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SENTINEL

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Swim-ply Incredible Jasmine!

Respect is Earned

Community raise concerns regarding Royal St Helena Police at public meeting, though Police choose not to attend



Ground Broken, Construction Phase Underway





OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

It's my first comment of the New Year, so let me start off by wishing all of you a very Happy New Year for 2026. I truly hope this year brings peace, joy and love to all of you. Last year was a difficult time for many of us, but I recently read somewhere that while things like stress, grief and even anger are perfectly acceptable emotions in difficult times, ultimately these feelings do not provide progress and instead keeps you in a position where you should not stick around for too long. So, cry when you feel like crying, but at some point, put on some good music, lift up your head, feel the sunshine on your skin, take a deep breath and start to look forward, recognising that you still have a life to live and there's no time like the present to make it the life you truly want. I hope you make progress towards your goals in 2026 everybody, and if you don't, then keep pushing on, you will get there if you truly want to – remember, the only way to do it, is to do it!

It is getting hot, hot, hot on St Helena right now! But I won't complain, we were crying out for this weather not too long ago. Take advantage and get out in the sun when you can. Our Island really does have a lot to offer, probably not on the financial side too much, but certainly with regards to nature and freedom – so get out there and reap the benefits of being a resident of such a beautiful home Island.

To end of, let me just say that United looked some good last weekend ey? I really hope we can keep this level of performance and swagger going into the upcoming games and through to the end of the season. Carrick's at the wheel and he seems to have put the handbrake down, let's hope we don't crash now! GGMU!

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YOUR LETTERS

The British FAM-ily

UK Financial Aid Mission arrives for critical discussions



Liam Yon, SAMS

Three representatives from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have arrived to St Helena to commence a week-long visit in order to participate in the next round of Financial Aid Mission (FAM) discussions for the 2026-27 financial year, starting April 2026.

Whilst on-island, the FAM team is being led this time around by Nick Wareham, the new Deputy Director of FCDO's Overseas Territories and Polar Directorate, appointed in 2025 to replace Adam Pile who has conducted a number of these visits during his six years in post. Nick and the FAM Team is being supported by the Governor's Office team, Ministers and SHG officials.

"The FAM takes place annually and provides an opportunity to discuss, in person, the delivery and effectiveness of the FCDO's Financial Aid programme in St Helena, and to continue to develop the partnership approach between SHG and His Majesty's Government (HMG)," explained SHG.

"Whilst on-island, the team will meet and engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including Ministers, Elected Members, government officials, members of the private sector, IRB and pension receivers, SHAPE and wider stakeholders."

When detailing the importance of Financial Aid, SHG mentioned how this is "integrated into SHG's budget to support essential public services," adding that up to £35.79 million recurrent support was provided to St Helena in the 2025-26 financial year. This is in addition to the capital funding for ongoing programmes; including £30m for the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) and funding to Maritime, the Cloud Forest and Blue Belt initiatives.

As always, and once again this time around, the delegation has a full schedule of events planned and, alongside the Governor and Ministers, will be hosting a press conference with the media on the afternoon of Friday, 23 January. SAMS will be in attendance for the press conference.

Swim-ply Incredible!

World Record holder, Jasmine Harrison, swims 30 miles for nearly 19 hours around St Helena in incredible feat and first of its kind to ever be attempted



Liam Yon, SAMS

Last weekend, St Helena became the location of an incredible feat of endurance when Jasmine Harrison, a prominent British adventurer, motivational speaker, and multi-world record holder from Thirsk, North Yorkshire, attempted to swim around the entire coastline of St Helena where she completed a 30-mile swim in nearly 19 hours; an amazing effort that will undoubtedly go down in St Helena's history as one of the most amazing displays of endurance, and the first of its kind, to ever take place.

Jasmine arrived to St Helena, as part of the ongoing Mini Globe Race, with a reputation for taking on extreme endurance feats in rowing, swimming, and sailing. In 2021, she became the youngest woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean at just 21, completing the 3,000-mile journey from the Canary Islands to Antigua in 70 days, 3 hours, and 48 minutes. A year later, Jasmine set another world record as the first woman to swim the full length of the British Isles, a 900-mile expedition which took 111 days battling jellyfish stings and extreme weather.

During her 'rest' pitstop at St Helena, after sailing solo for 14 days from Cape Town, Jasmine, during an event at the St Helena Yacht Club, learnt how no-one had ever attempted to swim around the island. The idea of Jasmine being the first to do it was discussed, however a real plan to take on the incredulous challenge only developed in the days that followed after local resident, Tom Wortley, decided to help organise an official attempt for Jasmine.

Tom pulled on his contacts and arranged a boat – namely the Ocean Queen, operated by Adrian Duncan – along with a crew to bring the attempt to life, with the plan being to start the swim in the early hours of Saturday morning, at around 2am, with St Helena Tourism agreeing to sponsor the challenge. With a plan in place, Jasmine got talking to whoever she could – from divers to swimmers, kayakers to fishermen – in order to gather as much information about the currents around the Island as she could, however not a lot could be determined and there was conflicting information about which direction would be the best route to take; she eventually settled for a clockwise swim as this would be best for wave swell direction.

Jasmine then got her equipment together in order to both take on, as well as document, the challenge; assisted by two of her friends who were also taking part in the Mini Globe Race, with Ertan Beskardes from Trekka having bought energy drinks and chocolate, while Joshua Kali from Skookum agreed to be part of the crew as well as Jasmines media manager for the challenge. With just hours to go, Jasmine signed a waiver and caught a few hours of sleep before heading to the yacht club at 1am to get changed and take the equipment over to the Ocean Queen who was being skippered by Adrian with a crew including, among others, Colby Thomas and kayaker Matthew Young, along with Josh.

The start line of the challenge was at the Papanui and, as detailed by a report on Jasmine's Social Media page, it was dark, with Jasmine terrified to start with, swimming notably fast. It was said that after a few hours and before sunrise, she already felt done, however having been in this position before, she forced down a chocolate bar and soldiered on with the sunrise.

Conditions were described as rough with even some of the crew said to be feeling seasick, and these rough conditions meant Jasmine felt nauseous, while she also battled stings from jellies and cuts from pipe fish swimming into her face. From about halfway round, Matthew jumped in the kayak to accompany Jasmine, and even he battled with the choppy conditions which caused him to

capsize. Waves, described as massive, were reportedly tossing Jasmine around and almost pulled her goggles off. By this point, the brave swimmer had been swimming for a number of hours and therefore was suffering from chafe and sunburn as well as salt tongue. In addition, water temperatures kept varying from over 20 degrees to a chilly 15 degrees. While Jasmine managed to consume a few snacks during the swim, she could not stomach any drinks.

Initially, Jasmine had expected the swim to be about 24 miles, taking somewhere between 12 and 15 hours, which would still be the maximum she'd ever swum in one go, however it quickly became clear that she was exceeding this distance and had already done 24 miles before turning round the southern tip of the island. At this point, there were strong counter currents too that Jasmine had to face.

Having exceeded the length and time that was anticipated, Jasmine battled to continue, pushing herself to her absolute limit, until she reached about a mile from the finish line. It was here when she realised that she had reached a breaking point, her body was described as feeling broken while she was also dangerously hypothermic. It was at this point that she provided an update to those following her on Social Media, where she also made the unbelievably brave decision to get back into the water for the final 100m in order to swim across the finish line.

Despite being clearly mentally and physically exhausted, and having to deal with the physical toll of swimming 30 miles and for 18 and half hours in challenging conditions, Jasmine showed her incredible mentality and courage, jumping back in the water for the final 100m, flanked closely by Matthew in the kayak.

