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SENTINEL

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"The report tells you what the author wants you to know. What it doesn't tell you is all the facts and the context behind a lot of the issues"



Minister Ellick calls for immediate debate of Fisheries Audit during Formal LegCo Meeting to "raise concerns" and share "real facts"

Full coverage inside



A beautiful day with the
MV Bolette

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Ability or Qualification? Is this something that we should be considering? Now I'm not saying not to focus on qualifications by any means, but is it a possibility that someone without qualifications can do as good of a job as someone with qualifications? In most cases, jobs require a CV to allow the employer to analyse if the person would be able to fit the job, which will give them reassurance and there can be no bias situations. But, there are cases of people doing great jobs without high level certificates etc. for instance, in some cases a certain subject or field can be easily comprehended by the individual but when it comes down to the exams they blank out or their ability won't allow them to think clearly during exam time.

I know what you're thinking, if they can't handle high pressure situations like exams, how can they handle it in the workplace? Well, maybe teachers or psychologists will be able to give you an official answer because they work with different minds every day.

But I knew a guy in the fire academy who suffered from dyslexia, ADD and probably a few more, the poor guy could not concentrate in class, although he really wanted to. But, he looked a totally different person out of class, especially in the drills where you had to go into a burning building; there isn't much more high pressure situations than that. He could take you through pressure measurements, hydraulic systems, and situational awareness, first aid; the works. Unfortunately, he didn't pass, but because the instructors recognised his ability they worked with him and helped him to eventually pass the exam that would allow him to be a volunteer fire fighter and I believe he is still one today.

I know quite a few people actually who have similar stories to this. The apprenticeship scheme helps with these situations I guess and I believe practical's are also there in interviews, and I do feel that teachers can pick up on this, but can we do more to find these hidden gems?

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

Dear Editor,

In changing the name of Prince Andrew School, it should be noted that the official name for the school is Prince Andrew Community School. The community school was the third tier of a middle school community model system. It was the result of a revision and upgrade of the Education Service in the 1980s, building on past standards and achievements as an evolving, developing educational process. The community school system was adapted and designed to meet local circumstances and draw on strengths within the island community, as well as maximising available resources. In addition, the community school reinforced the culture of the island.

This is now an opportunity for the school to carry the name of an Islander.

I would like to propose the school be named after the late Lieutenant Commander William Rofe RN, an islander and former pupil of the Secondary Selective School who represents core aspects of island culture of being resourceful, resilient and resolute. He left the island in his teens for the UK and joined the Royal Navy at the lower ranks in 1955. After a distinguished career he retired in 1984 as a Lieutenant Commander having taught himself several different languages. He died in 1999 and his ashes are interred at the military section of St Paul's Cathedral in St Helena. Lieutenant Commander Rofe represents an important part of our maritime history which also includes islanders serving in the British Armed Forces, and experiencing active service.

It is therefore recommended that the school is named after Islander, the late Lieutenant Commander William Rofe RN and called Rofe Community School (RSC).

Basil George
Islander



"The magic porridge pot!"

Concerns of Castle Gardens roads raised in Formal LegCo as financial constraints again come to light as a barrier to certain infrastructure improvements



Demy Herne, SAMS

During the recent Formal LegCo Meeting, a question was posed by Councilor Ronald Coleman, who asked the Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, Jeffery Ellick, about the ownership and maintenance responsibility of the Castle Gardens, specifically regarding the safety of its roads.

"Will the Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs tell this Council who owns the Castle Gardens and what portfolio is responsible for its maintenance, especially the roads network, to ensure that they are safe for pedestrians?"

In response, Minister Ellick clarified that the Castle Gardens is owned by SHG and the estate is managed by ENRP. In terms of the road within the Castle Gardens, it was ascertained that this is not an adopted road by SHG, which is something the Minister stated that Cllr Coleman should be "well aware of" considering it has been stated so through a number of forums which the Cllr has access to, including recent meetings and media items and articles. Similarly, the Minister pointed out that the Roads Section budget is something that Cllr Coleman is familiar with, as he was part of the group that approved it.

Moving on, the Minister explained how, because the Castle Gardens road is not an adopted road, there are limitations on what can be done due to budget constraints. "We cannot adopt all roads; you can only do what you can afford," he explained, referencing the financial realities that shape the government's road maintenance policy.

He further emphasised that SHG is responsible for all roads but can only address those that the budget allows. "If we should get more money and we can do other roads, we'd be happy to adopt them, but we can't do it without money," he asserted.

Minister Ellick continued with a more colourful statement, adding, "I do believe that my friend should align himself with reality, as I get the impression he is in a fairytale world where there is a pot of money that has the same effect as the magic porridge pot!"

Cllr Coleman pressed on regardless, questioning the role of road safety inspections, particularly for non-adopted roads. The Minister responded, reiterating that while SHG is responsible for the roads, the inspection and maintenance of non-adopted roads are not prioritised due to resource limitations. He noted that a roads inspector carries out necessary works, but the scope of work is limited by the available budget.

The discussion then turned to safety concerns raised by Councilor Karl Thrower, who asked whether it would be possible to use the anticipated £500,000 tourism budget to address the issues at the Castle Gardens, specifically highlighting the trip hazards posed by protruding roots along the footpath. He raised the question of liability, asking, "So who is responsible if somebody trips in there and we get sued for a lot more than it will cost to get fixed?"

Minister Ellick acknowledged that SHG would be responsible in such an event but reiterated that the government continues to struggle with funding. "We put in a bit to the UK Government for our reasonable needs," Jeffery explained, referring to the challenges faced in securing adequate funding for infrastructure needs. He also touched upon various initiatives being explored to draw down pipeline funding, which could help address some of these issues.

Cllr Thrower then proposed applying for an EDIP (Economic Development Investment Programme) Micro-Projects grant to help cover the costs of road repairs. The Minister confirmed that they had already submitted applications for micro-projects in the past, although not all had been successful.

The discussion highlighted the ongoing challenges that local authorities face in maintaining infrastructure within financial constraints. While the government is exploring various funding options, the future of the Castle Garden's road maintenance remains uncertain as officials work to balance safety concerns with available resources.



"It seems clear that there is room for a deal"

Audit St Helena publishes Performance Audit Report on Fishing Operations Agreement between SHG, PQTSH and STC – pinpointing issues and delays while providing hope that a successful outcome remains possible

Liam Yon, SAMS

Audit St Helena recently published its Performance Audit Report on the Fishing Operations Agreement between St Helena Government (SHG), PQ Trading St Helena Ltd (PQTSH) and Saints Tuna Corporation (STC), as they detail the failings that has led to the current state of the commercial fishing industry on St Helena, while recognising that "there is room for a deal" in order to realise the "primary objective" of the Fishing Operations Agreement, which is the "development of a program for the establishment of a sustainable, economically viable and self-supporting fishing industry" for St Helena.

In their report summary, Audit recognise how "St Helena's fishing industry has been plagued with problems throughout much of its history" which caused the former St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC) to "rely on subsidies from SHG" in order to sustain operations and its service to local fisherman. "As the magnitude of those subsidies grew over the years, Executive Council decided in December 2019 to close SHFC until a long-term solution could be found," detail Audit in their report.

They go on to explain how "in February 2020, SHG announced that a preferred investor had been identified – PQTSH – which led to the signing of a lease agreement for the Fish Processing Plant and a separate Agreement relating to the Establishment of Fishing Operations in St Helena (Fishing Operations Agreement) in April 2021." Soon after, SHG and PQTSH partnered in a joint venture, establishing a local legal entity called Saints Tuna Corporation.

Four years on and in order to "determine whether SHG has unlocked the full economic benefit of its investment in the fish processing facility," a performance audit was commissioned by the Chief Auditor with the focus being on the Fishing Operations Agreement; identified as "the vehicle through which the return on investment in the facility upgrade would be realised."

As detailed, the primary purpose of the audit was to determine if the agreement met its stated targets and whether the investment from the agreements partners added value to the fishing industry.

When sharing findings on their evaluation of the Fishing Operations Agreement's performance, Audit focused on the contributions made through the fishing operations joint venture, as well as the responsibilities of both SHG and STC.

"On behalf of the local fishermen, SHG invested a total of £500k to refurbish the Fish Processing Plant for use by STC," they stated, noting how SHG retains ownership of the plant and its capital equipment. "PQTSH has contributed total assets worth approximately £341k," they continued. "This includes the recent purchase of a £216.5k fishing vessel (the St Albatros) that PQTSH brought to St Helena in February 2025."

Audit did make mention of the attempts of PQTSH "on multiple occasions" to procure a vessel for the purposes of the venture through a charter arrangement. "This failed for various reasons, including the requirement for PQTSH to register its vessel(s) in St Helena that SHG interprets as incorporated in the Fishing Operations Agreement by reference from an earlier Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)," they explain.

When looking at SHG's responsibilities, it was found that no Exploratory Licence had yet been issued





to either PQTSH or STC, attributing this to neither entity having applied for one by the end of February 2025. It was also noted how access to fisheries "can be granted only after scientific studies have been performed by STC under an exploratory licence."

In terms of a Commercial Fishing Licence, it was recognised that STC would need a licensed vessel – with the St Albatros only recently arriving – however it was ascertained that "fishing quota has been allocated for offshore fishing."

Audit also detailed how "no foreign fishing vessels have been given fishing licences due to STC's exclusive rights" while it was also found that "no scientific work has been undertaken because STC has not had an offshore fishing vessel in St Helena until very recently."

With regards to STC's responsibilities to purchase fish from, and sell ice to, non-members, it was identified how the latter "is occurring" while, despite the opportunity for STC to purchase fish from all local fishermen being made available "through the STC Operational Policy issued in August 2022," it was noted how "non-members have been generally unwilling to offer their fish for purchase." Regardless, both of these contractual requirements are being met according to the report.

In Audit's report summary, "other matters for consideration" included "ambiguity in the Fishing Operations Agreement and an incomplete termination clause," while they also emphasised that "key infrastructure in the form of a culvert near the Fish Processing Plant is currently not fit for purpose, which is preventing STC from exporting fish to foreign markets and thus threatening the viability of the joint venture between SHG and PQTSH."

Within the 2020 MOU, and again in the 2021 Fishing Operations Agreement, it was clearly stated that 'if either party has any issues, concerns or complaints about the Project, or any matter in this agreement, that party shall notify the other party and the parties shall then seek to resolve the issue by a process of consultation.'

