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"It has been a successful visit"



"Thrilled to announce the Athletes"

Team St Helena chosen ahead of 2026 Commonwealth Games



"The URA is not satisfied with Connect's performance"

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

I had a conversation with a friend about song writing, she started the conversation by saying that Tom Petty, in her opinion, is the greatest song writer of all time. So, it got us thinking how many great songwriters there are. You have legends, such as Bob Dylan, who wrote half the classics we know today such as 'knocking on heavens door', 'make you feel my love', and so much more. Then you have Paul McCartney, Tracy Chapman, Marvin Gaye, Babyface, Wu-Tang Clan, Chris Cornell and so much more.

One of my favorite songwriters would be Prince, 'Purple Rain' could easily be one of my favorite tunes of all time. Prince is a multi-instrumentalist and on some of his records he plays all the instruments, and is also considered as one of the greatest guitarists ever. So, what I love about purple rain is the simplicity of it all, but every single thing in the song is so effective, the lyrics, the way its sung, that first guitar strum, the lead and the 'wooooohooohoohooo' bit is spiritual. So, for a person who can do pretty much anything, he choose simplicity and that's why I think he is one of the best.

You also have Eric Clapton who wrote 'Layla', he wrote this song to express his passionate, forbidden love for Pattie Boyd, who was then married to his close friend, Beatle George Harrison. The song was inspired by the 12th-century Persian tale Layla and Majnun, which depicts a man who goes mad after falling in love with an unattainable woman. If you listen to the live at the Royal Albert Hall version, then you will feel it.

And my favorite is 'Let It Be'. Before the song was written, Paul McCartney was going through personal stress and the impending breakup of the band in 1969, his deceased mother, Mary, came to him in a dream offering comforting words—"Don't worry, it's going to be fine, just let it be!"

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ST HELENA NEWS

"Thrilled to announce the Athletes"

Team St Helena chosen ahead of 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow











Liam Yon, SAMS

Team St Helena, who will compete in this year's Commonwealth Games, have been chosen, after an official announcement by the National Sports Association of St Helena (NSASH).

The 2026 edition of the prestigious Commonwealth Games, held every four years, will be hosted in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August this year, and St Helena is set to be represented once again this time around in both Athletics and Swimming, with NSASH recently announcing the team selection ahead of the highly anticipated Games.

They said in a recent update that they were "thrilled to announce the athletes who have been selected to represent St Helena at the 2026 Commonwealth Games," adding that "this exciting achievement marks a significant milestone in their journey to the Games."

As such, the athletes having met the selection criteria, and currently forming Team St Helena, include runners Tyler Anthony and Blaze Baldwin, based here on the Island, and Tye Leo-Stroud and Sean Crowie, based in the UK. All four will compete in Athletics. In addition, William Caswell, Nolan George and Lukas Robbertse will all represent St Helena in Swimming at the upcoming Games.

This seven-strong team will be led by Chef de Mission, Ryan Benjamin from NSASH, while additional support will be provided by other team officials.

"The NSASH Committee is incredibly grateful to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) for their continued support in funding the participation of our athletes at these prestigious games and extend heartfelt congratulations to all the selected athletes and their support teams," said NSASH following this announcement. "We are confident that they will continue to train with determination and passion in the lead-up to, and during the Games in July, where they will represent St Helena Island on the global stage."

The Sentinel sends huge congratulations to the chosen athletes and, as always, we will be right behind you as you represent St Helena and yourselves on the international sporting stage. Good luck and train hard!

Here Comes the Money

New banknotes now officially in circulation



Liam Yon, SAMS

Having recently arrived to St Helena, the new polymer St Helena Pound banknotes are now officially in circulation – with many residents having already got their hands on the new-look notes.

"SHG is pleased to announce that the new series of St Helena Pound (£) banknotes has officially entered circulation," said SHG on Thursday of last week. "The new notes, in denominations of £5, £10, and £20, feature the portrait of His Majesty King Charles III and represent a significant milestone in the modernisation of the island's currency."

Ahead of this announcement by the Government, a small official handover ceremony was held on Friday, 16 January, when St Helena's Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, along with the Financial Secretary, Dax Richards, and his Deputy, Nicholas Yon, formally presented the new banknotes to the Bank of St Helena through representatives, Susan Knipe and Joran Clingham. "This symbolic gesture transitions the notes from the custody of the Commissioners of Currency to the island's primary financial institution for public distribution," commented SHG on the ceremony.

