befitting a national government engaged in building critical infrastructure."

Timeline of SHG's Fibre Optic Cable Project (kindly provided by Audit St Helena)



Take care of our Captain

Captain of Bulk Carrier discharged at St Helena for medical attention



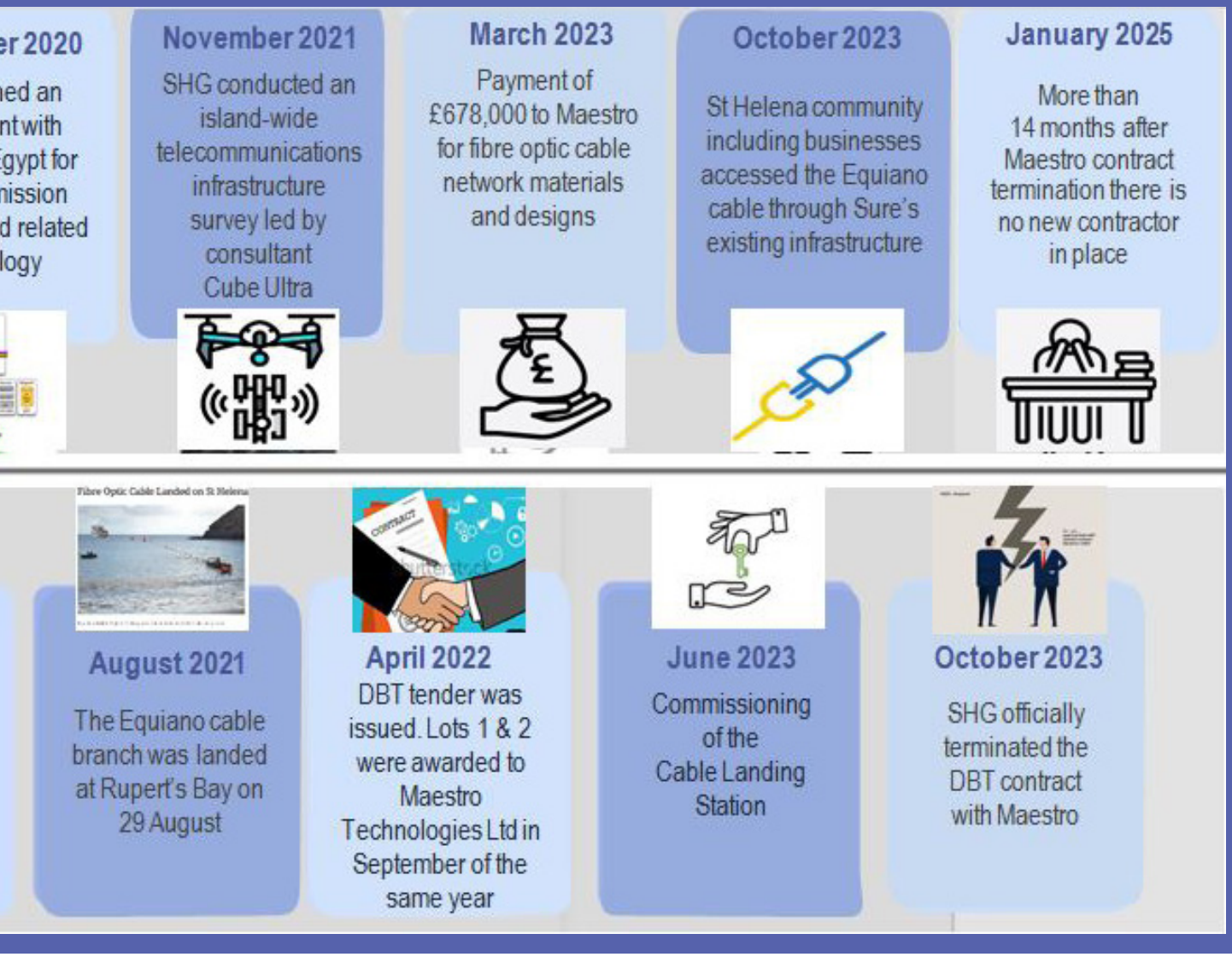
On Tuesday morning, many will have awoken to the sight of a massive 224m bulk carrier sailing close to St Helena.

"Rose" - a Liberian registered bulk carrier - was travelling from Maryland, Baltimore, before having to make an emergency stop at St Helena to discharge her Captain who required medical attention.

St Helena's Harbourmaster, Simon Lee, reported to SAMS that the Rose "arrived at 6.30am and departed at approximately 7am after transferring the crew member ashore."

Simon continued by commenting that there was "great cooperation from both the vessel team and our internal service and we were able to provide a professional reaction to their request."

Within the hour, the Captain was discharged and the "Rose" continued on her way, making her journey to Singapore.



"We look forward to engaging with you"

SHG to hold public meetings to share interim findings of Education Review



Liam Yon, SAMS

As reported on recently and often in the past six months, SHG's Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio are continuing to progress with their review of education on the Island, having welcomed the visit of numerous expert consultants to help inform the review and identify areas of improvement to develop and raise the standard of education provision across the board on St Helena.

Government have now announced that they will be holding two meetings - one for parents/guardians and another for the wider public - during the last week in February, with the aim, as they state, being to "provide the community with an update on the Education Review's interim findings and potential next steps."

In a brief overview of the purpose of the ongoing education review, SHG described how it will evaluate St Helena's education and skills provision - from early years to post-16 - exploring how St Helena's education services can be future-proofed to support the economic and human capital development of the island; as well as how to enhance educational attainment and learning outcomes for all.

"To date, we have had visits and input from our colleagues at the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in October 2024, who undertook an independent appraisal of possible future primary provision," they said. "Additionally, Hampshire Local Authority (HLA) visited in November 2024 to review our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs offering and our broader school provision."

In addition, during the visit of consultants from HLA, they were able to provide "much needed Continuous Professional Development training in January 2025," further detailed SHG, who add that "currently on-Island is Education Consultant, David Jeffrey, who will be instrumental in producing the final Education Review Report."

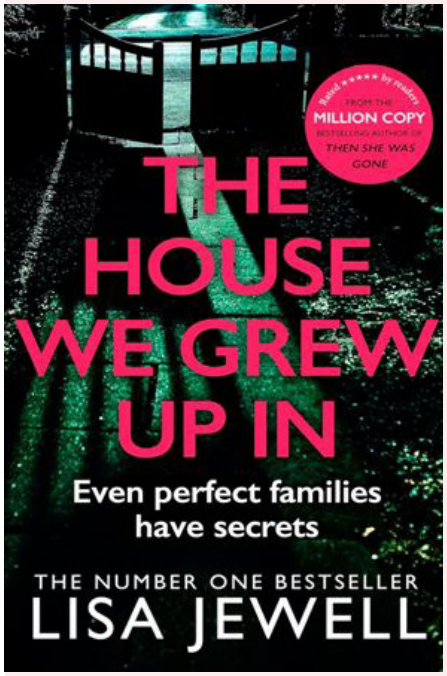
In order to keep the community updated on the findings so far of this review and potential next steps, SHG will be holding a meeting on Monday, 24 February, for all parents and guardians of school-aged children on the Island in the Main Hall of Prince Andrew School, starting at 7pm. This will be followed by another meeting for the wider public on Tuesday, 25 February, again in the school hall starting at 7pm.

"We would like to offer our community the opportunity to meet and provide feedback on the Education Review," said SHG, encouraging the public's attendance. "We look forward to engaging with you on this important topic of change."

SHG concluded by requesting that members of the public who will be attending the meetings refrain from wearing pin heels/stilettos due to the recent re-flooring of the PAS Main Hall.

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The House We Grew Up In by Lisa Jewell

When a tragedy breaks a family apart, what can bring it back together?

