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SENTINEL

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A Round of Applause

PAS Certificate and Awards Ceremony 2025







"A place to visit for sure!"





OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Demy Herne, SAMS

It's my turn again to leave a comment, and of course, here we are in March already, time is flying by! Looking back at February, it was a relatively quiet and calm month for me. I found myself focusing mostly on work and sleep, which honestly, felt like just what I needed. It's funny how sometimes those slower months help us recharge.

But now that a new month is here, it feels like the perfect opportunity for a fresh start. I think that's one of the beautiful things about having the start of a new month, it's like a built-in reset. Whether it's decluttering your home, making changes in your social circle, or maybe even reevaluating your life choices, March is a great time to renew areas of your life that might need it. The idea of approaching each day as a chance for a fresh beginning or a "clean slate," as some people say, is a mindset I'm really trying to embrace more. It's empowering to know that we can always start again, no matter where we are in life.

On another note, last month I saw a variety of posts about our annual visitors, the incredible Whale Sharks. It's always amazing to see them in photos and videos, and I've heard so much about the extraordinary experience of swimming alongside them. While I haven't had the chance to see one up close yet, I'm crossing my fingers that one day I will! From what I've gathered from others, swimming with these gentle giants is an amazing and humbling experience that I hope to check off my bucket list soon.

Anyway, that's all from me this week. Looking forward to what March brings!

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YOUR LETTERS

Response to Cyril Leo by French Consul regarding avocado tree at Longwood House as published in last week's edition of The Sentinel as a 'Dear Editor' letter.

Dear Cyril,

I planted the avocado tree you are referring to in 2005, and it is still growing at Longwood House. However, it has been trimmed following numerous visitor complaints that its size was obstructing the view of one of the island's most iconic heritage buildings. Many visitors were frustrated at not being able to take photos of the west façade, with its five characteristic windows and shutters.

If you have not visited Longwood House recently, you may not have seen that the tree is still very much there. In the photo below, you can spot it as the bush between the grey and beige sections of the wall. Given how quickly it is regrowing, I anticipate that further complaints may arise in the near future.

As you know, Longwood House is not a farm but a historical site of great significance, attracting visitors from around the world. While I understand that you may have a different perspective on its historical importance, my responsibility is to ensure that the site remains accessible and visually representative of its heritage.

Best regards,
Michel



What's On
Mantis St Helena

9 March: HIGH TEA SUNDAY
Indulge in a delightful high tea with bottomless tea and coffee.
£10.00 per person · Min 2 people per booking · 14:00 – 17:00

15 March: SIMPLY ASIA
Enjoy a buffet-style selection of flavours from across Asia, featuring live cooking stations.
£22.00 per person · From 18:30 onwards

22 March: HOT SUMMER NIGHTS
Savour the vibrant flavours of the Caribbean Islands with a tropical-inspired menu. Live music included.
£25.00 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 18:30 onwards

30 March: MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET
Celebrate with a traditional Saints-style buffet, perfect for a special family gathering.
£22.50 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 12:30 onwards

6 April: HIGH TEA SUNDAY
A refined afternoon featuring bottomless tea and coffee.
£10.00 per person · Min 2 people per booking · 14:00 – 17:00

18 April: THE GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY
Enjoy a classic Good Friday fish fry with fresh local seafood and delicious sides.
£20.00 per person · From 18:30 onwards

20 April: EASTER SUNDAY BUFFET
Gather with loved ones for a festive Easter buffet.
£22.50 per person · Kids under 12 half price
From 12:30 onwards

For all enquiries and bookings, please call 25505

"A Place to Visit for sure!"

VIP visitors get "a glimpse of St Helena's true potential" in quick visit to the Island



Liam Yon, SAMS

A group of high esteemed visitors – led by renowned Belgian industrialist and philatelist, Patrick Maselis – has recently made the journey, via a privately-chartered jet, to St Helena for a quick visit, where the group were able to get "a glimpse of St Helena's true potential" before the majority left again on Motor Yacht, Asteria.

Patrick, a former president of the Royal Philatelic Society London, has previously visited St Helena with his wife and son for an overnight stay, when they became St Helena's first paying tourists to arrive in the period when St Helena Airport was closed to commercial flights. This visit was managed by Derek Richards through his local Destination Management Company (DMC), with Derek again managing their visit this week.

According to information received by The Sentinel, the trip was initially planned for a visiting group of eleven, however with delays being experienced to their initial arrival time, this number whittled down to five who eventually made the trip earlier in the week.

The group were greeted at St Helena Airport by Derek after they arrived on Tuesday afternoon in the luxurious Falcon 8x jet – described as 'the most flexible, cost-efficient long-range business jet on the market, with the quietest cabin in the industry'. In fact, the Falcon 8x is capable of flying for 14 hours with a ranger of 12,000 kilometres, which enabled it to fly direct from Zurich, Switzerland, to St Helena Airport.

After arriving, first up for the VIP visitor's was a trip to Longwood House where a personal tour had been arranged with French Consul, Michel Martineau, showing the guests around the grounds of Napoleon Bonaparte's final home and sharing the story of the most famous prisoner in the Island's history.

Following this tour, the group was transferred to the Jamestown Wharf where they were able to meet up with Captain Ian Garaty and chartered Motor Yacht, Asteria, who arrived in James Bay during unsettled sea conditions last Thursday morning – with Ian joining the vessel in South America – in order to collect four of the visiting group of five for a special journey south to Tristan da Cunha, Inaccessible Island and then on to Cape Town.

Captain Ian expressed his enjoyment for being able to visit St Helena, despite the short stay, describing it as "an enchanting step back to when people took time to greet and talk to each other," adding that it was "a shame we were working, so only got a glimpse of St Helena's true potential" though he dubbed St Helena as, "a place to visit for sure!".

With the Asteria set for Tristan, with four of the visiting group on board – having departed on Tuesday evening at around 8pm – the fifth and final visitor who remained on St Helena was given a tour of Jamestown before spending the night at the Farm Lodge Country House Hotel.

He was scheduled to depart again, via the Falcon 8x jet, on Wednesday, but not before embarking on what was described as "a mini Island experience" in the morning before heading back.

"It's always great to see returning visitors, and new ones, and it was a real pleasure to work with Mr Maselis this time around," commented Local DMC, Derek Richards, who coordinated the visit. "Again, everyone worked well together to make the visit a success."











Transfer loading...



Update on the transfer of High Knoll Fort to the St Helena National Trust discussed in Legislative Council

Demy Herne, SAMS

The nineteenth sitting of the Legislative Council held on 13th February saw a discussion surrounding the transfer of High Knoll Fort to the St Helena National Trust, an issue that has seen delays over several years. During this, Councilor Robert Midwinter directed a question to the Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Mark Brooks.

Robert inquired, "Will the Minister for Treasury and Economic Development provide this Council with an update on what progress has been made towards transferring High Knoll Fort to the St Helena National Trust?"

In response, Minister Brooks explained the status of the transfer process. He highlighted the involvement of both the property services team and the St Helena National Trust in ongoing discussions about the lease of High Knoll and its immediate surroundings.

The Minister acknowledged the delays, stating that "unfortunately the process has taken longer than we anticipated due to the availability of legal resources over the past year with other priority work also taking preference. We do struggle with the capacity of the AG'S chambers in all areas and this is no exception to that."

The Minister further elaborated on the situation, revealing that the proposal initially presented in 2017 was considered too burdensome by the National Trust. "The proposal in 2017 was considered by the Trust to be too onerous, particularly in relation to the repairing obligations," he noted. He added that "having reviewed those terms of reference, I would fully agree, but some work has been done and I can confirm that new heads of terms have now been shared with the Trust for their consideration."

Despite the delays, the Minister expressed hope that a conclusion would soon be reached, allowing the National Trust to take over the management of High Knoll. "I'm hopeful that an agreement can be reached shortly allowing us to progress with the lease to enable the Trust to effectively manage the significant cultural asset," the Minister said.

The Minister also reassured the Council that work had not come to a halt. "In the meantime we haven't been doing anything, we have, through the Tourism Development Program, allocated some funding for improvements to High Knoll Fort," he mentioned.

He emphasised that this work had focused mainly on safety, but also noted additional efforts to make the area more inviting. "We've also done some other improvements, outside the safety, just to make the area a little bit more inviting for our community and our visitors."

Reiterating the progress made in partnership with the National Trust, described as a "good relationship" by the Minister Brooks, he revealed how "we just need to finalise getting the legal work over the line before we can hand the Trust over properly, but as I said, we're doing stuff together now."

Councilor Robert Midwinter, acknowledging the length of time this matter had been ongoing, sought further assurance. "You made reference to the fact that this has been going since 2017, two lifetimes of this Council, and I just would like to have an assurance if you can that it will be concluded within the lifetime of this current Council?"

In response to Robert's request for assurance, Minister Brooks expressed optimism, though he clarified the limitations of his role in the legal process. "I would like to hope so, but I mean I'm not a legal drafter. I can't write lease agreements. We rely on the public services to deliver that for us and it's taken longer than I would want it to, but I don't have any control over that."

He acknowledged the ongoing struggles in delivering timely legal work, adding that "maybe the new government really needs to think seriously about the way the legal service is delivered on St Helena, but we've struggled for the whole three years of being in this post in getting timely work done in order to progress some of these important things forward."

The discussion shed light on the challenges the government faces in delivering legal services and finalising key agreements, but also emphasised ongoing collaboration with the St Helena National Trust to ensure that High Knoll Fort's future management is secured.





"We need to be able to utilise the funds"

Questions asked, and responses received, around £6.65 million "one-off funding" from UKG as part of BIOT Migrant Arrangement



Demy Herne, SAMS

At the nineteenth sitting of the Legislative Council on 13 February, a discussion was held on the funding allocated to St Helena under the Memorandum of Understanding concerning migrants from the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). Councilor Dr Corinda Essex raised several questions regarding the allocation and use of the additional funding that St Helena is set to receive.

Corinda asked, "Will the Chief Minister tell this House what proportion of the additional funding resulting from the Memorandum of Understanding relating to migrants from the British Indian Ocean Territories has been spent or fully committed, and what firm plans are in place to draw down the balance and over what time period?"

The Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, provided a detailed response on the allocation of the funds. She explained that as part of the MoU between the Government of the United Kingdom (UKG) and the Government of St Helena (SHG), the UKG has committed £6.65 million to St Helena at the start of the 2025-26 financial year to support the island's long-term economic development.