One of the key, and obvious, changes to the banknotes has been the transition from paper to polymer, which SHG says "marks a leap forward in durability and security" adding that, apart from the clear improvement to its feel and appearance, "these notes are harder to counterfeit and have a significantly longer lifespan than traditional paper notes."

In order to bring the new St Helena Pound banknotes from design to circulation, SHG had to work closely with commercial banknote printer, De La Rue. As such, they credit this "close partnership" for the "successful delivery of this new series" of banknote, with De La Rue having been involved "from the initial design phase through to the printing and final shipment of the notes to the island."

"We would like to formally acknowledge De La Rue for their expertise and dedication throughout this process," commented Deputy Financial Secretary, Nicholas Yon. "They have been a valuable partner from beginning to end, ensuring that our new polymer notes not only celebrate St Helena's unique identity, featuring the iconic Jonathan the Tortoise and the St Helena Ebony, but also incorporate state-of-the-art security features to protect our currency."

In terms of authority and governance, SHG detailed how "the issuance of these banknotes is conducted under the strict legal framework of the Currency Ordinance, 1975" adding that, "as prescribed in the Ordinance, the Commissioners of Currency, appointed by the Governor, are the designated authority responsible for the island's monetary affairs."

These Commissioners, who "hold the sole right to issue notes and coins on behalf of the St Helena Government," included, for the issuance of the new banknotes, Dax Richards, Nicholas Yon, Susan O'Bey, and Gillian Francis; therefore their signatures appear on the new notes, serving as a mark of authentication and a guarantee of the notes' status as legal tender. SHG did add however that, with Susan having retired from her post as Chief Secretary, new postholder, Ian Todd, will replace her as a Commissioner.







"The URA is not satisfied with Connect's performance"

Utilities Regulatory Authority publishes damning review on Connect St Helena's Annual Performance Report for 2024/25 with performance in critical areas of work described as "disappointing" and "depressing" and in urgent need of improvement, while they share frustration that Connect "makes promises it fails to keep"

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) have recently published their findings of their review on Connect St Helena's Annual Report on the Quality of Services provided by Connect for 2024/25 and it is not good reading for the Island's sole utilities service provider with the URA stating clearly that it is "not satisfied with Connect's performance."

The URA opened their published report by confirming that it had "completed its review of the quality of services provided by Connect for the year to 31st of March 2025," later adding that the report "is principally concerned with motivating the Utilities Provider to improve the quality of the services they provide."

Focussing on the recently adopted 'Public Utilities Development Plan (PUDP)', the URA states how "this report covers the first year of the new PUDP" with targets set in the report said to "form the basis for ongoing measurement of Connect's performance."

When sharing its observations on PUDP performance and outcomes, the URA made it clear that they were "not satisfied with Connect's performance over the reporting period" and shared observations that summarises "the reasons" for this dissatisfaction.

The first of these related to interruptions to the electricity supply. The URA noted how "the number of faults on the electricity network have increased over the last year from 48 to 72 and this measurement gives no indication of the impact of those faults on customers in terms of how long they are without power." It was shared how this annual report by Connect marked the first year that the company were required to provide the URA with details of how many minutes customers have been without electricity on average over the year - referred to as 'Customer Minutes Lost' or CML. "The figure reported by Connect is 591 minutes, which by any standards is exceedingly high," reported the URA. "Targets set in the UK are typically below 40 (which includes interruptions due to weather); for Alderney the figure for CML was 24.99 in 2024 and for Jersey 7.7 minutes. St Helena has suffered with power cuts for too long now which is partly a reflection of aging equipment and infrastructure combined with limited investment and power lines being too vulnerable to falling trees."

Moving on, the URA added how "renewable energy generation is another area where results are disappointing." They detail how, in the reporting year, Connect produced only 11% of electricity from renewable sources, a figure which is significantly less than that of which was produced seven years prior, when in 2017/18, 25% came from renewable sources. "As has been previously noted by the URA, promises by Connect to increase reliance on renewable energy have been found wanting," reported the Authority. "Had Connect kept to their timetable, 80% of energy on the island would have been generated by renewables by 2019/20. Instead we have another iteration of a renewable energy project where progress is being measured in terms of completion of planning stages, not by an increasing use of renewables."

Turning their attention to electricity connection times, the URA shared how this now takes Connect 18 days when, in the year prior, this took only three days. "The number of days to connect to the network was consistently low until this year," they revealed before describing this "sharp increase" as "deeply troubling and reflective of staffing issues" which they say has also impacted upon "the very impor-

tant work" of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) review and preventative maintenance programme.

