THE South Atlantic Media Services, Ltd.

www.sams.sh

SENTINEL

Vol. 14, Issue 01 - Price: £1 *"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"* Thursday 03 April 2025

Financial Aid Increased, though Ministers request is denied





Welcome to Volume 14



"Atlantic Star Airlines will soon cease to exist"

ONE Creative environments

ONE way to do it!



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

So firstly, let me welcome all of you - our valued readers and customers - to The Sentinel Volume 14.

Here at SAMS, through Radio 1 and The Sentinel, we strive to bring you the most accurate and reliable news on St Helena, and have been doing so now for thirteen years, and counting.

There have been many many changes over the years, from our venue, to our methods of communication (with the rise of the digital era), and of course to our Sentinel team who have dwindled in terms of numbers, though our standard of reporting continues to be at the highest level on St Helena.

Reporting on this Island can be difficult – there are slow weeks when we really have to chase sniffs of news in order to find good content for the paper, while there are other weeks when we are up to our neck in hot-of-the-press news stories. Often, getting answers can be difficult, especially when concerns are brought to us by the community. However, I can say that SHG's Communications Hub have, in recent times, been more forthcoming with providing responses and statements to our many enquiries and long may it continue in order for us to be able to provide that information to all of you.

At The Sentinel, we pride ourselves in providing balanced, unbiased reports, which is something all media should be doing – though we all know that is often not the case, especially on St Helena. This can be frustrating as the media should be reliable; publishing made-up news or untrue information can be detrimental and create more confusion around certain topics.

So, here's to all of you who have supported us over the years, and here's to my brilliant busy-bee team here in the office who work hard each day to provide St Helena's number one media service to each of you, week in, week out. To Volume 14, and the many more to come!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

With the next General Election approaching, I am being asked "WHAT IS IT REALLY LIKE TO BE A COUNCILLOR?" This is not an easy question to answer as everyone has their own view, but I will attempt to do so, based on my own 14 years' experience.

Being a Councillor (non- Minister) is demanding and frustrating at times, but is never dull or boring. One has to tackle different issues and interact with different people all the time. Although there are routine meetings, the items discussed at them are very varied and relate to key issues already affecting St Helena, or likely to do so in the future.

Two very important responsibilities of Councillors are to appropriate St Helena Government's Budget and to pass Legislation. All changes to existing Ordinances, or new ones, have to be passed by Legislative Council before they can be enacted and brought into force. Fulfilling these duties not only involves attendance at meetings, but detailed consideration of the relevant documents which frequently leads to one-to-one discussions with relevant officers for clarification purposes. Councillors can bring Private Members Bills to the House to address gaps in legislation and also propose amendments to Bills presented by Government, so a lot of careful preparation is required.

The third big responsibility is that of scrutiny, which is both challenging and demanding as it is essential for accountability, openness and transparency, so one has to ask difficult questions and probe deeply. Three Councillors are elected to the Public Accounts Committee, which examines how public money is spent and recommends where improvements need to be made. All Councillors are Members of one or other of the two Select Committees established to scrutinise aspects of St Helena Government. Serving on these Committees involves regular meetings, live hearings at which evidence is gathered, analysis of this evidence, and formulation of conclusions and associated recommendations.The conclusions and recommendations are then included in a Report, and progress in implementation is monitored.

In order to be able to contribute to meetings effectively, it is necessary to read background papers and to carry out additional consultation and research so that one can be confident that one knows enough about the agenda items to make informed comments, and– very importantly -that what one says reflects constituents' views. There are times when one may not agree with one's constituents, but provided there is nothing unlawful involved, it is one's duty to make their feelings known, unless the difference in opinion was caused by a misunderstanding or lack of information which one could resolve successfully without taking it further. Councillors should remember that what may not seem important to them, may be of huge significance to a constituent.

As well as attending meetings, Councillors also have to undertake site visits in relation to project progress, investigation of matters of concern to constituents - such as deteriorating roadside walls - and to carry out fact checking. Such visits also form a key part of the scrutiny process.

Constituency work is unpredictable, as the range of topics upon which constituents seek advice and guidance is huge. Issues relating to social housing, social benefits, roads, health services, the rising cost of living and progress of current projects are among those raised most frequently. Following up on these queries/concerns, checking the responses received and providing feedback is very time consuming, particularly when there are delays in obtaining answers and "chasing" becomes necessary. A considerable amount of time is involved in sending and responding to e-mails. I usually receive at least 20 messages a day, and more than half of these need a response. In addition, I send around another 10 e-mails daily.

However, constituency work is very interesting and enjoyable. Great satisfaction can be obtained from knowing that one has helped someone to solve a problem, or that what one did will contribute towards taking St Helena forward and making life better for everyone.

Councillors do not have to work set hours each day. Apart from attending meetings, there is flexibility. They can decide when they choose to undertake background reading and research; prepare Questions and Motions, study draft legislation, write interventions and reports, etc. Many constituents prefer interacting with the Councillor of their choice after working hours - or even at weekends - as these are the times that they find most convenient, so Councillors need to be prepared and willing to plan for

this. Although the volume of work varies from week to week, being a Councillor is definitely not a part-time job, as the total hours worked average well over 38.5 per week.

One of the biggest advantages of being a Councillor is that it gives one an opportunity to work/interact with a very wide range of people, which is extremely enjoyable and fulfilling. Lasting bonds of mutual understanding, trust and collaboration develop that stand the test of time and are both motivating and rewarding, but Councillors also have to face criticism, which may even be unfair, as whatever one does will not please everyone.

Being a Councillor is definitely not easy, but it enables one to try to help the community and make a constructive difference. One does not always succeed and will encounter many disappointments as well as positive outcomes, but one gets the satisfaction of knowing that one has tried one's best and taken forward constituents' concerns, wishes and interests on their behalf, as well as holding SHG to account and getting Budgets and necessary legislation in place.

Even if you do not wish to become a Councillor or Minister yourself, it is really important that you register to vote if you have not already done so. On Polling Day, the public has a chance to choose who they think will represent them best for the next four years. Please don't miss this opportunity!

Corinda Essex



Lights Out!

Police Appeal for Information on Theft of Streetlight in St Paul's

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Police are investigating the theft of a streetlight in St Paul's and are asking the public for their help to track down the offender.

During 2024, there were a number of thefts having occurred on St Helena, with the Royal St Helena Police often looking to the community for assistance in the form of information that will help to identify those responsible.

Among items stolen during the year were fuel, eggs, copper wire, and a bag of coal, and this trend of strange item thefts have continued into 2025 with the Police now looking for the public's help as they investigate the theft of a streetlight from the St Paul's area that took place last week.

"The Royal St Helena Police Service is investigating the theft of a streetlight from the bus stop at Sunnyside, St Paul's, which is believed to have occurred on or around Monday, 25 March 2025," they said in a recent appeal for information. "The removal of this streetlight poses a serious safety risk to both pedestrians and motorists in the area. We are appealing to the public for any information that could assist with our inquiries."

While the term 'streetlight' has been used in the appeal, the light in question was not the usual tall metal streetlight – as can be found in Jamestown and other locations around the Island – but was more of a security light, recently installed at the Sunnyside bus shelter. Nevertheless, its theft is still an odd occurrence and Police are keen to find out who is responsible.

They are asking anyone who may have "witnessed any suspicious activity in the area or have any details that may help" to contact them on 22626, or to speak to any officer, quoting reference HECT2949.

"Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please share this appeal to help us recover the stolen streetlight and ensure the safety of our community," they concluded.

ST HELENA NEWS

Financial Aid Increased, Ministers Request Denied



SHG to receive increased aid package of 5% from HMG with Ministers "extremely grateful" despite the request of £16million for a zero-based budget being denied

Liam Yon, SAMS

During the recent Formal Meeting of Legislative Council, Minister for Treasury & Economic Development, Mark Brooks, revealed some highly-anticipated news regarding St Helena's financial aid settlement for the new financial year – with an increase of £1.7m having been approved by His Majesty's Government.

The Minister was positive about the 5% increase to the settlement for 2025-26, however the Ministerial Team will no doubt feel bitter-sweet about the news considering that, despite an increase, the approved aid settlement falls well short of the fourth option put forward as part of Financial Aid Mission (FAM) discussions earlier in the year for a zero-based budget for SHG with an additional £16m request.