"£1.65m of this funding has been allocated to address the backlog in our Overseas Medical Referral Program, and the remainder will be used to support projects to improve health and education outcomes as well as supporting IT improvements," Julie stated. She clarified that the funding would be managed through a special fund established under the Public Finance Ordinance, 2010, with separate cost centre's being set up for each of the four identified work streams.

Julie added that, although the funds would not be available until the beginning of the next financial year, Ministers and their Portfolio Directors are currently working to develop plans and business cases for the funding's utilisation over the next three years. "Once these have been formulated and agreed by the relevant Ministers, this information can be shared with all elected members," she said.

Cllr Essex then sought clarification on the timeline for the completion of the business cases. "When is it anticipated that the business cases are likely to be in a sufficiently completed state to be shared more widely?," she asked.

Julie responded with confidence about the progress, especially within the Education sector. "I can assure you that I'll speak from an education perspective. That was just at my advisory board yesterday, so it's very near in going forward through the right process so that it can be considered." She highlighted that three Ministers, those responsible for Health, Education, and IT, would form part of the governance structure overseeing the process. "I'm hoping, Dr Essex, that we'll probably have our first meeting next month," she added.

Cllr Essex asked, "Can the Chief Minister clarify whether it is anticipated that there will be clarity on exactly how the funding is intended to be spent prior to the dissolution of this Council?"

Chief Minister Julie assured the Council that the details would be finalised before the dissolution of the current Council. "I can assure you that that will definitely be done."

She continued by stating that, while the planning process wasn't starting from scratch, there was a need to put the details into a clear format for recognition. "It's not starting from scratch; it's just about putting the detail now in a format that is easy to recognise," Julie said.

She emphasised that the funding would be used strategically to ensure the best possible outcomes. "We need to be able to utilise the funds where best needed, and there's a lot of decisions that's being taken within Education. So it's going to be phased over the three years to ensure we have the best outcomes. I know the same is said for Health because obviously the same thing. We need to have a phased approach so that the funding is better utilised for all the different changes that we're looking at, bearing in mind we're looking at health standards and education standards."

Councilor Karl Thrower raised concerns about the confusion surrounding the BIOT funding and the zero-based budget submitted for this year's financial aid mission.

He asked, "Would the Chief Minister be able to explain to this House and to members of the public the difference between the zero-based budget submitted during this year's financial aid mission and the 6.65 million from the BIOT deal, as there seems to be a lot of confusion in that space and people think they're tied to each other?"

Julie clarified the distinction between the two funding streams. "Modified zero-based budget is to do with what is required to operate across the government, the services we already provide. BIOT, as you well know, has been approved and we're utilising that to kick start. It was a one-off funding and is not included as part of flat-line budget or any recurrent budget that St Helena hopefully will achieve going forward into 2025-26," she explained.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the £6.65m was a special, one-off funding package. "So it's a special part of funding, it's a one-off funding and shouldn't be confused with the recurrent budget," she concluded.

Councilor Dr Corinda Essex's question, and Chief Minister Julie Thomas' response, highlighted the efforts being made to manage the significant funds allocated to St Helena, the process for using the money effectively, and the ongoing work to ensure the best outcomes in key areas such as health, education, and IT.



"There is a lot of work still to be done"

Debate on what can be done to assist vessels with landing passengers safely



Demy Herne, SAMS

During the last meeting of Legislative Council, the Council Chambers saw a lively debate regarding the safe landing of cruise ship passengers and visitors from other vessels on St Helena, particularly in light of the rough seas often experienced here.

Councilor Ronald Coleman raised a question to the Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Mark Brooks, asking, "Will the Minister for Treasury and Economic Development tell this Council, in light of the rough seas which St Helena continues to experience over the years, can anything be done in this modern time to assist cruise ships and other vessels with landing their passengers safely on the island?"

Mark Brooks responded by acknowledging that solutions might exist, though he was cautious in providing specifics. "I guess the short answer to that is possibly yes. There are solutions if you look out there in the big wide world. There are sea defenses or jetties or pontoons, whatever you want to call them, many different ranges, many different sizes and many different costs. So possibly there is a solution out there," he said.

Mark further explained that the Port Control team, under the new Harbour Master, had been investigating potential options. "So for example, a semi-pontoon that leads out from the jetty allowing safe access for passengers when sea conditions are not ideal could be an option," he said, though he added, "I'm not a professional here; I'm just saying what could be an option."

Mark emphasised that, like any solution, research would be necessary to assess the viability of such measures on St Helena. "We need to do a lot of research and collect data in terms of sea movement, wave action, direction and all that kind of stuff," he explained. "There is a lot of work still to be done. But I take my hat off to Port Control for actually taking an active response to this and looking at solutions that could possibly help the island."

Mark continued, highlighting that the Jamestown Redevelopment Working Group was now focused on scoping the port area and its entrance. "It's quite timely that this month we've sort of put together a Jamestown Redevelopment Working Group, which will form part of the scoping project," he noted, adding that the project's aim was to improve access at the Wharf.

He also noted that climate change considerations were an important factor in the planning. "It's not just about safety access to the port but also protecting the port from the global effects of climate change," Brooks stated.

The Minister concluded with his personal opinion on a possible solution for safer access to the port. "I think we need to build a breakwater that is larger than the one that is currently in Rupert's. The one in Rupert's is built in a way to allow a ship of 100 metres to access it, and because of that, it leaves a big opening where swell and air can come through."

Brooks suggested that a new breakwater or jetty could be built in James Bay, which would provide a safer, sheltered area for cruise ships to anchor and use smaller launches to transport passengers ashore. He clarified that the larger breakwater at Rupert's was designed for supply ships, not cruise ships, and did not provide enough protection for smaller vessels.

"So, what I think is needed is a breakwater or jetty built in Jamestown Harbour, one that extends out from West Rocks and one which extends out from the Wharf, making the opening smaller," he said. "It will allow us to actually use the wharf more safely in terms of swimming and water activities, and it will also help build on our visiting numbers, arrivals by yachts and cruise ships."

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex followed up by asking whether the team looking at the options would consider information compiled ten years ago about a sheltered landing basin in the Middle Steps at Thompson's area.

Corinda asked, "Will the Minister please give an assurance that his team who are looking at options will access the information that was compiled some ten years ago regarding the construction of a sheltered landing basin in the Middle Steps at Thompson's area, which was fully physically and mathematically modelled and which would have allowed for safe landing of passengers from cruise ships and fishing boats, etc?"

Brooks assured the Council that the working group would review all



relevant documents, including past work on this matter. "Just to assure you that at the very start in setting up the working group, the instructions were to look at all the past documents and data and work that has been done to take that into account when they reach their final recommendations to be put forward to the portfolio," he confirmed.

Councillor Christine Scipio, Minister for Environment, added that climate change considerations were also an essential part of the ongoing work. "Climate change falls under my responsibility as you know as the Minister for Environment. So actually, there are some work streams that are going to be undertaken this month," she said.

She explained that these work streams would examine flooding risks at Rupert's and their potential impact on port infrastructure. "In relation to flooding at Rupert's, a reliable operation of our port infrastructure at Rupert's is also essential for our imports to the island," Scipio added. "We are going to be looking at sea level and rainfall rise with climate change considerations. So that work stream is being undertaken this month."

Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, addressed concerns regarding potential funding for port development. "I think the biggest thing I want to say to the public is that this does not mean that there is going to be money in a pot somewhere hidden with regards to any development with the port at the moment," she clarified.

She explained that while port development was a priority, there were other projects that required attention first. "We are already over-programmed on our EDIP funding, so I am not suggesting it is not a priority, but we do have priorities up and above this one. So I wanted to make that clear so people do not start thinking that there is a pot of money specifically for that."

Councillor Karl Thrower expressed concerns about ensuring the private sector and local stakeholders, such as those working on the wharf, were fully consulted at an early stage of any port-related project. He asked, "Would Mark Brooks ensure that the private sector who works on the wharf is fully consulted at a very early stage in any project?"

Thrower emphasised the importance of consulting people who work on the wharf regularly, such as those loading dive tanks onto boats and passengers onto ships, to ensure that developments meet the needs of St Helenians and the tourism sector.

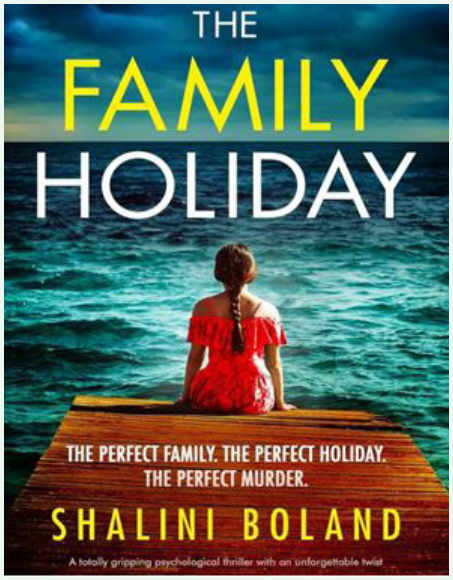
Brooks responded positively, assuring that the working group would engage with key stakeholders. "I can assure you that my part of the terms of reference was for that working group to engage with key stakeholders at the seafront," he said. "So when this working group does kick off and start this work, I'm sure there will be plenty of opportunity for stakeholders and the public alike to feed in their views."

These discussions brought attention to the importance of ensuring safe access for visitors arriving by sea, particularly in light of rough seas that often impact cruise ships. With the Harbour Master actively exploring potential solutions and ongoing work in climate change considerations, there is hope for a safer and more efficient landing process. However, the government remains mindful of the costs and prioritisation of other projects, with further consultation to follow before any decisions are made.



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Family Holiday by Shalini Boland

Two families. One house swap. A vacation to die for.

The white-washed Italian villa is perfect. I thought it might feel odd, living in a stranger's house for the summer, but as my husband and children swim in the infinity pool, I start to relax. And then, in the back of a wardrobe, I find a photograph that shatters everything.

Sparkling green eyes, square jaw, lopsided smile. A young man with his arm around a beautiful woman. The picture is old and faded but I'd recognise him anywhere. The man is my husband.

But we've never met the family we've swapped homes with and my husband swears it isn't him in the photo. He's lying. We argue on the balcony with the sun setting behind us and I storm out.