The URA then touch on staff turnover, which was at 9% in 2023/24 but increased to 12% for the reporting year. "Connect must work to reduce this level which, for a small organisation with little succession planning, is far too high and which directly impacts upon the service to customers," asserted the Authority.

Another observation made by the URA was that "power quality targets were not met" by Connect, adding that this "is especially concerning as this can impact upon customers' equipment, which they should not expect to be put at risk by the provider." The URA go on to state that "we are simply told that these issues are being "investigated", as opposed to rectified," by Connect St Helena.

The Authority describes water quality reports as "depressing" with turbidity levels - the measure of relative clarity or cloudiness of a liquid - for all areas on the Island, being "above the targets for the previous PUDP." They add that Connect have set targets of 5% turbidity in all areas of the island, whereas the last PUDP had targets at 1.75% for all areas except Jamestown, where it was 5%. "A new PUDP is not an opportunity to relax targets that were previously set," noted the URA. "The targets will be 1.75% going forward for all areas except Jamestown which remains at 5%."

Delving further into turbidity levels of water provided by Connect, the URA share how these "are now in excess of all previously set targets, except Levelwood" with Redhill having increased from 2.51% in the previous year to 3.75%, Hutt's Gate at 2.96%, and Levelwood, the only area having met the set target, being at 1.37%. In terms of Jamestown, while the URA noted "a marked improvement" in turbidity levels from 9.97% to 5.58%, they argue that this "is still in excess of World Health Organisation guidelines."

Giving some historic background, the URA recalled how in October 2018, NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit) levels for Jamestown were about 4%. They recall how the CEO of Connect, at the time, wrote to the URA, advising that, the capital submission made by Connect to SHG placed the project to address the turbidity problem as Connect's "highest priority call on capital funding" further advising the URA that Connect "are aware of and dealing with the issue of the higher than desired turbidity levels."

Fast forward to the present time and the URA report that "it appears that nothing has been done to address turbidity levels which have increased over the years." The Authority say they were advised that Connect "intended to install flocculators" which would assist with a reduction in turbidity levels, however "this project had to be put back to 24/5," adding that they have now been told "that a design is expected to be completed in 25/6, with implementation in 26/7." This pushing of timelines has caused the URA to "expresses its exasperation at being advised that a programme will be carried out when it is not," where they state that "this makes regulation very difficult when the company being regulated makes promises it fails to keep."

The URA then focus on water loss from the network, which they describe as still being "far too high at 48%" and which clearly represents "a significant loss" to consumers on the Island. The Authority note how this water loss "is still being blamed by Connect on the network inherited in 2013" adding that this "fails to take into account that Connect have been in operation for nearly 13 years with customers still suffering excessive water losses that have barely changed in the last six years."

They reveal how "Connect had expected to spend £763,000 on research and development, but in fact spent £69,755 due to the late start of the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) and the HTH and Jamestown Wastewater Projects." This is near £700,000 less than what was expected to be spent in order to develop and improve Connect's operations, greatly reduce water loss from the network and ultimately improve Connect's quality of service.

In what seemed almost a point of consolation, the URA, as their last observation from the first year of the PUDP, noted how "the most positive aspect of the reporting on the PUDP is a Lost Time Injury Rate of 0," something which they say "Connect should be congratulated" for.

The URA's report goes on to comment on the PUDP targets for 25/26 suggested by Connect, which the URA were in agreement with, but for a few exceptions relating to Customer Minutes Lost being "too high", NTU levels remaining at 1.75% and 5% for Jamestown, and the complete removal of a target relating to the number of electricity disconnections due to non-payment of bills.

When looking at Connects compliance with their Codes of Practice, the Authority were pleased to note "that compliance with the Codes of Practice is excellent as it has been for many years and Connect clearly work hard to maintain this."

The report goes on to give further detail covering topics including investment in infrastructure, the subsidy, payments and debtors, Rupert's Sewerage Plant, the SHG Renewable Energy Policy, financial security, as well as future reports from Connect to the URA.

Part three of the report closes with the conclusions made by the URA, focussing again on their observations with suggestions on ways in which areas of operations considered below standard can be addressed going forward.

This report, with Connect St Helena's Annual Report annexed to it, has been made publicly available and can be obtained by email from Yvonne Williams at yvonne.williams@judicialservices.sh or via the following link: https://drive.proton.me/urls/YJ50XFPFVC#k-JfM4I9nHZGA.