"What this means is that St Helena has put forward what we believe should be the baseline budget for St Helena going forward, so that when, or whatever the outcome is, the UK Government (UKG) will know what should be required as a baseline," explained the Chief Minister during the FAM Press Conference held in The Castle to conclude discussions back in January.

Ministers did however make it clear at the time that the UKG being able to cater to St Helena's fourth option would "not be easy" and that they recognised "the constraints in the UK" at this current time. Minister Brooks echoed these feelings when announcing the confirmed financial aid settlement for 2025-26 during Formal LegCo.

"Mr Speaker, I am pleased to announce that only last night, we received notification and confirmation from HMG on the financial aid settlement for 25-26," he revealed. "Mr Speaker, we are all aware of the challenging financial environments within the UK at this time. The Chancellor's spring budget speech yesterday was a reminder of this, including the £6 billion cut in the aid budget. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that His Majesty's Government has confirmed an increase in our core financial aid of 5%. This results in an increase of £1.7 million."

The Minister went on to state that "noting the cuts that have been made to the FCDO budget lines, we are extremely grateful for this outcome."

With that said, it has been asserted regularly by Ministers in recent months in various forums – including the weekly SAMS In Scope programme – that the zero-based budget, and it's £16m request, was needed for SHG to provide existing services "at a reasonable standard" and did not include new service offerings; meaning the fact that the increase in settlement is over £14m less than this requirement would, as put by Minister Brooks, mean "difficult decisions" will now need to be made when prioritising portfolio budgets for the next twelve months.

"Mr Speaker, our financial position is still fragile and it will be necessary for Ministers to take some hard and difficult decisions around prioritisation of resources in the coming weeks," he said following the budget announcement. "I will now work with the Chief Minister and other Ministers and officials to agree how the additional funding will be allocated to the priority areas, with a view of bringing forward an Appropriation Bill to this House at the earliest opportunity."

The Minister concluded by thanking HMG for the increase "in such difficult times for both SHG and HMG."





"Atlantic Star Airlines will soon cease to exist"

Atlantic Star Airlines to end 12-year pursuit of direct flights from UK to St Helena as they share regret that they could not "provide the connectivity we feel Saints deserved" in a letter to the community



Atlantic Star CEO Richard Brown

Liam Yon, SAMS

Atlantic Star Airlines – a group that has spent over a decade actively pursuing different air access solutions for St Helena, specifically direct flights to the UK or Europe – have recently announced its imminent closure as they apologise to Saints for "not having been able to provide the connectivity" that they felt St Helena deserved.

It was back in November 2012 when Atlantic Star Airlines was incorporated as a private limited company in England & Wales, and the following year, in June 2013, the company – founded by former British Airways Pilots, Richard Brown, Andy Radford, and Aiden Walsh – announced that it planned to offer weekly direct flights from London to St Helena with a fuel stop, likely at Madrid–Barajas Airport in Spain. There were also plans for a weekly flight from St Helena to Cape Town.

Two years following, in around July 2015, Atlantic Star Airlines received a setback on their air access plans when they announced that negotiations to use a Titan Airways aircraft had been terminated, causing a delay to their proposed service.

However, later in the year, they confirmed details for their first planned flight to the Island, scheduled for 21 March 2016, leaving London Gatwick Airport the previous evening; while their second flight was planned via the same route in early April 2016. These dates were however cancelled due to a delay in the opening of St Helena Airport at the time.

A year later, in October 2016, Atlantic Star Airlines trialled the use of an Avro RJ100 aircraft at St Helena, as they continued to explore and pursue direct flights to the Island from the UK and Europe.

Unfortunately, despite the support received from the community on St Helena, as well as from Saints abroad – who were in favour of direct flights from the UK – the efforts of Richard, Andy and Aiden did not bear fruit and now, twelve years on from setting up Atlantic Star Airlines, they have announced the imminent closure of the company. Here is their letter:

Dear Saints, Friends,

It is with great sadness that after more than 12 years seeking to facilitate an air access solution that would best serve resident Saints, expats and tourists Atlantic Star Airlines will soon cease to exist. We still believe that an air service routing directly to Europe would better provide the visitor numbers projected but accept that this comes at substantial cost and risk. The relatively small and isolated aerodrome poses considerable operational challenges, and SA Airlink should be commended for having mounted a robust and successful service. The impact of Covid on international tourism and the turmoil it generated in the aviation sector has further undermined the appetite amongst our partner airlines to provide a niche product in difficult circumstances.

All of us associated with AStar have thoroughly enjoyed the adventure yet regret ultimately not having been able to provide the connectivity we feel Saints deserved. We certainly enjoyed interacting with all of you, both 'at home' and in the UK. We wish everyone the greatest success, health and happiness. And don't be surprised to see any one of us on your fantastic island in future....

Very best regards,

Richard Brown, Andy Radford, Aiden Walsh

The letter was posted to Facebook and received a number of comments thanking the team for their efforts, while the majority still supported the idea of direct flights to the UK as the best way forward for air access to St Helena.

"Richard Brown, Andy Radford and Aiden Walsh, I am so sorry your attempt at direct flights between the UK and St Helena with a refuelling stop haven't materialized but we do appreciate your contribution towards an air service for our island for which we are more than thankful," commented one user.

"It is my firm belief that the only way St Helena will achieve any degree of independence, or the number of tourists to enable this, is for flights originating in the UK. I wish you all the best of luck for the future and thank you for all of your hard work in trying to bring your service to fruition in the face of so many difficulties and the intransigence of SHG," added another.

The Sentinel also wishes to send our thanks and well wishes to the Atlantic Star Airlines team for the dedication they gave to do what they felt was the correct solution for sustainable air access to St Helena.

Photos by What The Saints Did Next



Atlantic Star Airlines holds a press conference at St Helena Airport

"We need an appropriate legal framework"

Minister Brooks describes new Communications Bill as "crucial step" as Public Consultation period is launched



Donna Crowie, SAMS

St Helena Government has launched a public consultation on the proposed Communications Bill 2025, which will replace the outdated Telecommunications Ordinance, 1989, and introduce a modern regulatory framework to support digital growth.

"This legislation represents a crucial step in St Helena's digital journey, with the island now connected to high-speed fibre; we need an appropriate legal framework to ensure these benefits reach all residents and businesses while supporting economic development," commented Minister for Treasury and Economic Development, Mark Brooks. "I thank the public for their patience while officers have been working hard to review and update the new Communications Ordinance. I encourage everyone to engage with our team to help ensure this new legal framework meets the needs of all."

The Bill implements the Policy for communications, network and services, which was accepted by Executive Council back in 2020 and reaffirmed in 2024, focusing on a broad range of issues such as communications regulator, universal service obligation, consumer safeguards, price controls and spectrum management.

The consultation will seek feedback on whether the draft legislation correctly reflects the previously approved policy objectives and how operations might affect stakeholders.

This consultation period has been launched and will end on Wednesday, 16 April. Any questions or concerns are asked to be submitted to the Economic Development Portfolio Assistant, Alexandria Thomas, via email address Alexandria.Thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Following the consultation, responses will be reviewed by the Attorney General's Chambers, with essential amendments made before the Bill proceeds to the Legislative Assembly. The government aims to enact the legislation by June 2025.

I Still Here

Minister Ellick's trip to CPA Workshop cancelled after "processing issue"

Liam Yon, SAMS

As reported by The Sentinel last week, St Helena had been set to be represented at the upcoming Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Small Branches Workshop on "Strong and Independent Parliaments in Small Jurisdictions" in the Isle of Man during this week – however "a processing issue" has scuppered these plans.

SHG had already confirmed that Minister Jeffrey Ellick would depart



the Island on Saturday, 22 March, in order to arrive in the Isle of Man in time for the CPA Workshop. In addition to the workshop, this trip would have also allowed the Minister to attend meetings and conduct visits with various government departments and parliamentarians in the UK, all related to what SHG described as "ongoing business within the Safety, Security and Home Affairs Portfolio".

However, late in the afternoon of Wednesday, 26 March, SHG announced via their website that "the previously announced visit of Minister Jeffrey Ellick to the UK has now been delayed," later attributing the reason of the delay to "a processing issue in South Africa," which they add was "currently being addressed."

No detail was given on what this issue and why it could not be addressed quickly to allow the Minister to travel onward and arrive to the Isle of Man in time for the workshop.

ONE way to do it!