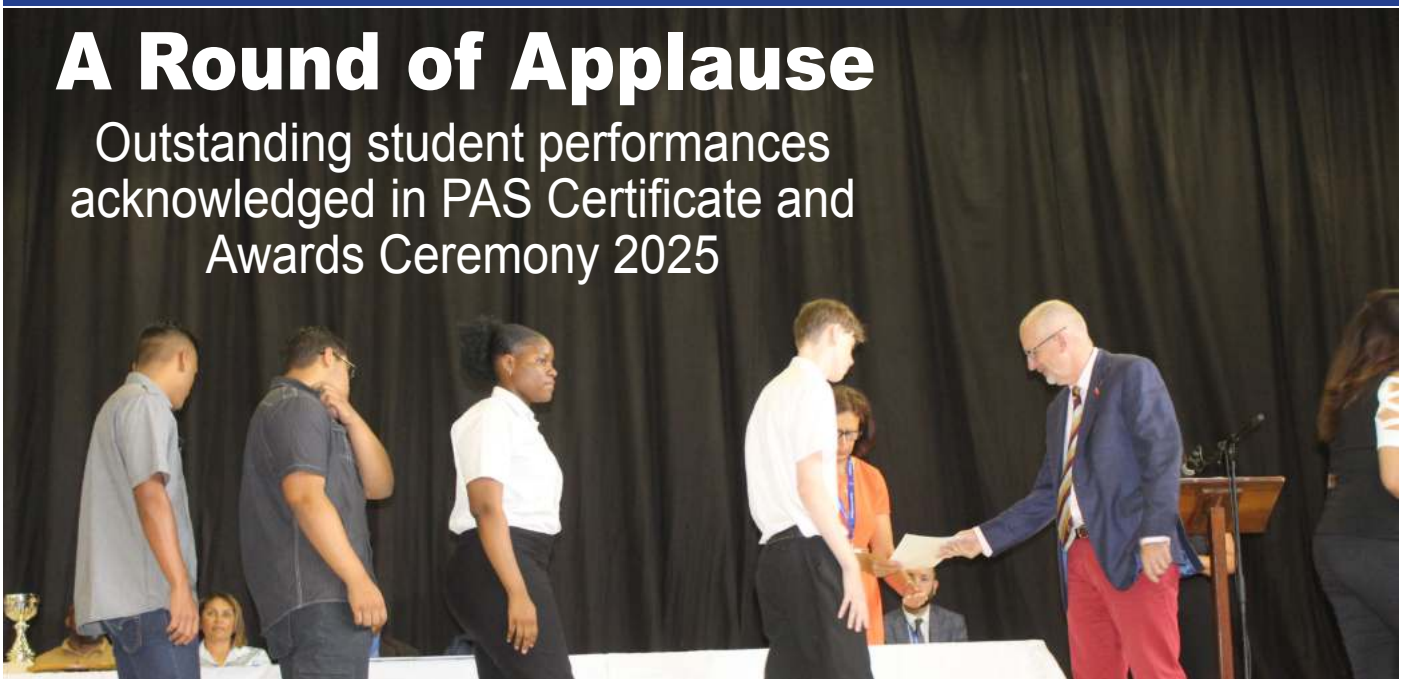
When I finally calm down enough to go back to the villa to confront him, I find him sprawled across the veranda dead.

Why would someone kill my husband? Am I in danger? And how well did I really know the man I married?

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A Round of Applause

Outstanding student performances acknowledged in PAS Certificate and Awards Ceremony 2025



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Friday, Prince Andrew School held their Annual Certificate and Awards Ceremony.

At the event, the majority of the awards were presented to awardees from the previous academic year's Year 11 cohort, whilst certificates were presented to students from the previous year's Year 10, 12 and 13 groups.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Governor Nigel Phillips who addressed the audience to start off the proceedings. Students who achieved GCSE qualifications were the first to receive their certificates followed by recipients of Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced level certificates.

Special awards were presented to a number of students of which the first was the Jean Beadon Art Award. This was presented by Chief Minister Julie Thomas to Blake O'Connor. The Governor's Award for academic excellence and achievement in Key stage 3 (Year 7-9) was presented to Sadie Herne and Nate Joshua.

The PTA Award for Student of the Year for the top performing students in Year 11 and Year 13 was presented by the Chairperson of the PTA, Mr Ed Oyewo. This award went to Blane Bennett (Year 11) and Vivienne Ponsford (Year 13).

Sure awards for the top performing students in Year 11 was sponsored and presented by Sure SA Ltd and was awarded to Merstine Chiseya and Blane Bennett. The Jeanette Williams Mathematics award was awarded to Blane Bennett as the highest achiever in Maths for Year 11 and Jacob Williams for Year 13. The highest achievement in English for a Year 11 student went to Erik Robbertse, while Vivienne Ponsford received this award as the highest achieving Year 13 student.

The Eliza Mary Lloyd Trust award, recognising commitment to agriculture related courses, was presented by Miss Andrea Timm to Callum Mittens. The Bishop Houghton Award acknowledging students who give pastoral care was presented by Deacon Roberts to William Scott. The final award, The Joy George Award for outstanding progress, achievement, good attitude and behaviour at the end of Key stage 3 was presented by Ms George herself and was awarded to Leah Oyewo.

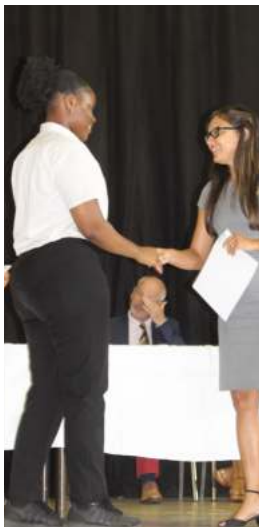
A vote of thanks was given by the Student President, Bobbi Clingham, and Vice President, Raylisha Piek, followed by the closing remarks given by Chief Minister Julie Thomas congratulating the awardees and encouraging all students to cultivate a habit of lifelong learning.
















WARDS
2024



A Search for Merlin's Successor

Governor's Office invite interest for new Chair of Immigration Control Board



Liam Yon, SAMS

The Governor's Office of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, are currently inviting expressions of interest from members of the public to fill the role of Chairperson for the Immigration Control Board, with the position set to become available from Thursday, 13 March.

In their EOI release, the Governor's Office briefly explain the role. "The Immigration Ordinance 2011 provides for an Immigration Control Board with the Chairperson of the Board being appointed by the Governor," they explain. "The role of the Board is to exercise and perform powers and functions conferred upon it by the Immigration Control Ordinance, 2011." SHG go on to state that, "this includes processing applications for long term entry permits, work permits, immigrant employment certificates and immigrant landholding licences."

When looking at criteria, SHG detail how "the Ordinance requires that the Chairperson of the Immigration Control Board must have St Helenian Status" while "Justices of the Peace, Immigration Officers, and members of the Legislative Council are not eligible for appointment to the Board."

As an incentive, it has been informed that any successful candidate will receive an annual retainer fee of £1,200, paid quarterly in arrears, as well as a mileage allowance of 77p per mile for any mileage incurred using personal vehicles in connection with attendance at Board meetings, generally held monthly. They will also receive a monthly payment of £6.65 towards internet costs.

Currently, the Immigration Control Board is chaired by Merlin George, and those wanting to know more about the role are encouraged to contact Merlin for more information.

The relevant form is available from SHG's Information and Research Support Officer at The Castle, while it has also been made available via the SHG website.

Completed forms should be returned to Kerry Lane in the Governor's Office by Friday, 14 March, following which shortlisted persons will be invited to have a discussion with the Governor. The successful applicant will then be appointed, subject to receipt of a satisfactory vetting certificate.

With SHG seeing a number of reforms to their Customs and Immigration processes, initiated by the BIOT Migrant agreement with the UK Government, this role will be an important one for the Island and as such, those interested are being encouraged to apply.

Same Bay, Different Ship

SS Stad Amsterdam visits St Helena



Donna Crowie, SAMS

James Bay has been a busy hub recently with a number of arrivals to the bay from freight vessels to tankers to motor yachts and most recently, a tall ship.

Observers would have seen a large sailing vessel come into sight on Monday evening, approaching the Island, later identified as passenger and sail training vessel, Stad Amsterdam.

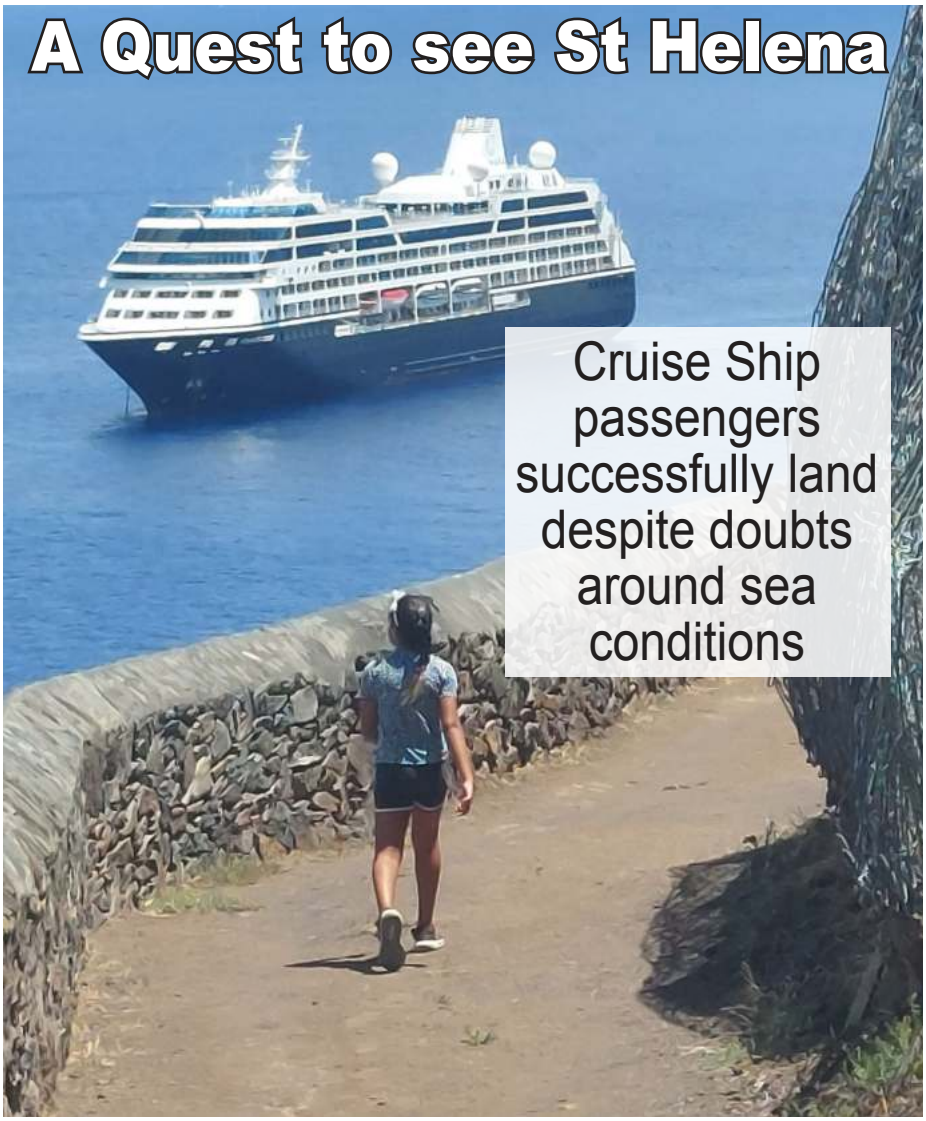
The Stad Amsterdam arrived to St Helena just before 7pm, flying the Netherlands flag.