With that said, it was detailed how, in November 2023, SHG informed STC that a culvert located at the back of the Fish Processing Plant, critical for the movement of frozen fish containers for export, had been deemed unfit for the reach stacker to drive over, due to weight limitations. "Practically speaking, no exportation of containerised fish can be undertaken until this problem has been resolved," explain Audit. "According to STC, the inability to collect and process fish for export has already resulted in fewer fishermen bringing their catch to STC and fewer local workers employed at the plant."

Audit go on to reveal how they reviewed correspondence which show that, after informing SHG that the culvert issue was "extremely important to resolve," an STC director requested a meeting with Ministers and SHG officers to find a way forward in an email in December 2023 and in a series of further emails over the following months. "This request was consistent with the provision for consultation within a reasonable timeframe to resolve disputes as included in both the MOU and the Fishing Operations Agreement," found Audit. "However, this meeting was not held until 17 September 2024 and no escalation to independent representatives (the next step after consultation) took place." Other correspondence "indicated that SHG would make no improvement to the culvert until STC procured a fishing vessel and registered it in St Helena."

As summarised by Audit, "despite the agreement's requirement for timely resolution via consultation, followed by escalation to independent representatives, this has not occurred and the issue remains unresolved after 16 months."

Moving on, and "looking at recent events," Audit suggests that "PQTSH's years-long struggle to establish a fit for purpose commercial fishing vessel in St Helena has reached its end, with the St Albatros now moored in the Jamestown harbour." They do recognise that, "as SHG's partner in the co-operative, PQTSH may have overpromised in its Investor Proposal that envisioned bringing three ships to the island," though recognised that "it is also true that conditions changed with respect to total allowable catch and other financial considerations."

In their report, Audit commended Executive Council for issuing a letter in March 2024 "informing a director of PQTSH/STC that he had until the end of November 2024 to procure a vessel, as that may have provided the necessary impetus for PQTSH to decide that purchasing a ship was in its best interests." They add that, in addition, ExCo "notified the same PQTSH/STC director that the Bluefin was suitable to fish in St Helena, subject to conditions, which demonstrates an openness to progressing the Fishing Operations Agreement."

With that said, Audit was clear that, "on other matters, SHG has been less flexible, notably with respect to the requirement for PQTSH to register its vessel(s) locally before fishing licences can be issued and its refusal to address the problem with the Rupert's culvert."

Audit concluded their report summary with a forward looking opinion. "With the arrival of the St Albatros, the partnership is now poised at perhaps its most important point since the Fishing Operations Agreement was signed," they state. "It seems clear that there is room for a deal – that is, the agreement can be progressed toward its original goal of a functioning industry if that is what both partners want. There are wider issues to consider as well, including St Helena's international reputation as a place to do business."

"If there is a will for the Fishing Operations Agreement to succeed, PQTSH must continue to demonstrate financial commitment to STC and SHG must demonstrate that it is willing and able to fully back the endeavour," they continued. "As we stated in our recent report about SHG's failed attempt to connect fibre optic cable for broadband service to homes and businesses across the island:

'More broadly, once SHG selects its preferred approach, it must do everything possible to ensure the project's success... When unexpected challenges occur, the bias should be towards finding a mutually acceptable solution rather than adhering to the original contract without amendment. Finally, SHG must commit to wielding its significant powers to clear obstacles in a manner befitting a national government engaged in building critical infrastructure.'

We conclude that the same is true for the future of the Fishing Operations Agreement."

The full Audit Report on the Fishing Operations Agreement is available to read via https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Sessional-Paper-21.pdf.



"The report tells you what the author wants you to know. What it doesn't tell you is all the facts and the context behind a lot of the issues"



Minister Ellick calls for immediate debate of Fisheries Audit during Formal LegCo Meeting to "raise concerns" and share "real facts"

Liam Yon, SAMS

At the last Formal Meeting of Legislative Council, Minister Brooks presented the Audit St Helena Performance Audit: Fishing Operations Agreement, March 2025, which was ordered to lie on the table. Following this, Minister Ellick rose with a Motion that this Sessional Paper be "open for debate immediately under Order 11, Rule 1b of Standing Orders" due to the Minister's "concerns about this paper." The Motion was put to the House, with the majority, not all, voting in favour of the debate. Here is a summary of what was said by the Mover (Minister Ellick) and those responding to the debate.

Minister Ellick

As the Mover, Minister Ellick recognised that he could not change the Audit Report, but felt it necessary to raise his concerns and, in his words, "ensure that the facts are out there for the public," adding that, "the report will try and insinuate that this Government, Ministers, were a main component in frustrating the fishing venture," but that he would like to share "what is not included in the report that gives context and real facts."

According to the Minister, since 2016 there have not been any regulations in place for the registering of local vessels under the Port Ordinance and there is a lack of regulations in the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 2021. He adds that there was an MOU between MCA and SHG, where SHG, through the Attorney General's Office, received funding to develop regulations of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, before asserting that "this was not done."

"When this Government was appointed, the Public Service did not brief this Government on such matters," he continued. "It was Ministers who identified these matters and are now addressing them. It appears to me that when things go wrong, the first people to blame are Ministers. No one else wants to accept responsibility."

Speaking on the report's statement that 'PQTSH made another attempt to procure a vessel in June 2023 with the MFV Extractor', Minister Ellick shared that "SHG had no knowledge" of this. The report states that an evaluation of the MFV Extractor 'was stopped by the responsible Minister before it began' though Minister Ellick adds that "what it doesn't say is that officers were acting without lawful authority as there was no provision in the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, and regulations were required."

He told how the relevant Minister informed their Portfolio Director that, "had the checklist been issued and something adverse happened to the vessel and the crew, SHG could be liable." Continuing on, he revealed how the Portfolio Director informed the Minister that the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) with the Maritime Authority agreed for the issuing of the checklist. "Upon checking with MCA, they confirmed that they had not agreed for a checklist to be issued," he then stated. "It was clear that the action taken by the Minister was, in fact, the correct action and actions by officers were incorrect," asserted

Minister Ellick. "Audit could have had all the documentation pertaining to this but did not wish to have it. Therefore, it could be perceived by readers that a Minister was making decisions without legal basis or justification."

Furthermore, when speaking on vessel registration and certification, Minister Ellick revealed how he informed Audit via a letter that "the Fisheries Officer has no expertise in registration" and that "if someone produces a certificate from another authority other than MCA, the Maritime Authority has to verify and approve this."

"Because we have no qualified surveyors in the Maritime Authority section, we would then seek assistance from MCA," he continued reading what was said in his letter. "As you are well aware, STC PQT tried to register the Iron Maiden and produced certificates and documents from South African authorities. However, there were significant issues with the vessel when MCA checked and our Maritime Authority was advised not to register the vessel."

Minister Ellick then further asserted that STC "is failing to honour the agreement by failing to register a new vessel which they have brought to St Helena, despite being advised by the Government to apply for registration before coming to St Helena," adding that Audit has a copy of that letter. "It begs the question, why don't they want to register the vessel?," quizzed Minister Ellick. "This is a concern for me as the Minister for the relevant area, as this is a clear red flag."

Speaking on the recommendation of Audit in this regard, Minister Ellick says that he informed Audit, through his letter, that the recommendation, in his view, is not for SHG. "PQT STC have to make a formal request to SHG to vary the MOU," he stated. "They have not made that request through ExCo and, even if they were to make such a request, what difference would it make? We will still need to verify the documents and the vessel. Why would I try to cut corners and compromise the safety of people? If we decide to lower the standards for offshore fishing, then from my perspective, this would be irresponsible. SHG have a duty of care."

Having aired his concerns in the letter to Audit, and via the House, Minister Ellick reaffirmed that he "cannot agree with what is written" in the Audit Report, which he described as being centred around "what has frustrated this venture" adding that all he can gather from the report is that "one partner does not want to fulfil what they have signed up to and expects the other partner to ignore their duty of care to persons working on a fishing vessel that fishes within our offshore."

"No one should be looking at technicalities to try and evade their duty of care responsibilities," he continued. "Hence the reason there is an agreement to register under the British flag so that both parties have the best protection." The Minister then added that he told Audit that he would be "happy" if the context that he had given could be included in the report, however added that, despite this, "the report has not been changed."

Additionally, the Minister was aggrieved that the report "does not say that the St Albatros has been in St Helena since February and PQT-STC still have not furnished the relevant documentation pertaining to seaworthiness of their vessel."

"This should not be about what one party can technically do to avoid parts of an agreement," asserted the Minister. "This is a partnership. Both parties must agree. If they don't, then the relationship erodes and there will be no partnership."

Moving on, Minister Ellick said it was of his understanding that work is being done by the Minister for ENRPP working with stakeholders, "to resolve the matter of all the relevant licensing issues."

In concluding is opening statement to the Motion to debate the Audit Report on Fisheries, Minister Ellick noted how the report alluded to "a precedence being set" with an offshore fishing vessel. "Well, not to my knowledge," he added. "As I stated in my email to the Auditor, the Fisheries Officer is not a qualified inspector surveyor when it comes to seaworthiness, however I do have a report with advice from an MCA surveyor on the vessel in question, which is clear the vessel should not be allowed to fish offshore," stated the Minister. "I put these matters to the former Attorney General, who agreed verbally and stated that SHG has a duty of care. Now, if something different has occurred, I'm not aware and I can say from a registration perspective, we would not go against an MCA surveyor's assessment. If public service officers have made decisions outside of this scope, I have not been officially informed of this."

Minister Ellick closed by stating that he has "correspondence relating to all of these matters" and that Audit St Helena has the authority to see these documents. "I did inform them of this," he concluded.

Cllr Midwinter

Councillor Robert Midwinter was the first to rise in response to Minister Ellick's Motion, first declaring his interest as the former Executive Director of Enterprise St Helena, the nominated representative on the Board of Directors of St Marine Resources Ltd, who were a former owner of the MFV Extractor, which is referred to within the Audit Report.

"I have made this declaration of interest as it is the reported challenges faced by PQTSH in securing an appropriate vessel that generally concern me the most, and the statements made therein regarding their failed attempt to procure the MFV Extractor that are of particular concern to me," stated Cllr Midwinter.

Quoting a section of the Audit Report which reads 'while it is noted that no other fishing vessels in St Helena had been inspected during that interval, those vessels had remained operational' Cllr Midwinter stated that, in his interpretation, "this would appear to suggest some disparity between how different local fishing vessels are treated by the St Helena Government, and in this respect, I would say quite rightly so." The Cllr then described the MFV Extractor as "a completely different kettle of fish to other local fishing vessels" and said it was "like comparing one of



continued on next pages...

the new public transport buses with a private motor vehicle" before adding that "from a licensing and public safety perspective, you simply cannot compare the two."