The Birds seem to be the perfect family: mother, father, four children, a picture-book cottage in the country.

But one Easter weekend, something happens - something so unexpected, so devastating, that no one can bring themselves to talk about it.

The family shatters, seemingly for good.

Until, years later, they are forced to return to the house they grew up in, and to confront what really broke the family apart.

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

A "Significant Agreement"

Watch List MoU signed in big boost to St Helena's Border Security, as UKG honours commitment made in BIOT migrant arrangement with SHG



Liam Yon, SAMS

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between SHG and the UK Home Office to allow St Helena to utilise the UK's watch list information, helping "SHG Customs and Immigration to make informed decisions on permitting entry into St Helena."

When agreeing the BIOT migrant arrangement with St Helena in October 2024 – whereby SHG agreed to accept the transfer and responsibility of potential new migrants arriving to the British Indian Ocean Territory for 18 months, or until such time that the handover of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius from the UK is finalised – the UK Government made a number of commitments to St Helena.

This including providing support - both financial and technical - in order for St Helena to be better prepared to accept any potential migrants, with a focus on developing the island's Customs and Immigration processes and strengthening border security.

One of these commitments related to allowing any prospective arrivals to the Island to be checked against the UK Home Office watch list – which is a system that includes information that can, will, and has been used to refuse entry to individuals who pose a risk to the UK public.

In an update on this work stream last Friday, SHG was pleased to announce that they had signed the MoU with the Home Office in this regard. "On Wednesday, 12 February 2025, Jeffrey Ellick, Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs (SSHA), and The Rt. Hon Lord David Hanson, Minister of State for the Home Office, signed a Watch List MoU," they revealed, before describing this as "a major step forward in addressing a key BIOT component between St Helena and UKG, ensuring St Helena can safeguard our borders."

This MoU, it is said, will ensure that individuals intending to travel to St Helena – including any potential BIOT migrants – can be checked against UK watch list information; meaning St Helena's Customs and Immigration Department can share passenger data (either from flights or cruise ships) with the UK for watch listing, prior to those passengers arriving in St Helena. "By sharing data, the island can improve border security, and allow SHG Customs and Immigration to make informed decisions on permitting entry into St Helena," said Government.

Minister Ellick, during the aftermath of the initial decision made by Ministers back in October, was keen to stress and praise how the BIOT migrant arrangement would help strengthen St Helena's border security and is pleased that this is now becoming a reality.

"Well done and thank you to the UK Government, Lord Hanson and his office (Home Office) for facilitating the agreement along with my team here on island," commented Minister Ellick. "This significant agreement demonstrates a clear and visible development of the work that is ongoing to build and strengthen the relationship between the UK, and St Helena Governments, which has resulted in St Helena achieving a high level of Border Security for our island now and into the foreseeable future."

As confirmed by SHG, "this is the first time St Helena has been able to draw upon UK watch list checks" in a big boost to the Island's border security protocols.





"The Beautiful Mission"



How a promise turned into a mission to protect Whale Sharks

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Over the past few weeks, Hugh de Kerdrel and his team have been conducting a scientific mission called 'Mission William'. Described by Hugh as "the beautiful mission" their aim is to tag Whale Sharks to track their migration, and eventually make their corridors safe before the species dies out.

President of 'Over the swell', Hugh de Kerdrel came here three years ago when he was part of another scientific mission to deploy one hundred Argos buoys in the Atlantic. This is when he stumbled upon St Helena; stopping here to get resources and a much-needed rest.

Before arriving at St Helena, Hugh promised a very sick boy named William that he would complete his dream, which was "to swim with whale sharks."

"He was too sick to do this, so I promised him I would do it for him", Hugh explained. "So, when I landed here, to my surprise, I saw a sign that said 'do not touch the whale sharks while swimming'. I had no idea that St Helena had whale sharks!" This is when Hugh realised that his promise to William could be fulfilled here on St Helena.

After connecting with the St Helena National Trust, Hugh was granted the opportunity to dive with St Helena's gentle giants. When doing so, he was lucky enough to spot an individual which was unidentified; and it was duly named William, after the young boy that Hugh had made the promise to. "That's a part of how Mission William was born," smiled Hugh.

After leaving St Helena following this initial visit, and whilst sailing to Europe, there became a clearer understanding among Hugh's team of what illegal fishing meant and it occurred to the them that illegal fishing and marine traffic in the Atlantic could possibly wipe out whale sharks. It was in this moment that the team decided to launch 'Mission William'. "The objective is to help preserve and track the whale sharks from St Helena to the Gulf of Guinea, because we believe they swim North, but we are not sure," Hugh explained.

With a multinational scientific crew - including from USA, Portugal, and France - along with the help of local organisations, the team are here again, this time to tag and hopefully track the migration route of the whale shark. "We have successfully tagged around fifteen sharks and are receiving brief data already," Hugh detailed, before explaining that some of the tags used are pop up tags and it is hoped that they are released in June and transmitted by satellite, ready for analysing. "We are hoping by June/July we will actually see some of those sharks in the Gulf of Guinea when we are there, but we don't know."

After a number of tagging attempts over the years, it is still unknown where these majestic creatures migrate to from St Helena, or where they came from. This comes down to a number of reasons, including crucially the depth that these sharks dive too. When asked how this could be catered for, Hugh explained how the team "are using three different types of tags; some pop up about twenty four to forty eight hours, some pop up in three months, and the others in the next six to nine months, and they are designed and programmed to go very deep so we shouldn't encounter these issues, well we hope!"

Hugh believes that the whale shark population is decreasing by the day due to illegal fishing and also marine traffic. "Once we have the information on their corridors, we can start working with the United Nations, local Governments, and maybe the European Commission to push for the creation of the first safe corridor in international waters. That's the way we want to go to protect them."

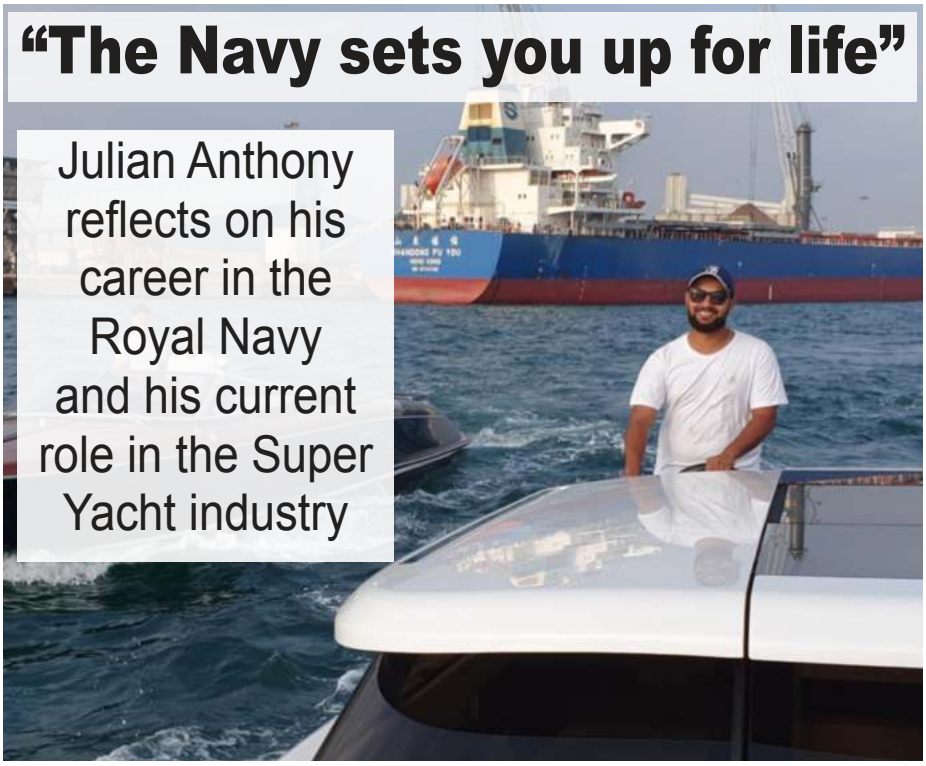
Although a mammoth task, the objective is to have a proposal in time for the United Nations 30/30 Programme by 2030. In order to speed up the process, Hugh and his team have created a consortium called 'Consortium William' consisting of six country members and a few institutions, including St Helena.