Measuring over 66m in height, the vessel is a modern 3-masted clipper built in the Netherlands and launched in 2000. The construction of the hull in the Damen shipyard was used as a work experience project for the unemployed in welding and shipbuilding techniques.

Guests on board can join on any leg of the vessel's current world tour, providing there is a berth. The Stad Amsterdam travelled from Cape Town where she departed on 20 February and, when she departs St Helena, her next port of call is Recife in Brazil.

We hope those on board the Amsterdam enjoyed their stay at St Helena.

A Quest to see St Helena



Cruise Ship passengers successfully land despite doubts around sea conditions

Liam Yon, SAMS

On Saturday morning, the MV Azamara Quest cruise liner sailed into James Bay, as expected, with all those onboard, as well as those awaiting the arrival of visitors shore-side, eagerly anticipating the decision on whether it would be safe to land passengers, considering the unfavourable sea conditions being experienced.

Earlier in the week, rough seas caused delayed operations for both the MV Karoline and Fuel Tanker MT Ardberg, with St Helena Tourism being understandably doubtful about whether passengers would indeed be able to land safely on Saturday – with the ultimate decision being down to the ship's Captain working with Port Control.

In a positive indication on Friday morning however, after four days of waiting in the bay, the MV Karoline successfully berthed alongside Rupert's Jetty to commence cargo operations.

This success continued into Saturday when, despite doubts, the second cruise ship for 2025, Azamara Quest, was successfully able to land passengers; much to the joy of both those onboard – including some 600 passengers and 400 crew – and those awaiting their arrival.

Following the landing of tourists on the Island, a number of busses and taxis were seen collecting and transporting passengers on various tours and trips around the Island, while many opted for the traditional walkabout in Jamestown – even taking on the iconic Jacob's Ladder Challenge.

"I did not go right to the top, but I am proud to do at least a third of the inclining stairway," commented one visitor following her attempt at the ladder.

As always, a few stalls were situated by The Canister selling St Helena souvenirs for purchase, while other businesses took the opportunity to setup along the popular tour routes.

The MV Azamara Quest departed St Helena on Saturday evening having enjoyed a day on the Island. This is in contrast to the Seven Seas Splendor which arrived in January and had to depart again without being able to land passengers.

The issue of visiting vessels and accessibility to the Island, especially in unfavourable conditions, was recently discussed in Formal LegCo (see separate article).



The Lucky Nine

February Sweepstake complete as SHMSF prepare to go bigger in March

Liam Yon, SAMS



In what has quickly become one of the most supported and talked-about fundraising initiatives on the Island in recent history, the newly established St Helena Medical Support Fund (SHMSF) are continuing to run their popular monthly sweepstake with the February draw having taken place last Friday – when, live on SAMS Radio 1, nine lucky person's were announced to have each won £1000.

Changing it up from January, when Evette Bowers in the UK won the £5000 grand prize, February's sweepstake saw the prize pot split out to allow more people to win substantial cash prizes with nine £1000 prizes available.

After going 'live' on SAMS Radio 1 and the SAMS Facebook Page with members of the SHMSF, including Chairperson, Susan Knipe, and members, Wendy Benjamin and Connie Johnson, along with helper, Kai, the draw got underway. Much to Susan's dismay, Cheddy Knipe was drawn as the first winner, later joined by Dominic Benjamin, Kyle Yon, Shara Williams, Stacey Williams, Cynthia Fowler, Vanessa Fowler, Zihanna-Raye Thomas and Shirley Robinson.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and an extended thanks to all participants for supporting a charity which aims to help and provide assistance to residents requiring overseas medical treatment from St Helena.

As the dust settles on the February Sweepstake, the SHMSF are preparing to launch the March edition of their popular initiative, and are planning to go bigger this time around. With 600 tickets selling in just over two hours in February, the charity has decided to up this number to 800 to allow more people to get involved and purchase tickets. An increase in number also means an increase in the prize pot, with £12,000 worth of cash prizes being made available for March.

In other news, the SHMSF have now announced that, thanks to the success of their first two sweepstakes, and pending funds, they are now able to provided assistance to medical referrals. *See details around this and the March sweepstake here.*

The St Helena Medical Support Fund would like to thank everyone who have supported the first two sweepstakes. As a result we are very pleased to announce that, subject to availability of funds we are able to support medical referrals.
Contact any of the committee members for further information or an application form.
Susan Knipe -53062
Ronald Coleman
Wendy Benjamin 23043
Zoe George
Lisa Bailey 25639
Connie Johnson 23840



How it works.
The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 7thMarch at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.
Request how many numbers you would like, and a number/s will be allocated to you. DO NOT ask for specific numbers.
If you do not have Facebook then ask a friend or family member to request a number for you.
Lisa Bailey will be taking calls on 25639 from 7pm only on Friday 7th, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.
We politely ask not to call before this time.
All numbers must be paid for at the bank - BOSH Account - St Helena Medical Support Fund 02146002
Payments to be made by 26th March. Draw will be done on the 29th March. Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.

"Urgent need for change and improvement"

ESE "pleased" with turnout and discussions at recent Education Review meetings



Liam Yon, SAMS

As part of SHG's ongoing review of education on the Island - whereby a number of expert consultants have visited the Island to provide input and to support the development of an Education Review Report with a bid to improve all aspects of education provision on St Helena - three recent meetings were held for, firstly, school PTAs on 10 February, followed by two meetings for parents and guardians and the wider public on Monday and Tuesday of last week respectively.

According to SHG, the purpose of these meetings was to provide an update on the Education Review's "interim findings and potential next steps."

The Sentinel can confirm that approximate attendance numbers for each meeting were 50 for the PTA meeting, 120 for the parent's meeting, and finally 20 for the public meeting. This totals around 190 people attending across the three meetings this month.

The Education Skills and Employment Portfolio were "pleased" with this attendance and the engagement shown by attendees.

"The Education Skills and Employment Portfolio is pleased with the strong engagement and insightful questions received during the recent education sessions," they commented to The Sentinel. "The clear message from these sessions is the urgent need for change and improvement in our education system. The adoption of the COBIS standards framework in September 2024 is a critical step in this process."

Additionally, it was made clear that much needs to be done in order for an improved education system on St Helena. "To ensure education becomes an engine for positive change, we require structural reforms, comprehensive staff training, a community-wide focus on our children's needs, and sustained recurrent funding," added SHG in their comment. "Without these, our education system risks continued decline."

This Education Review is a large piece of work and no doubt there will be further meetings and engagement with the community to come as we work towards a better future for all young people on St Helena.



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. MAR 07
- 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. MAR 08
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 1pm-3pm: Northward Sounds (repeat)
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie (Repeat)
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. MAR 09
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Liam Yon
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations

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

TUE. MAR 11
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 9am - 11am : mid morning Show with Demy
- 11am-1pm: Vibes with Annika
- 2pm: In Scope
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: Uk chart Show with Demy Herne
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations

WED. MAR 12
- 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. MAR 13
- 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





Tune in every Wednesday for a brand new edition of 'Our Show' where Donna and Demy will be presenting a brand new show and a brand new theme, with a mix of different genres each week!