Having crossed the line and been lifted back into the boat, Jasmine could then take a moment to recognise the incredible feat that she had just completed; 30 miles and around 19 hours, swimming the coast of St Helena – the first to ever do it.

At the Jamestown Wharf landing steps, a huge crowd had gathered to welcome Jasmine back to dry land and to show their immense appreciation and pride for what the athlete had just accomplished. There were British flags being flown and even a performance on the bagpipes as she stepped off the boat to rapturous applause. After briefly addressing and greeting the crowd who had turned up to support, Jasmine was provided





with a flask of tea and a warm blanket from Tom, who helped organise the challenge, as His Excellency The Governor gave a few brief words, later presenting Jasmine with a special medal in recognition of her incredible effort.

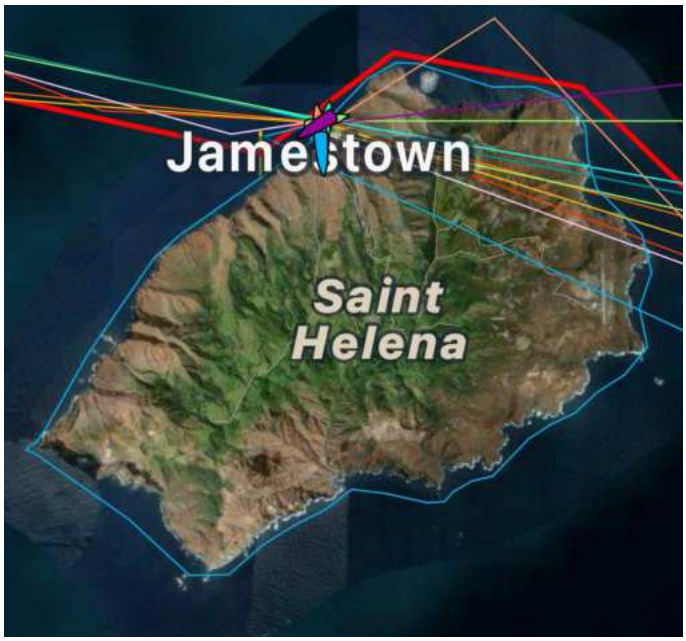
After a quick medical check, she was kindly offered a room at The Mantis Hotel where she was able to take a warm bath and get some much-needed sleep in a comfy bed. This was especially important considering she would soon, after this, be back on the water to continue her solo yachting challenge as part of the Mini Globe Race.

According to a report of the challenge on her Social Media page, it was said that "the Saints have been incredible and Jasmine is going to be really sad to say goodbye as she sets sail to Re-











cife, Brazil."
Jasmine, The Sentinel, on behalf of the people of St Helena, would like you to know how incredible and inspirational you are. You have etched yourself into the Island's history in a truly magnificent way and we all wish you the best of luck as you continue your unbelievable adventures both now and into the future – stay safe St Helena's swimming superstar!





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JAMESTOWN FERRY

Ground Broken, Construction Phase Underway

Works to New Prison begin at Bottom Woods after Ground-breaking Ceremony



Key Stakeholders and invited guests

Liam Yon, SAMS

Construction work on the New Prison Project is finally underway following the awarding of a contract to St Helena Government's go-to local contractor, Isaac's Contractors Ltd, for the site excavation and haulage works ahead of construction of the main prison building.

To mark the long-awaited start of works and, "to celebrate the commencement of construction activity of the island's new prison facility," SHG held a short 'ground-breaking ceremony' at the project site in Bottom Woods on Monday, 12 January.

When reporting on the ceremony, SHG reminded of the reason for the construction of a new prison for St Helena. "The primary objective of the New Prison Build project is to provide St Helena with a facility that is safe, secure, and fit for use in the 21st century," they explained. "This project is funded via the UK Government under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), delivered in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The project will utilise modern construction techniques designed to minimise both environmental impact and future operating costs."

Excavation and haulage by Isaac's Contractors will take place first before the main building is constructed, with SHG informing that the tender for this second phase of works is "expected to launch later this year, following the finalisation of the detailed design" by contracted design and supervisory company ONE Creative Solutions.

Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, Gillian Brooks, gave a speech at Monday's ceremony. "This project represents far more than bricks and mortar; it is the beginning of a facility that strengthens our justice system and enhances public safety," she said. "True safety is achieved not only by enforcing accountability, but by giving people the opportunity to rebuild their lives and return to society with skills and purpose."

Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, was also at the ceremony and also spoke to the project. "As we break ground, we take a decisive step toward a safer, fairer, and stronger St Helena," she stated. "This project is possible thanks to UK Government support through the Economic Development Investment Programme which enables us to meet our constitutional obligations and deliver a facility fit for purpose."

The act of 'breaking ground' was carried out by both the Chief Minister and Minister Brooks, alongside Ro-



Chief Minister Rebecca Cairns-Wicks thanking stakeholders

nan Legg from Isaac's Contractors, with a video of the ceremony having been available on YouTube.

In an additional bonus to the local community, SHG also informed that as a result of the excavation works, a significant quantity of topsoil will be available for free to anyone to collect, with further details set to be announced shortly.

Chief Minister Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, Ronan Legg of Isaac's Contractors Ltd and Minister Gillian Brooks 'breaking ground'



HE Governor Phillips and key stakeholders in the project - SSHA Portfolio Director, the Project Management Team, Superintendent of Prison, and Head of the Public Service

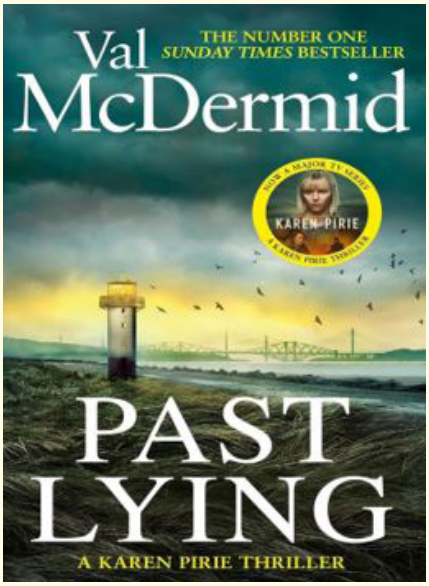


Minister Gillian Brooks delivers opening words



Book of the Week

— Public Library Service



Past Lying by Val McDermid

Edinburgh, haunted by the ghosts of its many writers, is also the cold case beat of DCI Karen Pirie. So she shouldn't be surprised when an author's manuscript appears to be a blueprint for an actual crime.

Karen can't ignore the plot's chilling similarities to the unsolved case of an Edinburgh University student who vanished from her own doorstep. The manuscript seems to be the key to unlocking what happened to Lara Hardie, but there's a problem: the author died before he finished it.

As Karen digs deeper, she uncovers a spiralling game of betrayal and revenge, where lies are indistinguishable from the truth and with more than one unexpected twist.

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

Respect is Earned

Community raise concerns regarding Royal St Helena Police at public meeting, though Police Officers choose not to attend



Liam Yon, SAMS

On Wednesday evening, 14 January, over 50 members of the public turned up at a meeting at the Harford Community Centre organised by resident Nicky Yon of Bottom Woods in order to "allow members of the public to make the Royal Saint Helena Police (RSHP) aware of any issues that they have," concerning members of the Police and their actions.

Prior to the meeting, the organiser made a call to the community via Facebook. "Anyone having any issues, or who have any concerns that they would like the representatives of the Police to be aware of, no matter how small they think it may be, you are invited to attend to try and resolve matters between the public and the Police," they encouraged.

During this open invite, it was also indicated that two members of the RSHP would, alongside Councillors' Derek Thomas and Dennis Leo, be in attendance at the public meeting; namely Police Inspector, Julianne Stevens, and Police Sergeant, David Pierpoint.