Chief Magistrates, Duncan Cooke, Chair of the St Helena URA

"It has been a successful visit"

Transcription of Press Conference to conclude FAM Visit

Liam Yon, SAMS

Saturday's flight out of St Helena included the visiting Financial Aid Mission (FAM) team from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), led by Nick Wareham – Deputy Director of the Overseas Territories and Polar Directorate – following what was described by both Nick and St Helena's Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, as a "successful" and productive week of discussions ahead of St Helena's financial aid programme for the 2026/27 financial year.

As is the case annually, this visit provided the opportunity for the FAM Team to discuss in-person the delivery and effectiveness of the FCDO's Financial Aid programme in St Helena. It also presented the chance to further enhance the partnership approach between St Helena Government and His Majesty's Government in the UK.

With a packed week of engagements, the visiting team were able to meet and speak with not only Ministers, Elected Members and government officials, but also with members of the private sector, recipients of benefits and pensions, as well as charities such as SHAPE and wider stakeholders.

The week concluded with a Press Conference held in the Governor's Office, with a three-strong panel including both Nick Wareham and the Chief Minister, alongside the Governor of St Helena, Nigel Phillips.



HE The Governor Opening Statement: *Welcome to the press conference at the conclusion of the FAM visit. For clarity, the FAM visit is not about making decisions, it's about gathering evidence, and there's an awful lot of work put into ensuring that we did that as effectively as possible. I'm very grateful to the public service for all the work that has been going on for months, frankly, to make as good a case as we can for St Helena to put its best foot forward, and I think we've done that.*

I'm also grateful to Nick and the FAM team for making the time to come. We all know, you can only really understand St Helena if you actually come to St Helena, you've got to see it to believe it, and it's a big effort. I'm very, very grateful that they've done that.

I think that's enough from me, I'm going to hand over first to Nick to say some words, and then to the Chief Minister, and then we look forward to taking questions from members of the press.

Nick Wareham Opening Statement: *Thank you, Governor, and thank you everyone. I mean, as Nigel says, this is really a week that's about gathering evidence, and I think really the word I would use to sum that up is it's about understanding, and I think without understanding you can't have a strong partnership, and this week has really been about making that partnership stronger by building a deeper understanding. And understanding goes two ways, so it's about us understanding St Helena better, understanding the challenges in St Helena, and understanding the opportunities, and it's also about St Helena Government understanding better some of the pressures that are on the UK Government, and how that will then play into the decisions that they're able to make on financial aid.*

I think it's been a really, really helpful week, so a huge thanks, as Nigel says, to the ministers and the public service. I think we have really, really strengthened our understanding of where St Helena is, and where St Helena wants to be. In terms of the challenges, the demographic challenges came through very strongly, and we heard in lots of different areas, public service and business, how that's impacting different parts of life here, but also understanding the opportunities.

I mean, as Nigel says, you need to be here to understand it, and once you're here

you really see what a unique place this is. We've been out on the boat, we've been all the way up to Blue Point, seen the cloud forest, and all of these things are just such unique experiences, and experiences that I think offer tremendous opportunities for Saints. At the same time, as I say, it is also about making sure we help you to understand some of the pressures on the UK, and there are quite a lot of global events at the moment, global pressures, which the UK needs to take into account.

But for us, from our side, we now are equipped with a much better understanding of how St Helena fits into that global picture, and can make sure that the Ministers who ultimately make the decisions about financial aid going into the future can really, really see what the opportunities are here, and how the UK can best support you in that.

Chief Minister Opening Statement: *Thank you, and to avoid repetition, I think it's fair to say that this has been a particularly important FAM team to us as well, particularly because it's brought a largely new FAM team to St Helena, as well as a new Ministerial team. It's both reassuring and encouraging to hear from you that we've actually achieved that aim of deepening that understanding, and as you say, it's a deepening understanding on both sides. I think that is particularly important to us, particularly in terms of understanding the challenges and opportunities that both St Helena, and actually the UK, faces, in terms of this being within a global perspective upon which we are negotiating.*

I'd just like to say perhaps a little bit more detail in terms of that understanding, in terms of deepening those relationships, but also a lot of the questions and probing has been about understanding the impact and effectiveness of the aid that is given to meet the island. I hope you will agree we've provided some excellent examples of where that aid has been used, and moreover been delivered successfully against the commitments that we've made in previous missions. Just to give an example, the educational review, which is now moving into the delivery of the reorganisation programme, and then of course Rupert's Port.

Both of these are really complex and challenging projects, and I think it's really important that we recognise not only that they have been delivered, or are being delivered, but that they're being delivered locally. So, I think that's a really big plus and a really good example of what St Helena can deliver and how it can evidence the impact, and thanks, for the aid that we get.