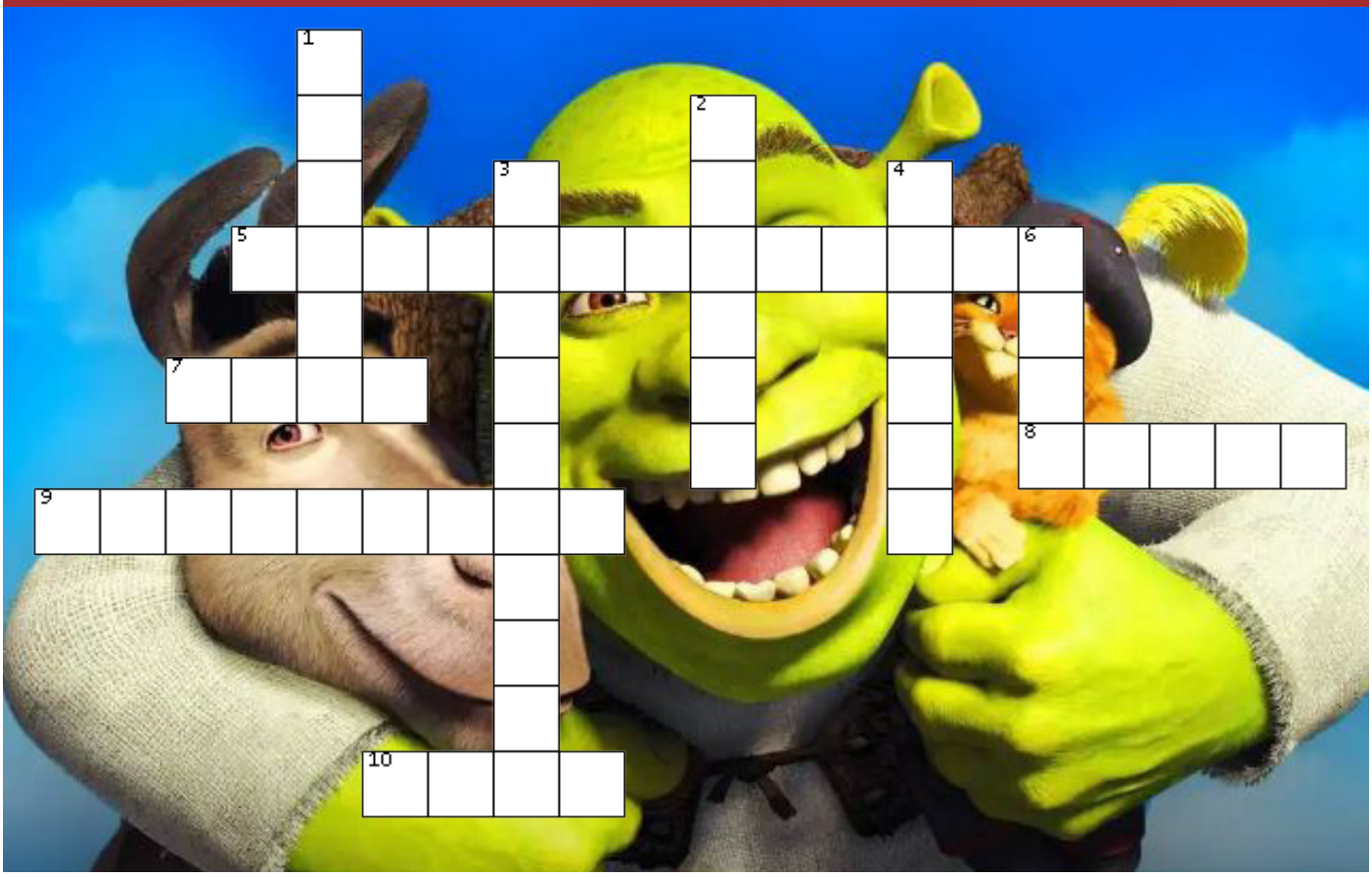
Also, don't stress if you missed it 'live' on Wednesday, as a repeat will be aired on Friday at 2pm. It's Our Show, for you, on SAMS Radio 1!

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

TIME OUT

Crossword: SHREK



ACROSS

5. Who did Prince Charming find sleeping in the bed where he expected to find Fiona? (3,3,3,4)
7. What does Fiona turn into after sunset?
8. What colour is Fiona's dress?
9. Who does the voice for Shrek? (4,5)
10. What is Shrek asked to do at his kids party, by an annoying little boy?

DOWN

1. Who is the one other heir to the throne, besides Shrek?
2. What creature does Donkey fall in love with and have babies?
3. Who is fighting with Snow White for the flowers?
4. When Shrek and Fiona get back from their honeymoon, who do they find in Shrek's house?
6. What does Shrek blow up for Fiona as a balloon?

Famous Birthday on 06 March



Shaquille O'neal (53)

Sentinel Joke of the day

Why do mushrooms get invited to all the parties?

Because they're such fungis! (Fun guys, get it?)

Rebus Puzzle:

Figure out the phrase





Last week's Crossword Answers

Snakes

ACROSS

4. InlandTaipan
6. Slither
7. SamuelLJackson
8. BrahminyBlindSnake
10. Anaconda

DOWN

1. Medusa
2. SpittingCobra
3. ReticulatedPython
5. TheJungleBook
9. Nagini

Rebus Answers:

1. Roman Empire, 2. Dandelion

"Dreaming big about the future"

Tristan da Cunha's Owen Glass becomes youngest person to speak in UK House of Commons as he delivers passionate speech during Youth Parliament



Liam Yon, SAMS

On Friday, 28 February, 10 year old Owen Glass from St Helena's Sister Island of Tristan Da Cunha, delivered a speech during Youth Parliament in the UK House of Commons and, in doing so, made history by becoming the youngest person to give an official speech in the chamber.

Despite his tender age, Owen spoke clear and passionately about living and learning on Tristan, the challenges they face, the improvements made with faster internet connectivity, and the resilience of the community in times of struggle. Here is a transcript of Owen's well written address:

"Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think I might be the youngest person to ever deliver a speech in this amazing chamber. Well, I might be young, but like everyone here, I've got dreams, and I know that education and training is how I make them come true."

"I come from the remotest community on the planet, on Tristan da Cunha. We are 1,500 miles from the nearest neighbours and a week at sea from the nearest airport. I wake up every day and hear the sounds of crashing waves and singing birds."

"My island is beautiful, but living there and getting educated there does come with challenges. We have only one school and just a handful of trained teachers. They each have to teach lots of subjects, and if one of them leaves, it's hard to find a replacement."

"Our resources for learning are limited. We only have a small library and not enough equipment for things like science experiments, but we are creative, and we always make the most of what we have. Our internet connection has just got much faster."

"The school is already making good use of it, linking us with specialist teachers. We are now learning, playing and connecting online in ways we never thought possible. My dream is to pass my IGCSEs and then get trained to be a mechanic."

"Those skills could take me anywhere in the world, and they are precious back home on Tristan, where we repair our own machinery. I have to leave the island to get my training. That's expensive, and going so far from home is tough for young people, but I hope the Island and the UK will support me."

"Living on a remote island means we all know each other's business, but it also means great friendship and a strong community. We face challenges, but we find ways to overcome them, whether it's helping each other study, sharing resources or just dreaming big about the future."

In the opening moments of the Youth Parliament, Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, gave some words which were read out in the Commons Chamber, including special congratulations to Owen on becoming the youngest person ever to deliver a speech there.

Ahead of the big day, Owen arrived to the UK with his parents Simon and Natasha Glass and he has since been interviewed by Sky Kids Channel and BBC Radio 5.

Congratulations to Owen on an outstanding achievement!







World Thinking Day 2025



St Helena Girlguiding Association, Contributed

Starting in 1926, each year, 22 February, is celebrated as World Thinking Day. It is the birthday of both Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scout Movement, and his wife Lady Olave Baden-Powell, who was the first World Chief Guide. It remains one of the most important dates in our Guiding calendar celebrated in honour of two outstanding people for their voluntary work.

On World Thinking Day we think about the worldwide spread of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting. Because we cannot be with them in person, we reach out to them in our minds. It is a day we also recognise as international friendship within our global movement. On this day, we also think about those less fortunate than ourselves.

We have, over the years, celebrated World Thinking Day with the Guide Movement through various themes, allowing us to think about the big issues affecting us and our global community. This year's theme was 'Our Story'. This gave us scope to dive into the past, present and future of the guiding movement and reflect on the values and symbolism of what it means to be a Girl Guide.

This year's event was organised by the Jamestown Units and took place at the Blue Hill Community Centre. At 10am, Mrs June Lawrence welcomed everyone present and our President, Mrs Ivy Ellick, gave the opening speech in lieu of our Commissioner, Mrs Pamela Ward Pearce. There were various activities set for the day in conjunction with this year's theme of 'Our Story'. Although some activities carried the same principles, a challenging twist was added for extra flavour. These activities allowed us to acknowledge the history of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in the 'Past', understand our roles both collectively and individually in the 'Present' and then by looking into the 'Future' as to how we would like to see the movement and beyond.

With favourable weather, we were able to participate in some activities outdoors, much to the delight of the girls and leaders alike. The change of environment was very much relished and it was an enjoyable day filled with fun, challenges, friendship, mingling and laugher.

Ms. Trisha Coyle, Daisy Andrews and Hailey Crowie made their Promise and became fully-fledged members of our Guide movement on St Helena. Welcome and congratulations to all three of them.

Sadly, due to health issues, our Commissioner Mrs. Pamela Ward Pearce was unable to be with us and we wish her a speedy recovery. Our President, Mrs. Ivy Ellick, as well as Rose and Poppy spent the entire day with us lending a hand. In the afternoon we were joined by members of the Trefoil Guild and invited Guest Mrs. Cherry Murray.

Mrs. Julie Anthony gave a welcome back to the second part of the day's activities. This was followed by afternoon tea and refreshments with invited guests and the girls all given a treat bag. Ms. Trisha Coyle did the thanks and our President, Mrs. Ivy Ellick, did a closing speech. The event rounded off with a group photograph and ended at 4pm.

We would like to extend our deep sense of gratitude to Mr Johnny Isaac for sponsoring the transport; for this we are truly grateful, given that we are a self-funded charity. We would also like to convey our thanks to Cherry, Dave and Poppy for the loan of their kind hands during the venue preparation for this event. Last but by no means least, we would like to thank the members of our St Helena Girlguiding Association for attending, assisting and participating to make World Thinking Day 2025 another successful event.

forward in anticipation for the next year's big event when we will be celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day.



IN SCOPE: RECAPPED



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

In a different take on the In Scope program this week, Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, Minister Martin Henry (Minister for Health and Social Care) and Minister Jeffrey Ellick (Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs) had a conversation in the studio to give listeners a holistic overview of the reasoning behind the recent modified zero-based budget (with the added £16 million request) proposed to the visiting FAM team.

Over the past six weeks, each Minister had the opportunity to explain their Portfolio's contribution to the request submitted to the UK Government as pertaining to their respective service areas where the necessity for the additional funding was put into context with reference to operate their specific portfolios more efficiently and sustainably. The requested funding was not based on any new or additional services but is focussed on providing current services at a reasonable level to improve outcomes. The aim is to create an evidence-based baseline that will provide the necessary resources to operate the public service efficiently in 2025 and beyond.

The discussion focused on recapping why the Ministerial Government decided to request an additional £16.3 million pounds in addition to the current £34 million recurrent budget allocation. Discussion also touched on why these areas were deemed essential to address and also what will happen if the additional funds are not approved, impacting agendas, objectives and decisions.

Services within the public service sector have to be provided at a reasonable standard especially in areas where standards are a legal requirement as in law enforcement and health care. Maintaining the service level will require training and support in certain areas that will need additional funding outside of the recurrent budget. The reason for requesting the funds from the UKG has reference to the 2012 White Paper that stipulates the UK will assist Overseas Territories dependent on financial aid to enable these territories to provide services in compliance with reasonable needs. Another important factor to take into consideration is if services cannot be provided by suitably qualified staff at the required standard, the public service will be liable to litigation actions.

The Ministerial Team reasoned that the financial aid provided over the past years was not based on enabling the public service to provide services to a reasonable standard and a new baseline had to be set. In addition to the budget not keeping up with inflationary costs, there are also increasing pressure on St Helena and other OT's to comply with more international obligations and requirements in line with the UKG's policies.