With an impressive attendance packed into the Community Centre at 6pm, it was revealed by Councillor Thomas that, despite originally indicating that they would attend, representatives of the RSHP later declined the offer to be in attendance for the meeting. This was clearly frustrating for the near 60 members of the public who made their way to the meeting to make their feelings and concerns known to the RSHP members.

Nevertheless, with Councillors' Thomas and Leo leading the proceedings, along with Cllr Clint Beard taking notes, the meeting got underway.

It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister, Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, as well as Minister Gillian Brooks, were in attendance at the meeting.

In nearly two hours of genuine, and at times heated discussion, a number of concerns were raised by members of the public in attendance. The majority of issues related to the RSHP, which was the purpose of the meeting, however broader concerns were also raised.

Among these included a perceived lack of respect and professionalism towards members of the community by the Emergency Services, particularly the RSHP, during two recent missing person searches on the Island. It was raised how community search teams were given no assistance by Emergency Service search teams to the point where even a public request for a torch to be borrowed from the RSHP – after Police had suspended their own search efforts – was rejected, with the community search team continuing their efforts to locate the missing person with no help from those who are paid to serve and protect after Police called off their search until the morning.

Examples were given where Police had allegedly abused their power and taken the law into their own hands, along with alleged instances of Police Officers even breaking the law in the execution of their duty. Alleged threatening and bullying by members of the RSHP were also exampled by members at the meeting including an instance of a Police Officer following an individual and making a statement to them about their own background in the armed forces, seen by the member of the public as clearly a statement intended to threaten and induce fear.

Another concern was that, it was felt that the RSHP is perceived to treat locals differently to expatriate workers on the Island. One member noted how Police often pull over St Helenian drivers for driving offenses and to carry out breathalyser tests, but that they have not heard of a visitor or expatriate worker being treated the same, despite them consuming alcohol in the same way as a local would. It was questioned whether records could be pulled to evidence this suggestion.

Unfair treatment seemed to come to light as a theme throughout the meeting and it was noted, more than once, how members of the public felt targeted by the RSHP and how they felt that Police were actively looking to catch them committing an offence in order to prosecute them in court.

A lack of empathy and understanding of the culture of St Helena and peoples personal circumstances was also mooted as a reason for the evident disconnect between the RSHP and the public, with examples given of non-St Helenian officers allegedly using force against members of the public whose personal circumstances meant that they could not understand the situation and therefore may not have seemed compliant due



to these circumstances.
Councillors' Thomas and Leo actively engaged with discussions, providing what information and answers they could, while they also agreed with many of the statements made. The Chief Minister and Minister Brooks also spoke when they felt they could contribute to discussions.
What was made clear by the Councillors however was that their influence on the RSHP was limited due to the Police answering to the Governor of St Helena and not to SHG. They did however make a commitment to making note of all of the concerns and allegations and to present these to the Chief of Police and Governor for consideration and potential action. Councillor Thomas, in particular, stated that he would be more than happy both now and going forward to listen to and take matters forward on behalf of the public.
Other concerns raised and discussed related to recruitment and the perceived lack of substantial background checks being made by SHG's Human Resources department on workers coming to the Island from countries outside of St Helena, while it was also suggested that non-British workers come to the Island solely as a stepping stone to the UK once they have received status. SHG's spending of funds was also discussed as being, in the opinion of members of the public at the meeting, often wasted and not used for the good of the people of St Helena. Overall, members at the meeting felt strongly that St Helenians are not being cared for by the Government and that the Island is, in their opinion, going backwards.
The meeting concluded with a round of applause, with Councillor Thomas thanking Nicky for organising the meeting as well as for those who turned up on the night, while he committed to compiling a report on the meeting to be shared with the organiser when ready as well as to be put forward to the Chief of Police and the Governor of St Helena.
The meeting was live-streamed on Facebook with many watching and joining in with discussions via the video's comments section.

Could you run a Mini Market in Georgetown?

Chandlery to cease operations this year as AIG seek interest in new Georgetown Mini Market for Ascension Island



Liam Yon, SAMS

An exciting business opportunity is arising on Ascension Island, with the Ascension Island Government (AIG) seeking expressions of interest for "the operation of a retail business from Georgetown that serves the needs of the island community."
This opportunity has presented itself due to current operators of the minimarket in Georgetown - namely The Seafish Chandlery – having advised that they intend to withdraw from the island and cease operations this year.
The company has operated in Georgetown on Ascension since 2017 following what AIG describe as "significant investment to refurbish and establish a modern retail facility serving the Ascension Island community."
They add how the existing minimarket provides dry, chilled, and frozen grocery goods; deli takeaway facilities; alcoholic beverages, including supply to local members' clubs; as well as cleaning products, household items, and other general merchandise.
The location itself, in the heart of Georgetown, comprises of a spacious shop floor, backroom facilities, and outdoor storage. In addition, AIG indicate that the current lease arrangement also includes staff accommodation in Two Boats, consisting of six self-contained units, each with an en-suite bedroom and private kitchen.
While at the moment, no fixed transition date has been set for the current operators to cease their services, AIG say they are "keen to engage early with potential operators" in order to ensure continuity of essential food and retail services on the island.
"At this stage, AIG is seeking informal expressions of interest and background information, including relevant experience in retail, food supply, or business operations, before close of business on Friday, 6 February," they detailed. "Subject to responses, a more formal procurement or selection process may then follow."
Interested parties are encouraged to contact Catherine Jones on Ascension via email to Catherine.jones@ascension.gov.ac.

"Full Control of the Vessel"

MACS say they are "more flexible" to meet the needs of the Island following the purchase of the MV Karoline



Donna Crowie, SAMS

MACS Shipping have been offering a shipping service to St Helena for almost two years and recently made a significant move in improving this service with the purchase of the dedicated vessel that has been serving St Helena, namely the MV Karoline.

The Sentinel made contact with MACS regarding the purchase of the Karoline, asking whether this was something the company had always wanted or planned to do. "We were always open to employing our own vessel on this service," they informed. "But, the Rupert's Bay Jetty, with its limitations, requires a niche market type vessel," hence why the company went with the MV Karoline which has proven to be effective in servicing St Helena via Rupert's.

With the purchase, the MV Karoline was officially signed over to MACS Shipping in November 2025, with MACS stating to The Sentinel that the main benefit of owning the Karoline was "most importantly to have full control of the vessel."

Full control "will enable us to plan maintenance/drydocking etc. according to our schedule," they continued. "We will also be more flexible to meet special requirements by the Island without having to get approval from third party owners."

Purchasing the MV Karoline will no doubt come at a substantial cost to MACS Shipping, which has led some to question whether this will result in increased charges to the St Helena service. MACS responded that this will "probably not" be the case, at least not "in the short term."

"Instead of chartering a vessel, we are now financing the purchase of it," they explained. "Very similar to you deciding to either rent or buy a house I guess."

The public often comments that "freight has increased once again," however this is not necessarily the case. MACS are nearing their third year of operations of a five-year contract with SHG and they explained how "under normal circumstances, the sea freight rates will remain the same within that period." There is an option for this contract to be extended by a further five years.

The Sentinel would once again like to express gratitude and appreciation to MACS for their evident dedication in providing a shipping service to St Helena and Ascension.



St Helena welcomes smallest aircraft to ever land at St Helena Airport

Liam Yon, SAMS

Another piece of history has been made at St Helena Airport when, on Monday, the airport welcomed the arrival and touchdown of the smallest aircraft so far to land on St Helena's runway.

"Welcomed this interesting visitor today," posted SHAL to their Facebook page on Monday. "Smallest aircraft to land at St Helena Airport, a Sling TSi flew 8hrs to St Helena from Walvis Bay, with 10hrs endurance remaining. They head out to South America later this week."