With that said, Cllr Midwinter stated his approval "that the responsible Minister stopped the safety checklist process" before detailing how the MFV extractor is a 22m vessel that is "supposed to have a full MCA or SAMSA accredited inspection every five years, including a survey on the hull, and yet has been sat in our harbour without such since it arrived from South Africa almost 11yrs ago."

The Cllr then questioned "what on earth were the noted SHG officials thinking when they proposed designing such a safety checklist, especially as there is no certified lifting gear currently available on island to lift the extractor out of the water in order that an inspection of the hull can be undertaken?" adding that "SHG officials suggest that it was no one particular individual who ultimately was responsible for going down this route in the first place."

Reading on through the Audit Report, Cllr Midwinter expressed that he had "more general concerns about the lack of clear systems and processes related to ensuring that all vessels, not only fishing vessels, are safe and fit for purpose," before stating that he was "pleased to note that the Auditors have highlighted this as a recommendation."

A further concern for Cllr Midwinter related to "the areas of ambiguity that have arisen as a result of what would appear to be poor drafting of the contractual agreements."

"I would again ask the question, who was responsible for this?," he quizzed. "Whilst it is good to see that this report has at last been published and laid before this House, and in this respect I would wish to acknowledge the work that has been undertaken by the Chief Auditor and his team, I honestly feel that this report raises so many further questions which I hope will be picked up by the Public Accounts Committee during their detailed analysis and scrutiny."



Cllr Turner

Councillor Turner's contribution to the debate took on a different approach where he questioned "what the urgency is on this?" noting that it is "on an Audit Report that is not yet finished" noting that there were three colleagues at the table who are members of the PAC and "who now can't speak to this debate without potentially prejudicing the scrutiny that's still left to do." Cllr Turner described this as "very unfair to them who I'm sure have concerns about what's in this report too."

With that said, the Cllr stated that he understands "why the Minister's upset" by the content of the Audit Report, adding that "it's very difficult to look at your own actions in a critical light" but again reiterated that he believed it to be "pre-emptive now to debate this when we haven't had the proper scrutiny of this report which is still to be done by the PAC."

"This report needs to go through a process and, until it's done so, neither the report nor the Minister's accusations can really be taken as anything substantial," he continued. "And to be honest I'm kind of worried to see these sort of early level attacks on a scrutiny process of which this Audit Report is a part, but it is a part, there's still the main part left to do where I would have thought a lot of these questions, concerns and things are going to be fleshed out and questioned by the PAC so we can actually get to some kind of truth on this."

Cllr concluded by stating that "all I'm hoping is that whatever's happening today doesn't colour the now really important work that the PAC is going to have to do in unpicking all of this."



Chief Minister

Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, then rose in support of the debate, first declaring her interest; her husband being a commercial fisherman, before stating that she is "pleased that this performance audit has finally been completed and placed in the public domain," describing it as an "important step" and encouraging those interested in the community "to read it in its entirety."

The Chief Minister recapped how "for some five years now, St Helena was promised a solution that would see our fishery grow" where she listed the objectives of the venture in benefitting local fisherman, supplying the local market and exporting high-quality fish to the rest of the world.

She noted how the report states that 'our fishing industry has been plagued with problems throughout much of its history' which she says is, in her view, "a well-founded claim," though added that the contents within the report "would suggest that this history is continuing to repeat itself."

The Minister pulled from the report how "SHG invested a total of half a million pounds to refurbish the fish processing plant for use by STC," before adding that the conditions

were that "PQT would match government's capital funding through the procurement of offshore vessels to fish commercially, while also undertaking exploratory fishing and collecting scientific data at the seamounts in St Helena's exclusive economic zone to determine further sustainable catch limits." As included in the report, PQT has, to date, contributed total assets worth approximately £341,000, which includes the recently purchased fishing vessel. "No further comment is made on the discrepancy of the lack of match funding to the tune of some £159,000," asserts the Chief Minister.

Continuing on, she referenced the responsibilities listed by the Audit Report from both SHG and STC whereby SHG had five, "most of which relate to offering exploratory and commercial fishing licences," adding that this could not be done unfortunately, "simply because PQT nor STC have applied for such licences as of the date of the report." She then touched on STC's two responsibilities, as "the report suggests," which is to purchase fish from non-members and to offer them the sale of ice, "both services, we are told, are being offered."

The Chief Minister then noted the mention of "ambiguity in the agreement and an incomplete termination clause" which she added "goes some way in shedding light on why it has been extremely difficult and time-consuming for this government to make progress with our partners."

Speaking on the culvert issues, detailed in the report "as the primary reason preventing STC from exporting fish to foreign markets," the Chief Minister admits that "the issues remained unresolved after 16 months," as stated, however she added that "it has been clearly communicated to our partners what process needs to be followed before further discussions around this matter would be convened. This was articulated within the same letter referenced in the report."

SHG's Chief Minister then turned her focus to other areas of the report which she felt "questions the integrity or the completeness of the findings."

"Mention is made of the departure of a foreign investor in 2015, but does not speak of the fact that no subsidy was required of SHG to assist with operations," she states. "It referenced SHFC receiving cumulative subsidies of approximately £1.387m in the five years up to and including financial year 2019/20 to pay for high electricity costs and the purchase of vital equipment. It does not explain what this vital equipment was, nor does it mention the fact that Fisheries Corp was never given capital investment it desperately required to run more efficiently."

Continuing, the Chief Minister states how the report mentions that SHG "endorsed PQT in February 2020" however "gives no explanation why it took over a year to sign the fishing operations agreement and lease agreement." She states that "at the end of April 21, government announced that STC was planning to assume control of the plant from 1 June 21," though adds how no reference was given "that the refurbishment was expected to be completed within six months," further adding that the actual completion of the plant refurbishment by STC took place in August 2022, almost a year behind schedule. "The report, however, gives little detail of why this delay was so significant, referencing the delay of the blast freezer only," said Chief Minister Thomas.

"The answer to the lack of detail could be attributed to the fact that this was a focused programme audit," she continued. "However, it is my opinion that the report lacks consistency in terms of consultation with all relevant parties, bearing in mind that the report was due to be completed originally in June 24. Due to the delay, the scope of the report was expanded but, from its content, it begs to question whether it reports objectively from all parties' perspectives" – a statement she said she made "for various reasons."

Drawing on how "the report highlights PQT's commitment to provide offshore fishing vessels," the Chief minister recalls how "when the proposal was submitted in January 2020, PQT were interested in three vessels, but due to the signing of the agreement being delayed, the targeted vessels were off the market." She adds that later, in October 2022, "a further attempt was made to procure, with a first attempt to register, a vessel capable of offshore fishing, the Iron Maiden." She goes on to detail how, at the time, "PQT had publicly advised that extensive work had been performed on the vessel to prepare it for registration," before alluding to the comments made by Minister Ellick that "when presented to the MCA Fishing Vessel Flagging Panel, as part of St Helena's obligation as a member of the Red Ensign Group, the vessel was not recommended for registration for a number of reasons to include hull structure and stability," adding that "it was at this point that STC had publicly advised that the vessel had been certified by SAMSA."

The Chief Minister then joined other members in speaking on PQT's attempts procure the MFV extractor, as stated in the Audit Report. "The report suggests that the vessel was not registered and had not been inspected by a competent authority because the owner had not applied for a fishing licence," she commented. "This is incorrect, as no fishing licence can be issued for offshore fishing until the vessel has been certified by a competent authority."

She then touched on how "mention is made of a safety checklist being designed by the SHG officials that would have enabled the evaluation of the extractor, which is explained further as being in contravention of the MCA's inspection process. Hence, it could not be supported by the responsible Minister or indeed the entire government."

Moving on from the Extractor, she notes how "the report then moves on to speak about PQT proposing to charter the MFV Bluefin" and how this did not proceed "as PQT argued that it was not viable to register the vessel in St Helena," with claims that it would be premature prior to the company knowing what its Total Allowable Catch (TAC) was. "PQT/STC have known what their total allowable catch has been since signing the agreement in April 2021. So why is this being tabled as a deterrent?" she questioned.

According the Audit Report, PQT argued that conditions changed after the time of the MOU, where Yellowfin Tuna TAC was reduced to 300mt. "This may well be true," stated Chief Minister Thomas, "but this occurred prior to PQT-STC signing the said agreements. So why did they proceed if they also claim that the allocations received did not justify purchasing a vessel rather than chartering it, which begs the question why we now have the St. Albatross moored in James Bay, which we have been advised has been purchased?"

continued on next pages...

The Chief Minister then referenced the letter, mentioned in the Audit Report, which was issued to PQT-STC Directors by ExCo "which stipulated that if PQT does not purchase a vessel within six months, SHG would be entitled to treat the contractual arrangements as at an end, unless an alternative time limit can be mutually agreed." The Chief Minister dated that letter as 31 May 24, making 30 November 24 the presumptive deadline, then revealing how PQT signed an agreement to purchase the Albatros some 18 days before this deadline.

Speaking on the recently purchased St Albatros, Chief Minister Thomas mentions how SHG have been told that the vessel "is certified for seaworthiness by SAMSA," however adds that, to date, "such evidence has not been tabled to enable government to enable our Maritime Authority to undertake all necessary assessments to confirm seaworthiness."

Having mentioned her concerns, the Chief Minister described them as "just a snapshot that supports my view that the report could have been more robust."

"In essence, what this report does depict, however, which is of vital importance to this government and what I would wish for the public to consider, is how difficult it has been for this government to build a progressive working partnership with PQT-STC," she continued, closing her input to the debate. "In addition, it has also been frustrating to have to be constantly innovative in our approach due to the inadequacies of the legal agreements, coupled at times with inept decisions being taken on an operational level, which has resulted in members of my government, to include myself, being painted in a negative light in the public arena, being accused of not wanting to see this project and others meet fruition," something she described as being, "so far from the truth of our aims."

"As a responsible government, we are purely wanting to ensure that the steps taken by this government is aligned with our vision and principles, which is to ensure we are a more accountable, responsible government that operates effectively, efficiently, ethically and lawfully, with the best interests of St Helena and its people at the heart of our decision-making."

Cllr Dr Essex

Following the Chief Minister, Councillor Dr Corinda Essex stood up and indicated that she was speaking from the perspective of her role as Member of the Public Accounts Committee, where she outlined the process involved when a Performance Audit Report is laid in the House, which was informed as the first step of the process, prior to which the PAC has no involvement.