From SHG's side, there are also initiatives that have been implemented to improve the service provision in co-operation with the UKG like the new immigration policy that aims to encourage population growth. Although there are many areas where funding is needed to improve the service provision, the requested budget focuses on critical areas. The case was made that, without adequate funding, services will deteriorate opening up SHG to more litigation actions, leading to an increase in expenses. It was stated that the reasoning is to invest now to save in the long run. The goal will always be to provide what is best for the community and the island across the entire service while also maintaining reasonable standards.

St Helena's needs are unique due to our remote location and infrastructure, limiting access to multiple service providers, creating challenges with regards to what is required of government here. If SHG was not involved in supporting big organisations like the bank, the energy provider, the hotel and other things, it would not be feasible to provide all of these services on island.

In light of growing unrest and other global challenges, if the UKG decides to only go with a flat line aid provision for St Helena in 2025/26, this would, in practice, constitute a decrease in financial aid when the high inflation rate is taken into consideration. A lot of services provided to the public is subsidised and, with limited funding, SHG might not be able to provide some subsidies and services. All Ministers reiterated that they are grateful for the aid that St Helena receives, but that the Ministerial Team has a responsibility to do their best to secure a settlement of aid that will support the island to grow. To improve services and attract external investment, funding will have to be obtained to ensure long-term sustainability. The key to future growth is putting a solid foundation in place.

The Ministerial Team also took some time to touch on the advantages that the BIOT agreement

will bring for the island when these funds get released in April. The £6.65 million will be used for critical needs in health, education and IT. The delivery of services depends on the people providing the service, the structures that are in place, as well as policies and processes. In the education portfolio, the funds allocated will go towards ensuring all schools have a full staff complement and improving the standard of education through training. In health, medical referrals and long-term prevention will be the priority and training and development of the immigration staff as well as access to border strengthening measurements will be the focus of SS&HA Portfolio. One of the big risk areas for St Helena with the improved internet connectivity is Cyber Security and this area will receive £1.5 million for improvements. All of the IT systems of the public service are connected and to ensure services are not disrupted, the island needs to secure itself against cyber attacks.

At present, the UKG is under a lot of strain due to unrest and an increase in their defence budget and, in the light of this, a decrease in overseas aid has been announced. This will likely have a negative impact on St Helena as well. If an increase in funding is not approved, St Helena is sure to face some difficult times. The island might have to withdraw from certain obligations and will have to reprioritise decisions and strategies. Cuts in funding and service provision will lead to a lot of pressure when making decisions. The cuts that will have to be made to services provided and subsidies will undoubtedly affect all in the community. St Helena is at a crossroads and everyone will have to put their energy and contribution in to work together for better outcomes in the future.

Supplementary funding was the final topic under discussion. The safe reserve fund threshold was determined at £5million. Currently, this fund stands at £4.4million and soon another supplementary funding of around £2million will be drawn from this fund due to litigation costs, causing these reserves to become dangerously low. This will imminently impact government operations if SHG has to go into roll-over budget again this year as has been the case for many years now. The Ministers all agreed that the only option for them would be to continue fighting for the best possible settlement.

Julie ended off the program by reading the changes that had been achieved during discussion of the declaration of the governments of the OTs and UKG at the recent JMC, ensuring a better outcome can be achieved for St Helena. As the declaration was originally structured, OT's dependent on financial aid would be obligated to reduce reliance on funding continuously without any commitment from the UK side to enable OT's to do this. This is the statement in the declaration as it was amended in accordance with suggestions from (amongst others) our representatives at the JMC: "The UK in collaboration with the British Overseas Territory Governments who are not financially self-sufficient will continue to prioritise financial support to enable the development of their economies in accordance with the UN Charter. British Overseas Territories in receipt of budgetary assistance are committed to reducing their reliance on UK aid where there are viable options through which to do so." The Ministers reiterated while they are still part of the Ministerial Government, they are committed to do their utmost to secure the best possible outcome for the benefit of St Helena's future.

Vacancy

General Assistant - Packaging

Since 1790

Salary for the post will be £5,304 per annum (£102 per week) – 21 hours per week (Mon, Wed, Fri)

Job Outline:

To carry out the general day to day duties related to the production and packaging of bakery products and an effective cleaning program of the equipment and facilities

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally possess knowledge and experience in food production, including Food & Hygiene and Health & Safety Awareness
- Have basic numeracy and literacy understanding
- Be able to carry out manual handling and repetitive tasks; have good time management, organisational skills and observational skills
- Be competent with operating production equipment as required
- Be able to undertake cash handling duties
- Be able to perform cleaning duties in accordance with operational requirements
- Be energetic and able to communicate and work well within a team
- Be committed to work unsocial hours and meet tight deadlines

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

Miss 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 Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by 17 **March 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 **Thursday, 20 March 2025.**

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

SECURITY SERVICES



Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking expressions of interest for a professional dedicated Security Service Provider to join the Bank. You will be responsible for maintaining a safe and secured environment for our staff and our Remote Banking locations.

For further information on requirements, please contact Mrs Karen Buckley, Customer Services Manager on telephone number 22390 or email csmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is **Friday, 07 March 2025** and should be submitted to Miss Merle Peters, Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

St Helena Government

1. **Application 2025/11:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Two CCTV's Camera's,** Post Office Building Back Yard, Jamestown on Parcel JT050024. Applicant: Post & Customer Services Centre

2. **Application 2025/12:** FULL Planning Application for **Permanent Siting of 20ft Container for Storage Purposes,** Cox's Battery on Parcel PB0044. Applicant: Garry Henry, Royal St Helena Police Service

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

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

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 20th March 2025

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

Since 1790

CUSTOMER NOTICE

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
would like to advise customers that the **Silver Hill Shop**
will be closed from Monday 10 March 2025 for an approximate period of three weeks
to allow essential renovation works to be undertaken.

Services will continue from the property, including:

- bread sales only on Monday 10 March; and
- a limited 'over-the-counter' service and bread (on 'bread days'),

from the Store Room, from Tuesday 11 March, until renovations are completed.

Orders for products that are normally sold at the Shop, but are not readily available due to the limited stock-holdings, can be made with Sales Assistants by 12noon on Wednesdays. These items will then be available on Thursdays*:

This remedial work will allow us to provide customers with an enhanced shopping experience and we thank you for your patience during the closure.

**subject to availability*

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 9th March 2025– 1st Sunday in Lent		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong/ Annual Vestry	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 9th March 2025 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St John
	Thursday 13th March	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 9th March 2025 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
3.30 p,m,	Eucharist	Barnabas, Levelwood
	Tuesday 11th March	
7.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer/Alpha	St Mark

St Helena Government

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR UK STATE (2026 NEW YEAR HONOURS) AND ST HELENA NATIONAL AWARDS

Nominations are now being invited for the following awards:

- 2026 New Year Honours
- Certificate and Badge of Honour
- Acts of Bravery Award
- Badge of St Helena
- Freedom of the City of Jamestown.

Information on the above awards can be found on the SHG website at https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/category/press-releases/.Alternatively, further information and nomination forms can be obtained from Central Support Service at the Castle, Jamestown, or by emailingInformation and Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin, at: linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed forms should be returned to the Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' addressed to 'The Secretary, Honours and Awards Committee', by Thursday, 17 April 2025.

To find out more about the different types of Honours Awards please visit: www.gov.uk/honours.

SHG, 24 February 2025



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 "Green" 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 8 March at 12 noon.

Prize - £20 per week

Two claims were made last week on the 64th N0.

The winners were Mrs Connie Johnson & Mr Aubrey George.

40	88	25	75	36	14	39	22	59	47
78	33	56	82	9	74	35	55	26	86
1	37	50	71	20	66	11	63	46	53
19	69	81	8	30	52	49	73	28	89
5	57	43	65	72	38	13	51	60	16
90	34	67	85	7	58	79	44	24	87
48	18	80	62	15	76	17	3	32	61



MARCH OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30

Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Wednesday, 26 March	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Friday, 28 March	09:30 – 14:00

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

info@sainthelenabank.com +290 22390

www.sainthelenabank.com Market Street, Jamestown

@sainthelenabank Bank of St Helena Ltd

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

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
9th March
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 11th March
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 13th March Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENT
Outreach Service
Sunday 16th March
Kingshurst 3.00 pm

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday 19th March
Baptist School Hall/J Town 10.00 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS – MARCH 2025

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

Please note the additional meeting at Kingshurst Community Centre. It is intended that the annual collective meeting with all 12 Elected Members will be held at a later date,once an outcome to the financial package of support for St Helena, put forward during the Financial Aid Mission, is known.

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

Date	Venue	Chairperson
Mon, 10th	Jamestown Community Centre	Cllr Brooks
Tue, 11th	Sandy Bay Community Centre	Cllr Turner
Tue, 11th	St Mary's Church, Briars	Cllr Essex
Wed, 12th	St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Cllr Brooks
Wed, 12th	Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	Cllr Coleman
Thu, 13th	Harford Community Centre	Cllr Knipe
Tue, 18th	Kingshurst Community Centre	Cllr Midwinter
Wed, 19th	Levelwood Community Centre	Cllr Thrower

Legislative Council, 04 March 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 share with you an update from our Nursery Teams at the EMD Endemic Nurseries following a recent eight-week Horticultural Support Visit from Marcella Corcoran from the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew.





The project utilises a mix of local dedicated teams with support and capacity-building provided by international experts from leading organisations. During this visit, Marcella's focus was on techniques to increase propagation of cloud forest plants, and building capacity among newer staff members at the nurseries.

With Marcella's support, the teams set up propagation trials using both seeds and cuttings. While seed propagation was prioritised, it was equally important to build skills in using cutting materials, particularly in cases where seed collection was limited or unavailable. Both seed and cutting trials included a number of tests used to better understand which methods were more effective, through the use of different growing medias, sowing methods, container types, water regimes and shade levels.



The team established monitoring sheets for each trial and a routine for documenting all nursery activities in a central record book, emphasising the importance of detailed record-keeping in providing a comprehensive record for future work.

Marcella commented that she was inspired by the enthusiasm of the teams who were evidently keen to develop innovative ways to monitor and grow plants, adding that this passion for the project is reassuring, knowing that the future of the Cloud Forest is in such committed hands.