I think one of the things that's become very clear is that we can't shy away from tough decisions during this period. We've had very open and, I believe, very robust conversations. You've spoken to all the Portfolio Directors and their teams to understand where we're going, and why we're going, and not just what the impact has been, but what the resources needed are and the details of that budgetary. So there has been probing, there has been challenging, and I think it's obvious to all of us that the challenges we face are serious and they're complex, and that there are no quick or easy solutions to the situation that we find ourselves.

So, I think it's clear that we cannot shy away from tough decisions if we're going to secure our island's future. So difficult choices are going to be required, but I think we all believe that inaction is not an option. So, I would hope to say that there is shared ambition to stabilise the island's public finances, including the spending on health and how we meet those essential needs to meet recurrent levels of need, and growing levels of need; how we protect essential services, especially for the most vulnerable, and how we create conditions for economic growth. So perhaps in closing, I think the visitors marked a start of our partnership negotiations; it's not the end, it's the conversation, as the Governor has mentioned.

I think the FAM team have reaffirmed the UK's continued commitment to St Helena, whilst also being clear about the need for reform, prioritisation, and long-term sustainability. The Ministers and I are entirely committed to obviously getting the best possible outcome for St Helena, and obviously to working in partnership with the UK Government as we make, and take, those challenging but necessary steps to halting the decline that we're facing and begin to start growing St Helena again.

So, thank you to everyone. I think it's, you know, we've just had five days of a very intense programme, but what that represents is a massive amount of work in the lead up to it, and will continue to be a significant amount of work to be able to get to the point where we have an opportunity for a settlement. So I'd just like to say thank you to everyone who's been involved to get us into the propriety work, to get us where we are now, and I think, I certainly believe, and I think we can agree that it has been a successful visit, so thank you.

Nick Wareham: *If I might just echo that, I mean, thanks obviously go to the Ministers, the Governor's Office, and Public Service for all the work they've done, but I think also actually thank you to the wider community. Everywhere we've been, we have met Saints who are full of enthusiasm for the island, and that enthusiasm is infectious. They've been so warm and welcoming, and that really is also a part of that sort of unique St Helena experience, and that's definitely something that all of us in the FAM team will carry back with us to the UK.*

Hello, panel. Liam Yon reporting for SAMS. Firstly, just to say welcome to Nick. I've gotten so used to seeing Adam sitting in that chair for the last few years. So firstly, I would say, Nick, how have you enjoyed St Helena? And secondly, do you think this visit has, being just a week long, given you ample time to truly understand the challenges we face as an island, and the areas we consider priority in order to address these challenges, and drive this island forward towards unlocking the potential that we all know is waiting in the wings to be unpicked?

Nick Wareham: Well, simple answer to your first question, absolutely. I think we've met some tourists this week who've been talking about how, coming here, they've been sort of converted to St Helena, and I think the FAM team can be added to that number. It's just a unique place, and there's so many things that one has read about, one's heard about, things like the cloud forest, or the incredible marine life, and you experience that, and that is sort of, wow! But then there's also the things that are maybe a bit more unexpected, and the Ministers actually took us up to Blue Point on the Sunday, and coming up the ridge and going through, you know, land that could be part of the Scottish Highlands, then land that's sort of almost Mediterranean, and then you get to those amazing vistas that could be something you'd see in America, or something like that, and you sort of think, wow, this is all of the world packed into a tiny island; so absolutely fantastic.

On your second question, look, we're not naive. I don't think in a week you can pretend you've fully understood any place in the world, and that's true for St Helena, just like anywhere else, but I think we have got a really, really good flavour of the challenges that the island faces, and also, as I say, the opportunities. I think it's as good a flavour as you could get in a week, and that is down to all the hard work of everyone, and, as I say, also down to members of the wider community who open their doors to us, and make sure to share their experiences with us, which is really all I think anyone could hope for, and hopefully puts us in the best possible position to fight for St Helena.

Could you touch on some of the discussions held and your understand-

ing of where St Helena is, and where we want, or probably the better word is need to be, recognising that, to get there, financial aid from the UK is extremely important?