The Sling TSi is described as a modern, all-metal, four-seat homebuilt aircraft known for its performance, efficiency, and advanced features, powered by a turbocharged Rotax 915 or 916 engine, boasting fast cruise speeds, impressive range, and a luxurious Garmin-equipped cockpit, making it popular for private pilots and flight training.

The two-man crew of St Helena's visiting aircraft were set to enjoy a few days on the Island before jetting off to South America later in the week. Good luck and safe flying guys!

Importance of Playgrounds

Still no dedicated playground in Jamestown since the DOE Playground was closed in 2018 "until further notice"



Cyril Gunnell, Contributed

The news that playground equipment and facilities will be installed in Half Tree Hollow and on Longwood Green was really wonderful. Play, after all, is very important in a child's development and outdoor play, particularly, in spaces like playgrounds is crucial in a child's development holistically.

However, the press release of 16 December 2025 also served to remind the public that the Environment & Natural Resources Committee, in January 2018, closed the Duke of Edinburgh Recreation Ground, which had been reserved for the use of children and young persons, and, to date, no indication has been given as to when this prime space situated in the heart of Jamestown will re-open as a playground or what alternatively it will be used for.

The notice of 9 January 2016 posted by the entrance, informs that the area is no longer designated a playground and shall not be used as such "until further notice," which seemed to imply that at some point, the area would again become a playground.

During the last but one government, there was a proposal for the top level of the unused space to become a car park for 17-19 vehicles. Even before any work could commence to create much-needed parking spaces in Jamestown, occasionally there were as many as 20 vehicles seen parked at the DOE.; but the car park proposal didn't receive planning permission.

Also, there was a proposal that the bottom level could become a Memorial Garden; not too much was made known about this idea.

The wasted space, it would seem, is waiting ever so patiently for positive development. Will the current government provide what previous governments couldn't it is being asked.

The DOE Playground was opened by the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 22 January 1957. It was a very important day in St Helena's history. The Island's first Recreation Ground was constructed on the disused old lower Jamestown graveyard. Burial grounds were discontinued in Jamestown in 1853.

Today would be the 69th Anniversary of the Duke's visit, on Her Majesty's Yacht, Britannia, on its first visit; Britannia would make a short visit later. Now retired from royal service, the 126m long vessel is permanently moored at Ocean Terminal, Leith in Edinburgh, Scotland.

That January morning, when Britannia sailed into James Bay, it seemed even the porpoises played their part, by gambolling in front of the bows of the graceful Royal Yacht. His Royal Highness came ashore in a forty-five foot motor launch, and despite difficulty manoeuvring the royal barge in the close confines of the landing steps, so skilfully was it handled that only a small patch of paintwork was damaged.

The Duke drove past flag-waving children lining the route to the Grand Parade in the same car used by his father-in-law, King George VI, when members of the Royal Family visited ten years earlier. His Excellency Governor James Dundas Harford took the Duke to see the Castle and during this time people who welcomed Prince Philip at the wharf made their way to the Grand Parade, where a large crowd including Ex-Servicemen, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Rangers, Brownies, Red Cross, Salvation Army and Friendly Society representatives were waiting ahead of the official welcome ceremony taking place.

Ahead of the new playground opening, many children, who just couldn't wait to use the new swings, slide and other equipment, were already on them when the Duke entered the playground. He was very amused. Addressing the large audience, he said, "you seem to have got me here under false pretences. I came to open the playground and find it already full of children. However, if it will ease your consciences at all, I now declare it open."

Following the programme arranged for the Duke, that evening members of the Government and prominent St Helenians were entertained at a dinner party on board the Royal Yacht. Soon after the guests returned and at exactly 11pm, a signal gun was fired and Britannia sailed away, brilliantly illuminated, against the dark northern sky. The Duke of Edinburgh's next visit was to Ascension Island.



The Island Pulse

A Week of Policy, People, and Participation



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

This week's edition of The Island Pulse, hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas on SAMS Radio 1, delivered a comprehensive and engaging discussion on key political, social, and economic issues affecting St Helena. Joined by six fellow councillors, the programme reinforced its central aim: keeping the public informed and encouraging meaningful community engagement.

Unlocking Development and Reforming Road Regulations

A major theme of the programme was the need to address long-standing barriers to development, particularly unproductive agricultural and forestry land. Councillor Derek Thomas outlined concerns that large areas of land remain designated for uses that they no longer fulfil, limiting opportunities for housing and economic growth. Ministers have indicated support for reviewing these designations, opening the door to bringing suitable land back into productive use.

Attention was also given to the long-awaited Road Traffic Ordinance. While a full rewrite is planned, this is expected to take several years. In the meantime, Councillors are pressing for interim regulatory changes, especially to ease the burden on drivers over 70 who currently face annual medical examinations, and to modernise driving licences. Ministers have agreed in principle to pursue these two matters through regulation, with questions due to be formally raised in Legislative Council in February.



Community Engagement and Policing Concerns

The programme reflected on a well-attended public meeting held at the Harford Community Centre, organised by residents to discuss community engagement and policing concerns. Councillors welcomed the strong turnout and the constructive contributions made by residents from across the island. However, disappointment was expressed that police representatives withdrew shortly before the meeting, particularly given plans to reintroduce community policing.

Councillors Dennis Leo and Clint Beard stressed that effective policing relies on genuine engagement. Minutes from the meeting are being compiled and will be shared with the Governor and the Chief of Police, ensuring that concerns raised by the community are formally considered and responded to.

Culture, Identity, and International Connections

A particularly positive segment focused on the recent visit to St Helena by academics and students from the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Western Cape, and members of the St Thomas Kumina Collective from Jamaica. Councillor Rob Midwinter highlighted the island's pivotal role in the history of the abolition of the slave trade and the story of liberated Africans.

Councillor Dennis Leo reflected on discussions around cultural identity, noting the powerful message that St Helenian culture is not something to search for in the distant past, but something lived and shaped in the present. Engagements at the secondary school, museum lectures, and cultural performances created meaningful moments of shared learning and pride, particularly for young people.

Infrastructure Progress: The New Prison

Councillor Midwinter also reported on the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new prison. While some have questioned the need for such a facility given St Helena's low crime rate, Councillors explained that the project is essential to address unacceptable conditions in the existing prison and mitigate ongoing legal risks. After many years of planning, the development marks tangible progress, with construction expected to move ahead later this year.



Minimum Wage Consultation: Have Your Say

A significant portion of the programme was dedicated to the public consultation on proposed changes to the minimum wage, led by Councillor Clint Beard as Chair of the Employment Rights Committee. Four options are being considered:

Adult rates (18+):

- Option 1: £4.50 per hour (no change)
- Option 2: £4.70 per hour (4.1% increase, in line with inflation)
- Option 3: £4.85 per hour (7.8% increase)
- Option 4: £5.00 per hour (11% increase)

Young adults (16–17 years):

- Option 1: £3.55 per hour
- Option 2: £3.70 per hour
- Option 3: £3.83 per hour
- Option 4: £3.94 per hour

Public consultation meetings are

taking place, including a session at the Museum and engagement with the Chamber of Commerce. Councillors strongly encouraged both employers and employees to participate, as public feedback will directly inform recommendations to Ministers.

Minister's Question Time and Accountability

Councillor Ronald Coleman summarised the most recent Minister's Question Time, which focused on government priorities during its first 100 days. Topics included water security, housing, transparency, education infrastructure, and social inclusion. Although time constraints meant not all questions were tabled, Councillors explained that outstanding questions can be carried forward to future sittings, ensuring accountability is maintained.