Hugh would like to thank the Government, the Governor and the St Helena National Trust for their help and support. "The more clever people we have around the table, the more chance we have of protecting these beautiful animals," he said. "We need everybody's help, and every little bit helps."



"The Navy sets you up for life"

Julian Anthony reflects on his career in the Royal Navy and his current role in the Super Yacht industry



Demy Herne, SAMS

Saint, Julian Anthony, has led a remarkable life, journeying from Ascension Island to the Royal Navy, and ultimately, to the luxurious world of Super Yachts. This week we share the story of his life and career.

Julian's interest in the Royal Navy began long before he officially enlisted. "I joined up in 2003; I'd known St Helenians that were in the navy before, like Rocky Glanville and Freddie Gunnell and some other people." His connection to these individuals seemed to inspire his future career.

"I'd moved to the UK with my family and it was just something I always wanted to do," he explained when asked if he joined the Royal Navy from Ascension Island. After moving to the UK, Julian's ambition to serve was clear. He joined the Navy and served for six years.

Julian's early naval career involved a mix of shore-based training and life at sea. "So I started off shore side in my initial training and then I went to sea on the HMS Invincible, which was the old aircraft carrier." His time aboard the HMS Invincible took him to various parts of the world, from the Mediterranean to Northern Europe, and even the Middle East.

"With the Navy, we sailed a lot around the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, like Norway and the Baltic states. We went down to the Middle East and we did some operations and stuff down there, I also went ashore in places like Oman and those areas," he recalled.

Julian's experiences were not confined just to the British forces, as he was also involved in NATO initiatives. "Yes, we did exercises with NATO nations, in the Mediterranean and Northern Europe and also went over to the Stateside and with the Americans," he said. This exposure to international naval exercises broadened his global perspective.

Reflecting on how his time in the Navy influenced his life, Julian shared, "the Navy sets you up for life and it helped me once I left with my other jobs."

Julian's connection to St Helena is somewhat distant, with limited time spent on the Island itself. "Well, my family worked on Ascension and so I left when I was very young, I think like 17 years on Ascension and then we moved to the UK when I was like 16 or 17," he explained. His time on St Helena has been limited only to holidays.

After his service in the Royal Navy, Julian moved on to a different chapter in his life.

Julian's career shift into the world of Super Yachts has been just as thrilling as his naval service. "I currently work on Super Yachts," he shared. His role in the yachting industry has spanned 12 years, and he currently works in the deck department as a Bosun, managing the crew who work on the exterior of the yacht.

One of the yachts Julian works on, Scat, is an impressive vessel. "It's a 70-metre Lürssen, that is the name of the company, and it looks like a small military ship; it's all grey and looks very military-like," he said.

"It's pretty good and wide," Julian commented when asked about the yacht's performance at sea. The crew aboard Scat consists of 23 members, and the yacht can accommodate up to 12 guests. "So the owner is a billionaire, so he's got a bit of money and it's mostly just him and his family, but a lot of the time it's just him and all of us," Julian added.

Julian's role on the yacht has taken him to some of the world's most exclusive destinations. "We just cruise around the Mediterranean; the owner has set places that he likes such as Miami and the Bahamas," Julian explained. While he enjoys his travels, he has yet to visit St Helena on the yacht. "Well, it'd be nice if the yacht was to come this way, we'll have to mention it to him," Julian remarked when asked about the possibility of the yacht visiting St Helena.

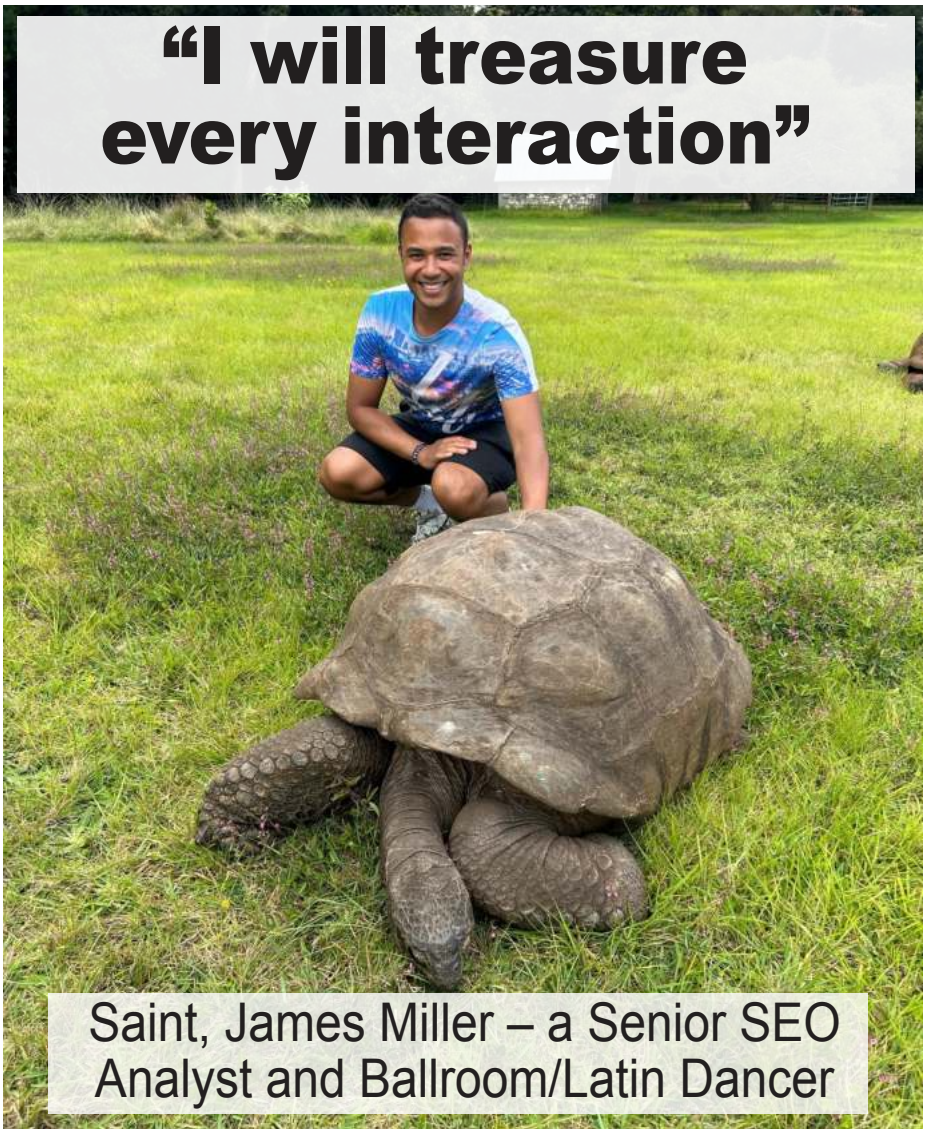
Despite his busy schedule, Julian is looking forward to a new chapter with his partner. "So I'm going to fly to Joburg and then fly to Durban and then meet the yacht and then we are going to make South Africa our home. I like it there!" he said, revealing plans to buy a house in South Africa with his partner.

When asked about his partner, Julian explained, "well my partner, she's South African Portuguese, so we met on a yacht, we met many years ago and we're just deciding to live there now," he shared.