Nick Wareham: Yeah, well I think when we started hearing a lot about the demographic challenges, and I think you can't get away from the fact that that is, you know, the reality, and, as I say, we heard what an impact that is having, not just in the public sector, but also actually for businesses, so that gives you a sense of some of the challenges, and how they're not going to be easy to overcome, but as the Chief Minister was saying, I think to respond to those challenges, you have to focus on them, and you have to then have a sense of priorities, and a sense of a plan, and we also need that partnership between the UK and the St Helena Government; it's not that we can solve it in the UK, there's no sense of that, but there's also a role for us in providing the financial aid, and then in working on the financial aid mission, and then through the year, in hopefully making sure that we can start to address some of the big challenges, and as the Chief Minister said, there are positive signs of those challenges being tackled. Education is a great example; we went up to the Secondary School, we met members of staff, and, you know, the work that has been done already, but also the aspiration to start working towards that COBIS standard in education, that is something that is going to mean that children get a great education, it's going to mean there are great opportunities for teachers, and it's going to connect the school to a whole set of international partnerships, and that's just one example of where you can see the direction St Helena is taking.

My next question is one that I only want a positive response to. Will we be receiving increased aid and a multi-year budget?

Nick Wareham: So, as the Governor said, this is not a decision-making mission, and this is certainly not a decision-making press conference, but St Helena has made a really, really strong case, and I would say, particularly on this multi-annual point, I think there was a clear message about how that would give more predictability, so we've certainly taken that away, and we'll be doing everything we can to try and create that predictability for Saints.

Chief Minister, is that something that you, and I assume you would have, pushed for during discussions as well?



Chief Minister: Oh absolutely, as many people will know, St Helena has been pushing for a multi-year aid package for quite a while. The fact that we have the possibility, and I say the possibility of one, it's not obviously guaranteed, it is subject to further decision-making, so yes, I think we've definitely been pushing that, it does enable us to become more effective and efficient, not just in terms of our planning, but how we organise that budget in terms of, we're not just working to a rollover budget, late decisions on the budget, having to deliver one year in three quarters a year, and the challenges that we face, given the logistics and the isolation of the island. So absolutely, and I think that's been well presented.

Above and beyond the financial aid settlement, the UK provides significant critical funding to St Helena through a number of other programmes. One of the key ones, of course, is the Economic Development Investment Programme, which provided up to £30 million of funding to improve infrastructure on St Helena since 2019-20. As far as I know, the EDIP programme comes to an end this year, can this be confirmed, and if so, what is the likelihood of this, or a similar programme, being afforded to St Helena from the next financial year, considering how vital EDIP has been to our development in recent years?

Nick Wareham: I think the first point to make is, as you say, it's not just about financial aid, we have to look holistically at all the different forms of support that the UK offers, and also the support that St Helena can get through working with others. So you don't want to, and that includes attracting private sector investment, you don't want to take any one thing in isolation, and that's really been the theme of this week actually, meeting the private sector to make sure you're understanding their perspective, but also going to see Rupert's, to see the work of EDIP. When we were going to the Police, or when we were meeting the Sea Rescue Service, hearing the role that additional programme funds for the UK, on top of financial aid, can also play in helping to raise standards here. So it's all holistic. But very specifically on EDIP, the programme actually ends at the next financial year, so we have another year to go, and so that's certainly something; this mission also then helps us to make the best use of the money that we will still have in that programme, and then to start planning for a succession programme.

For the past two financial years, St Helena has received £500,000 each year, so £1million in total, of ring-fenced funding to be used in the development of tourism, in line with the Tourism Recovery Strategy and Development Programme, with the aim of restoring visitor numbers to pre-pandemic levels and beyond. From your discussions, and from what you have seen this week, has this money been well spent, and do you see an improvement in the island's tourism offering, and also, is this funding something that will be continued, especially considering the recent statement by the Head of Tourism that plans are underway for

a new draft strategy to 2031?

Nick Wareham: So we had a really good session talking about that Tourism Strategy and also the benefits of the Tourism Development Fund; how that money has been used, and then where the plans are going. As I say, this is not a decision-making press conference, but we're certainly looking at tourism as one of those areas where I think there's a shared desire between us and the government to invest as part of a strategy to get more economic development on the island, and I think crucially what you've seen in that work, and what you can see in this set of government's commitment, is really looking at things that support that high value, low volume tourism that seems to be the best approach for St Helena, and an approach that can deliver significant rewards in the medium term.

Chief Minister, we have received £1million in the last two financial years for tourism. Can you see the benefit of that, and do you think that is something that we would appreciate from the UK Government going forward?

Chief Minister: Absolutely; I mean, growth is the only possible outcome that's going to pull us out of the situation that we're in. So, tourism is one of the key strategies for growth, and therefore, yes, it's fundamental to being successful.

We've had a really exciting opportunity to listen to the detail of where tourism is going, what it's looking at, so I think we're really excited about that. So absolutely, we need that support and that funding to continue that sort of continued investment.