Fisheries Review and the Financial Aid Mission

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex confirmed that preparatory work has begun on a comprehensive fisheries review, responding to widespread public concern about declining fish availability and the sustainability of the sector. The review is expected to commence around March/April and be completed before the end of the calendar year, with strong emphasis on consultation with all key stakeholders.

The programme concluded with discussion on the ongoing Financial Aid Mission (FAM) visit. Councillors emphasised the importance of honest dialogue with UK officials, particularly regarding cost-of-living pressures, pensions, and the growing strain on recurrent budgets created by new infrastructure. The message was clear: St Helena's circumstances are unique, and long-term, sustainable funding solutions are essential.

The Island Pulse continues to serve as a vital platform for transparency, discussion, and public involvement. Listeners were thanked for their engagement and encouraged to tune in again next week for further updates on island affairs.



Vacancy

Sales Assistant / Cargo Clearer

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £11,040 per annum (£920 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the DIY Store for a Sales Assistant / Cargo Clearer.

The Sales Assistant / Cargo Clearer will assist with the day to day running of the store, carry out cargo clearing operations from the Wharf and assist with the delivery service, whilst ensuring an excellent standard of customer service is always provided.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess knowledge of DIY and Hardware products and ideally have experience with carrying out light DIY projects
- Be customer focused with excellent frontline customer service skills and demonstratable experience of working in a customer facing environment
- Possess experience in carrying out cash handling duties
- Be target driven with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Be competent in Maths, English & IT
- Be self-motivated and able to work well as part of a team
- Be knowledgeable of, and able to carry out Manual Handling duties, including Heavy Lifting
- Demonstrate accuracy and have a good understanding of stock management
- Essentially have a clean and valid driver's licences in classes H3 & D.
- Be available to work weekends.

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

William Smith, DIY Manager 22104 William.smith@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 **29 January 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

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

FRI. Jan 23
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am American Connections (Repeat)
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Jan 24
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Anita (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Jan 25
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita and Deon
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Anglican Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Jan 26
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna

TUE. Jan 27
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Annika
- 2pm: The Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Jan 28
- 7am-8:30am : Midweek morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 1-3pm 1548 show with Cyril Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Vibes With Annika

THU. Dec 29
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Annika (repeat)
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 7:30pm: The Island Pulse

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





Do you like a bit of toe tapping, hip swaying country music?

Well, the 1548 show with Ferdie on a Wednesday afternoon will surely have you tapping and swaying away.

So make sure you tune in every Wednesday from 1pm

Only on SAMS Radio 1!

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Easy'

	2		9		7		8	
			4	6		1	2	
3						6		
	6	7				8		
8		3	1		6			
				7			9	
	4	6	5	1	9	2		8
1						9		4
9	3	2	6	8		5		7

Throwback Thursday



22nd January 1957:

The Duke of Edinburgh arrives at St Helena while travelling around the world aboard the newly commissioned HMY Britannia. He opens the new playground in lower Market Street (now known as the 'Duke of Edinburgh Playground').

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Remember when Donna Summer was 'looking for some hot stuff'? Well, seeing as today is known as National Hot Sauce Day and if you are one of those who has a chilli tree in your garden that is over bearing, then why not try this recipe out?

Hot Sauce



Ingredients

- 1 lb fresh chillies (i.e. Jalapeno, Serrano, Fresno, Poblano, Habanero, or a Mix)
- 1 tbsp Minced Garlic
- 1/2 cup Diced Onion
- 2 tbsp Kosher Salt
- 1 1/2 cups Distilled White Vinegar

Method

1. Pulse chiles, garlic, onions and kosher salt in a food processor until you have a rough puree. Transfer to a 1-quart glass jar, loosely cover and let stand at room temperature overnight.
2. Add vinegar, stir and loosely cover. Let stand at room temperature for 1 to 7 days. The longer you let it stand, the more the flavour develops.
3. Pour mixture into a food processor or blender and puree until smooth. Store in the refrigerator up to 4 months.

Note: Hot sauce may separate - this is normal. Just shake before use.



LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Around the World in 365 Days

Mini Globe Racers visit St Helena for a mandatory stop on their penultimate leg of solo circumnavigation of the globe



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On the morning of 10 January, the first yacht participating in the McIntyre Mini Globe Race (MMGR) 2025 arrived in James Bay, St Helena, from Cape Town, with the other ten participants to follow-suit over the course of the next three days.

On Sunday, 23 February, a group of 15 sailors set out from Falmouth Harbour in Antigua in their 19-foot 580 Class yachts on an epic 28,000-mile journey around the world. Since the start of the race, four of the entrants have withdrawn, leaving eleven participants competing for the title.

This event is a solo, non-stop circumnavigation (with mandatory stops at points) in small, home-built yachts, following in the spirit of historic voyages. The journey started in Antigua heading westward via Panama, Tahiti and Fiji towards Cape Town. The racers then departed from Cape Town, heading North West to St Helena "through the fabled South Atlantic trade winds" according to one of the participants' blog updates. He continues to state how "this passage, all the way across to NE Brazil in the SE trade winds, is perhaps the most benign of all," adding however that "it is an easier body of water to cross than the volatile Indian Ocean!"

After stopping over in St Helena, the yachts are now travelling via Recife in Brazil to their final destination back in Antigua, where they are expected to arrive towards the end of March 2026.

First to arrive at St Helena was race leader, Renaud Stitleman, sailing under the Swiss flag in his yacht 'Capucinette' closely followed by Australian Dan Turner sailing on 'Immortal Game'. Jakub Ziemkiewicz in 'Bibi' from Ireland also arrived on 10 January, securing the third place for this leg of the race, "completing his best passage yet," according to the race updates on the official webpage. In a closely contested fourth and fifth place, Pilar Pasanau on 'Peter Punk' just managed to edge out Adam Waugh on 'Little Wren'. An update posted on the webpage captured the competitiveness of this leg stating, "this leading pack of five boats almost had a match race all the way from Cape Town."

In his final post before arriving to St Helena, runner-up, Dan Turner, commented in a milestone reached as he caught sight of St Helena. "Achieving another milestone today - 200 days at sea aboard the mighty 'Immortal Game'," he said. "It is an extra special one, as I have also just sighted land at one of the most remote islands in the world, St Helena."

After all eleven yachts arrived in port, St Helena Tourism and the St Helena Yacht Club hosted a meal at the Yacht Club to welcome these adventurous sailors to the Island; this took place on Wednesday evening, 14 January.

During their compulsory rest period on St Helena, current runner-up, Dan Turner, and Ertan Beskardes, Turkish-Brit, sailing on the legendary 'Trekka', stopped by the SAMS Radio 1 studio for an interview to share a bit of their experiences on their journey.

All the yachts participating in the MMGR are built on the same design and all weigh around one tonne. "They are all pretty much the same, sailing at the same speed, unless the person using them is a better sailor than the other sailors," explained Ertan. "Compared to other yachts, they are very small. They have no bathrooms inside and we have to use a bucket for that. We have a very basic kitchen where we can cook." Although this sounds very challenging, Ertan philosophically stated that, "like everything in life, you get used to it."

Dan is from Adelaide in Australia and said that he "is obviously excited to be part of the race, one of eleven competitors sailing in these small boats, the size of a car essentially (19-foot long). This is the first of its kind of races around the world in small boats." Dan confided that his participation in this race was a big commitment for him and his family as each participant is responsible to fund their own race. He started five years ago, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, to build his own boat as he decided to fulfil a life-long dream to sail around the world. This was the first time that he had undertaken a project like this to build something from scratch and he had to learn on the go while also relying on a lot of people in his community for advice. The majority of the participants in the MMGR built their own boats, but some of them bought their boats.