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

St Helena Government

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NON–EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

St Helena Government invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from interested persons to undertake the role of **Non-Executive Director** on the Boards of State-Owned Entities (SOEs) and entities in which the St Helena Government has an equity interest.

Representing the St Helena Government as a Non-Executive Director on the boards of its State-OwnedEntities, you will strengthen links between entity strategy and government policy and provide financial leadership equivalent to that of Finance Director. You will be required to collaborate to facilitate an environment conducive to delivering growth, economic development and reform, maintaining effective lines of communication and monitoring arrangements. Helping to manage relationships with key stakeholders, you will work closely with Ministers and Senior Government Officials to articulate the direction of travel for the portfolio in delivering SHG policy.

In this role you will help drive improved performance and collaboration across the economic group, scrutinise and challenge spending and planning initiatives, manage externally commissioned consulting inputs,and implement recommendations designed to strengthen corporate governance and accountability between SHG and its SOEs.

As the SHG appointed Non-Executive Director, you would be expected to represent SHG on the following Boards: Bank of St Helena Ltd; Connect St Helena Ltd; St Helena Hotel Development Ltd; St Helena Airport Ltd and Solomon & Company (St Helena) PLC.

To provide the capacity required to help drive improvements in governance and performance across the SOEs this will be a full-time role although consideration may also be given to part-time and remote working options. However, the post holder will be required to be flexible and be able to respond to demand and work requirements. The role will include contribution to the SOE transformation agenda in addition to routine attendance at Board meetings, preparation time and reporting to Ministers and Officials.

You will have had to have held a similar role for a number of years and be a CIMA/ACCA or CCAB qualified accountant or equivalent with current membership and up to date CPD record. Experienced at board level in key industries such as utilities, banking, hospitality, insurance or retail would be an advantage. With a background in Public Sector organisations and being politically astute, your excellent interpersonal skills include listeningand negotiating and an ability to present detailed information in an informative and influential manner.

Further information about the duties of the post and a copy of the terms of reference, interested persons should contact:
Phil Sharman, SOE Non-Executive Director by email: phil.sharman@shg.gov.sh or by visiting the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies.
Applications by CV and covering letter should be submitted by e-mail to recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than **4pm on Friday, 21st March 2025**

Vacancy

Special Orders Clerk

Since 1790

Salary for the post will be £10,184 per annum (£848 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Procurement Department for a Special Orders Clerk.

As the Special Orders Clerk you provide primary support to the Special Orders and Procurement Department whilst ensuring a high level of customer service at all times.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent
- Be computer literate namely in Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word and able to undertake online research
- Possess experience in basic administration
- Possess experience in Cash Handling
- Possess experience of working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- Have excellent communication skills and ability to use own initiative
- Be well-organised with a keen eye for detail
- Have the ability to multi-task and work to deadlines whilst demonstrating a high degree of accuracy
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be available to work Saturdays

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

Julie Lawrence, Procurement Manager via 22207 procurementmanager@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 **13 March 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

Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week

St Helena Island

Date: Sunday, 9 March 2025
Start Time: 08:00
Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain, Foxy's Garage, Longwood
Duration: approx 5 hours

THE BARN

Walk grade: Strenuous | 9 - 10

Walking enthusiast, Andre Bak will lead on one of the most challenging Post Box Walks. This is a demanding walk with steep slopes and loose gravel to traverse but with impressive geological features, ending at the Haystack on the top of the Barn offering great ocean views and a unique view of the Airport.

There are narrow sections (at a height) and cliff side walking. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water.

Date	Upcoming Walks
Saturday, 15th March 2025	Manati Bay
Saturday, 22nd March 2025	Great Stone Top
Saturday, 29th March 2025	Lemon Valley

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

Vacancy

Travel Agent

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £10,446 per annum (£870 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Shipping & Travel Department for a Travel Agent.

As the Travel Agent, you will be responsible for passengers travel arrangements.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English or equivalent and possess competency in IT
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent frontline customer service skills
- Possess excellent organisation, interpersonal & communication skills
- Be highly analytical with a high degree of attention to detail
- Possess cash-handling experience
- Possess experience with performing general administrative duties
- Demonstrate commitment to continuous professional development and be willing to undertake further training, including training offshore as required
- Have the ability to multitask, organise workload and meet tight deadlines in a fast-paced environment
- Be target driven and committed to service excellence
- Be able to work independently and use own initiative to problem solve
- Be willing to work outside of normal working hours as required.

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

Anthea Joshua, Assistant Shipping & Travel Manager via 22523 asstshipping-travelmanager@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 **Thursday, 20 March 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 ADVERT

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit person for the following post: **Human Resources Officer (6-months Fixed-Term)**.

We are seeking a detail-oriented, thorough, and organized individual to provide first line support to a range of HR activities at St Helena Airport Limited (SHAL), including recruitment, learning and development, and performance monitoring and management..

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- Relevant qualification in People Management (NVQ-3) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- At least two years previous experience in a similar role.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to lead difficult conversations.
- Familiarity with HR and Payroll software.

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

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

The salary for this post is **£14,098.43** per annum (pro-rata), plus a transport allowance of **£1,020** per annum (pro-rata).

For more information and if you would like to receive an application form, please contact Wendy Roberts, on email recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 ext 175.

The closing date for this position is **Friday 21 March 2025.**

FIREFIGHTER ADVERT

JOB VACANCY WITHIN THE ST HELENA AIRPORT

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit an experienced professional in firefighting/aircraft ground handling.

The successful applicant will be a member of the Rescue and Fire Fighting Service and will be trained in the use of Aircraft Ground Service Equipment to support aircraft turnarounds at St Helena Airport. Applicants will be expected to work at height and achieve a rope rescue certification of Level 2 or higher within the first year of employment.

Other duties will include Environmental Officer support tasks such as:

- Wildlife monitoring
- Maintenance of the Airport precinct gardens
- Inspections of Airport buildings and surrounding areas
- Inspection and maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Other duties will include maintenance tasks such as:

- Corrosion control of various machinery and buildings

Applicants must be of a professional manner and achieve the following:

- A full medical assessment
- Pass a narcotic and Alcohol test
- Pass a fitness assessment and agility test
- A clean driving license (J4)
- Able to pass a Criminal Background Check and Employment verification Check in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.

All applicants will be viewed with preferred experiences and certifications in the following:

- Experience within a firefighting service
- Experience within an airport environment
- Fire fighter 1 and 2 or equivalent
- Driver/pump operator.

The aviation environment is primarily driven by safety; as such, applicants must be:

- Safety conscious
- Willing to undergo and actively participate in continual training
- Able to work as part of a team and support their colleagues
- Have a professional and level-headed demeanour.

The starting salary for this post is between **£15,160,36** and **£15,726.48** per annum, depending on qualifications and experience plus a transport allowance of £1,020 per annum and a 12.5% company pension contribution.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and skills to suit this role, or you would like more information, you can contact Marc Fowler, RFFS Manager on email marc.fowler@sthelenaairport.aero or Telephone number 25180 Ext 135 or to receive the job description and application form please contact Wendy Roberts at the St Helena Airport on Telephone number 25180 Ext 175 or email address recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero

The closing date for this position is **Friday 21 March 2025.**

NOTICE BOARD

AFTERNOON FUN GAMES

Teams of 6
(£6. Team)

Prizes To Be Won!!

Tuck Shop Available

Team Entries before
10th March 2025
to Gareth Drabble
gareth.g.drabble@outlook.com

Saturday 22nd March 2025
@
PRINCE ANDREW SCHOOL



Badminton @4pm



Football (5 a side) @3pm

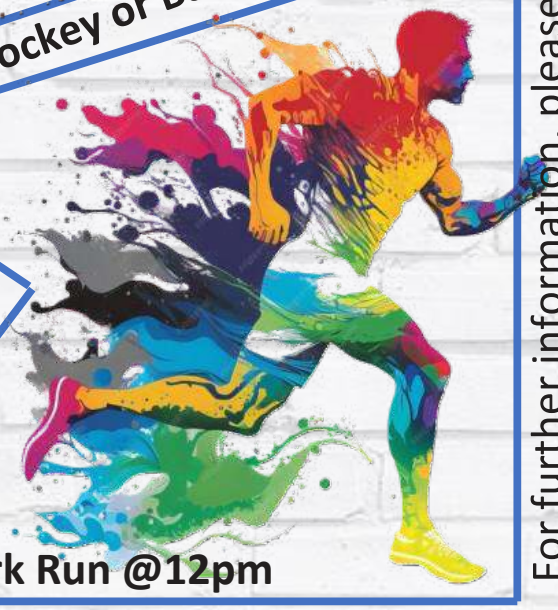


Unihockey or Basketball @2pm

Students, Parents & Guardians are all welcome



Volleyball @1pm



3K Park Run @12pm

For further information, please contact: Ed Oyewo on 64100 or via profjdislander@gmail.com

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

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CHAIRPERSON OF THE IMMIGRATION CONTROL BOARD

The position of Chairperson of the Immigration Control Board will become available from 13 March 2025.

The Immigration Ordinance 2011 provides for an Immigration Control Board with the Chairperson of the Board being appointed by the Governor. The role of the Board is to exercise and perform powers and functions conferred upon it by the Immigration Control Ordinance, 2011. This includes processing applications for long term entry permits, work permits, immigrant employment certificates and immigrant landholding licences.

The Ordinance requires that the Chairperson of the Immigration Control Board must have St Helenian Status. Justices of the Peace, Immigration Officers, and members of the Legislative Council are not eligible for appointment to the Board.

The successful candidatewill receive an annual retainer fee of £1,200, paid quarterly in arrears, as well as a mileage allowance of 77p per mile for any mileage incurred using personal vehicles in connection with attendance at Board meetings, which are generally held once per month.

In addition, theywill also receive a monthly payment of £6.65 towards internet costs.

For further information about the duties of Chairperson of the Immigration Board, interested persons may contact current Chairman of the Immigration Control Board,Merlin George, by telephone on 24913 or via email atGEORGES.MH@helanta.co.sh.

The relevant form - 'Expression of Interest – Chair Immigration Control Board' canbe obtained from Information and Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin, at The Castle by telephone on 22470, via email at linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.shor on the SHG website at https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/EOI-Form-Chairperson-Immigration-Control-Board.doc.

Completed forms should be returned to Mrs Kerry Lane, email Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.ukin the Governor's Office by Friday, 14 March 2025.