It's been going for a couple of years. It needs to obviously continue for some time to come, because there's a significant lag phase between the investment and the realisation of benefits from that investment. So that's the difficult period, if you could say, in terms of how do we get over those humps before we start seeing, realising, those financial benefits.

One last question, and I hope this is relevant. SHG and the UKG signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the BIOT Migrant Agreement on the 15th of October 2024. Part of this MOU was an action to thaw the UK State Pension Freeze for eligible persons on St Helena. 15 months on and I believe this has still not happened, despite a number of enquiries reaching all the way to Sir Andrew Mitchell MP, who actually raised this as a formal written question to the FCDO. Can I ask today, what is the latest developments regarding this action and finally thawing the UK State Pension Freeze to those eligible and resident here on St Helena?

Nick Wareham: Well, thank you. I mean, first of all to say that I think the Migrant Agreement is also actually a really good example of how the partnership between the UK and St Helena is a strong partnership, and that was greatly appreciated at the time and well done by the Government. On that specific issue, there is that reference in the Annex, and I think this British Government acknowledges the fact that this has been a challenge for a long time.

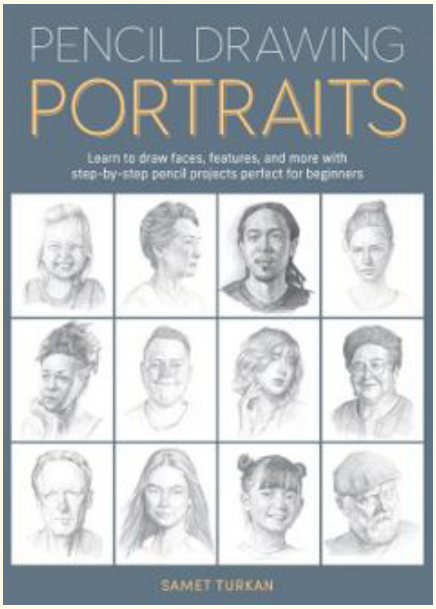
It's certainly something we're looking at and I think we've just had some good discussions this week about it. I'd say the Chief Minister made a very, very strong case for why that would help to ensure that pensioners here are well supported, but also it's part of being part of the UK family, so it's something we're looking at.

Thank you very much. No more questions from me. Just to say that I'm glad it was a successful visit, I'm glad you enjoyed your time on St Helena, and we look forward to our multi-year budget.



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



Pencil Drawing Portraits by Samet Turkan

Learn to draw people of all ages and ethnicities through easy-to-follow instruction and 20 step-by-step projects.

From social media star and professional artist Samet Türkan, Pencil Drawing Portraits includes drawing projects, helpful tips, instructions for adding light and shadow to create dimension, realistic artwork, and more.

Gain confidence by drawing the subjects in the book, and then apply those skills to drawing even more portraits, whether you use reference photos or your loved ones as subjects. Geared toward beginners but valuable for artists of any skill level looking to improve their drawing skills, this essential guide breaks down drawing into a fun, approachable hobby.

Pencil-drawn illustrations demonstrate each step, and plenty of projects are included for a well-rounded and insightful look at drawing portraits. Get off to a great start drawing portraits in pencil with this beginner-friendly guide.

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

Work First, Play Later

Playgrounds Project gets underway with work to be done by local contractor assisted by prisoners through "historic collaboration"



Liam Yon, SAMS

Life on St Helena, particularly for children, is set to receive a welcome boost with the commencement of works to upgrade and revitalise playground areas in both Half Tree Hollow and Longwood.

It was in October 2025, when The Sentinel reported on the proposed enhancements to these two playground areas, funded by the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) as part of the £30 million investment funding allocated by the UK Government. St Helena Government (SHG) said, at the time, that the initiative would aim to "create modern, safe and inclusive recreation areas for families at the existing playground in Half Tree Hollow and at the Longwood Green" by substantially upgrading the facilities and equipment at these two playgrounds.

Last week, on 22 January, installation works of upgraded playground equipment commenced at the Longwood Green and Half Tree Hollow playgrounds, with AC's Multi-skill Contractors having been appointed to undertake the necessary works following approval of the development by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA). The contractor is said to be starting with the works at Longwood Green before transitioning to the Half Tree Hollow playground.

With that said, SHG did inform that "significant progress has already been made at the Half Tree Hollow location" in preparation for the upgrades, this includes "groundworks and partial resurfacing of the hard-standing area." This is all in preparation for the space to be transformed into a modern Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) - similar to that which is used at Two Boats on Ascension Island.