Part of the adventure of this journey is all the places the yachts stop over, affording the participants a chance to experience a number of remote locations they would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit. This was one

of the reasons Ertan decided to join the race and he was looking for something new to quench his adventurous spirit. For Dan, this was the answer to a lifelong dream. He has always been a keen sailor and said that "sailing around the world has always been a dream of mine since I was a kid. The problem for me was finding a race that was affordable enough."

Although the MMGR offers a more affordable platform, both Dan and Ertan agreed that it was still a very expensive undertaking. During the time they partake in the race the participants obviously do not have an income from their regular jobs and, as such, need to have enough funding to last them for the duration of the race as well as cover their commitments back home. In addition, family travelling to visit them during their compulsory rest period ashore also adds another cost to be funded during his time. "During this race we stop a month in Panama, we stop a month in Fiji, we stop a month roughly in Cape Town and you have families visit you," Ertan continued. "Every time you stop you spend a huge amount of money getting your boat fixed and repaired, as well as daily expenses. So, it is a huge financial undertaking. A small boat does not mean small costs at all!"

Although it is a solo race, the two adventurers said that Starlink has been a game-changer in that it affords them a "twenty times better connection to the outside world than the people on St Helena." Through this connection, they stay in contact with their families every day, allowing them to keep up to date and be part of their families' daily lives during this long journey. Both their families have been to visit them at some of the locations where they have stopped over, allowing them to take part in the experience and journey. Dan and Ertan said they were looking forward to seeing their families as they would be waiting for them at the finish line in Antigua a couple of months from now.

For a time, Dan used to participate in a lot of endurance running races before returning to yachting. It was during this time that he participated in one of the most challenging ultra-endurance footraces in the world, the Marathon de Sables Legendary. This event dates back to 1986 and takes place annually in the Moroccan Sahara, covering around 250km in six stages. "The shortest leg was 30km and the longest leg was 92km during the day in the Sahara Desert," elaborated Dan. During the day, with temperatures often well into 50°C, participants would run across the desert dunes carrying their gear and tents on their backs. At night, the temperature would often drop to 0°C while they would spend the night in an open tent, trying to rest and recuperate for the next leg of the race. There are frequent water stops along the route as it would be impossible for participants to carry sufficient water to prevent dehydration. "There is no way you could carry it because I was drinking 20 litres of water a day," Dan shared. "At each check point you have to prove that you have drunk a certain amount of water" to prevent severe dehydration and related issues.

Coming back to the MMGR, Dan and Ertan said that there was no prize money, but that the sole reward lay in the accomplishment of having completed the race. Don McIntyre, the race organiser, sponsors a lot of the cost personally to make the race more affordable for entrants. Most of the funding for their campaigns have to be provided by the participants and they each have a campaign manager to co-ordinate logistics, admin and provisions.

With the accumulated lead, Dan confided that he is delighted to be in a good position to finish in second place if all goes according to plan over the last two stages of the race. "And to be honest, I would be very happy coming second. I'd actually probably be disheartened to



Ertan with Trekka


Ertan Beskardes



Group photo of racers


Dan Turner on Immortal Game

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

win the race now, because that would mean that something has happened to Renaud's boat and that is the last thing I want" said Dan, proving how close the participants have grown during the past months travelling across the globe. "We are more like family now and friendship is more important than the race." They all pull together to help each other during challenges and set-backs to make sure that everyone can continue on. "Everyone wants everyone else to finish the race," concluded Dan.

Ertan said that the low points during the race is when they arrive to a destination or rest point and, due to difficult anchoring conditions or adverse weather, they cannot go ashore, "so we could be stuck on our boat for a week," he said. Dan, instead said for him "it is about my family; if everyone is doing well at home, I'm doing well at sea. My mood is a direct reflection of how things are a home." Another challenge is the long time they have been away from home as a lot of things happen while you are absent from home like teenagers going through difficult stages, "a lot happens in a year," said Dan, "it can be challenging at times because there is nothing you can do to help."

Every place they have visited along the way have been very different, each with their own unique allure and magic. "They are all just very different and I cannot compare one place to another," said Ertan. All the places along the route have been quite unusual and not always places where yachts would normally go. Dan said it was really special to go to all the different places and get to know the people and experience new cultures, adding that "the process to get somewhere also makes each destination even more exciting."

Ertan shared that Dan was a successful writer having published his autobiography (including the build-up to and participation in the Marathon de Sables) and would probably be sharing his experiences during the MMGR in a book after completing the race.

When asked what they are most looking forward to upon completing the race in Antigua, Dan said "for me, just seeing the family again. To be honest, I'm just excited to finish the race now and to go home and see everyone. It's been such a long time that I'm just excited to finish this one up now," to which Ertan wholeheartedly agreed.

Both of these adventurers agreed that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. They encourage anyone who are thinking about participating in a race like the MMGR to do it. "It is the most wonderful experience," said Ertan, to which Dan agreed, elaborating. "Don't worry about experience or if you have no skills in sailing or boat building. It can be done." He continued to say that he had no boat building experience before building his yacht and a lot of the other participants had no or very little sailing experience before starting the race. "So if you really want to do something, you can definitely do it! Just put your mind to it and do it."

The Sentinel wishes all these adventurous sailors safe travels onwards. Who knows what the future holds, one day someone from St Helena might even participate in this epic journey across the globe in the McIntyre Mini Globe Race!



Calling St Paul's residents!

Councillor Robert Midwinter will be hosting a drop-in Constituency Surgery for all residents living within the St Paul's electoral area.

This will be held at the Kingshurst Community Centre on Thursday, 29 January, starting at 3pm, and 30-minute slots will be allocated on a first come, first served, basis.

If you would like to meet with him on this occasion, please call 51500 to make an appointment, or send him an email via: robert.midwinter@parliament.sh.

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Meeting of the Land Development Control Authority

The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, 5 February 2026, at 10:00 in the St Helena Community College Main Hall, Jamestown.

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

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

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

SHG
20 January 2026
www.sainthelena.gov.sh

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

SAFETY SECURITY & HOME AFFAIRS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Road Maintenance Programme: Longwood Gate to Hutts Gate

The Roads Section will continue with the ongoing Road Maintenance Programme and will commence Phase 5 of the project, covering the stretch from Longwood Gate to Hutts Gate, on Monday, 26 January 2026.

Please be advised that day-time road closures will be in effect from 09:00 to 15:00 daily, starting from 26 January 2026 until 07 March 2026 along this section of road.

Residents living along this section of road should contact the Roads Supervisory Staff on telephone numbers 23765 or 23640 to inform them of any planned travel during closure times, so that arrangements can be coordinated.

Appropriate signage will be installed, and the cooperation of the public is kindly requested to support the timely completion of these important works.

The Roads Section thanks the public for their understanding and apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.

SHG
20 January 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Passenger Services Agent

Since 1790

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Passenger Services Agent 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, including training in Johannesburg, as well as 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
- Be committed to continuous learning and development

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 **05 February 2026.**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

INVITATION TO TENDER

Demolition of the Old Public Toilets Building in Rupert's

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

ED22-2025/26 – Demolition of the Old Public Toilets Building in Rupert's

A site visit to view the works will take place on Wednesday, 28 January 2026, at 09:00, meeting at Rupert's near the Old Public Toilets.

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

Copies of the tender document and further details can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, on telephone no: 25932 or via email tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh .

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Wednesday, 04 February 2026, clearly marked **"Tender ED22-2025/26"**.

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

SHG, 14 January 2026

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services
25th January
Sandy Bay Chapel, 08.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel, 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 27th January
Baptist School Hall, 7.00 pm
Thursday, 29th January
Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 4 – 11 yrs old
Saturday, 24th January
Baptist School Hall, Jamestown – 10am-11.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388



Hey Kids

Come and join Adventure Kids for some Fun & Games, Arts and Craft, Songs & loads of stories to be told.