As Julian reflects on his journey from the Royal Navy to a Super Yacht, it's clear that he is deeply grateful for the opportunities that have shaped his life. "The Navy sets you up for life," he reiterated, and it's evident that his diverse experiences have provided him with valuable skills and lessons that continue to guide him in his everyday life.



“I will treasure every interaction”



Saint, James Miller – a Senior SEO Analyst and Ballroom/Latin Dancer

Demy Herne, SAMS

James Miller, a Senior SEO Analyst from Reading, Berkshire, recently embarked on a truly meaningful trip to St Helena, fulfilling a personal ambition and connecting with family.

“So my connection comes from my mother, she was St Helenian but she was born in the UK,” james explained. “My grandparents, Roy and Iva Constantine, they grew up on the island in the 40s and 50s and then moved over to the UK in the 60s.” For James, the trip was about more than just visiting a far-flung place; it was about connecting with the island and his distant family.

After seeing his family members visit St Helena during the Christmas period, James couldn’t help but feel a pang of “FOMO” (fear of missing out). “I genuinely had so much FOMO, but I couldn’t unfortunately get the time off around that period because of my work’s annual leave pattern,” he shares. However, he was determined to make the trip a reality early in the New Year. “I thought why not look at doing something to kick the year off with a bang, arrive on the island at the end of January/early February and spend some time here whilst the UK is going to be quite cold and grey. So I thought, let’s plan something nice to start the year off with.”

Back in the UK, James leads a dual life, balancing his career in digital marketing with his passion for dance. As a Senior SEO Analyst at Resignal, one of the best e-commerce specialist agencies globally, James helps brands improve their online visibility and rankings. “So SEO is how you rank organically in Google search results and Resignal is one of the best e-commerce specialist agencies in the world. I’m proud to say this because we did win one of the global awards recently for what we do.”

James’s work at Resignal allows him to create strategies for big-name brands like ASICS and Under Armour. “We specialise in retail, like B2C consumer brands. So we get to basically create strategies to make their websites really good in terms of SEO. And obviously, if that improves, you then get an improvement of traffic and then you get an improvement of revenue. It’s a very creative way of marketing and I very much love my main job.”

However, James’s creative side doesn’t end there. He is also a ballroom and Latin dance teacher and has recently started his teaching career in the UK. “I’ve just started my sort of teaching career in the UK which is really exciting,” he says. He also instructs FitSteps classes, as well as ballroom dance fitness routines inspired by Strictly Come Dancing. “FitSteps is a ballroom Latin dance workout, so think like Zumba, but strictly,” he explains.

A typical day for James involves a balance of both worlds. “I have my Monday to Friday nine-to-five-thirty job at Resignal, then in the evenings I teach dance and I train as well,” he says. “When I’m not doing that, I’m dancing and having fun.” It’s this blend of analytical thinking and physical creativity that James believes makes his life so fulfilling. “Having a sort of creative analytic brain and a more physical brain as well has really given me the best of both worlds.”

James has also made a significant impact in the St Helena Association UK, where he has been serving as Press Officer since he was 18 years old. “So my current position and one that I’ve actually held on the committee since I was 18 years old is the role of Press Officer,” he explains. His work with the committee is focused on raising the profile of St Helena and generating funds to support charitable causes on the island. “My responsibility is to make sure that our work is recognised in the local community as well as the state community back,” he says. “Obviously our main source of income is through fundraising events, for example, Reading Sports, May dances, Christmas dances, and New Year’s Eve dances.”

James reflects on how his involvement with the Association helped him gain the marketing skills that eventually shaped his career. “I joined the committee when I was 18 years old and I wasn’t interested so much in going out at the time, but I thought, I want to do something to make a difference to the island community,” he recalls. “From there that’s when I first learned about marketing. So I actually owe the Association a lot in terms of giving me the skill-set and the knowledge to actually take something that I do

voluntarily and make that my main career."

James has had many fulfilling moments as part of the committee. "I think as a team and as everyone knows, there is no 'I' in team and when we are on something we are amazing and it's a joy," he says. A standout achievement was the St Helena Sports Day, which James helped expand from one day to two. "Sports Day used to only be on the Sunday, now it's on the Saturday as well as the Sunday and it's somehow evolved into this amazing sort of two-day event."

James was also involved in creating the online ticketing system for their events, which improved ticket sales and helped them build a consumer database for future fundraising efforts. "One of the initiatives I put forward was online ticketing. So we use a platform called TicketTailor and that has been really good at building up a consumer database which again, this is me getting nerdy and so marketing talk, but having a database of people who support a charity is gold dust."

In 2017, a Christmas dance event broke records, with more than 240 attendees cramming into a venue that could only hold 180 people. "During that Christmas dance we were packed out," he says. "So whilst the venue was very pleased with the success of the event and whatnot, they did say, look you're going to have to manage your tickets going forward."

Through the committee's efforts, they've also successfully launched a new website for the Association, which James worked on himself. "I actually loved getting under the hood there," he says. "We ended up with a functioning successful website, which is really easy to update, but also its sleek, it's responsive, it's fast."

As James prepared to leave St Helena, he reflected on the incredible warmth he felt during his time on the island. "All I want to say is actually a big thank you to so many people who have been so welcoming and so kind and so friendly whilst I've been here," he says. "To anyone who I've spoken with, laughed with, danced with, told jokes with or whatnot, thank you for making this holiday really, really special because I will treasure every interaction I've had here."

Having spent two weeks on the island, James has now returned to the UK, but he is already planning his next trip. "I will be back here very, very soon, so watch this space!"

For James, this trip to St Helena has been about more than sightseeing; it's about reconnecting with his roots and creating lasting memories with family and friends. He looks forward to returning soon and continuing to contribute to the St Helena community in the UK.



James and teacher Zoey Jacobs

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CALL: 22539

ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

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

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

Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner

Claims to be made to Karen Henry on 23401 by Saturday 22 February at 12noon.

Prize - £20 per week

There were no claims for last week.

83	39	52	31	25	76	6	41	21	69
72	40	62	20	24	73	14	2	27	15
46	10	23	3	58	19	33	79	42	77
12	74	28	50	30	35	5	18	80	11
67	71	48	56	13	87	63	47	32	59
43	60	75	81	29	36	51	16	70	64

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

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

FRI. FEB 21
- 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 22
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie (Repeat)
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. FEB 23
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke Bennett
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Anglican Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations

MON. FEB 24
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 5:30pm: Country Classics
- 7:30pm: Sound of the 80's with John Turner

TUE. FEB 25
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 10am Minister Question Time
- 11am-1pm: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: In Scope
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: Uk chart Show with Demy Herne
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations

WED. FEB 26
- 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 27
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 1pm: Lunchtime vibes with Demy
- 4pm: Sounds of the 80's
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: In Scope

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





Join Demy every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7pm, where he will be bringing you an updated version of the Top UK Chart Hits, where each week features a new artist, a new song, and a new genre.

Don't worry if you miss it on Tuesday, as it will be repeated on Sunday afternoons from 3-4pm!

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

TIME OUT

Crossword: Women in Sports



ACROSS

3. Hope Solo is known as one of the greatest female goalkeepers of all time. What country does she represent?
4. Who was the first UFC Women's Champion? (5,6)
5. Her name is Laila and she is a boxing champion, just like her dad was, who is her famous father? (8,3)
6. Simone Biles is an American Olympic athlete with 11 Olympic medals in what sport?
7. Another American tennis player who would go down as one of the greats, but arguably not as great as her sister. Who is she? (5,8)
9. What was the name of the first female twins in WWE (Nikki and Brie)? (3,5,5)

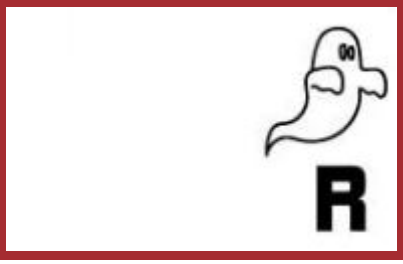
DOWN

1. Caitlin Clark, who plays for Indiana Fever, is known for her incredible shooting and is regarded as one of the brightest talents in her sport. Which sport does she play?
2. An American former professional tennis player, widely regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time (6,8)
4. Lauren James is a professional footballer, and has a brother who is the Captain of Chelsea FC. Who is her brother? (5,5)
8. Chloe Kelly had the winner in extra-time that saw England beat Germany to win the final in what sport?