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

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

28 February 2025

NOTICE BOARD

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

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MEMBER OF THE ST HELENA MEDIA COMMISSION

His Excellency the Governor intends to appoint a member to the St Helena Media Commission.

This position is not open to members of the Legislative Council or the Public Service.

The duties of the St Helena Media Commission are to:

- Issue Codes of Practice to the media.
- Monitor compliance with the Codes.
- Investigate and adjudicate upon alleged or suspected breaches of the Codes.

The Media Commission comprises the Chief Magistrate as President of the Commission and at least two other members. The Commission plays an important role in the community as it must ensure that the press conduct themselves in accordance with the rules that are necessary to protect individuals, while at the same time ensuring that freedom of the press is maintained.

The remuneration for this position is £35 per meeting and mileage is paid at 77p a mile.

If you think you have the necessary skills and would like to apply for the role, contact Information and Research Support Officer, Linda Benjamin for the relevant Expression of Interest (EOI) form, by telephone on 22470, or via email atlinda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Alternatively, the EOI form can be downloaded from the SHG website at: https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/EOI-Form-Member-St-Helena-Media-Commission.doc.

Please send your completed EOI to Kerry Lane, Manager of the Governor's Office, via email at Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.uk by Wednesday, 26March 2025.

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

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

03 March 2025

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

IT Development & Support Officer

(£14,120 Per Annum)

An exciting and rewarding opportunity is available within Central Support Services for an IT Development Support Officer to provide day to day technical support to Portfolios across the Public Service. If you have an interest in designing, installing and maintaining IT Networks and systems and have the ability to analyse network related problems then our IT section has an opportunity for you to join their team. Successful candidates might be required to commence at the training grade if all prerequisites aren't met.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **David George on Tel No 22819 or Email david.george@sainthelena.gov.sh**

Closing date: **12 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.

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

NOTICE BOARD

Celebrating International Women's Day on St Helena.

Each year, on March 8th, we on our remote island of St Helena join the global community in celebrating International Women's Day (IWD). This island may be small, but it boasts a rich history and a vibrant community. International Women's Day is a time to recognise the contributions, achievements, and challenges faced by women on the island, and to reflect on the progress made toward gender equality.

This year the theme for International Women's Day 2025 is **"For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."** This theme calls for action to unlock equal rights, power, and opportunities for all, and aims for a feminist future where no one is left behind. As part of this theme, we must "**Accelerate Action"**, focusing on speeding up women's equality.

St Helena has a long-standing history of strong women who have played significant roles in the island's development. From early settlers to contemporary leaders, women have been at the forefront of shaping the island's cultural, social, and economic landscape. Many women have taken on leadership roles within the community, whether in education, healthcare, or government. Their contributions have been instrumental in driving positive change and fostering a sense of community resilience.

While St Helena has made significant strides in promoting gender equality, challenges remain. However, the resilience and determination of St Helena's women continue to drive efforts to address these challenges. Local Charities and government agencies run by women, work tirelessly to create programs and initiatives that support women's empowerment and well-being.

Embracing Equity,resonates deeply with the community on St Helena. As the island looks to the future, there is a growing commitment to ensuring that women and girls have equal access to opportunities and resources. This vision for the future is guided by the principles of inclusivity, respect, and collaboration.

International Women's Day on St Helena is a testament to the strength, resilience, and progress of women on the island. As the world continues to evolve, the women of St Helena must remain steadfast in their pursuit of a more equitable and inclusive society, inspiring others with their courage and determination.

Through community engagement, education, and empowerment, the women of St Helena continue to shape a brighter future for themselves and generations to come. It is important that women and girls have their voices heard.

Women's Day is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the invaluable contributions and achievements of women around the world. On the beautiful island of St Helena, we have our own unique ways to recognise and honour the incredible women in our community. Let us as a community show our appreciation to them by performing an act of kindness, you might want to write a simple heartfelt letter of thanks or offer to help with a task or just spend some quality time together can make a significant impact and show you care. When we show our appreciation and gratitude to someone it can strengthen bonds and create a positive atmosphere.

As we celebrate International Women's Day 2025, let us remember that our actions and words can make a difference. Together, we can build a more inclusive, equitable, and empowering community for all women and girls.

Every woman has a story to tell and if you feel you are not being listened to then please get in touch with us at:

The Equality and Human Rights Office
Coles House
Napoleon Street
or on telephone number 22133 or email info@humanrightssthelena.org.

Thank you for being a part of this important journey. Let's celebrate, inspire, and uplift each other today and every day.

Happy International Women's Day!

With gratitude and admiration,

The Equality & Human Rights Commission.

The Equality & Human Rights Commission

are pleased to announce that their proposed strategic plan 2025/2028 is out for public consultation.

Please contact info@humanrightssthelena.org for an email copy. Go to sthelenaehrc.org to read online

or you can collect a hard copy from the EHRC at Cole's House, Napoleon Street during office hours

We would love to hear your views.

SPORTS ARENA

Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

Last Thursday's pistol shooting was another warm exciting practice session; it's encouraging to see newcomers giving it a go for the first time, trying their very best to focus in getting their stance, position, pistol grip hold, aiming and positioning themselves in a comfortable stance before taking the shot is extremely important and it's good to see these controls. Elizabeth Piek is one of those rifle shooting ladies who understands these valuable techniques that's required in shooting; she gave us a good performance. Emma-Lee, Kyle and Elli can also execute lively shots as usual and finds this sport thrilling and exciting. Well done jet-lag Elli, such good performance from you guys.

This week, fifteen people turned up at the club; thirteen came to have a practice shoot and to ease some stress from their days work, it's really good to see numbers increasing for our shooting activities, we are hoping to have a competition with a curry and rice meal pretty soon, therefore the more people we get the more interesting competitiveness the competition will bring.

New to this was Kirsty who wanted to have a go and see what it's like, she shot 88.1; this was a good performance delivered from her. Jordana was back this week to have a shoot and help with recording the nights shooting data, she shot 92.3 & 93.2, hopefully next week we will be able to change her jacket and make some adjustment set-ups. Derek Burke is back with us, he settled in comfortably and shot 93.4 & 95.4, Elli also settled well and shot 85.3 & 99.4, Daniel made all his shots count, he finished with 93 & 94.2, Simon D had a few strays and settled for 95.3 & 96.1, Doug enjoyed his last session with us before leaving this weekend and was over the moon with 99.3 & 100; well deserved. Myla came back to give it another go, she shot 80, Elizabeth made improvement with 93.1, noisy Ryan were happy with his 87 and Rexy shot 91 with his Martini. We welcomed Laura and Keith Buckley, they wanted to see the club and understand what we do, they both shoot, Laura shot 84.2 & 85, Keith, who has a 7.62 shooting under his belt, shot 89 & 91.2.

Well done everyone, thanks for making the nights shooting exciting and enjoyable. Until we meet again next week, take care and have a lovely weekend.

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

PAY YOUR BILLS WITH ONLINE BANKING

There are many ways to pay your bills, making life more convenient.

With just a few clicks you can pay your bills via bank transfer through Online Banking.

IMPORTANT: When paying your bills this way, please remember to include your Customer Reference in the 'Credit Narrative'.

This helps us quickly identify your payment and ensures that your account is credited accurately and promptly.

4 March 2025

Golf Report



SHGC, Contributed

Last Sunday, the Medalford Competition took place with a total of 13 players participating. This unique format involved playing the first nine holes under medal play rules, where each stroke is counted, and the second nine holes played as Stableford, where points are awarded based on the number of strokes taken relative to par.

The greens were reported to be very fast, which typically presents a challenge for golfers. However, despite these conditions, players managed to achieve commendable scores throughout the competition.

Two players emerged with identical scores of 17 points: Douglas Augustus and Peter Bagley. In accordance with the rules of count back used in Stableford competitions, Peter Bagley was declared the winner due to having a better score on the last nine holes compared to Douglas Augustus, who had to settle for second place.

Arthur Young finished in third place with a score of 18 points. Notably, there were no "2's" (which refers to scoring two strokes on a hole) recorded during this event. Consequently, all balls were returned to the players at the conclusion of the competition.

Looking ahead, there is an upcoming event scheduled for March 9th: the Monthly Stableford competition. Players interested in participating are encouraged to register their names in the usual manner.





SPORTS ARENA

HTH on Top!

Half Tree Hollow take top spot in District Tournament after jam-packed weekend of local cricket



Luke Bennett, SAMS

Six matches were played on the weekend kicking off this year's T20 District Tournament.

The first game on Saturday morning saw Jamestown defeat Longwood. Jamestown batted first and a 91 from Scott Crowie would help his team to a total of 182. David Young posted an 83 to keep Longwood on target for the total, but the Jamestown bowling attack proved too much leaving them to win by 18 runs.

The second game on Saturday saw Half Tree Hollow defeat St Pauls after bowling St Pauls out for 111. A dominant batting display would see Half Tree Hollow reach the total within just eight overs.

Levelwood defeated Sandy Bay in final game on Saturday after an all-round batting performance would see them post a total of 164. Three wickets for fifteen runs from David Francis would help Levelwood dismiss Sandy Bay for 120 runs.

The first game on Sunday saw Half Tree Hollow face up against Jamestown. Jamestown batted first but a brilliant bowling display from Half Tree Hollow's Barry Stroud, who bagged a four wicket haul, would help his team dismiss the opposition for 93. Although losing three wickets, Half Tree Hollow would reach the total in ten overs to secure a second victory of the tournament.

The second game on Sunday would see Sandy Bay collect their first points of the tournament when they defeated St Pauls. St Pauls elected to bat and produced a total of 131 after 20 overs. A dominant batting display from Sandy Bay's opening batsmen would see them reach the total within 16 overs.

The final game of the weekend saw Levelwood face off against Longwood. Longwood batted first and a 49 from Joey Tomas would help them post a total of 135. A solid batting performance from Levelwood saw them reach the total in 13 overs, giving them the win and ending an exciting weekend of cricket.

As it stands, after the first weekend, Half Tree Hollow sit top with two wins from two, but only because of a better net run rate currently than defending District Champions, Levelwood, who also boasts two wins from two in their opening matches.



T20 District Fixtures

Saturday 8th March
08:00
Jamestown v Levelwood
Umpires: Ralph Knipe and Dax Richards

Sunday 9th March
09:30
St Pauls v Longwood
Umpires: Dane Leo and Clayton Leo
13:30
Umpires: HTH v Sandy Bay
Delroy Leo and Perry Leo