WHERE: Baptist School Hall, Jamestown
WHO: Age 4-11yrs old
WHEN: 24/01/26
TIME: 10h00-11h30
Refreshments will be served.

St Helena Government

SAFETY, SECURITY & HOME AFFAIRS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Maritime Workers

The Maritime Authority is looking for Expressions of Interest from individuals who would like to work on a part-time basis in any of the following areas, as and when required:

- Administration & Office Support
- Policy & Procedure Development
- Vessel Maintenance & Repair
- Other Vessel Related Works
- Training Delivery – Theory & Practical (using local knowledge & skills)
- Professional Expertise

If this sounds like you, contact the Maritime Authority today.

Mia Henry – Head of Maritime
Terri Clingham – Deputy Head of Maritime

Email: mia.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh
terri.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh
Call: +290 25970

SHG
20 January 2026

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 25th January 2026 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	**Patronal Festival**	**Cathedral**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 25th January 2026 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade	St James
	Thursday 29th January 2026	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish St Matthew		
Sunday 25th January 2026 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 27th January 2026	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**St Mark**

NOTICE BOARD

A heartfelt thank you from Ageways charity

Reflecting on the year past, the word that comes to mind is 'gratitude'. Thank you for being the heart of everything we do whether through financial donations, sponsorships, supporting our fundraising events, or volunteering and assisting with our events. Special thanks are extended to our caterer Ms Olive Bagley, musicians 'The Double Ds' – Desmond Peters & Desmond Wade, the staff at the Community Care Centre and Committee members of Kingshurst, Jamestown and Harford Community Centres respectively.

At Ageways, we are more than just a charity, we are a community dedicated to providing social engagement and enjoyment to some of our senior citizens. You, the general public here and overseas, and our supporters helped us fulfil our mission this last year!

On behalf of the committee and Friends of Ageways, I wish everyone a peaceful and healthy new year, and may we continue to make a difference together.

With warmest wishes

Gavin Thomas
Chairperson
Ageways Charity
Registered number: C0049

The St Paul's Women's Church Guild would like to thank everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets for their Christmas raffle. Tickets for this raffle were drawn on 18th December 2025 and the lucky winners are as follows:-

1st	Christmas Tree	Sheet 22	Ticket 20	Lisa Bailey, Blackfield
2nd	Iced Christmas Cake	Sheet 22	Ticket 17	Elaine Benjamin, Three Tanks
3rd	Three tier Steamer	Sheet 15	Ticket 20	Theresa Coleman, St Pauls
4th	Easiyo Yogurt Maker	Sheet 9	Ticket 17	Evie Bailey, Clay Gut
5th	Mosaic Butterfly	Sheet 1	Ticket 3	Jolanta Peters, Sandy Bay
6th	Cooking Set	Sheet 17	Ticket 4	Ajay Bailey, Longwood
7th	Bottle of wine	Sheet 6	Ticket 8	Fred Henry, Cleughs Plain
8th	Sandwich Cake	Sheet 15	Ticket 7	Simon Williams, Cow Path, HTH
9th	Small Christmas Cake	Sheet 10	Ticket 17	Norma Green, Thompsons Hill
10th	Bottle of NJ's Honey	Sheet 16	Ticket 17	Roy Reynolds, Rosemary Cottage

The sum of £440.00 was raised. Thank you for your support!

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING PORTFOLIO

PRESS RELEASE

First Stage of Public Consultation towards a new Land Development Control Plan for St Helena

The current Land Development Control Plan (LDCP) was adopted in 2012 (before the airport was constructed) and is now beyond its original time frame. The LDCP remains in use but some of it is out of date. We need to update the LDCP so that it guides development for the next 10-15 years.

This public consultation exercise is the first stage of consultation to find out from you what you like about the current LDCP and what you think should be covered in the next, new LDCP. We would appreciate you taking the time to participate in this important initial consultation exercise so that your views can be taken into account as early as possible to bring forward a new LDCP for the Island.

The new LDCP will cover a period of 10-15 years and will set out land development policies. Once the new LDCP is adopted these policies will be used by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA) to make planning decisions on Development Applications. The public consultation period is from Friday **23 January 2026** and ends on **6 February 2026.**

We have prepared a Questionnaire and recommend that you use this to make your submission. There is a section to add anything else you think should be included in the new development plan. The Questionnaire is available on line at: https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/st-helena/government/portfolios/environment-natural-resources-planning/land-planning-and-building-control-division/ (with the online LDCP available via a link in the Questionnaire) with paper copies of both documents available at the Planning Office, Essex House.

All completed Questionnaires should be emailed to the following address: Planning.mailbox@sainthelena.gov.sh . Paper copies can be handed in to the Receptionist at Essex House Reception.

To assist you, the Planning Office will have two **Open Sessions** at Essex House, Jamestown, **Thursday 29 January 1-3pm** and **Monday 2 February 5-7pm**. You are welcome to attend either session. The paper copy Questionnaire will be available at these sessions as well as copies of the LDCP.

If you have any queries relating to this stage of the consultation, please attend one of the open sessions, email the planning.mailbox@Sainthelana.gov.sh or contact the Planning Office on Tel: (+290) 22270.

Questionnaires submitted at this stage will be assessed and will feed into the next stage of preparing the new LDCP. We will not be sending acknowledgements for the questionnaires; responses will be collated and reported to the LDCA and ENRP & ED Minister.

Other stages of public consultation will come later on. The next stages of public consultation will be notified on the SGH website and notices in the local press when you will be and asked to provide further input into the next stages, including commenting on draft land use policies. We are unable to undertake notification by post however, where possible we will look to use emails for future consultations and you can provide your details at the back of the Questionnaire.
Thank you for taking part in this first important stage in bringing forward a new Land Development Control Plan.

NOTICE BOARD

Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week

Date: Saturday, 24 January 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Airport Road, Prosperous Bay Parking Bay
Google Maps location: -15.954927, -5.657040
Duration: approx 4 hrs

Walk grade: Strenuous | 9 - 10

Prosperous Bay is a challenging but stunning coastal walk that leads through the valley towards the sea, offering picturesque views, towering rock formations and is the site of old military ruins.

This walk is suitable for fit and experienced walkers. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring at least 2L of water (swimming gear is optional if sea conditions are favourable). A very challenging walk suitable only for fit, experienced walkers.

The walk will be led by local walking guide, Tom Wortley from Rockmount Walking Tours.

Date	Upcoming Walks
31 Jan 2026	The Barn

Receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' email dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or the Tourist Office T: 22158

Request to Tender



Tenders are invited from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for one or more of the following projects:

1. **Painting of the Church Lane Arch, Jamestown**
2. **Light Installation in Church Lane, Jamestown**
3. **Signage Installation around the island**
4. **Fabrication of wooden post boxes, and installation**
5. **Repair of the Tennis Court, Ladder Hill**
6. **Landscaping of the Dolphin Stone area, Jamestown**
7. **repair of steps and development of access to viewpoints and picnic areas**

Bidders may apply for as many projects that suits there capabilities.

Each tender submission must include a detailed quotation, clearly outlining costs, timelines, and any relevant experience, by no later than **30 January 2026**.

For further information or clarification, please contact:
Marcella Mittens
Economic Development Officer
Email: marcella.mittens@sainthelena.gov.sh
Address: The Castle, Jamestown
Telephone: 22470

sthelenatourism.com

VACANCY

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Bank Teller

Commencing at £10,908 per annum

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

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. 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 the Teller Services Manager on + 290 22390 or email tellerservicesmanager@sainthelenabank.com for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank.

Completed application forms should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 06 February 2026.