Once laid, Cllr Essex explained how, "the PAC embarks on a detailed examination and scrutiny" of the document "and of the evidence that contributed" to it. "Following that scrutiny," she continued, "a live hearing is held, at which interested parties are called to give evidence."

The Cllr detailed how during the period that the document is under PAC scrutiny, "any interested parties or even general members of the public can submit comments, raise queries and question anything that they have read in the document on which they want further investigation to take place or which they feel is factually inaccurate," adding that even at the end of the live hearing, "if there are still unanswered queries or questions that are under dispute, a further hearing is called."

Echoing the words of Cllr Turner, Dr Essex asserted that "those processes are in place to ensure that the Audit Report is the first step and not the last step," of which she added "would be the formulation of the report from the PAC along with its conclusions and recommendations," a document which would, in turn, get tabled in the House.

"At the moment, we are just at step one with regard to this report," she added. "It is the intention of the PAC,



unless anything unforeseen arises, to try and ensure that its scrutiny is fully completed and its report concluded before the dissolution of this Council."

With that said, Cllr Essex urged Ministers and officials, along with the general public, to address comments, issues and concerns to the Public Accounts Committee for their consideration when they are scrutinising the documents.

"The evidence that is presented will influence, for example, who gets asked to appear at the live hearing and also the scope of the analysis that is undertaken," she explained. "Although there is nothing written in standing orders or in any statute, I would urge Ministers to forbid Members of the PAC from commenting further on a debate of this kind," adding that, "it is not considered appropriate for Members of the PAC to comment on Audit Reports until their scrutiny process is concluded."

The Cllr concluded by stating that, "therefore, I will not be responding to comments made in the House today."

Cllr Thrower

Similarly, Cllr Thrower rose to state that, as a PAC Member, he would not speak about the Audit Report laid as a Sessional Paper, but encouraged feedback from the public, noting the "emotion around it on Island."

"I would encourage anybody who has any concerns, involvement or questions around this report to feedback," he commented. "I would also encourage them to read the report; we get a lot of feedback sometimes when they have not read the report. It is a very important report."

Again the Cllr said he encouraged



feedback to be given to the Public Accounts Committee, "so that we can ensure that the output of the PAC is as accurate and as beneficial to the island as possible."

Cllr Thrower concluded by stating that "we have to get this situation sorted so that we can move on with developing the economy."

Minister Ellick

Minister Ellick, as the Mover of the Motion, then rose again to thank members for their contributions to the debate.

He then acknowledged the statements made with regards to the PAC and their process, however added that he felt "this is an appropriate time, because once the report is out, the damage is done," which he adds is why he "asked for a Motion in the House today."

Additionally the Minister asserted that he is in disagreement with the statement made by Cllr Turner. "He suggests that I am probably disgruntled, but the decisions I make is based on law. I did not make this up."

Going further into his "justification" for requesting this "urgent debate" prior to the Audit Report being scrutinised by PAC is because, in his perspective "their scrutiny is mainly going to be on the financial aspects" and that "the value for money is the main issue that they should be getting out of this whole thing."

"From my perspective, when I see certain things that are coming out in papers and so forth, I also look at it from a different perspective," he continued. "When we start raising about the government and so forth, and if there's things in there that are not factually correct, we could be looking at defamation of character. So that's why I'm pointing out these issues here and now."





Contract Signed

One Creative Environments Ltd to design and supervise new Prison build

Liam Yon, SAMS

The Sentinel recently reported on the outcome of SHG's open procurement for a design and supervise consultancy in relation to the New Prison Build project funded through the Economic Development Investment Programme, with One Creative Environments Ltd chosen as the preferred contract provider.

Now, in an update, SHG have confirmed that a contract has been officially signed between SHG and ONE to commence their design work for the new prison.

"On 28 March 2025, Chief Secretary, Susan O'Bey signed a contract on behalf of SHG with One Creative Environments Ltd (ONE) to design and supervise the construction of a new prison at Bottom Woods," explained SHG in their recent update. "The design phase is expected to be completed by September 2025, with construction commencing shortly thereafter. The project is part of the £30m Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) funded by the UK Government."

A new prison has been planned for St Helena for a number of years. In an update last year, SHG described the proposed new facility in Bottom Woods as a "state-of-the-art prison" that "will feature modern amenities and technology."

In terms of capacity, SHG indicated that the new prison will be able to house around 60 prisoners, meaning, in their words, that it will be "well placed to accommodate any further increases in the future prisoner population, reducing the need for temporary measures, such as utilising police custody cells."

With One Creative Environments Ltd now onboard, real progress can start to be made on this long talked about project for St Helena.

"Since 2009 and prior there have been a number of reports advising that there needs to be a new prison," commented Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, Jeffrey Ellick. "It is therefore pleasing that we now finally have a contract to design and supervise the build of a new prison."

SHG had formerly stated that "the new facility is scheduled to be operational by 2026/27."

Papanui Destroyed by Fire in James Bay

Onlookers found the greatest difficult tearing themselves away



The rush to salvage cargo from the burning S.S. Papanui © Museum of St Helena

Cyril Gunnell, Contributed

The recent SHG press release informing that the Isolated Danger Mark (IDM) buoy – used to mark the location of the Papanui wreck – was missing from its fixed position, have prompted members of the public to enquire about the history of SS Papanui, which was destroyed by fire in 1911.

The wreck of the SS Papanui lies in about 40ft of water across James Bay with its bow toward Thompson's Crane. Depending on the tide, all that is seen today above water is part of her steering gear balanced atop the rudder and stern post.

The steamer SS Papanui arrived off Jamestown on 11 September 1911 with fire in one of her holds. She came to anchor in James Bay at 3.30pm. The blaze could not be extinguished and the ship became a total loss. Destroyed by fire, Papanui was beached on September 12, 1911 and she lay burning the following week.

"Onlookers found the greatest difficult tearing themselves away," the St Helena Guardian reported. "The dense clouds of smoke and flames issuing from the doomed ship were indeed a grand sight, especially at night, a sight such as no-one in the island has witnessed in the harbour, and the Glacis was lined with people from early morn to late at night. The spectacle which was constantly watched by hundreds of people was one which was magnificent, though dreadful, and seemed to have a hypnotic effect on many of the onlookers who found the greatest difficulty in tearing themselves away, staying, some of them, well into the morning."

For over a month the stranded passengers and crew remained on the island, quartered in the hospital, military barracks and private homes. They had few possessions. However, their stay was made as comfortable as possible. The passengers were mainly young women and girls emigrating to Australia.

One of the passengers later recorded their stay here as, "the one pleasant experience in a long series of setbacks and discomforts." On 14 October 1911 the SS Opawa called to take the stranded passengers to their destination and, before departing, they were presented with money and other gifts by Islanders.

A bronze plaque outside the Public Library reads: "This tablet was erected by the 364 passengers in appreciation of the kindness and hospitality showed to them by the inhabitants of this island, Sept. 11th – Oct. 14th 1911."

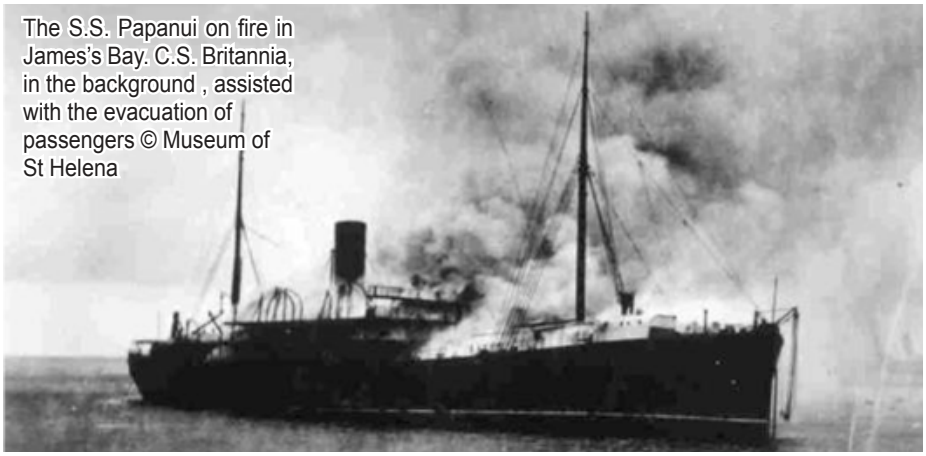
The SS Papanui also carried a crew of 108. She was a single-screw vessel of 6,582 tonnes, built in 1899 by William Denny and Brothers for the New Zealand Shipping Company. She sailed from London in late August 1911 with a cargo rumoured to consist of cars and other valuable material bound for Freemantle via Las Palmas and Cape Town. She reputedly left without a Bill of Health and her voyage was fraught with confusion and ended in disaster.

On 5 September, coal in No.3 hold was discovered smouldering. Although causing little alarm at first, efforts to extinguish went on for the next five days without success during which time the ship passed within sight of St Helena on Friday, 8 September.

Dismayed at the prospect of a 1,700 mile voyage to Cape Town, both passengers and officers were loud in their demands to Captain Norre to put into Jamestown for assistance. This he refused to do until it became clear the next day that the fire-fighting crew were making no progress below.

By this time, temperature in the bunkers and tempers on board were rising, and the Papanui was turned about for the island, coming to anchor in James Bay at 3.30pm on 11 September. The Eastern Telegraph Company's cable ship Britannia was at anchor nearby and offered assistance in disembarking the passengers.

A strange reception awaited the Acting Governor, Dr W.J.J Arnold and the harbour master who boarded that evening to discuss plans for coping with the fire. Directed to the Master's cabin, they were amazed to find him armed with a revolver, making accusations of mutiny against his crew members,



The S.S. Papanui on fire in James's Bay. C.S. Britannia, in the background , assisted with the evacuation of passengers © Museum of St Helena

appearing unconcerned about the fate of his ship and those onboard. Passengers, who were crowding into waiting boats, were leaving "at their own risk," he said, refusing to accept responsibility for their actions.

His attempts to minimise the seriousness of the fire failed to impress the officials, it was obvious the flames were gaining the upper hand. Satisfied that the passengers and most of the crew had been taken on board the cable ship or landed ashore, they ordered the ship to be beached.

By 5am the following morning muffled explosions below deck proved the position to be hopeless and the order was given to abandon ship. Island boatmen making last minute attempts to salvage passengers' personal belongings, were called off without much success.

At this time, the Master was reported missing and a search party subsequently found him in the engine room, in a comatose state. By 9am, the superstructure was alight and midday saw the entire vessel providing an awe inspiring sight. The scene became even more spectacular at night, the holocaust lighting the town, with sides of the wreck, glowing red hot.