Rebus Puzzle:

Figure out the phrase





Famous Birthday on 20 Feb



Rihanna (36)

Sentinel Joke of the day

Boy: The principal is so dumb! Girl: Do you know who I am? Boy: No... Girl: I am the principal's daughter! Boy: Do you know who I am? Girl: No... Boy: Good! *Walks away*

Last week's Crossword Answers

Romance on the silver screen

DOWN

1. JenniferAniston
2. India
3. MarkDarcy
5. You'veGotMail
6. Twilight
7. Shallow
8. TBirds

ACROSS

4. FiftyFirstDates
9. SpiderMan
10. Maluma

Rebus Answers: *1. Saturn, 2. Ghost Writer*

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED



In Scope: Treasury and Economic Development Portfolio

Focus on FAM Budget Proposal

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Minister Mark Brooks welcomed Damian Burns (Head of Economic Development) in the studio during 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 Treasury and Economic Development Portfolio, as part of the Minister's zero-based budget with the added £16 million request.

Included in the Portfolio are the following areas: Trade & Investment, Telecommunications Policy, Crown Estate (land and buildings), Financial Services, Company Registry development, Tourism & Visitor Information Services, Civil Aviation and Shipping. All the projects within the portfolio is driven and directed towards the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy (SEDS).

When submitting their bid for the zero-based budget, the team looked at the SEDS and the objectives within this framework as well as where funds would be needed to achieve these goals. A number of areas were identified with the first of these being the need to define and develop policies for growth, in particular private sector growth. With the current economical climate, all businesses are feeling the pinch, but especially businesses that benefited from support and advice from the former Enterprise St Helena. There is also a real need to create an enabling environment for local businesses. This was one area included in the additional funds requested by TED as part of the budget submitted to the FAM team. Due to the small profit margin on St Helena, businesses can rarely invest in improving themselves and in being innovative, based on research. The economic climate on St Helena makes it challenging to take risks and implement new ideas. This is where government could play a positive role by mitigating some of the risks while also identifying opportunities.

The Tourism section is another area in need of more funding that will be used to boost marketing to attract more tourists on global markets. Improved digital marketing and familiarisation trips are two avenues worth exploring to increase St Helena's presence in the international arena, but these routes of marketing are also very expensive. Awareness is the first step in the marketing process which then needs to be followed up with active marketing. Other countries competing for tourism have much larger marketing budgets as well as direct access and cheaper flights with fewer disruptions. All these factors will affect how many tourists can be enticed to visit St Helena. A lot of funding is also needed to improve and increase what is on offer for tourists when they come to the island. In the current marketplace there is a lot of evidence supporting the TED bid to the FAM team substantiating St Helena's struggle to compete on a very small and limited budget. As a relatively new tourism destination it is even more challenging to crack a market filled with similar well-funded and established tourism destinations.

A lot of funding is needed to run the huge property portfolio under the Crown Estate. A need identified is to develop an overall strategy to manage the estate. This management strategy will also support the actions that will be taken with regards to social housing in the future as well as with the strategic disposal of assets. Other areas that will be included in the management plan are land development and control and the maintenance and upkeep of public recreation areas to support quality of life. The deterioration of areas like this is due to the ever declining budget and limitations on resources. The TED team is looking into developing policy options and revising the playground ordinance in order to address this need. Several members within the community share this goal with the TED section and are working towards raising funds from external sources to support the initiative. Within the Crown Estate section, a surprising amount of money is spent on maintenance of trees on Crown Estates to ensure public safety. Funding for equipment to lower expenses also forms part of the funding request of the TED Portfolio.

The final area forming part of the funding request by TED was air services and airport equipment. Airports need a lot of specialised and expensive equipment to run efficiently and these have to be maintained replaced and updated

on a regular basis. It is essential to keep equipment well maintained to ensure recertification and continued operation of the airport. At present, there is not a comprehensive asset replacement plan in place and this cannot be funded from an already constrained recurrent budget. As part of the revised zero-based budget, the team will be requesting funding to address this issue and make provision for the replacement of critical equipment at the airport to maintain certification and access to St Helena.

In addition to maintenance to equipment at the airport, the need for a proper maintenance plan of the runway was also highlighted during a recent visit of the Royal Engineers. Implementing these suggestions will also require additional funding. On the civil aviation and shipping side, there is also a funding request that relates to the maintenance of aviation fuel equipment as well as additional insurance that is required.

The cost associated with the Airlink contract is currently being pulled down from the contingency fund but future costs will still have to be determined using data that is continuously being collected. It has been recognised that the original growth trajectory predicted in the business plan for St Helena Airport was overly ambitious. This is not good news but does serve to inform a more realistic view and create a better understanding of the future of visitor costs and how to provide a regular scheduled air service going forward.

In the last part of In Scope, Minister Brooks touched on the recently approved property purchase and disposal policy. One of the positives of this new policy is that first-time buyers will be eligible for a 60% discount on purchasing Crown land. This will be implemented on land available in the Bottom Woods CDA where plots will now sell at £15,000 instead of £24,000 and first-time buyers (including Saint Helenians living abroad) will qualify for a further 60% discount. This means that a plot of one acre will cost a first-time buyer only £6,000. The condition for St Helenians living abroad to qualify for the discount will be making this their primary home. The property disposal will soon be made available which will outline properties that will become available for purchase over the next 3-5 years and also indicative prices and preferred disposal method. This property list will include commercial and residential property. The new disposal plan also offers other initiatives and advantages to investors and prospective property owners and those interested in renting Crown properties.

Mark ended off by briefly mentioning some other areas they were working on to improve the service provision by SHG like the shipping contract and working on potentially lowering costs of freight. They are also working with Airlink in providing competitively priced tickets to islanders and tourists alike to increase demand. There has also been a reduction in requirements for travelling to St Helena and some changes in procedures when arriving here on island to make processes more user-friendly and welcoming. The TED team is also continuing their work in developing a new company register and in providing financial services as part of their SEDS objectives to develop and grow the economy here on St Helena. All initiatives aimed at ensuring a better and more prosperous life for all here on 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

"The crew thoroughly enjoyed their visit"

First French-registered aircraft lands at St Helena Airport during visit of French Military to "carry out training flight"



Donna Crowie, SAMS

St Helena Airport have been ticking off the milestones recently as, following on from reaching 50,000 passengers processed at the airport, SHAL (St Helena Airport Ltd) have now welcomed the first French-registered aircraft to the airport when a crew from the French Military visited the island last weekend.

It was on Sunday, 16 February, when St Helena welcomed members of the French Military to the Island as they landed their KC130 aircraft on the runway – marking the first time for an aircraft, registered in France, to touchdown on St Helena.

The French Air Force aircraft landed at 11.32am on Sunday morning with a Commander and five crew onboard, having travelled from Abidjan. According to information provided by SHAL, this visit was to "carry out a training flight" – with many in the community witnessing the spectacle of this large aircraft flying low over the Island.

The aircraft stayed overnight on Sunday and departed the island to return back to Abidjan on Monday afternoon, after 2pm. According to SHAL, "the crew thoroughly enjoyed their visit and CNE Le Berre commented that the training flight was of immense benefit for the crew" adding that he "will recommend that other crews undergo this familiarisation training in future."



NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 23rd February 2025– 7th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	S Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 23rd February 2025 – 7th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 27th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 23rd February 2025 – 7th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 25th February	
7.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Alpha	St Mark



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Praise and Worship service

Sunday 23rd February 2025 at 11:00am
Longwood Avenue
Kid Zone (Sunday School) at 11:00am
~

Combined Cell Meeting

Wednesday **26th 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

Thorpes

Notice

Thorpes Wholesale store
will be closed for stock
take on **Monday 24th** and
Tuesday 25th February
and
Tinkers shop will be closed on
Tuesday 25th February.

Any inconvenience caused
is very much regretted.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
23rd February
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 25th February
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 27th February
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

ALL ARE WLCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

NOTICE BOARD

ROMANCE SCAMS

DON'T LET THEM BREAK YOUR HEART OR YOUR BANK ACCOUNT!

A romance scam involves a cyber criminal creating fake profiles on dating sites and apps, or use popular social media sites like Instagram or Facebook to make contact.



Once contact is made they use the pretence of pursuing and being in a romantic relationship to manipulate you into sending them money.

HOW TO SPOT A ROMANCE SCAMMER

1. THEY AVOID MEETING IN PERSON

You meet on a dating app or social media site, but they only want to communicate inside the app or site. They make plans to meet you in person, but always cancel due to some emergency or other excuse. They also claim to travel a lot or currently live in another country.

2. THEY PROFESS THEIR LOVE QUICKLY

Your online conversations turn intimate very quickly. They will also lavish you with attention and compliments, to the extent that they might claim that you're the 'one' and may even propose marriage.

3. THEY ASK FOR MONEY

After gaining your affection and trust, suddenly they need money for various reasons e.g. travel expenses, medical emergency, or legal issues. They will ask for money via wire transfer or gift cards, or they may ask you to invest in cryptocurrency or other money-making ventures.

QUICK TIP: If you think you've been targeted by a romance scammer, don't send money in any form and cut off contact immediately! Also report their profile(s) to the relevant dating website/app or social media platform to prevent others from falling victim to their scams.

St Helena Government

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2025

Isolation Connected

St Helena Government

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

EDUCATION REVIEW PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio will hold a **public meeting on 25 February at 19:00** in the Main Hall at Prince Andrew School. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the community with an update on the Education Review's interim findings and potential next steps.

The Education Review will evaluate St Helena's education and skills provision, from early years to post-16, exploring:

- How St Helena's education services can be future-proofed to support the economic and human capital development of the island
- How to enhance educational attainment and learning outcomes for all

To date, we have had visits and input from our colleagues at the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) in October 2024 who undertook an independent appraisal of possible future primaryprovision. Additionally, Hampshire Local Authority (HLA)visited in November 2024 to review our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities(SEND) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH) offer and our broader school provision. This led to Hampshire Local Authority providing staff with much needed Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in January 2025. Currently on island is Education Consultant, David Jeffrey, who will be instrumental in producing the final Education Review Report.

We would like to offer our community the opportunity to meet and provide feedbackonthe Education Review. We look forward to engaging with you on this important topic of change.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind **all parents and guardians that a meeting will also be held on 24 February at 19:00** in the Main Hall at Prince Andrew School to engage with you all on the same topic.

The public are kindly asked not to wear pin heels/stilettos to these meetingsdue to the recent re-flooring of the Main Hall.

SHG
13 February 2025

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

NOTICE BOARD

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Bottom Woods, Longwood

Build Ready & Fully Serviced
Electricity | Water | Drainage | Telecommunications | House Plans
Guide Price £15,000 **(60% discount for eligible First Time Buyers, meaning land can be purchased at £6,000 or leased at £300.00 per annum)**
Lease and Freehold Options



Contact:
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Essex House Jamestown
+290 22270 gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

'Embark on your journey to homeownership with 60% discount for eligible First Time Buyers, designed to make your dream of owning a home a reality'.

VACANCY

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Bank Teller

Commencing at £8,796 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person on a full-time basis to fill the vacant position of Bank Teller.

This position will incur significant contact with the public and other Bank staff. The successful candidate must be flexible, demonstrate courtesy and provide excellent customer service at all times. They must have a keen eye for detail, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

The main duties of the post include:

- Undertaking counter transactions for customers and posting these to the Bank's computer system;
- Cash handling and assisting customers in meeting their banking needs and queries;
- Providing assistance in the delivery of Remote Banking services;
- Any other duties.

Interested persons can contact Miss Danielle Anthony, Teller Services Manager on email tellerservicesmanager@sainthelenabank.com or Mrs Karen Buckley, Customer Service Manager on email csmanager@sainthelenabank.com, or contact them on (+290) 22390 for more information.

An Application form and job profile is available upon request from the Bank and can be viewed on our official website. Completed application forms should be addressed to Miss Merle Peters, Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 21 February 2025.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

Governor's Office
St Helena, Ascension
and Tristan da Cunha

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CHAIR OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

The position of Chair of the Land Development Control Authority will become available from 10 March 2025.

The Governor's Office invites all persons interested in this position to complete the relevant form for return to Mrs Kerry Lane in the Governor's Office by **Friday, 28 February 2025**.

The duties of the Land Development Control Authority are set out in the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013.

In summary, these include the following:

- Determining applications for Development Permission in accordance with the Ordinance relevant Development Plan, policy directions and any policies or guidance
- Reviewing the policies contained in any Development Plan, and making recommendations to the Governor in Council as to possible amendments
- Formulating, publishing, monitoring and reviewing and revising planning policies and planning guidance, to help ensure consistency of practice and transparency of process.

The remuneration for this position is £1,200 per annum, paid quarterly in arrears. In addition, a mileage allowance of 77p per mile will also be paid when using personal vehicles to travel to meetings or when carrying out any other duties on behalf of the Land Development Control Authority.

A monthly payment equivalent to 50% of cost of the Lite Broadband Package provided by Sure South Atlantic Limited, will also be paid as a contribution towards the cost of internet usage in connection with the role as Chair of the Land Development Control Authority.

If interested, the relevant formmay be obtained from Information and Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin, by telephone on 22470, via email through linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.shor on the SHG website at: https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/EOI-Form-Chair-LDCA.pdf

Shortlisted persons will then be invited to a discussion with the Governor and the successful applicant will be appointed subject to a satisfactory vetting certificate.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