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

VACANCY

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Insurance Manager

Commencing at £19,260 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the new and exciting position of an Insurance Manager.

Reporting to the Deputy Managing Director, the Insurance Manager will monitor and be responsible for the management of Insurance Policy sales, Underwriting and Claims.

The role includes:

- Overseeing the Insurance team and provide customer support on a daily basis.
- Ensure the section is operational, efficient and compliance at all times.
- Deliver first-class service to customers, whilst adhering to processes and procedures.

Working closely with the Deputy Managing Director and in collaboration with Caribbean Alliance, the successful candidate will also:

- Develop and implement risk management strategies.
- Oversee the life cycle of Insurance Policies, monitor sales, manage underwriting and Claims.
- Train and manage the Insurance team.
- Ensure adherence to Regulations in collaboration with Caribbean Alliance.

About You

The ideal candidate must be:

- Highly motivated, self-reliant, and able to work to their own initiative.
- Flexible and adaptable to meet work demands.
- Accurate and detail-orientated, with both a practical and strategic approach to tasks.
- A strong communicator with excellent interpersonal and influencing skills.

Essential Requirements

- A background in financial and/or business management.
- Proven organisational skills with the ability to build effective working relationships at all levels.
- Must have good interpersonal skills and deal with people in a professional manner, with strong sales and negotiation skills.
- Some knowledge of the delivery of insurance products is desirable.

Training and Development

- Training for the position will be provided, which will include international training resources.
- Candidates will be expected to study towards a relevant professional qualification if one is not already held.

How to Apply

- For more information, please contact the Deputy Managing Director on + 290 22390 ext 222 or email deputy.managingdirector@sainthelenabank.com for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank.

Completed application forms should be addressed to the Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

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Market Street, Jamestown

Bank of St Helena Ltd



Golf Report

Peter Bagley wins Presidents Challenge Cup

SHGC, Contributed

The Presidents Challenge Cup welcomed seventeen dedicated golfers to the course on Sunday, 18 January 2026.



Although the wind swept across the fairways with real intent, it did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the players. From the first tee shot to the final putt, the atmosphere was filled with friendly competition and laughter.

Two players, Peter Bagley and Freddy Thomas, both carded impressive net scores of 70. After a count back, Peter was awarded first place, with Freddy taking a well-deserved second.

Close behind them, Arthur Francis produced a net score of 71, placing him firmly among the top performers of the day. Three players followed with an impressive net 72; Neil Joshua, Paddo Johnson and Larry Legg. Only one two-ball was recorded on the day, and in true club tradition, Arthur Francis walked away with all 17 balls - a moment that bought plenty of cheers.

The individual prizes added extra excitement:

- Longest Drive 6th (Furrows) - Rodney Braaf
- Nearest to the Pin (5th) - Tony Green
- Best Final Six Holes - Lawson Henry
- Best Dressed Golfer - Gerald George
- Special Recognition - Lukas Robbertse
- Random Draw - Dr Nigel Leaver

Heartfelt thanks are extended to every participant for contributing to such a successful and enjoyable day. Sincere thanks to the sponsor, Christine Scipio, for her generosity.

Congratulations to all winners.

Upcoming Competitions:

- 25 January 2026 - Monthly Medal Stroke Play
- 1 February 2026 - 18 Hole Stableford
- 8 February 2026 - Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge (3 Club)

Happy swinging!



We're Hiring:

Mantis St Helena

Be the Face of our Guest Experience

We are seeking friendly, energetic team player, who take pride in delivering exceptional service and creating memorable dining experiences.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Welcome & serve guests with warmth & professionalism
- Take F&B orders accurately & efficiently understanding all dietary requirements
- Deliver outstanding service to ensure guest satisfaction
- Work collaboratively within a supportive team
- Keep tables & service areas clean, organized and presentable
- Understand & follow all HACCP guidelines when it comes to food safety & handling

Be the Backbone of our Kitchen Operations

We are looking for hardworking, responsible & dependable individuals who take pride in maintaining a clean, efficient & well-organized kitchen.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Support chefs by keeping the kitchen running smoothly
- Wash dishes, utensils and kitchen equipment thoroughly and promptly
- Assist with basic food preparation when required
- Maintain high hygiene & food safety standards as outlined under HACCP guidelines
- Keep storage areas clean, stocked and orderly

Reception

Be the first point of contact for our guests delivering a seamless, professional and welcoming arrival and stay experience. Job description will be explained during interview.

Housekeeping

Maintain exceptional cleanliness, hygiene and presentation standards, ensuring every guest room reflects luxury and comfort at all times. The public areas and guest laundry is handled with caution, care and are in impeccable condition at all times. Job description will be explained during interview.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Previous experience is helpful but not required, basic training will be provided
- Strong work ethic and team focused mindset
- Ability to perform well in a fast paced environment
- Reliability, initiative and attention to detail
- Availability to work mornings, evenings, weekends
- Understand & follow all HACCP guidelines when it comes to food safety & handling of food storage & kitchen equipment.

APPLY NOW by sending your CV to Robyn-Tionette.FRANCONI@mantiscollection.com

A valid vetting certificate is required for employment.

SPORTS ARENA



Explosive Batting Continues

Three in three for Challengers, as Allstars beat Pirates in SHCA League

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The SHCA cricket season continued on the weekend with a highly anticipated match between Levelwood Allstars and Sandy Bay Pirates first up on Saturday.

Allstars batted first and a Captains contribution from Delroy Leo, with 86, helped them to produce a healthy total of 242 runs during the innings. It was an all-round balling effort from Sandy Bay, though Jerry Thomas stood out with a three-wicket haul in his three overs. Pirates took to the field for the chase, but got off to a shaky start; losing their openers in the very first over. Captain Rhys Francis and David Young dug in to rebuild the innings, however Allstars bowling proved too strong with Weston Clingham coming away with three wickets for 18 runs after three overs; his contributions, including a solid 39 runs with the bat, saw him awarded Man of the Match honours helping his team to dismiss Pirates for 133, taking the win by an incredible 109 runs.

Over to Sunday, when in the first match, holders Challengers defeated Cobras to continue their fine form this season. Opting to bat first, Challengers produced a mammoth total of 436 runs thanks to another brilliant opening partnership. In-form and Player of the Match, Cliff Richards, came away with a 147 run Captain's contribution, while Andrew Yon accompanied him with a century of his own. Although an improbable task, Cobras dug in to chase the total which saw Jamie Peters come away with an impressive 67 runs, however this was not enough with Cobras eventually balled out for 193, making it three wins in three matches for Challengers.

The final match of the weekend saw the Jamestown Heat defeat the Western A Mustangs after posting a mammoth total of 392 during their innings thanks to an opening partnership that proved too much for the Mustangs with Dax Richards, 115 runs, and Scott Crowie, 148, setting the pace from the start. Alongside impressing with the bat, Heat also put in an all-round impressive bowling performance to ensure Mustangs could not hunt down the total, with Man of the Match, Scott Crowie, alongside young Joel Peters, collecting three wickets each to help dismiss Mustangs for 197 runs.

So far, explosive batting in all three of their matches puts reigning champions, Challengers, on top of the league standings with Levelwood Allstars in second and both the Jamestown Heat and Sandy Bay Pirates equal on points in third; making the upcoming weeks a very exciting prospect as the 2026 35-over league continues.



FIXTURES

Saturday 24th Jan
13:30 Western A Mustangs v Sandy Bay Pirates
Umpires: Damien O'Bey and Gavin Ellick

Sunday 25th Jan
08:30 Levelwood Allstars v Cobras
Umpires: David Young and Rhys Francis

13:30 Jamestown Heat v Challengers
Umpires: Barry Stroud and Gareth Johnson