The S.S. Papanui passengers, after having evacuated their ship, their disembarkation assisted the CS Britannia © Museum of St Helena



Taken in 1914 this photograph features F. George and Agnes Barrett and their family, who were passengers on board the S.S. Papanui © Museum of St Helena

"A very good workshop"

Cllr Brooks attends CPA Small Branches Workshop in place of Minister Ellick



Small Branches delegates (inc. Cllr Brooks front and centre) in Tynwald, the Parliament of the Isle of Man © cpahq.org

— **Liam Yon,** SAMS

In yet another update to Minister Jeffrey Ellick's trip to a CPA Workshop being held in the Isle of Man – which was cancelled due to a "processing issue in South Africa" according to SHG – it has now been informed that Councillor Gillian Brooks replaced the Minister and was in attendance at the workshop last week.

"Councillor Gillian Brooks departed the island on Saturday 29 March to represent St Helena at the CPA Small Branches Workshop entitled 'Strong and Independent Parliaments in Small Jurisdictions' taking place in Douglas, Isle Of Man, from 1-3 April 2025," informed SHG's Communication's Hub. "The CPA Small Branches Network is dedicated to supporting smaller parliaments in addressing their unique challenges."

As is often the case with events hosted by the CPA, this Small Branches Workshop is being funded by the CPA, this time through their Headquarters Secretariat.

"The agenda for this small jurisdictions workshop programme looks very interesting," commented Hon Cyril Gunnell, President of the CPA St Helena Branch. "Separation of Powers, in particular, arouses curiosity, and relevant information that Councillor Brooks can report back from representatives of other small parliaments as we strive to implement this CPA Benchmark in St Helena, will be most welcomed."

The Sentinel has been in contact with Cllr Brooks and will produce a report from her attendance at the workshop in next week's edition, though she did indicate that, "it was a very good workshop" adding that "the material and delivery kept you focused throughout."

Councillor Brooks is scheduled to return to the Island on Saturday, 26 April, after a period of personal leave in Johannesburg. Whilst Cllr Brooks is away, Councillor Corinda Essex has agreed to cover the Jamestown District Area.

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. April 11
- 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. April 12
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 12 Noon- PAC Repeat
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie (Repeat)
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. April 13
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna Crowie
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Seventh Day Adventist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations

MON. April 14
- 7am-9am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 5:30pm: Country Classics
- 7:30pm: Sound of the 80's with John Turner

TUE. April 15
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 9am-11am: Midmorning 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. April 16
- 7am-8:30am : Sunrise with Deon
- 8:30am-10:30am: Our Show
- 1pm-3pm: 1548 with Ferdie
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Vibes

THU. April 17
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 1pm-3pm: Lunchtime vibes with Demy
- 4pm: Sounds of the 80's
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: In Scope

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

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





Join Demy every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7pm.

He will be bringing you the top 25 music hits in the UK Charts.

Dont worry, if you missed the first airing it will be repeated on Sunday afternoons starting from 3pm.

Happy listening!

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

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ON THIS DAY



RMS Titanic sets sail from Southampton for her maiden (and final) voyage April 10, 1912

Let's carry on with some more Easter treats, with a recipe from Jane Patisserie!

Mini Egg Rice Krispie Squares!



Easy five ingredient Mini Egg Rice Krispie Squares with a white chocolate mini egg topping!

Ingredients

Base

- 50 g unsalted butter
- 275 g mini marshmallows
- 150 g Rice Krispies
- 200 g Mini Eggs (whole/crushed)

Topping

- 300 g white chocolate
- 100-200 g Mini Eggs (whole/crushed)

Instructions

1. Line a 9x9" square tin with parchment paper, and leave to the side.
2. Add the butter and mini marshmallows to a large pan, and heat on a low-medium heat, stirring, until smooth and melted!
3. Once melted, take the pan off the heat.
4. Pour the Rice Krispies into the pan, and stir to combine!
5. Add in the mini eggs and briefly mix to combine. The mixture will be warm so be quick so the mini eggs don't melt too much.
6. Press the mixture into the bottom of the lined tin (top tip, buttering your hands slightly can prevent any sticking and makes it easy to press down!)
7. Melt the white chocolate in a bowl until smooth
8. Pour the melted chocolate over the base, and then sprinkle on the other mini eggs.
9. Set in the fridge for two or more hours, and then slice and enjoy!

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED

In Scope: Treasury and Economic Development Portfolio



Focus on FAM Budget proposal

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Minister Mark Brooks welcomed Nicholas Yon (Deputy Financial Secretary and Portfolio Director) in the studio during In Scope this week to give listeners an overview of what was included in the recent budget proposal to the visiting FAM team by the Treasury section. Although a financial settlement agreement have already been received, they felt that it would still be informative to share this information and explain what the next steps would be to move forward on some of the proposed work-streams that would have been addressed if the modified zero-based budget had been approved.

The Treasury section includes services related to general financial management functions like financial planning, budgeting, financial reporting and accounting. Also included in this section is services related to the treasury management; looking after the cash available to operate government functions on a daily basis as well as overseas investments. The section manages the local currency through the currency fund as well. The Postal and Customer Services Centre, the Tax Office, the Social Security Office as well as the procurement services also form part of this section.

The largest part of the additional request in the zero-based budget proposal relates to the two areas of Corporate Procurement and the Post and Customer Services Centre. It was looked at enhancing the services of both these sections by adding a staff member to each to deliver an additional service or support current services. Recently a review was undertaken of the procurement regulations and it was determined that procurement services could be improved with the support of additional procurement officers that can provide a dedicated service to specific departments or portfolios. The aim of this change would be to ensure the maximum efficiency within the procurement process to effect best value for money. With regards to the Post and Customer Services Centre, funds for an additional staff member was requested to manage the offering of philatelic services, issuing of new stamps during the year as well as increasing the marketing of this offering to the international market. The increase in the philatelic service would have been aimed at creating additional revenue for SHG as there is a substantial market for stamps and first day covers by collectors. Ways to expand this service offering will still be explored, but progress will be considerably slower without the additional funding.

Another area included in the funding request was aimed at improving the experience of customers engaging with SHG, specifically related to digital interaction. It was hoped to include services like completing forms online and offering an electronic point of sale system to streamline payment and accounts systems. The last area for which funding was requested was to increase security at the Post Office including CCTV cameras and other safety features. There are some concerns about the safety of the Customer Services Centre as there has recently been an increase in criminal activity in the area. These measures will now have to be sourced from other funding streams.

Treasury also manages a function called 'Payments on behalf of the Crown'. These payments include costs that are not linked to a specific service but relates to payments made on behalf of government as a whole. Costs related to this section were also

included in the additional funding requested as part of the modified zero-based budget. The first of these was the implementation of a revision to the public service pay policy where pay bands would be increased for public sector staff to ensure staff-retention. With the current shortages in the labour market, it is increasingly critical to maintain sufficient staffing levels to effectively deliver services in the public sector and stem the migration of working-aged people from St Helena. Another area where additional funding is needed is asset maintenance to ensure effective maintenance of the complete SHG asset portfolio. The last area under this expenditure stream relates to a provision for the contingency fund (around £1.2 million in 2024/25) that is used to pay for unforeseen and urgent expenses that has to be paid. During the 2024/25 financial year the largest part (95%) of this fund was spent to cover the losses in the air services contract with Airlink. The contract with Airlink requires SHG to cover any losses that the service provider shows on any leg of their journey to and from St Helena. During the 2024/25 year these losses were significant (in the region of £1.65 million) and a similar amount is anticipated for this new financial year. Litigations are another area that will have to be covered from this contingency funding stream. It was requested that the management of the contingency fund be moved to the Economic Development and Investment Programme (EDIP) section with an additional amount of £1.2 million being requested form the FCDO to supplement available funds to cover these costs. Uncertainty around these unexpected costs creates risks that cannot always be mitigated. The inevitability of losses in the air contract is the main reason for the request to separate the funding provision for this expense form the contingency fund. Historically, access to the island has always been subsidised as is the case currently as well. Without the additional funding, all of these expenses will now have to be re-evaluated and re-prioritised as funding will have to be sourced elsewhere or partially incorporated in the recurrent budget.

The financial settlement from the FCDO for 2025/26 has now been confirmed as a 5% increase which constitutes additional funding to the amount of £1.73 million. This seems like a substantial increase but if the current high inflation rate is taken into consideration, this amount will not go far in addressing additional needs for funding. As the settlement have only recently been approved, the government will now have to go into roll-over budget which allows the Financial Secretary to draw funds from the consolidated fund for a maximum of four months, up to the end of July. The maximum amount that can be withdrawn from the fund is a third of the current year's budget. The aim is always to keep the roll-over period as short as possible before bringing the approved budget into place. The Treasury section and Ministers will now be working on finalising and adjusting the budget to be presented to ExCo and then to LegCo for approval. For the moment, expenditure in portfolios has to be limited to essential spending only. This process usually takes about 5 to 6 weeks before the final approval of the budget. Once the budget is approved, Portfolios will also have to look at the allocation of funds to their various work-streams and how to re-prioritise and incorporate the work proposed under the modified zero-based budget submission where possible.

With the confirmation of the financial aid settlement well below the modified zero-based budget proposal, there is a very real threat that the negative downward spiral that the island is facing at the moment will continue, leading to a continued loss of working aged people. The current ministerial government attempted to demonstrate the need for additional funding to move the island forward and stimulate a larger degree of independence and an increase in the creation of more revenue to support this.

In addition to the smaller than requested settlement, SHG is also facing significant litigation expenses. The litigation cases, related to medical and prison litigations, are estimated to run into millions of pounds and will increase the pressure on an already stretched budget. Litigations are paid from the consolidated fund through supplementary appropriations approved by LegCo. Supplementary appropriations for the previous financial year have already caused the consolidated fund to drop well below the safe limit to the amount of £1.9 million. This reduces SHG's ability to cover financial shocks due to unforeseen and urgent payments. The looming litigations pose a significant risk to the general funding reserve levels of government. This in turn will affect the cash flow reserves and ability to manage cash shortages if the consolidated fund drops too low. It is important to keep in mind that the UK Government is in no way obligated to pay out compensation that SHG is liable for. With the consolidated fund being at a very low level and no other additional reserves to draw from, SHG might face the possibility of bankruptcy over the next 2 to 3 years. Whichever way you look at it, the island is facing some tough times and will have to make some difficult decisions in the near future. There are some good work plans in the pipeline and options to create additional revenue and these will have to be pursued to ensure a better and more stable financial future for St Helena.