One Creative Environments Ltd chosen as 'Design and Supervise Consultancy' for New Prison Build

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government have announced that One Creative Environments Ltd has been chosen as the "Design and Supervise Consultancy" company to progress the new prison project on St Helena.

The new prison build has been a topic of conversation on-Island for a number of years, with the plan being to construct a brand new, purpose-built prison for St Helena in Bottom Woods through funding from the UK-funded Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

It was back at the end of 2023 when SHG updated that, "the new facility will be located in Bottom Woods and is scheduled to be operational by 2026/27."

At the time, they described the planned new facility as a "state-of-the-art prison" that "will feature modern amenities and technology" ensuring what they describe as "the most efficient operation of the service possible, whilst also meeting international standards."

In terms of capacity, SHG inidicated 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."

It was around this time, in October 2023, that an open procurement exercise was launched to identify a contractor to design and build the new prison. In an update on this work in April 2024, SHG advised that three tenders were received in response to the procurement, however following evaluation, none of these tenders were selected as, "they did not meet the requirements identified."

A later procurment was carried out and now, SHG have announced that a company has been selected to move this impiortant project forward. "The Programme Management Office (PMO) are pleased to announce that following an open procurement, One Creative Environments Ltd (ONE) has been selected as the preferred Design and Supervise Consultancy for the New Prison Build project," they recently announced.

Via their official website, One Creative Environments Ltd describe themselves as "an integrated building design business with a dynamic multi-disciplinary team comprising masterplanning, architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, civil and structural engineering and building services working together at the forefront of Building Information Modelling (BIM) – the future of intelligent design."

They also add that, "at ONE Creative environments (ONE) we believe that creating a building or an environment – however complex – should be a real joy for clients and we've progressively shaped our practice and our mix of skills to make this happen. At ONE we don't just share our workplace – we share expertise, creating high quality, efficient, sustainable and inspiring environments across all sectors ultimately saving clients time, resource and money."

Representatives from ONE arrived to St Helena on Saturday, 22 March, and hosted a drop-in session to meet local construction businesses, service providers and suppliers to discuss the upcoming project on Tuesday of last week.



ST HELENA NEWS



"Our guys should be praised"

Maersk Pittsburgh arrives with crew member seeking medical attention

Donna Crowie, SAMS

On Tuesday morning, a massive ship in the harbour was not an April fool's joke, but was another Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) request, as Freight Vessel Maersk Pittsburgh arrived to James Bay at around 8am.

It was confirmed that a crew member on board required medical assistance, and was duly taken to the General Hospital. "The crew member was taken to hospital for further treatment," Simon Lee, St Helena's Harbour Master, told The Sentinel. "The operation very successful and our guys should be praised for their efforts."

Shortly after discharging the crew member, the vessel departed St Helena and is now heading to Port Elizabeth. *Photos courtesy of Mark Caswell*

"They were abusive and disruptive"

SHG release statement on early hours Public Transport Service incident



Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government have carried out an investigation into a recently alleged incident on Route 2 of the Public Transport Service during the early hours of Sunday morning as part of the late night service on Saturday evenings, where they found that "the PTS bus driver followed the standard protocol."

On Sunday, 30 March, a concerning post from a local resident was published on Facebook which alleged that a driver of one of St Helena's Public Transport buses had kicked members of the public off the transport bus and, when doing so, had thrown one of the persons belongings into the road – with photos depicting the belongings spilt out into the road.

This post garnered many negative comments, with the majority of people disapproving the alleged actions of the driver and calling for SHG, who recently took over the service, to do something about their driver; though SHG have since looked into the incident where they found that there was no wrongdoing having taken place after speaking to the driver as well as other passengers of the Route 2 service during the alleged incident.

"Following investigation and statements from both the driver and travelling passengers, it is clear that the driver of the PTS bus did not manhandle any of the customers nor their belongings, but ensured that they removed themselves from the bus as they were abusive and disruptive," said SHG in a statement issued on Tuesday. "The PTS bus driver followed the standard protocol, thereby ensuring the comfort and safety of all other passengers using the service."

In addition, SHG saw it necessary to reaffirm that "such antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated on the PTS and could result in a ban on the use of the service on all routes for those offending."



"SHG does not have a view on this matter"



look for St Helena.

There is however another tribute to the Duke that remains in place on the Island – a 'We Welcome You Prince Andrew' greeting, painted on the wall at Shy Road, which was done "anonymously" ahead of Prince Andrew's visit to the Island in 1984.

With a name change imminent for Prince Andrew School – to remove "controversial ties" – many have questioned when, more than if, the paint welcoming a man associated with sexual abuse allegations will be removed, considering it stands out within the Island's capital and is visible to both locals and visitors to the Island; particularly those arriving on Cruise Ships who will look to Jamestown for their first impression of St Helena and its people.

However, enquiries from The Sentinel have resulted in SHG distancing themselves from this concern, where they have stated that they have no plans to remove the controversial greeting. "As we understand it, this was done anonymously by members of the local community and not by SHG," they informed. "As such, SHG does not have a view on this matter."

While The Sentinel accepts this response from SHG, it does beg the question what would happen if further controversial messages are "anonymously" painted around the Island; would SHG "have a view" on the matter if this were to happen?

Removal of 'We Welcome You Prince Andrew' paint not on SHG's agenda, despite the decision to change school name to remove "controversial ties"

Liam Yon, SAMS

SHG have confirmed that they have no plans to remove the 'We Welcome You Prince Andrew' paint from the wall at Shy Road in Jamestown as, "this was done anonymously by members of the local community and not by SHG."

It was back in February when The Sentinel broke the big news coming out of the Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio that a decision had been made to rid the Island's only secondary school of "contentious associations" by removing Prince Andrew from the school name.

This likely relates to the long-term and renowned sexual abuse allegations against Prince Andrew - younger brother of King Charles III – as well as his association with infamous convicted sex offender, Jeffrey Epstein.

"Choosing a new name allows us to honour the contributions of our students and community without the burden of controversial ties," commented Head Teacher for Prince Andrew School, Phil Toal, at the time.

This news was welcomed by the large majority of the St Helena community who agreed that having a school named after the disgraced Duke of York was not a good

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

Residents waste collection fee under "consideration"

ENRP consider charge for residential waste collection to "offset substantial costs"



Donna Crowie, SAMS

In a bid to offset costs and generate more revenue, the Environment, Natural Resources & Planning Portfolio (ENRPP) is currently considering the introduction of a waste collection fee for residents of St Helena.

In January 2019, Waste Management Services (WMS) introduced a charging scheme for commercial waste collection; ranging from 50p per week for a 240-litre bin to £2 per week for emptying a 1,100-litre bin.

According to SHG, this was introduced to "reduce volumes of waste and create a more sustainable Waste Management Service through charging for the collection and disposal of waste." They added that "this in turn provides incentives for waste minimisation, reuse and recycling and supports the National Goal 'AltogetherGreener' in the St Helena Island Ten Year Plan."

Now however, it has been confirmed that ENRP are considering the introduction of a similar collection fee for residential properties, with SHG informing that "this consideration is part of the Portfolio's budget preparation process."

They went on to add that the"primary aim of this potential fee is to offset the substantial costs associated with waste management operations."

ENRP did not indicate what the potential cost could be for residential garbage collection but did add that, "revenue generated from the fee would enable investment in additional environmental risk management initiatives."

As stated, this initiative is something currently only being considered by ENRP as all SHG portfolios plan for the next financial year from 1 April.

Better Out than In?

Departures continue to outweigh Arrivals as Stats Office release estimates up to January 2025



Liam Yon, SAMS

The SHG Statistics Office recently released their latest estimates for arrivals and departures to St Helena up to the end of January 2025, with a similar trend observed to previous estimates – that being that while both arrivals and departures are on the rise, the total departures continue to be greater than the total number of arrivals to the Island.

They detail that in January this year, there were an estimated 756 arrivals to the Island, with 519 people arriving by air; this is up from the 625 arrivals in January 2024, when 449 arrived by air.

Out of the January 2025 arrivals, 330 people are estimated to have arrived for leisure, including 208 non-St Helenians and 122 St Helenians visiting family and friends on the island.

Looking more broadly at arrivals over the 12 months from February 2024 to January 2025, Stats estimate 4,576 arrivals to the Island compared to 4,361 in the same period a year ago – representing a 4.9% increase.