17 February 2025

NOTICE BOARD

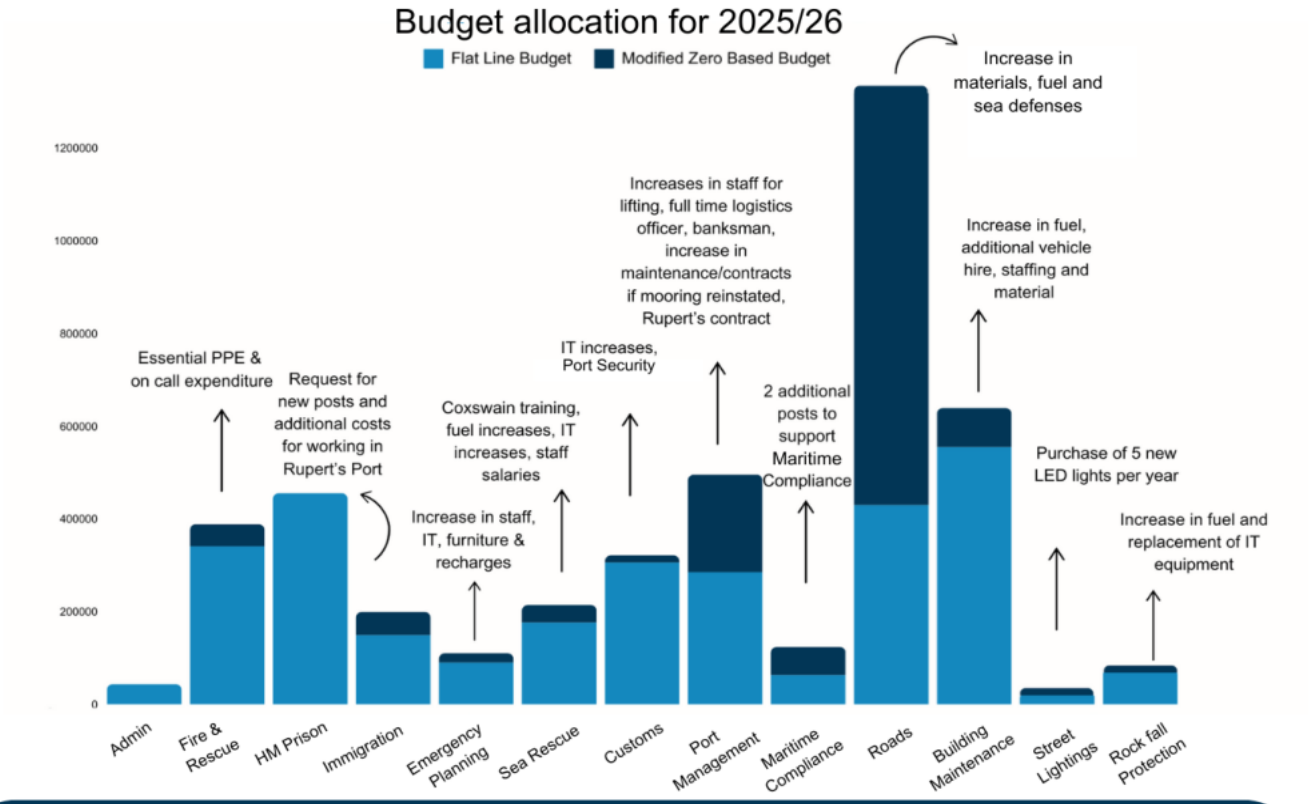
St Helena Government

Safety, Security & Home Affairs

PROPOSED 2025/26 BUDGETS

The Portfolio is focused on creating a safe environment to achieve the strategic goal of making St Helena 'Altogether Safer', ensuring we have the capabilities to safeguard the community, facilitating St Helena's long-term goal as a viable and thriving community.

Flat-Line budget allocation for 2024/25, and the Modified Zero-Based Budget which is an aspirational budget submitted to UK Government for 2025/26 that SHG believes would help to meet current financial needs.



Proposed Capital expenditure for FY 2025/26 as follows:

Building Maintenance (£46,000)

Installation of fencing at Harford and St Paul's primary schools, roofing, new doors and windows at the CCC and installation of roof at Levelwood and Longwood Clinics.

Fire & Rescue (£20, 000)

For a portable pump

Sea Rescue (£161, 000)

For part payment of a new 60NM Sea Rescue vessel to replace Lima and £5K for mooring buoys for Sea Rescue vessels

Port Management (£230, 000)

Funding for repairing road on Jamestown Wharf, repairs to concrete to jetty, pointing up of sea wall. Purchase of emergency power generator, increase for purchase of lifting kit for up to 100 ton vessel

Supplementary funding is the additional funds withdrawn from the General Reserves throughout the financial year 2024/25 for unforeseen expenditure. This includes:

Capital expenditure:

96K has been requested and not yet approved for modular lifting equipment for port operations

Recurrent expenditure:

12K Rupert's cargo handling

2K Employee costs from cadre increments

16K Immigration costs associated for border security

18K Vessel maintenance and cost for new contract for the ferry service

40K Contribution towards Argos Georgia incident investigation from St Helena Registry

32K Reclassify captial expenditure to recurrent costs for Rupert's operations for equipment and works that cannot be capitalised

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

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

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

Enquiries: **Elizabeth Clingham on Tel No 24724 or Email: elizabeth.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **26 February 2025**

Emergency Care Assistant
(£9,781 per annum)

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

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

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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

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

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

If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, the Building Maintenance Section has an opportunity for you to join their team.

Working as part of the Building Maintenance Team, you will assist with delivering daily operations and maintenance services within the building maintenance section.

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

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion on the above posts

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

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

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Tourism Officer (1- year Fixed Term) (£14,378 per annum)

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Dianne Venning on 22158 or Email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 27 February 2024

Claims Officer
(£12,049 per annum)

Do you have strong interpersonal skills and the ability to apply objective judgement? Here is an opportunity for you to join the team at the Claims Office. In this role you will carry out the duties of the Adjudication Officer, as provided for in the Social Security Ordinance, through the interview and assessment of Income Related Benefit and Basic Island Pension applicants.

Contact us for more information.

Enquiries: **Gail Beard on Tel No 22605 or Email gail.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **7 March 2025**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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

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

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

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

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NOTICE BOARD



MAR 1

The MV Azamara Quest is expected to arrive at St Helena on Saturday 1 March at 8am and depart at 6pm

SHE IS CARRYING:

690 PASSENGERS AND 408 CREW

DID YOU KNOW?

For as little as* £11 a month you can purchase Hire & Reward Insurance – the 'Taxi Cover'.

*Premiums calculated on Engine Size and range from <1400cc at £11 to 6000cc at £26

A Fee of £26.50 will also be payable to SHG, to upgrade your current Private Road License to a Public Service License and will run the length of your current license until your next MOT

SCHEDULED STOPS FOR PRE-ARRANGED ISLAND SCENIC TOURS ARE:

- Two Gun Saddle
- Stitches Ridge
- Napoleon's Tomb
- Plantation House
- Napoleon's House (Longwood Green)
- Ladder Hill Viewing Platform

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

These scheduled stops, along with prime spots in Jamestown (for those walking around), provide open opportunities for sales and promotions

Set up a Refreshment Stand...Bring along your Locally Made Souvenirs...

Contribute to the Visitor Experience!

Be Friendly

Be Organised

Be Prepared *(show off your Local Knowledge)*

Be Flexible *(changes may be required due to sea conditions)*



NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

General Assistant (Bread Production)

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

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

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

Basic Applicable Skills include:

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

Further details contained in job description

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

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

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

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Watchkeeper

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

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

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

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

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

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

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers

Since 1790

Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

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

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

For further information contact:

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

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

'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest'

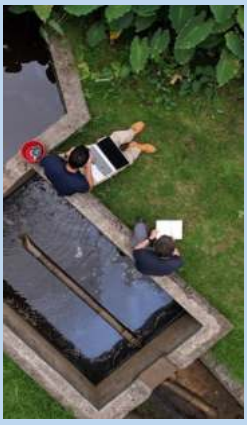
News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project

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



Today we encourage you to check out the incredible findings detailed in the St Helena Cloud Forest Project Year 3 Climate and Water Resource Report, put together by our expert Water Team! (https://ow.ly/v0gg50US37h)

The project's water pillar aims to safeguard the Island's water security and inform and improve St Helena's climate change adaptation efforts. A critical focus area for this is water and climate monitoring, data collection, and research through innovative techniques, many of which have been utilised on St Helena for the very first time through our project.



Our Water Team have compiled their key findings during Year 3, building on data collected over a number of years. They have developed our understanding of St Helena's complex geology and hydrogeology and combined this with climate data to model the island's water balance. Along with the findings, the team gives recommendations to improve the Island's water security and resilience to climate change, including through cloud forest restoration.



In addition to the full 172-page detailed report (https://ow.ly/v0gg50US37h), the team has also created a non-technical summary report (https://ow.ly/rkuF50US37k).

A special thanks and well done to our Water Team for their work in compiling this insightful and informative Water Report and summary!

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

VACANCY

BILLING ADMINISTRATOR

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ a Billing Administrator.