Scout Jackpot Draw

The winners of the March Scout Jackpot were as follows:

1st Prize - £100 – June Henry
Ticket No. 285

2nd Prize - £50 – Kai & Caden
Ticket No. 452

3rd Prize - £25 – Ted Henry
Ticket No. 543

4th Prize - £25 – Alan Joshua
Ticket No. 290

The April jackpot draw will take place on 25 April 2025.

Remember to have any chance of winning, you must participate.

NOTICE BOARD

What's On

Mantis St Helena

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

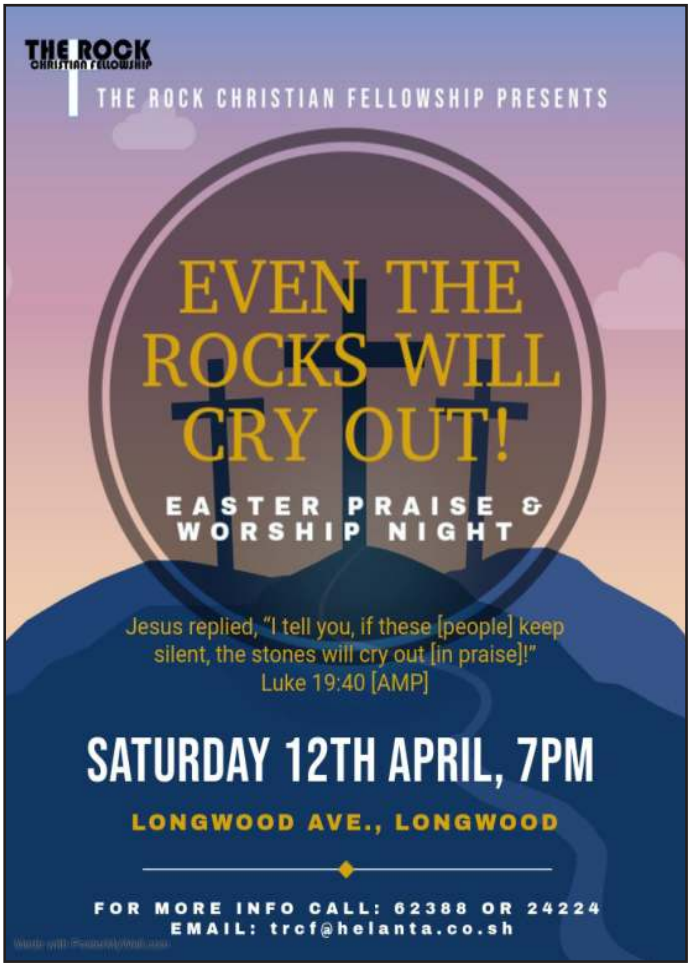
18 April: THE GOOD FRIDAY FISH FRY
Enjoy a classic Good Friday fish fry with fresh local seafood and delicious sides.
£20.00 per person · From 18:30 onwards

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

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

For all enquiries and bookings, please call 25505







ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

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

This week the "Lilac" bingo sheet will be used

Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner

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

Prize - £20 per week

Last week's winner was Ms Dorothy Lawrence

3	61	17	85	56	27	36	19	54	90
38	22	58	9	62	41	77	37	23	10
51	71	48	11	75	32	84	66	47	6
69	88	55	24	65	50	1	42	73	87
30	26	52	40	70	14	29	34	63	21
4	89	46	57	39	76	44	80	7	25
74	28	33	68	12	2	49	59	43	15

Here to Help!

SHMSF supporting Medical Referrals as numbers go fast in April's Easter Special Sweepstake



Liam Yon, SAMS

On Friday evening, at 7pm, the fourth monthly St Helena Medical Support Fund (SHMSF) Sweepstake dropped on Social Media, with an Easter Special seeing, for the first time, 1000 numbers having been made available for purchase, again at £20 per number.

The prize breakdown for this special edition of the SHMSF Sweepstake will be two £2000 prizes, six £1000 prizes and four £500 prizes, totalling twelve cash prizes up for grabs.

Evidencing the popularity of the monthly sweepstake by the SHMSF since it started in January this year, once again ticket numbers did not stay available for long and, within 30 minutes, all 1000 numbers had been requested.

"All numbers must be paid for at the Bank of St Helena to Account St Helena Medical Support Fund 02146002," explained the charity to participants. "Payments to be made by 26 April and the draw will be done on 30 April. Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking."

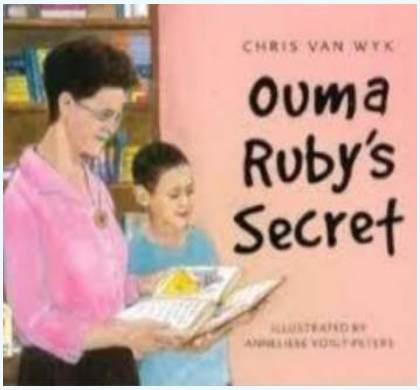
In March, the charity made it known that, after three months of sweepstake fundraising, the SHMSF were in a position to be able to fulfil the objective of the fund, which was to support and provide assistance to medical referral patients from St Helena with applications having been invited.

"We have had some inquiries and, so far, two of these have resulted in applications being returned, processed and supported," revealed the SHMSF. "All applications are means tested therefore all supporting documentation must be submitted with the application for it to be considered."

This is brilliant news and means the SHMSF is now fulfilling their mission to support medical referral patients on St Helena – great job to the team! As for the April Easter Special Sweepstake, good luck to all who have requested tickets!

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



Ouma Ruby's Secret

by Chris Van Wyk Chris

Loves his Ouma Ruby. He loves visiting her house to pick mulberries in the garden and to tell jokes and sing with his cousins. Chris especially loves it when his Ouma Ruby takes him into town to buy books from the second-hand bookshop. Then one day Chris learns that Ouma Ruby has a secret.

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

NOTICE BOARD

PUBLIC SOLICITOR OFFICE

Lay Advocates Recruitment

Two Positions Open

Judge Brian Barker KC during a 2023 review of legal services on St Helena praised the role of the lay advocate:

> *"The Lay Advocate System is a tradition in the islands where highly regarded members of the community have rights of advocacy and can be asked to advise and sometimes represent St Helenians in both criminal and civil mattes …. Their community knowledge often allows them to resolve issues without the need to come to court"*

If you think you could be a lay advocate or would like some more information please contact the Public Solicitor's Office on 23008 or the Public Solicitor on walter.scott@publicsolicitor.com and you will be supplied with more information.

As self-employed advisors, lay advocates are supported in their important role by the Public Solicitor's Office but are independent of the PSO and enjoy the freedom of setting their own hours and working at their own pace.

The role is challenging and can be very busy. Lay advocates need to be available to attend the police station (often out of hours) and court for criminal matters.

The role is financially rewarded through the Legal Assistance Fund depending on experience and hours worked per month. Full details can be made available on request.

If you are interested in the role please send a Letter of Interest outlining why you think you would make a good lay advocate to walter.scott@publicsolicitor.com by no later than the 14 April 2025.

Vacancy

Electrician, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £12,792 per annum (£1066 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Electrical Works Department for an Electrician, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic.

As the Electrician, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic you will ensure that in-house and private jobs are undertaken competently and in a timely manner whilst ensuring high standards of work are delivered at all times in accordance with Company requirement and local regulations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess grade C in GCSE Maths or English, or equivalent
- Have at least 3 years proven experience in Electrical Engineering
- Be in possession of a current Wiremen's license
- Have experience of maintaining air-conditioning and refrigeration systems
- Possess Level 3 City & Guilds Diploma in Electrical Installations Course, or equivalent
- Be flexible to work out of normal working hours and be available to work as part of an on-call rota as and when required
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer service skills
- Have a valid drivers' licence
- Be aware of Health & Safety practises as well as be able to perform manual handling duties
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Be willing to undertake any further training

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

Mr Jason George, Electrical Supervisor via 22739 jason.george@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 **17 April 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

Carpenter / Plumber

Salary for the post will commence at £12,780 per annum (£1065 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Building Works Department for a Carpenter / Plumber.

As the Carpenter / Plumber you will ensure that in-house and private jobs are undertaken competently and in a timely manner whilst ensuring high standards of work are delivered at all times in accordance with Company requirement and local regulations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be competent in Maths & English
- Ideally have NVQ Level 2 or equivalent in Carpentry & Plumbing
- Have at least 3 years experience working in the Carpentry & Plumbing trade
- Have a Safety Awareness Certificate, or have undertaken Health & Safety on the worksite training and have the ability to carry out risk assessments
- Be knowledgeable of tools, equipment and materials common to the Carpentry and Plumbing trade
- Have the ability to operate power & hand tools
- Have skills in construction, repair, restoration & installation of wood or related materials, including cabinet-making techniques
- Be able to make assessments of job requirements, estimate material requirements and provide method statements
- Be able to follow technical drawing plans
- Have a clean & valid Driver's License in classes A & C

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

Mr Michael Gutuza, Building Services Manager via 22739 bsm@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 **17 April 2025.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Accounts Clerk (Costing/Creditors)

Salary for the post will commence at £10,068 per annum (£839 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Finance Department for an Accounts Clerk (Costing/Creditors).

As the Accounts Clerk (Costing/Creditors) you will be responsible for ensuring a reliable and efficient service is provided for the costing of all goods imported for the Company, and processing of data into the Company's Finance data file.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess grades C or above in GCSE Maths & English or equivalent and desirably an Accounting qualification
- Be competent in the use of Microsoft Office applications, essentially in the use in Excel and desirably Access Dimensions
- Have the ability to multitask, organise workload and meet tight deadlines in a fast-paced environment
- Be analytical, with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and the ability to liaise effectively with staff on all levels
- Be able to work independently and to use own initiative.