With regard to departures from the Island, Stats indicate that, in January this year, there were an estimated 974 departures from the island, 218 more than the number of arrivals. Over the same twelve months, departure estimates reached 4,623, compared to 4,385 departing in the same period a year ago – representing an increase in departures of 5.4%.

These estimates continue to reaffirm the concerns with regards to St Helena's declining population. The vision of SHG, through the Immigration Policy, is to gradually grow the resident population on the Island through retaining residents, encouraging Saints overseas to return, and making St Helena more accessible and inviting for visitors and investors. As it stands however, backed by this latest data, this is not yet the case for St Helena.

NOTICE BOARD

MV Bolette and MV Amadea to call at St Helena



Wednesday 9 April
The MV Bolette is expected to arrive at 6:30am and depart at 4:30pm
SHE IS CARRYING:
990 PASSENGERS AND **617** CREW



Tuesday 15 - Wednesday 16 April
The MV Amadea is expected to arrive at 2pm (15th) and depart at 5pm (16th)
SHE IS CARRYING:
600 PASSENGERS AND **315** CREW

SCHEDULED STOPS FOR PRE- ARRANGED ISLAND SCENIC TOURS ARE:

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

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

Set up a Refreshment Stand

Bring along your Locally Made Souvenirs

Contribute to the Visitor Experience!

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

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



Be Friendly
Be Organised
Be Prepared *(show off your Local Knowledge)*
Be Flexible *(changes may be required due to sea conditions)*

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Do you know the Mushroom Man?

Philip Francis talks about his business 'Grow Space'and what it's like to farm mushrooms for sale on St Helena



Demy Herne, SAMS

Starting a new business, especially on St Helena, always comes with risks and Philip Francis, founder of 'Grow Space', knows this all too well. His journey into the world of mushroom farming has been a carefully calculated one, backed by significant financial investment and a steep learning curve. In an interview conducted by local radio presenter,Tony Leo, Philip shared insights into mushroom farming, his learning experiences, and the process that goes into growing gourmet mushrooms.

When asked about the financial commitment, Philip was upfront about the costs. "Yes, it's quite a big investment," he admits. To make his dream a reality, Philip secured a business loan, which he used to fund the setup of his mushroom farm in his garage.

Despite the steep initial investment, he's optimistic about his return on investment. "I started off with an output of 20kgs to 25kgs a week." However, he's not rushing into scaling up too quickly. "I'm actually doing it gradually," he explained. "You need to get it right because if you get it wrong, you can destroy the whole crop."

For Philip, the key to ensuring long-term success is balance. While he plans to increase his output and add a third tent for cultivation, he's taking it slow to ensure quality control and minimize risk.

Philip's main focus is on growing oyster mushrooms, which he finds particularly suitable for his environment. "Oysters are the main one I'm growing currently," Philip shared. "They grow on recycled paper, straw, and bio-waste." The process starts with sterilized and pasteurized straw pellets, which are a safe and controlled environment for the oyster mushrooms to grow. This pasteurization is crucial for eliminating bacteria that could hinder the mushrooms' growth.

Mushrooms, being fungi, are incredibly sensitive to their environment, and cleanliness is a critical factor. "Cleaning is 60% of growing mushrooms," Philip said. "Cleaning, cleaning, cleaning, it's always cleaning." He spends considerable time ensuring his grow space remains sterile and free of any contaminants that could disrupt the growing process. This level of care is necessary as the mushrooms need the right balance of humidity, temperature, and light to thrive.

The bags in which the mushrooms grow are also essential to this process. These bags, equipped with special filters, allow minimal air exchange while preventing contamination. Philip pointed out that the bags used for the cultivation process are biodegradable, but "there's no 100% biodegradable mushroom bag in the market" yet. The industry is still searching for a perfect solution to eliminate plastic altogether, but for now, these bags help to keep the mushrooms protected and allow them to grow.

Philip's mushroom farm setup includes a special tent where the inoculation process takes place. The environment in this tent is strictly controlled, with regular cleaning and careful monitoring. The humidity and temperature are constantly adjusted to create the ideal growing conditions. "Mushrooms like to breathe in, but they like to absorb water in the air," Philip explained. "I have loads of thermostats and gauges in here."

The process doesn't stop with cultivation. After the mushrooms are grown, Philip has to be mindful of their delicate nature. He pointed out that oyster mushrooms have a relatively short shelf life, so packaging them requires careful consideration. "Mushrooms are quite fragile, and the packaging is difficult," he said. "So the tray can comfortably hold anywhere from 200-250g of mushrooms."

Philip's journey into the mushroom market is a work in progress. At the moment, he sells his mushrooms at £14/kg. "I'm trying to be very competitive of what is selling for roughly the same price," he said. Despite the low margins, Philip is confident that his mushrooms, grown fresh and delivered directly to customers, will stand out in the market. "I literally came home from work one day, picked them, and delivered them within an hour," he explained. "So those mushrooms were not even an hour old."

The business has also started to see a few key customers. "I've got a few people out there who I'm giving orders to," Philip revealed. "A lot of these people are kind of like friends of mine and they help me through the whole process." Their feedback has been very useful in refining both the product and the marketing.

Philip is also planning to diversify his product range. "I'm growing Lion's Mane," he said. "It has loads and loads of health benefits. The world is quite crazy over that mushroom." Known for its cognitive benefits, Lion's Mane has gained popularity in wellness circles, with some people consuming it in powder form. "My friend in the UK buys the capsules off Amazon and puts a couple of grams in his tea every morning," he shared.

As Philip continues to experiment and refine his farming practices, he is also keeping an eye on future growth. "I have a few more mushrooms" he said. "I'm quite interested to see how this will turn out."

In terms of the business structure, Philip sees potential for family involvement down the road. "At the moment, my son and wife, I'm trying to get them involved," he said. "But once I get everything dialed in I'll properly get them involved."

Through all the learning and adjustments, one thing remains clear; Philip is committed to developing 'Grow Space' into a successful business, with a clear dedication to producing high-quality, fresh, gourmet mushrooms.

From a significant investment to careful experimentation, Philip is creating a niche market for fresh, local mushrooms. With a focus on quality, sustainability, and steady growth, Grow Space is well-positioned to make a lasting impact on the island.

As Philip continues to refine his processes and grow his customer base, the future for Grow Space looks promising. His willingness to invest time, money, and effort into learning and adapting ensures that his business will be a success in the long run.







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 04
- 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 05
- 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 06
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke Bennett
- 1pm : Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm: In Scope
- 7pm: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations

MON. April 07
- 7am-9am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 5:30pm: Country Classics
- 7:30pm: Sound of the 80's with John Turner

TUE. April 08
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Demy
- 9am-11am: Midmorning with Donna Crowie
- 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 09
- 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 10
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 9:30am: Public Accounts Committee Meeting
- 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



Why not wake up to the sound of SAMS Radio 1?

Remember, we are with you from 7am, Monday to Friday, bringing you those good morning vibes, getting you ready to face the day.

So make sure to tune in for your morning dose of SAMS Radio 1 with Liam, Luke, Deon and Donna. Remember the words of Johnny Cash: "Life and love go on, let the music play!"

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Suduko Session

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Throwback Thursday

3 April 1973 - The first mobile phone call is made in downtown Manhattan, NYC by Motorola employee Martin Cooper to the Bell Labs headquarters in New Jersey



Creme Egg Chocolate Mousse



Today is known as National Chocolate Mousse Day
Why not try this as a sweet after-dinner treat, adding a little Easter twist

Ingredients

- 450ml double cream
- 200g condensed milk
- 200g milk chocolate
- 2-3 bags mini Creme Eggs (chopped)
- 3-4 large Creme Eggs (halved)
- Sprinkles

Instructions

1. In a heatproof bowl, melt the milk chocolate until smooth
2. In your mixing bowl, add your double cream, condensed milk, and the melted chocolate and whisk until very thick!
3. Fold through some chopped up mini Creme Eggs and pour/pipe into some glasses/pots
4. Sprinkle on some sprinkles of choice. Add a half of a Creme Egg to each mousse and refrigerate for at least 3-4 hours and then ENJOY!

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED

In Scope: Environmental, Natural Resources & Planning Portfolio



Focus on Environmental Management Plans

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

This week, Minister Christine Scipio welcomed Elizabeth Clingham (Head of Nature Conservation) as her guest on In Scope to give listeners an insight into the Environmental Management plans that currently support the work within this section.