As an essential member of the Finance team at Connect Saint Helena Ltd, the Billing Administrator plays a key role in ensuring the accurate and timely delivery of customer invoices. This position requires close collaboration with team members and covers a range of responsibilities that includes: Generating invoices based on actual readings or estimates, Establishing, maintaining, and updating customer accounts and Monitoring customer account balances.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- Computer literate in Microsoft Word, Excel & Email
- Previous experience In Utilities
- Experience of Access Dimensions or similar software
- Have experience in Accounting, using billing software and in a customer focus environment.

QUALIFICATIONS

- GCSEs including English, Maths/Accounts or equivalent

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 March 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/

VACANCY

ELECTRICAL NETWORK SUPPORT WORKER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ an Electrical Network Support Worker to provide assistance and support to Linesworkers as part of ongoing programmes for preventative maintenance and infrastructure refurbishment of the electricity distribution network.

The role will involve general labourer duties, as well as the requirement to clear and maintain undergrowth and trees from the High Voltage (HV) and Low Voltage (LV) distribution network.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- General Labourer experience and be Physically Fit
- Commitment to Health and Safety in the work place.
- First Aid Experience
- Driving Licence
- Able to fell trees with precision
- Small machinery experience, Chain Saw & Strimmer's.
- Hand Tool experience, Lopping Shears and Pruners.

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 Jayamangala Wijesuriya on +290 22255 or email Jayamangala.Wijesuriya@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 March 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

INVITATION TO TENDER

RUPERT'S CARGO HANDLING FACILITY – STAFF CAR PARK

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

CS-1922-SHG–Rupert's Cargo Handling Facility – Staff Car Park

A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 27 February 2025, at 09:00, meeting at the Car Park, Sea Rescue Building, Rupert's.

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

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

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on theTop Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Friday, 07March2025, clearly marked with the tender number.

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

SHG, 17 February 2025

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week - Lot/ Peak Dale/ Blue Point

St Helena Island

Date: Saturday, 22 March 2025
Start Time: 08:00
Meeting Point: Cason's Car Park, Blue Hill
Duration: approx 4 hrs

Walk grade: Moderate | 7 - 8

Join leading guides Aaron Legg from Aaron's Adventure Tours and Tom Wortley from Rock Mount Walking tours on this countryside walk offering stunning views of Blue Hill and Sandy Bay. This walk is suitable for experienced walkers.
A great opportunity to stamp your way through 3 Post Box walks!

Path can be slippery underfoot, please wear sensible footwear, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water

Date	Upcoming Walks
Sunday, 02 March 2025	Sharks Valley
Sunday, 09 March 2025	The Barn
Saturday, 15 March 2025	Manati Bay

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

SPORTS ARENA

Charlie Ruddy Sponsored Stableford Competition



SHGC, Contributed

The rescheduled Charlie Ruddy sponsored Stableford Competition was held with 16 participants eager to compete for the winnings. The format of the competition, Stableford, rewards players based on their performance relative to par on each hole, allowing for a more dynamic scoring system.

As the early groups finished their rounds, Larry Legg emerged with a strong score of 37 points, establishing a commanding lead at that moment. However, the excitement built as we awaited the final group to complete their rounds, which would ultimately determine the winner of this competitive event.

When the last group came in, Peter Bagley surprised everyone by finishing with an impressive score of 39 points. This score not only secured him first place but also highlighted his skill and consistency throughout the round. Following closely behind was Paddo Johnson, who finished with 38 points, earning him second place in this tightly contested competition. Larry Legg's earlier performance with 37 points earned him third place.

In addition to the main prizes awarded for overall scores, there was also a special mention regarding "2s" scored during the round. Only one player managed to achieve this feat: Peter Bagley himself. He scored his "2" on the 7th hole and consequently claimed all the balls in the 2 Ball Pool, adding another layer of success to his day.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Charlie Ruddy for sponsoring both the competition and its prizes. His support contributed significantly to making this event enjoyable for all participants. Overall, it was a great day filled with good spirits among the golfers.

Upcoming Event: 23rd Monthly Medal Stroke Play, sign up list on the club house notice board.

Happy Swinging!







Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

This week's youth shooting saw a bit of tension mentally; thinking about the competition, thinking that they don't want to let themselves down. The girls asked not to add last week's scores to the competition as I had planned; they preferred to just use this weeks. I decided to go with what they thought was best for them - but would still compare both weeks scores just to show them if it had made a difference in their overall positions. After explaining the content of the event and wishing them well, Daniel and Josie R positioned themselves on the firing platform and started shooting. I notice how they all settled in and took their time aiming at the target before taking the shot. In order of positions was Daniel (first) with 92 + 89 = 181; Hari (second) with 85 + 87 = 172; Josie R (third) with 86.3 + 73 = 159.3; Josie T (fourth) with 82.1 + 77 = 159.1; and Pippa T (fifth) with 73 + 78 =151. What was really interesting, seeing how surprise they were to learn how the result changed from one week to another, with Josie R taking third place; he is the smallest and youngest in the group. A deserving well done to all!

Comparing by calculating both weeks scores, position would have changed as in running order, Daniel (first) with 362.3; Josie T (second) with 325.1; Hari (third) with 317; Pippa T (fourth) with 297; and Josie B (fifth) with 244.4. One may ask what does this mean and how important is this exercise? These sporting activities help to enrich the lives of our your people; we as humans are different in so many ways, rifle target shooting many not be everyone's choice but, in this sport, good values are taught for our lives, and I can tell from the amount of 'thank yous' I get from this small group of young people, it shows a huge gratitude as they take away with them hearts of enjoyment and contentment.

A deserved mention on our late event, welcome back to the club Jordana Peters, it's great to have you back on the platform after over a year; rather than just seeing you on the street. Well done for shooting 96.3 & 97.5, see you again soon! Good shooting from Doug L, a 96.4 & 97.6, Ryan R was also in the house showing his excitement with 90 & 90.2. Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our club alive.

May we all be fulfilled with God's Blessing as we face each day. Have a wonderful and peaceful weekend.

SPORTS ARENA

Rebels pick up their first win

Rebels, Allstars and Pirates all win as final matches of SHCA League looms



Luke Bennett, SAMS

On Saturday, Levelwood Rebels picked up their first win of the season against Cobras. Rebels elected to bat first, producing an all-round batting performancewhich saw them post a respectable score of 253. Cobras got off to a promising start to their batting innings with Scott O'Bey making a half century to help his team in the chase. However, Man of the Match, Delroy Leo, and his Rebels team pulled together a solid bowling display to earn them their first win of the season.

On Sunday, Levelwood Allstars produced yet another dominant display when they faced up against the inform Jamestown Heat. A fine batting display from Kristian Leo with 119, accompanied by Man of the Match, Clayton Leo, with 75, helped Allstars post a mammoth total of 343. Although losing a wicket early in the innings, Heat got off to a solid start with a half century from Captain Jamie Essex, but Allstar's bowling attack proved too much, and they went on to win by 159 runs.

The final game of the weekend saw Sandy Bay Pirates defeat the Western A Mustangs. Pirates elected to bat first and lost their opening batsmen early, however it was AJ Bennett who steadied the innings and produced a brilliant century to help his team to a massive total of 299. Mustangs Scott Crowie yielded a century of his own in their batting innings, though ultimately it was Player of the Match, Rhys Francis, who came away with an impressive five wicket haul to give Pirates the win by 136 runs.

With just the final game week to go in this year's league this weekend, Challengers look set to retain their league title.



Fixtures

Sat 22nd Feb
13:15
Jamestown Heat v Sandy Bay Pirates
Umpires: Delroy Leo & Jordi Henry

Sun 23rd Feb
8:30
Levelwood Rebels v Challengers
Umpires: Dax Richards & William Knipe

13:15
Cobras v Western A Mustangs
Umpires: Gavin George & David George