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

Belinda Ellick, Senior Accounts Clerk (Costing) via 22380 seniorcostingclerk@solomons.co.sh

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

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Administration Assistant (£7,960 per annum)

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Central Support team? If so we are looking to recruit an Administration Assistant. The Administration Assistant is responsible for completing straightforward administrative processes that support the smooth running of Portfolios and delivering a high quality, customer focused service. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who works methodically and has a keen eye for detail that can provide administrative support across the Portfolios.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Belinda Piek on Tel No: 22470 or Email: Belinda.piek@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 16 April 2025

Receptionist (£7,280 per annum)

Based at the Jamestown General Hospital, the Receptionist will work on a shift basis and be the first point of contact for all visitors providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Helen Lawrence on Tel No 22500 or Email: Helen.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 16 April 2025

Administration Support (Inclusion) (£7,960 per annum)

Do you have good organisational skills with the ability to plan, prioritise work and can meet deadlines? If so, the Inclusion Section within the Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join their small team to provide an efficient and effective administration service.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Sharon Peters on Tel No. 25408 or Email: Sharon.Peters@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: 18 April 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 through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) 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, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Joint Emergency Services Control Centre (JESCC) Operator
(£10,747 per annum)

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

Enquiries: **Cheyenne Furniss on Tel No 22626 or Email: cheyenne.furniss@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 18 April 2025

Immigration/Customs Officer (18 years +) (£9,781 per annum) (Permanent)

We are looking to fill these important roles in our busy immigration/customs team, to undertake the duties and responsibilities to reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena. These are critical roles which requires experience of front line/customer facing responsibilities, an inquisitive mind-set and the ability to work well as part of a team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Juliette O'Dean on Tele no. 22287 or Emerald Newman-Yon on 22236 or email: Juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh or emerald.newman-yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 15 April 2025

1:1 Teaching Assistant (Prince Andrew School) (£8,419 per annum)

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

Enquiries: **Carolyn Yon on Tel No 24290 or Email: carolyn.yon@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date: 22 April 2025

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Staff Nurse (£12,049 per annum)

The Hospital Nursing team currently have opportunities for motivated individuals to join their team of nurses. You will be responsible for delivering a high quality evidence based nursing care within the hospital setting under the direction of the Hospital Sisters/Charge Nurses and the Chief Nursing Officer. The role requires you to provide an efficient and effective nursing service, through assessments, planning, implementation and evaluation of care. If you have good interpersonal skills with the ability to communicate effectively then we would like to hear from you.
Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Marilyn Essex on Tel No 22500 or Email: Marilyn.essex@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 23 April 2025

Community Nurse (£12,049 per annum)

The Community Nurse will work within the community either at the District Clinics or in the patient's home. Deliver Nursing Care as part of a team. Supporting the Community Nursing Sister in the delivery of an efficient/effective nursing service and has responsibility for assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of care. Management of a caseload of patients under the direction of the Sister or Chief Nursing Officer.
Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Marilyn Essex on Tel No 22500 or Email: Marilyn.essex@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: 23 April 2025

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Trainee Helmsmen (Sea Rescue)

(£7,700 per annum)

Applications will be considered from 16 years +

Sea Rescue Crew (Auxiliary)

(£5.37 per hour) 18 years + and must be able to swim and pass a fitness test.

The successful applicant will receive a monthly retainer of £70 on completion of basic training.

Are you keen to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by protecting and saving lives at sea? If you are a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with the ability to remain calm under extreme physical and mental pressure, then the St Helena Sea Rescue Service has the above opportunities for you to join their team. Contact us for more information and a discussion on the above posts.

Enquiries: Mark Caswell or Leeroy Caswell on Tel No 25215 or Email: mark.caswell@helanta.co.sh or Leeroy Caswell on leeroy.caswell@helanta.co.sh

Closing date: 22 April 2025

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays

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

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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NOTICE BOARD

ENCOMPASS

VACANCY NOTICE

Trainee Communications Technician

Job Description

Encompass has a vacancy for a Trainee Communications Technician at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island.

The post holder will form part of the Transmitting Station's engineering team tasked with ensuring the BBC Atlantic Relay Station's transmitters and associated systems are maintained and kept operational, in order to carry out all scheduled transmissions.

Requirements

- A good standard of education with GCSE Maths, English and Science Grade C or above
- Ability to communicate well, both verbally and in writing, with internal and external customers
- Ability to maintain accurate technical and administrative records
- Strong self-motivation and the ability to work and study with minimum supervision
- IT Literate, particularly in use of Email, Microsoft Word and Excel
- UK passport holder
- Class A driving licence
- Ability and willingness to undertake studies in the UK for periods of time
- Ability and willingness to carry out call-out/standby duties and to work unsociable and flexible hours if required

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

- Good knowledge of safe working practices and safety procedures
- Recognised certification or education in any technical discipline (Electrical, Electronics, Communications and/or Radio Frequency)
- Experience in Electrical, Electronics, Communications, and/or Radio Frequency
- Workshop skills including hand and power tools
- High Voltage Authorisation or related experience

Remuneration and Package

The salary is dependent on competence and experience. We are offering a two year contract with either single or household status. In addition to a basic salary, you will also be entitled to:

- Rent-free accommodation
- A single food allowance of £3,905.00
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including a personal vehicle
- One paid return journey to country of residence during your contract period
- Utilities (Water, Electricity and Phone) Allowance

Please note that any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory criminal and professional vetting, valid travel documents as well as satisfactory medical clearance.

Our Journey with Autism

Our Journey with Autism began on the 18th July 2015 when our son Nathaniel was born, in Great Western Hospital in Swindon. Nate is a very intelligent, friendly boy with a passion for tech, especially video games and wrestling.



He loves to read and create his own comics and other story books as well as anything related to arts and crafts. He has ADHD and is at level2 on the autism spectrum due to his behavioural, emotional and sensory needs, but that doesn't define him. Many adults who meet Nate quickly grow to like his bubbly personality and that he enjoys asking questions about anything he can think off, which certainly keeps us on our toes.

Nate struggles making friends over the years due to his lack of social skills and the inability to control his saliva which often puts children off being his friend or encourages them to bully him. As a parent watching your child struggle in at school is very painful we all want our children to be popular and do well in school.



Nate has always made us proud and always finds ways to keep excelling either from his art or from his education he is constantly achieving awards which is a huge turnaround from the child that kept getting suspended for his outbursts. I'm also happy to say that since moving to Pilling primary school Nate has made a number of good friends and has been getting on well in school due to his needs being met with sensory corners and outings, and sensory swim sessions I'm pleased to say he is now loving school.

When we arrived on island 3 years ago Anita Bradshaw met him and started the diagnosis process and after confirming that he was on the spectrum we felt relieved. No parent wants to hear that their child has a disability but we felt validated we now knew what we needed to do to help our son and I spent time researching and doing different courses to help us create a better life for him. It isn't easy now our lives our filled with routines, visual calendars and social stories and sensory bins but it is all worth it as it makes his life easier.

We love you Nate keep being the star that you are, we are immensely proud of you. The same day we received Nates diagnosis was 15th March 2022 the day our second son Kayden was born. Apparently there's a one in a million chance that both off our kids would be on the spectrum and after Kayden's second birthday we could tell that he is also on the spectrum although he is awaiting a official diagnosis he has all the traits. He flaps his hands, tip toe walks, repeats behaviours, head taps and once triggered takes a long time to calm down. He's a happy boy who loves Motorbikes, cars, bubbles, harassing his big brother and hiding in small spaces like cupboards and under furniture. He doesn't like loud noises or environments that cause over stimulation so festivals and big crowds are something we have to avoid or use noise cancelling head phones to get through. He struggles with his speech and gets frustrated when he can't communicate what he wants to us. We feel we are more equipped to handle our situation after looking after Nate so we have incorporated the things that help Nate into Kayden's routine it can be difficult at times but we wouldn't change our two boys for anything. They are our reason for living we love them and they mean the world to us and we're sure that they will do great things in life



NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

MAUNDY THURSDAY SAFETY ADVICE FOR MARITIME ACTIVITIES

As Maundy Thursday and the Easter holiday approaches, it is anticipated that many residents will engage in the traditional fishing activities at various locations around the island.

The Sea Rescue Service urges the community to exercise caution and adhere to fundamental safety protocols during this period.It is vitally important that everyone remains safe, and acts responsibly.

Regrettably in the past there have been incidents which could have been avoided. Some of these were serious in nature and threatened lives. It is important to recognise that unsafe practices not only jeopardise the well-being of those directly involved, including vessel occupants, but also endanger the personnel tasked with providing assistance and rescue.

If planning a fishing trip, inform family members and friends of your intended location and expected time of return. If you are likely to be late returning home, inform friends and family as soon as possible. Similarly, if you are concerned about someone that has not checked in or returned as planned, please contact the emergency services.

It is strongly recommended to avoid fishing alone. Fishing alone places you in greater danger if you find yourself in an unexpected situation and reduces your chances of being able to alert others that you need help.

When going fishing, consider taking the following items with you:

Essential Equipment:

- VHF Radio, mobile phoneor other means of communication
- Life Jacket or buoyancy aid
- Any prescription medication you might need
- Adequate food and water
- Appropriate weather-resistant clothing, including high-visibility apparel
- First aid kit
- Adequate lightingfor night time navigation

Coxswain and Skipper Responsibilities:

- Coxswains and skippers of fishing and pleasure boats, exercise vigilance when navigating in the dark, ensure your routes are safe if you are not familiar with the coast line and keep a good distance from the shore to avoid dangerous reefs and obstacles.
- If a crew member is helming your vessel ensure they are competent to do so, use search lights, lookouts and any other means for the safe passage of crew and vessel.
- Conduct thorough safety briefings for all passengers, including life jacket usage and emergency procedures.

The Sea Rescue Service team will be patrolling the various fishing areas throughout Maundy Thursday night. For assistance, contact emergency services by dialing 999 or utilize VHF Channel 16 (Call Sign ZHH, St Helena Radio). Alternatively, signal patrolling vessels with flashing lights.

The tides over Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are as follows:

Days	Times	Heights (metres above chart datum)
Maundy Thursday 2025	High Tide - 05:05	0.73
	Low Tide – 11:10	0.19
	High Tide – 17:16	0.71
	Low Tide - 23:33	0.17
Good Friday 2025	High Tide – 05:48	0.69
	Low Tide - 11:54	0.23
	High Tide – 18:00	0.66

The Safety, Security, and Home Affairs Portfolio extends its best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday to all community members.

#Sthelena #SeaRescue #Easter #MaundyThursday #Fishing #SafetyAdvice

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/

www.twitter.com/StHelenaGovt

SHG
08 April 2025

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

INVITATION TO TENDER

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CONSULTANT

St Helena Government has issued aninvitation to tender for theProcurement of a Digital Transformation Consultant.

Full documentation and the specifications can be found on the Saint Helena Government e-procurement system which can be accessed via https://in-tendhost.co.uk/sainthelena following registration on the system.

User guides are available via the "Supplier Information" tab to assist prospective suppliers registering on the e-Procurement system.

All communication, clarifications, general questions and submissions of your responses must be made via the e-Procurement Portal.

Please refer to the e-Procurement System for the key dates, including the tender submission date.