In the Nature Conservation Section, a lot of the work is driven through various projects (a lot funded by donors abroad), many of which are now coming to an end, especially if no more funding is approved to continue the work. This makes for a busy time at the Environmental section as a lot of finalising and rounding up work has to be done on all the work-streams for these projects.

Various Environmental projects on St Helena are funded under the Darwin Initiative. Within this program there are various types of funding each with their own criteria, parameters and funding thresholds for example the Darwin Fellowship and Darwin Strategic. The funding stream most often accessed by St Helena is Darwin Plus. When submitting bids, priorities and outputs need to be clearly defined to be in contention to secure funding. If funding is approved, the recipients will have to comply with very stringent processes of reporting as is always the case when working with taxpayers' money. Projects will often be undertaken in collaboration with other Portfolios; NGO's or even other territories. A lot of work goes into formulating evidence-based bids as the business plan will be subject to intense scrutiny and analysis. St Helena has been very successful in securing Darwin funding over the years due to all the hard work that have gone into formulating bids. At present there are a number of bids that have been submitted and the section is waiting to be notified whether they have been successful in qualifying for project funding.

One of the projects funded under the Darwin Initiative is the Nature Conservation Area (NCA) Project. This project was due to be completed on 31 March, but a deadline-change-request has been approved and the project is now due to be completed at the end of June 2025. The primary purpose of this project is to design management plans for each cited nature conservation area on St Helena. There are a total of 13 of these designated nature conservation areas, some to protect wildlife like the Wirebird or unique habitats, and others to protect areas of historical and cultural significance. Management plans need to balance conservation needs with socio-economic needs. Each area is unique and as such requires a different management plan. Sites for conservation areas had been identified a long time ago, but as part of the NCA project, boundaries had to be reviewed and clearly defined based on fieldwork and research. There have been many stakeholders involved in this project, among others, the St Helena National Trust and the St Helena Research Institute. Landowners and other interested parties have been engaged as part of the process throughout to ensure input from all parties. The re-evaluation and defining of boundary lines will ensure that the boundaries for the NCA's are evidence based. The formulated management plans will be submitted to the advisory board for scrutiny before going out for public consultations, hailing the start of the legal process. There are a number of conservation areas that already have a management plan in place, for example the Peaks National Park and the Marine Protected Area (MPA) but others will now have a management plan for the first time.

The St Helena Cloud Forest Project is one of the cornerstone projects for the Environmental section. This project and its management plan have proven to be very ambitious. The project rests on three pillars; biodiversity, water security and the socio-economic aspect. The biodiversity pillar sits within the remit of ENRP with a strong focus on habitat restoration and plant propagation while the National Trust have also made invaluable contributions to studying invertebrates in this area. Work related to the water pillar has been undertaken by Connect St Helena, looking into how the endemic plants on the Peaks are more adept at capturing and holding water to ensure water security on the island. The Cloud Forest used to be 600 hectares compared to the current 16 hectares. This has prompted the need to rehabilitate and propagate endemic plants to increase the area again. This is being done through the growing of seedlings in the nursery which can then be planted out together with cuttings to increase the forest area by the very dedicated nursery team. The seedlings and young plants are planted in the restoration sites by the habitat team. Working conditions and the terrain can



often pose a lot of challenges and the teams have to work in these conditions year-round. The implementation plan, which supports the management plan, is currently being reviewed to determine the achievement of the goals set. A lot has been achieved on this project and a report will be made available as soon as the implementation process has been completed.

At the moment, there is no more external funding available to continue the work started by this project. A lot of the people involved in this project are not part of the permanent staff and if no other funding streams can be secured, around ten members of the staff compliment will have to be let go. A bid has been submitted to continue funding at least a part of this work, but no confirmation has been received as yet. Other funding options will also be explored to continue the work started by this project.

One of the big challenges in delivering the implementation plan for the Peaks National Park is the plant pathogens that have recently been discovered, negatively impacting the health of the endemic trees in the PNP. A lot of research had to be undertaken to establish all the facts about this plant disease and how it affects the Cloud Forest. This project, focused on gathering more information about the pathogen and how to mitigate risks, is fund by DEFRA and the Darwin Initiative as well as being supported by an organisation called CABI. CABI has been instrumental in establishing testing regimes and developing sound methodology. A lot of work is still being done to determine the spread and locations of the Phytophthora pathogen. Another aspect is to determine how plants are affected and how to raise and propagate plants that have not been affected. As soon as definitive answers are available, the team will inform the public of the plans for the future. At the moment though, it is still critical to have control over people entering the Peaks area, ensuring that all safety procedures are being observed.

The management plan for the Marine Protected Area (MPA) is very important in managing this critical protected area. The implementation of this project has been supported throughout by funding from the Blue Belt Program. The marine management plan was designed to be implemented over a period of 5 years starting in 2023. This management plan also includes a research plan outlining what research needs to be undertaken to gather the necessary information to protect our marine environment. Fisheries data needs to be collected over a long period of time to ensure accurate data taking seasonality into account. New areas also need to form part of research and management plans such as an increase in marine tourism. Incorporated in these plans are biodiversity, environmental as well as socio-economic aspects to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the risk factors and how they can be mitigated to protect our marine life. All of these are captured in the management plan, enabling the team to do a quantifiable annual review to assess the progress made. Without the support of the Blue Belt Program and UK Government Funding, this project would not be where it is now. The management plan and effectiveness framework are critical tools to dictate the work that needs to be undertaken. Unfortunately, continued funding from the Blue Belt Program is also in the balance. The recurrent budget cannot provide for all the current work streams and some functions might have to be reprioritised.

Elizabeth ended off the program by thanking her dedicated team for all the support they have shown her in her new role and for the learning process that she has undergone during this time. She also invited the public to contact her at any time if they have any suggestions or questions about nature conservation on St Helena.









How it works.

The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 4th April at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.

Request how many numbers you would like, and a number/s will be allocated to you. DO NOT ask for specific numbers.

If you do not have Facebook then ask a friend or family member to request a number for you.

Zoe George will be taking calls on 23297 from 7pm only on Friday 4th, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.

We politely ask not to call before this time.

All numbers must be paid for at the bank - BOSH Account - St Helena Medical Support Fund 02146002

Payments to be made by 26th April. Draw will be done on the 30th 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.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

"What I have achieved is down to me"



Saint, Chrystabel Greentree, shares her incredible story of success as she sails the world as a Third Officer onboard luxury Cruise Liner, MS Bolette

Chrystabel with the iconic Sydney Opera House in the distance

Liam Yon, SAMS

Arriving to the Island on Wednesday, 9 April, is the MS Bolette – a massive Cruise Liner and the flagship vessel of Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines – as part of their World Cruise which began in Southampton back on 6 January.

What sets this cruise ship visit aside from the rest is the fact that onboard the 237m, 2000 capacity, luxury passenger for their World Cruise is Third Officer, Chrystabel Greentree, a young Saint who has – on her "own accord" – studied, worked and persevered to reach the position she is in today – sailing the world onboard the MS Bolette.

Chrystabel's story is one of a local girl, doing it on her own, finding success through determination and dedication – quickly rising from the only female onboard a Bulk Carrier in South America to now being Third Officer on a Cruise Liner.

As with many journeys to success, Chrystabel's started through disappointment after being "turned down and denied any help by SHG" following the end of schooling on St Helena. Nevertheless, Chrystabel was determined to create a successful career, and set off for study in the UK onboard the RMS St Helena, during the iconic vessel's final voyage.

"I left home on the on the last sailing of the RMS to study in the UK," she detailed to The Sentinel, sending information when she could during her busy working day onboard the MS Bolette. "My studies was for a total of three years; comprising two years in college and one year of practical work at sea, although this actually was pushed to three and half years due to the Covid pandemic."

Having successfully completed her studies, Chrystabel began her career at sea onboard a Bulk Carrier, operating around the USA, Canada, and South America. "The vessel had a crew of twenty-four and I was the only girl and the only British crewmember onboard," she detailed. "Alongside me were two Filipino crew members and the rest were from Ukraine."

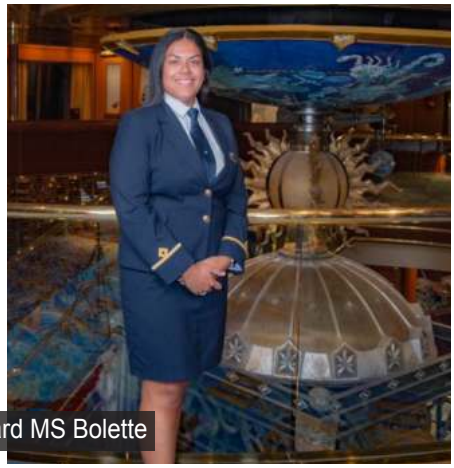
Fast forward and she is now Third Officer onboard the flagship vessel of Fred. Olsen Cruise Liners. "My role as Third Officer requires me to represent the ship's Master, while I also drive the vessel; making sure we get from A to B safely," she smiled. "Other responsibilities include ensuring safety of life at sea and maintaining life saving and fire fighting equipment."

While Chrystabel has a massive responsibility in her role onboard the MS Bolette, sailing on a World Cruise presents incredible opportunities to see some of the most beautiful countries in the world. "Some of my favourite ports from this World Cruise are French Polynesia; so Bora Bora,Tahiti, Raitea," she recalled. "Then there's Robinson Crusoe Island, and of course Australia; including the picturesque Tasmania and Sydney."

Not only is Chrystabel enjoying these enviable locations, but she is sharing the experience and making memories with a friend that she met back when she was a Cadet on a training vessel – with the two fulfilling what seemed a pipe dream back when they first met.

"So when I was a Cadet on one of my training ships I met this other Cadet, Louis; he was from a different college but we became besties and always said it would be so amazing to both become qualified and work





Chrystabel onboard MS Bolette

together as Officers," she explained, recalling their days as Cadets in training. "Well guess what? Here we are, we are both onboard, both Officers working together; friendship goals!" she laughed. "Alongside working together, we've made memories on this World Cruise; swimming with turtles in Mauritius, meeting quokkas in Tasmania, hand-feeding kangaroos in Australia, and swimming with black tip sharks and stingrays in Bora Bora."

Now, Louis will be able to see Chrystabel's home Island, with the MS Bolette scheduled to arrive in James' Bay on Wednesday of next week.

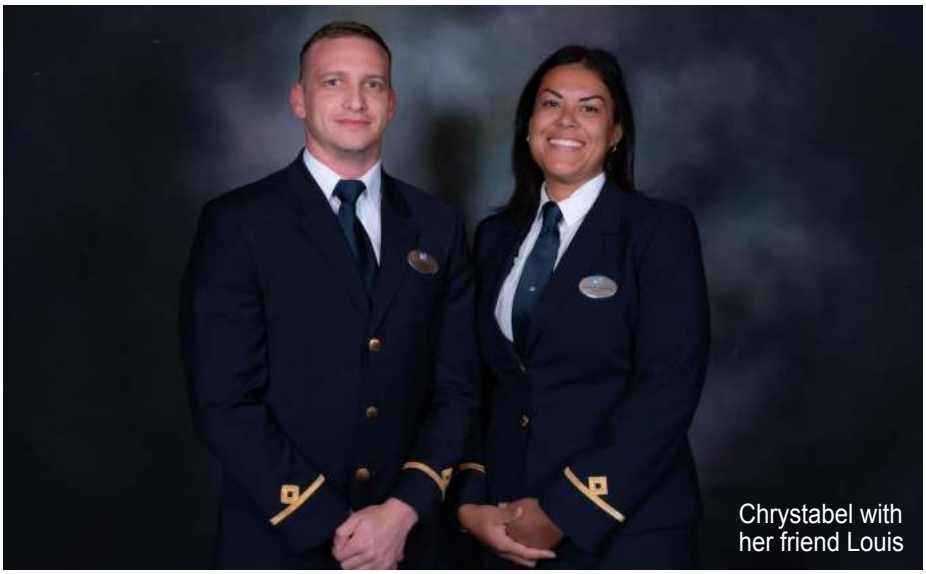
Unfortunately, despite originally planning to sail to St Helena onboard the MS Bolette, Chrsytabel recently disembarked in Cape Town on shore leave; this is due to unfortunate operational reasons which has prevented her from being able to sail back home onboard the vessel. Nevertheless, Chrystabel will arrive to St Helena on Saturday ahead of her colleagues who will sail into the harbour the following Wednesday. "When I arrive I will stay for a few weeks' vacation before heading back and joining Bolette towards the end of June," she said.

Chrystabel is grateful for the support of her family since setting off on her own to pursue her goals and is proud of what she has achieved through her own hard work, without the help of SHG.

"I left the Island on my own accord after being turned down and denied any help by the government," she explained. "I can truly say with pride that my accomplishments, including achieving my ticket, are mine and mine alone! What I have achieved is down to me and I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for my family's fantastic moral support. I am forever grateful to them."

On Wednesday, 9 April, this young Saint's journey will come full circle; from sailing away from the Island nine years ago on the RMS with no doubt some fear and trepidation of what was to come, to arriving back fully qualified and welcoming her 'work place' - the incredible MS Bolette - to her Island home in what is a story of true success.

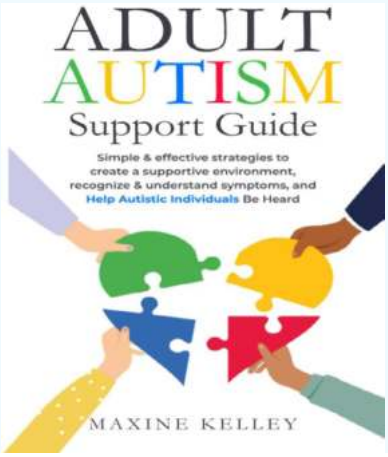
Congratulations Chrystabel!



Chrystabel with her friend Louis

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



A definitive guide to understanding those on the autism spectrum so you can make meaningful connections. Do you work with people who are on the autism spectrum, and you want to find ways to connect with them? Are you worried that your lack of understanding of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is causing issues in relationships with your friends, family, or co-workers? Do you suspect someone you are close to may have ASD and you want to better understand what they deal with on a daily basis? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you have come to the right place. There are currently 5.4 million adults with autism living in the United States – that is 2.2% of the total population! Unfortunately, one study showed that those living with autism experience higher rates of unemployment, with only 16% having full-time employment. And another found that only 1 in 5 people on the spectrum has ever lived on their own. These numbers are entirely too low for a population that makes up millions of people in our society. But by understanding the neurodivergent or atypical brain and finding ways to better support those with autism, we can begin to change this. And this book will tell you how to do just that. Living with autism doesn't mean you have to live away from society. There are many famous people who illustrate just how successful you can be when on the spectrum. From Jerry Seinfeld, one of the most successful comedians of all time, to Satoshi Tajiri, the inventor of Pokemon, people on the spectrum have been successful in many different arenas.

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

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PROPERTIES TO RENT

The Housing Division has the following property to rent:

Guest House, Sea View - £500.00 per month (1 Bedroom Property) – Furnished

Please note the rent also covers gardening services.

For further information please contact Melissa Fowler, Chief Housing Officer, on Melissa.fowler@sainthelena.gov.sh or alternatively call 22270.



SHG, 26 March 2025
http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh

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

Since 1790

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

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- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

St Helena Government

1. **Application 2025/15:** FULL Planning Application for **Alterations & Extension to Existing House**, Longwood Road on Parcel LWS0150. Applicant: Cassandra Reynolds

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

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

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 17th April 2025

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 6th April 2025– 5th Sunday after Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Licensing of Fr Ernest, Fr Clarence and Fr Tsepo	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 6th April 2025 – 5th Sunday after Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
	7th April -Monday	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	Thursday 10th April	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 6th April 2025 – 5th Sunday after Lent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 8th April	
7.00 p.m.	Alpha	St Mark



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 05th April 2025 at 8:30am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

~

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 06th April 2025 at 11:00am, Kidzone (Sunday School) at 11.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

~

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 8th April 2025
Jamestown at 7:00 pm, (Contact: Catherine on 64352 for details)
Wednesday 09th April 2025
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 6:00pm
(Contact: Priscilla 51919 for details)

~

Advanced Notice
Pre-Easter Gospel Music Evening, Saturday 12th April 2025 @7.30pm
Contact: Gareth Drabble-62388/24224

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

The Christian gift/bookshop & DVD rental
(as well as second-hand goods shop) is available.
For further information contact Priscilla: 51919.





NOTICE BOARD

The Seventh Day Adventist Church will be having nature sabbath at the Guinea Grass Community Centre, Saturday 5th April, 9:30am-3:30pm. All are welcome to attend!