SHG, 02 April 2025

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Bible Studies
Tuesday 15th April
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 17th April
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENT
Ladies Meeting
Wednesday 16th April
Baptist School Hall/J Town 10.30 am

Good Friday Service
18th April
Sandy Bay Chapel 09.00 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.00 am
Jamestown Chapel 10.00 am

Outreach Service
Sunday 20th April
Kingshurst 3.00 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 13th April 2025– Palm Sunday		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist with Procession	Cathedral
	Wednesday 16th April	
5.00 p.m.	Confession	St Swithin
	Maundy Thursday 17th April	
9.00 a.m.	Chrism Mass	Cathedral
7.00 p.m.	Mass of Lord's Supper/Vigil	Cathedral
	Good Friday 18th April	
12.00-3.00 p.m.	Devotions, Liturgy & Veneration	Cathedral
	Easter Eve 19th April	
7.00 p.m.	Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter/Confirmation	Cathedral
	Easter Sunday 20th April	
8.00 a.m	Eucharist	St Peters
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena

The Parish of St James		
Sunday 13th April 2025 – Palm Sunday		
9.15 a.m.	Eucharist with Procession	St James
	Wednesday 16th April	
5.00 p.m.	Confession	St James
	Maundy Thursday 17th April	
7.00 p.m.	Mass of Lord's Supper/Vigil	St James
	Good Friday 18th April	
12.00 p.m.	Mattins	St James
	Easter Sunday 20th April	
6.00 a.m.	Vigil/Mass	St John
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 24th April	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 13th April 2025 – Palm Sunday		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist with Procession	St Mark
	Wednesday 16th April	
5.00 p.m.	Confession	St Mark
	Maundy Thursday 17th April	
7.00 p.m.	Mass of Lord's Supper/Vigil	St Mark
	Good Friday 18th April	
12.00 p.m.	Mattins	St Mark
	Easter Sunday 20th April	
6.30 a.m.	Vigil/Mass	St Mark
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 22nd April	
7.00 p.m.	Alpha	St Mark

SPORTS ARENA

Golf Report



SHGC, Contributed

What a fantastic weekend it was for golf! With beautiful sunshine and hardly any wind, the conditions were perfect for a day on the course. Sixteen teams of two players each, totalling thirty-two participants took part in a "Shot Gun Start Texas Scramble" format. This format encourages teamwork and strategy, allowing players to select the best shots from their team members.

The Texas Scramble concluded with an exciting finish, the event was marked by impressive performances, particularly from the top teams.

The overall winners were Helen & Jeff Stevens with a total of 44 points. Their outstanding performance throughout the tournament secured them the top position.

The competition for second and third place was intense, requiring a count back to determine the final standings. Four teams finished with 43 points, necessitating this tie-breaking method.

Bramwell & Asa emerged as the runners-up after the count back. KJ and Arthur Young claimed third place following the same count back process.

During the tournament, there were only two "2" scores recorded: Helen & Jeff scored a "2" on the 16th hole. Bramwell & Asa achieved a "2" on the 7th hole.

Texas Scramble Results **Points**

1st	Helen & Jeff Stevens	44	
2nd	Asa & Bramwell Bushuru	43	Count Back
3rd	KJ & Arthur Young	43	Count Back
4th	Reuben & Blyth	43	
5th	Harry Seelbach & Peter Bagley	43	
6th	Keith & Laura Buckley	42	

Congratulations to Helen & Jeff Stevens for their victory, and well done to all participants who contributed to making this day special! The Club laid on snacks, teas & Coffee which everyone enjoys. A special mentioned to Neil "Joe" Joshua for handling a very busy bar.

The SHGC Championship 2024

The presentation was a fitting finale to the evening. Winners list below

SHGC Championship 2024 Prize Winners

1st	Jeffrey Stevens	159	£125.00
2nd	Anthony Green	102	£100.00
3rd	Neil Joshua	102	£75.00
4th	Asa Bushuru	93	£60.00
5th	Bramwell Bushuru	90	£50.00

SHGC AGM meeting 6th April 2025 - New Committee.

SHGC AGM meeting 6th April 2025 - New Committee.
President Christine Scipio
Captain Bramwell Bushuru
Ladies Captain Helena Stevens
Vice Captain Neil Joshua
Hon Secretary Ed Oyewo
Hon Treasurer Dave Brown
Games Manager Eddy Bowers
Handicaps Manager Pat Henry
Entertainment Manager Keith Joshua
Course Manager Jeffrey Stevens

Next week, 13 April, will be the 3 Par Competition. Please enter your names in the usual way.

Happy swinging!







Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

An old saying is, old habits die hard. Sometimes it's hard for people to change or make changes in our daily activities, especially when it's something new or you have never done before, but changes can be challenging, therefore its worth trying a different skill-set that keeps your exciting energy levels pumping.

This week's youth member's activity was horse racing, they had no idea what the game format was until it was explained, and from the youngest to the oldest clutching the idea with a fair understanding the first race got started. Horses numbered 1-6 were drawn for teams to own a horse; team owners were relying on the dice throwers to win the number of their horse and the second dice to win the highest number for that horse to move the number off paces to reach the finishing line. Hastily and eagerly they all wanted their horse to win the race, the club house was buzzing with energy and excitement, cheering the horses on.

Simple activities, such as this one, helps young people to expand by interacting with each other, building their confidence and abilities, all while enjoying so much fun. They were so pleased and enjoyed every minute. It's also worth noting this exercise was a freebee time for our young people to enjoy and have some fun, but their parents who attended were so grateful and contributed a donation off £60 to the club, our treasurer will record an appropriate entry and thanked parents for their kindness.

Apologies from a few members for not attending the late practice shoot, nine of us gave it a go, trying hard to hit the small ring target; this was a massive challenge, not being able to have a clear vision of the target ring, we probably haven't shot these targets for more than six years and, as for our oldest members, the eyesight diminishes over time, making visibility difficult. However, without any fuss whatsoever, some healthy points were calculated. Elizabeth shot 93.2, Pat H lost out with 97.2, however new entries did extremely well; Helena 94.2 & 91.2, Kyle shot 91.1, 94.2 & 91.1, Imogen 94 & 92, a bit dull from her, Daniel shot 94.2 & 89.2 and top of the house again this week is bright-eyes Elli who shot 98.4 & 100.8 - well done and good shooting from her, she'll be given a further challenge with a smaller target next time. We also enjoyed the night with some tasty soup and rolls; well done guys will see what happens next week.

Have a blessed weekend St Helena.

Easter 2025

The Salvation Army invites you and your family to join us for any of these meetings as we celebrate the amazing love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ

Sunday, 13 April 2025
Palm Sunday Meeting 10am
Triumphal Entry
HTH Salvation Army Hall

Wednesday, 16 April 2025
Special Easter Bible Study and Prayer Meeting 7.30pm
HTH Salvation Army Hall

Thursday, 17 April 2025
Special Easter Service 7.30pm
HTH Salvation Army Hall

Friday, 18 April 2025
Good Friday Meeting 10am
HTH Salvation Army Hall

Sunday, 20 April 2025
Easter Sunrise Service 6am
Open Air Service at top of Ladder Hill

Easter Morning Family Service 11am
HTH Salvation Army Hall

THE SALVATION ARMY

You are invited to join
The Salvation Army for a
Praise & Worship Musical Evening
On Friday, 11 April 2025
7.30pm
At the HTH Salvation Army Hall

Come and join us for an evening of spirit-filled music and joyful praise!

We look forward to seeing you there.

SPORTS ARENA

All Out Action!

Six games played in action-packed weekend of local cricket

Luke Bennett, SAMS

A jam-packed weekend of local cricket saw six games played in the SHCA RMS T20 tournament over Saturday and Sunday at Francis Plain.

The first game on Saturday saw Challengers defeat Levelwood Rebels. Challengers elected to bat first and an outstanding batting display from Player of the Match, Andrew Yon, with 136 runs would help his team to a massive total of 241. A brilliant bowling display from Challengers would see Rebels bowled all-out for just 69, leaving the league champs to win by a large margin of 172 runs.

The second game on Saturday saw Levelwood Allstars rack up another win as they took on Jamestown Heat. A 94 from Player of the Match Clayton Leo would see Allstars get off to a blistering start with the bat, however a five wicket haul from young Hugo Richards would help Heat restrict the overall total to 177. Heat got off to a reasonable start in the chase, but the batting order soon collapsed and they were eventually bowled out for 95 runs.

The final match on Saturday saw the Mustangs see of Cobras to give them two consecutive wins in the tournament. Cobras elected to bat first with Jamie Peters producing a well played 52 to help his team to a total of 133 after 20 overs. A 79 from Player of the Match, Scott Crowie, during the chase however saw Mustangs reach the total within 16 overs to take the win.

Onto Sunday when Levelwood Allstars took out Cobras to grab two wins in two days. An all-round impressive batting performance from Allstars would give them a healthy total of 201. Allstars, Dave Francis, would then steal the show with the ball, coming away with three wickets for just a single run after one over, helping his team bowl out Cobras for just 65 runs.

In the next match, Jamestown Heat would bounce back after their loss against Allstars the day before to defeat Levelwood Rebels. Heat went in to bat first and produced a total of 188 thanks largely to Player of the Match, Dax Richards, with 89. An impressive 87 from Rebels Delroy Leo during the chase provided hope but ultimately was not enough for his team to catch the total required with Rebels running out of overs and Heat picking up the win by 27 runs.

The final match of the weekend saw Pirates defeat Mustangs to get them back on track to retaining their RMS T20 title. Pirates elected to bat first with Player of the Match, David Young, striking his way to 94, accompanied by Brooklyn Fowler with 67, producing an explosive batting display to help their team to a mammoth total of 239. The bowling of the Pirates would match up to their batting display with Greg Coleman bagging a six-wicket haul which included a hat trick, with Mustangs bowled out for just 51.

This was an impressive display from Pirates, announcing their intentions to retain their RMS T20 title. Allstars, however, stand as the current table-toppers with Challengers also remaining unbeaten in second position with a game in hand. With four playoff spots up for grabs to progress in the tournament, there will no doubt be close contention among all teams to make it into the top four; ensuring the following weeks of local cricket will be very exciting.





FIXTURES

Saturday 12th April
13:30
Western A Mustangs v Challengers
Umpires:
Dax Richards and David George

Sunday 13th April
09:30
Cobras v Jamestown Heat
Umpires:
Scott Crowie and Barry Stroud
13:30
Sandy Bay Pirates v Levelwood Allstars
Umpires:
Delroy Leo and Ralph Knipe