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*Please note the Jamestown SDA church will be closed during this time

St Helena Government

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

Nominations are now being invited for the following awards:

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

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

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

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

SHG, 24 February 2025



ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

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

This week the "red" 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 5 April at 12 noon.

Prize - £20 per week

33	76	42	9	31	20	87	62	39	11
51	28	65	43	89	17	68	8	71	35
38	69	78	46	81	25	53	60	58	15
40	52	70	32	59	19	84	48	10	57
79	36	24	49	14	50	22	64	88	18
7	66	30	5	45	26	90	37	29	44
82	6	27	55	16	80	21	47	56	67

APRIL OPENING HOURS



Main Branch

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

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30

Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Friday, 25 April	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Monday, 28 April	09:30 – 14:00

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

info@sainthelenabank.com +290 22390

www.sainthelenabank.com Market Street, Jamestown

@sainthelenabank Bank of St Helena Ltd

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

NOTICE BOARD

Fun Day at the Blue Hill Community Centre

On Sunday the 13th of April 2025
Starting at 12pm – 5:30pm

Entrance fee:
Adults- £1.00
Children under 16 years- 50p

On sale will be:
Hot Food, Ice Cream, Pop Corn and more.

Bar facilities will also be available.

Throughout the day there will be activities including:
Raffles, Bingo, Stalls, Races, Skittles, Lucky Dip, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle and much more.

Afternoon tea and refreshments will be on sale as well.

Music will be provided by DJ Colin Peters.

Stalls available at £5 per table.
Contact: Jeanie at 24202 or Earl at 24191

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
6th April
Sandy Bay Chapel 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday 8th April
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 10th April
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

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 NOTICE

ENCOMPASS

Electrician (C&G Level 3 or equivalent)

Deadline for Applications: Friday, 04th April 2025

Job Description

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for an Electrician in the Electrical Team at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island. The post holder will form part of the team that is responsible for the Electrical Maintenance of the Power Station and wider Encompass site, including residential properties.

Essential Qualifications & Experience

- Excellent timekeeping and ability to meet deadlines, willingness to work flexibly and at short notice, when required.
- Good understanding of safety procedures and safe working practices, particularly regarding Electrical work
- Electrician qualified to City & Guilds Level 3 or equivalent, in a relevant subject.
- Consistent application of Electrical skills & developed experience in an Electrician's role.
- Must be capable of achieving HV Authorised Person status under Encompass Safety rules.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to role
- Proven experience in fault-finding, rectification and repair of faults.
- Basic knowledge of instrumentation and good interpretation of Electrical diagrams.
- Knowledge of High voltage Power Generation Systems, using large diesel generators and wind-turbines.
- Experience of electrical installation and maintenance.

Salary & Remuneration

We are offering a two-year contract with either Single or Accompanied status.
Depending on qualifications and experience, starting salary is at £14,500 per annum (taxable in Ascension).

The package also includes:

- Accommodation
- A food allowance of £3,905.00 (or £7,329.00 if accompanied) per annum
- Relocation allowance for your personal effects, including a personal vehicle
- Utility Allowances (Water, Electricity and Phone)

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

For a **Job Application Form**, full **Job Description** and for any further information, please contact Administration Assistant, Jodi Joshua at JJoshua@encompass.tv

Applications should be submitted on the designated Encompass job application form, and must be received by **Friday, 04th April 2025.**

NOTICE BOARD

SHCC
St Helena Community College

Online Virtual College

COURSE SPECIALS

COURSES INCLUDE:

- Managing Challenging Conversations
- Managing Change
- Time Management
- Risk Assessment
- Working With Others
- The Essentials Of Data Protection
- Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint

£5 PER COURSE

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER NOW!

UNABLE TO SCAN THE CODE? CONTACT US USING THE DETAILS BELOW

carley.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh
https://sainthelena.edu.sh/virtual-college-courses/
22607

Education Learning Centre, Seales Corner Jamestown

VACANCY

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Bank Teller

Commencing at £8,796 per annum

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

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

The main duties of the post include:

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

Interested persons can contact Mrs Karen Buckley, Customer Service Manager on email csmanager@sainthelenabank.com or contact her on (+290) 22390 for more information.

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

Closing date for applications is Friday, 18 April 2025.

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

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

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

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

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

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@sainthelenaedu.sh**
Closing date: **18th April 2025**

Housing Officer (2 month Fixed-Term Contract) to commence 9th June 2025 (£9,781 per annum) (Available for local interest)

If you are a highly motivated individual with excellent communication skills, then here is an opportunity for you to join the team at the Property Section, where you will provide an effective and high quality administrative support to the Housing Management Service.
Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: **Melissa Fowler on Tel No. 22270 or Email: Melissa.fowler@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **17 April 2025**

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

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

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

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

General Operative - Permanent (£7,960 per annum)

Working as part of the Roads Team, the General Operative will assist the Chargehand with general maintenance of machinery, assembly of site huts and assist with building, cleaning and general maintenance of all roads island-wide. If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player this is an opportunity for you to join the Roads team!

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Darin Francis on Tel No. 23765 or Email: roads.supervisor2@helanta.co.sh**
Closing date: **03 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

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 Tele No: 22470 or Email: Belinda.piek@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **16 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.

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NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

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

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

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Sharina Williams on Tel No. 22470 or Email** sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: **03 April 2025**

Environmental Risk Officer
(£18,902 per annum)

The Environment and Natural Resources Portfolio is currently seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual with broad experience in one or more areas of environmental risk management to join their team as Head of Section for environmental risk management. You will be an integral part of providing the strategic agenda and direction for the core functions of climate change, waste management and environmental pollution management in order to protect St Helena's natural environments and you will play a key role in driving environmental sustainability initiatives. The role will require you to work collaboratively with a small group of Heads of Section in our core environmental protection and nature conservation subjects for effective environmental risk programme delivery.

Experienced in project management and staff management, you will also have excellent written, verbal communication and interpersonal skills to communicate with a range of audiences, including colleagues, senior managers, elected members, donor agencies and the public.

Contact us for more information and a discussion about the role.

Enquiries: **Darren Duncan on Tel No 24724 or Email** darren.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: **03 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

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We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

GIS Surveyor
(£9,781 per annum)

The GIS Topographical Surveyor will help the island thrive through the collection and organisation of topographic surveys for the development of geospatial data of physical infrastructure, utility services and topography. Support development of the St Helena Environmental Information System (SHEIS), including providing support to GIS Users and promoting the use of GIS throughout SHG.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquires: **Devlin Yon on Tel No. 22270 or Email Devlin.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **09 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**

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers

Rate of pay will be £6.20 per hour

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

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

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Have the ability to multitask and work with a high degree of accuracy in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations

For further information contact:

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **10 April 2025.**

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week

St Helena Island

Date: Saturday, 5 April 2025
Start Time: 08:00
Meeting Point: Longwood Avenue
Duration: approx 4 hrs

LONGWOOD BOUNDARY

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

French Consul, Michel Martineau, will guide you along the Longwood boundaries within which Napoleon was authorised to walk or go on horseback without being accompanied by a British Officer. From Longwood House to Fishers Valley, along the outskirts of the Millennium Forest and Mulberry Gut, returning to Longwood House; this walk is suitable for experienced walkers only.

Please wear sensible walking shoes, wear sun protection and bring at least 2L of water.

This will be the last walk of the Festival of Walking 2024/25. Thank you all for joining this season.

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

Golf Report



SHGC, Contributed

A Monthly Medal competition was held on 30 March with a total of thirteen players participating.

Anthony Green emerged as the outright winner with a net score of 69. Peter Bagley, who has been demonstrating consistent play over the past few months, secured the runner-up position with a net score of 72. Three players tied for third place, each finishing with a net score of 73, they were Keith Buckley, Bramwell Bushuru and Eddy Bowers. Eddy Bowers claimed third place after a countback procedure was applied.

Jeffrey Stevens achieved the only "2" during the competition and consequently won all the balls in the Two Ball Pool.

Looking ahead to next week's competition scheduled for 6 April. The event will be an AGM Texas Scramble with an 11:30am shotgun start. This promises to be a fun day for all participants.

Following the Texas Scramble, there will be an AGM meeting aimed at selecting a new committee.

Happy swinging!





Greetings from the Jamestown Rifle Club

Pat Henry, Contributed

It's unbelievingly amazing how frightening it is that 2025 is travelling so fast, full speed ahead. This week was 1 April; remembering these days to jokingly April-fool someone hardly becomes a thing anymore. It feels only the other day we were sending New Year's greeting to our family, friends and loved ones, so let's hope Merry Christmas will always remain cheerful and bright in an old traditional way.

Anyhow, our youth members attended their session this week with excitement, all bright and cheerful; it's well worth my time and effort knowing how much they appreciate me giving them an alternative subject. I'm delighted to see that they are making massive improvements with their shooting, I can see some of them showing mindful determination with much ability projecting without noticing any interference or disruptions. Well displayed by this group of young people.

It was a bit hot and sticky during the late session but we were pleased to welcome thirteen people to the club to see how things were going and have a chat; everyone were also happy to have What The Saints Did Next floating their camera about, moving gracefully in a leisurely way capturing the skilfulness from our shooters, a great way to build and widen our shooting platform. Derek Burke is one of our key supporters, he came to have a go and shot 92.3, Daniel was a bit blunt this week, 94.1 + 86.2, not good for him, Kyle still teasing out various adjustments with 89 + 91, Lena Rose hungering for that top spot made changes with a new jacket, she shot 95.2 + 90.2, new entry Theo gave it a go and shot 70 + 77, Albert visited us few years ago and he came back to give it another go, he shot 92.1 + 90.2, our visitor Rosemary wanted to shoot a rifle for the first time and was amazing, she shot 82.1, always leaving the best for last I'm thinking about getting her off the rifle support pretty soon, hats off to Elli who shot well again this week with 99.9 and 100.7; an amazing night, as always with great atmosphere giving us fuelling energy in readiness for next week.

Have an exciting fruitful and peaceful weekend everyone.

SIX AND STICKS

All out action as RMS T20 Tournament gets underway











With all players back to their respective club teams after the district tournament, this weekend saw the start of the highly anticipated SHCA RMS T20 Tournament, with the Levelwood derby kicking things off.

Levelwood Rebels bated first with the in-form, Delroy Leo, once again leading from the front with 74. However, the bowling of the Levelwood Allstars would prove too much as the batting would collapse around Delroy, with man of the match, David Francis, grabbing an impressive four wicket haul for 15 runs after four overs. Rebels ended their innings on a total of 136 runs. Allstars got off to a shaky start after losing their captain, Dane Leo, for just three runs, however, although wickets fell, the Allstars batting depth saw them bag the win by six wickets.

The second match of the weekend saw title holders, Sandy Bay Pirates, face up against this year's league champs, Challengers. Challengers batted first but did not enjoy the start they would've liked after losing both their openers for a run each. Player of the Match, Jordi Henry, however pulled through for his side with an impressive 60 of 34 balls. The bowling of the Pirates remained solid throughout the innings with standout bowler, Ajay Bennett, grabbing three wickets for nine runs, to help his team restrict Challengers to a total of 145 runs.

During the chase, the Challengers bowling attack remained tight, taking wickets regularly, with Jordi once again the star player, taking three wickets of Pirates top order. Despite this, the runs were accumulating for Pirates and they were still in the game, however it was Andrew Yon and Trystan Thomas that would step up to produce an impressive spell in the final overs to give Challengers the victory by 13 runs in a close and competitive matchup.

The final match of the weekend saw a highly contested game between the Western A Mustangs and Jamestown Heat. Mustangs elected to bat first and got off to a brilliant start thanks to their openers Scott Crowie, with 69, and Gareth Johnson, 64. Add another 39 from Kyle Bennett, and Mustangs were helped to a total of 195 runs to end their innings. Despite this healthy start for Mustangs, Jamestown Heat were up for the challenge and, although wickets were being taken, their run tally was going up thanks to a steady start from their openers, helped by a well played innings from Captain, Jamie Essex, with 54 runs. A late partnership from Ellis Day and Zac Francis would help Heat push it all the way to the end. However, a brilliant bowling spell late in the innings from Mustangs would take the game to the final over when they held their nerve to get across the finish line, taking the win by just three runs. A brilliant and dramatic end to the first week of what looks set to be a very exciting tournament this year.

Fixtures:

Saturday 5th April
08:00
Challengers v Levelwood Rebels
Umpire: Damian Burns and Brett Isaac
11:00
Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Allstars
Umpire: Ralph Knipe and Delroy Leo
14:00
Cobras v Western A Mustangs
Umpire: Rhys Francis and David Young

Sunday 6th April

08:00
Levelwood Allstars v Cobras
Umpire: William Knipe and Jamie Essex
11:00
Jamestown Heat v Levelwood Rebels
Umpire: Dane Leo and Perry Leo
14:00
Sandy Bay Pirates v Western A Mustangs
Umpire: Andrew Yon and Gavin Ellick

Lady of the Season: Chloe Thomas, The Incredibles
Knockout Winners: Ballzy Ladies, Captained by Danni Thomas
Knockout Runners-Up: Fusion, Captained by Melissa Fowler
Most Rounders: Charlotte Williams, Ballzy Ladies (11.5)
Most Catches: Alfreda Yon, Pink Flamingos (5)

Marie Jonas Cup: Kerrylyn Leo, Pink Flamingos

The Marie Jonas award was selected through a process which involved the seven teams nominating a person based on the following criteria; Good sportsmanship and team player, Commitment, Personal progress and improvement, Positive attitude.

Team nominations revealed Kerrylyn Leo, Selena Leo and Shalana Clingham as the three favourites for the award. Each participant was then given the opportunity to anonymously vote for their first choice to receive the special cup.

The WSA also recognised the players aged 16 years and under; they were presented with a personalised WSA mug.

The Womens Sports Association would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who attended the 2024 Rounders Presentation that was held on Saturday night, 22 March, at Donny's Place.

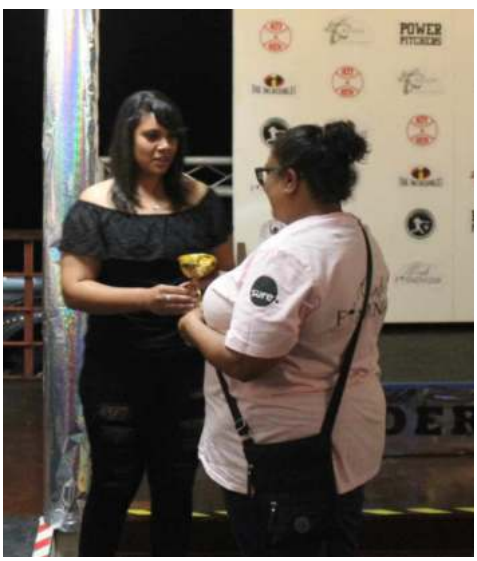
A special mention should be made to Donny, Kissy and staff for hosting our event; Bank of St Helena for sponsoring our trophies; Sally Hickling for sponsoring the Ann Sim League Floating Cup and the Ann Sim Knockout Floating Shield and also for presenting our trophies; Kelly Jonas for presenting the Marie Jonas floating cup in special honour of her sister and our fellow keen sportswoman; Aunty Sugar for the lovely nibbles; and Rhiann Joshua for the photography.















SPORTS ARENA

Ballzy Ladies Double Champions



In a perfect culmination to a brilliant season of rounders action, the St Helena Women's Sport Association recently held their presentation of awards night at Donny's place to celebrate both team and individual performances in the first all-women sports season on St Helena in a number of years. Here is their report:

WSA, Contributed

Over 100 women participated in the 2024 Rounders Season forming seven teams.

Ballzy Ladies were the team to watch right from their first game and were duly crowned as Double Champions for the 2024 Rounders Season.

It was a successful season filled with competitive spirit, teamwork, progression and fun. In such a tight timeframe, we managed to play a league of 42 matches as well as a Knockout Tournament.

The results were as follows:

League Winners: Ballzy Ladies, Captained by Danni Thomas

League Runners-Up: The Incredibles, Captained by Tanisha Benjamin

Most Rounders in a single game: Danni Thomas, Ballzy Ladies (18.5)

Most Catches in a single game: April Stevens, The Incredibles (5); Pamela Constantine, Pink Flamingos (5); Shara Williams, Fusion (5)

Most Rounders overall: Danni Thomas, Ballzy Ladies (63.5)

Most Catches overall: April Stevens, The Incredibles (15)

Young Lady of the Season: Renee Coleman, Power Pitches

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