During the installation period, SHG have advised that "the designated project areas will be active construction sites until all installations are complete" and, as such, "security fencing will be erected" to ensure the public's safety, with everyone not involved in the construction works being asked to remain outside the fenced area and to adhere to the all posted signage instructions.

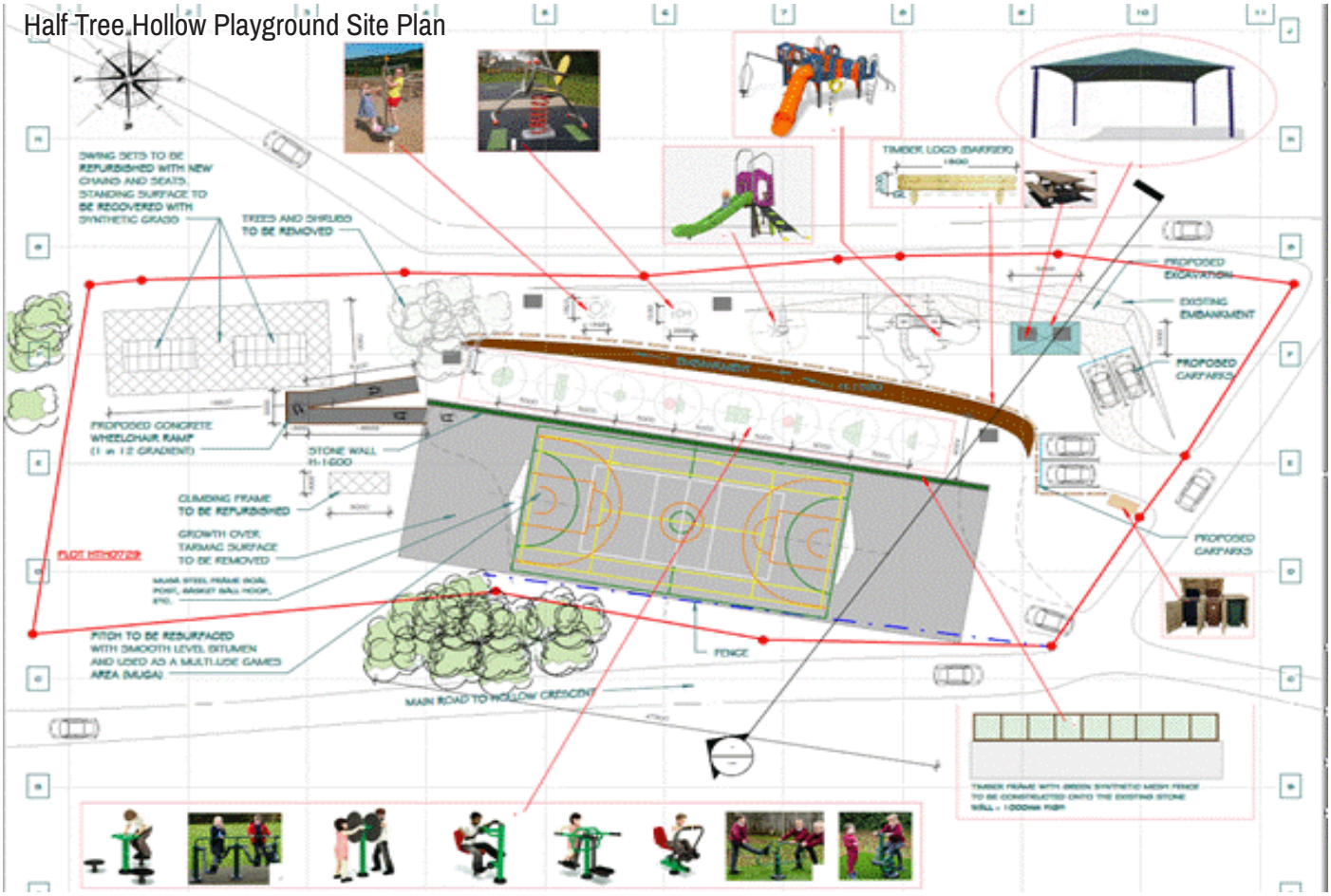
This Playgrounds Project also marks "a historic collaboration" for St Helena, with works by the appointed contractor being assisted by residents of HM Prison throughout the duration of the project. As detailed by SHG, "this collaboration was integrated into the tender process and marks a significant milestone in the Service Level Agreement between Crown Estates and HMP."

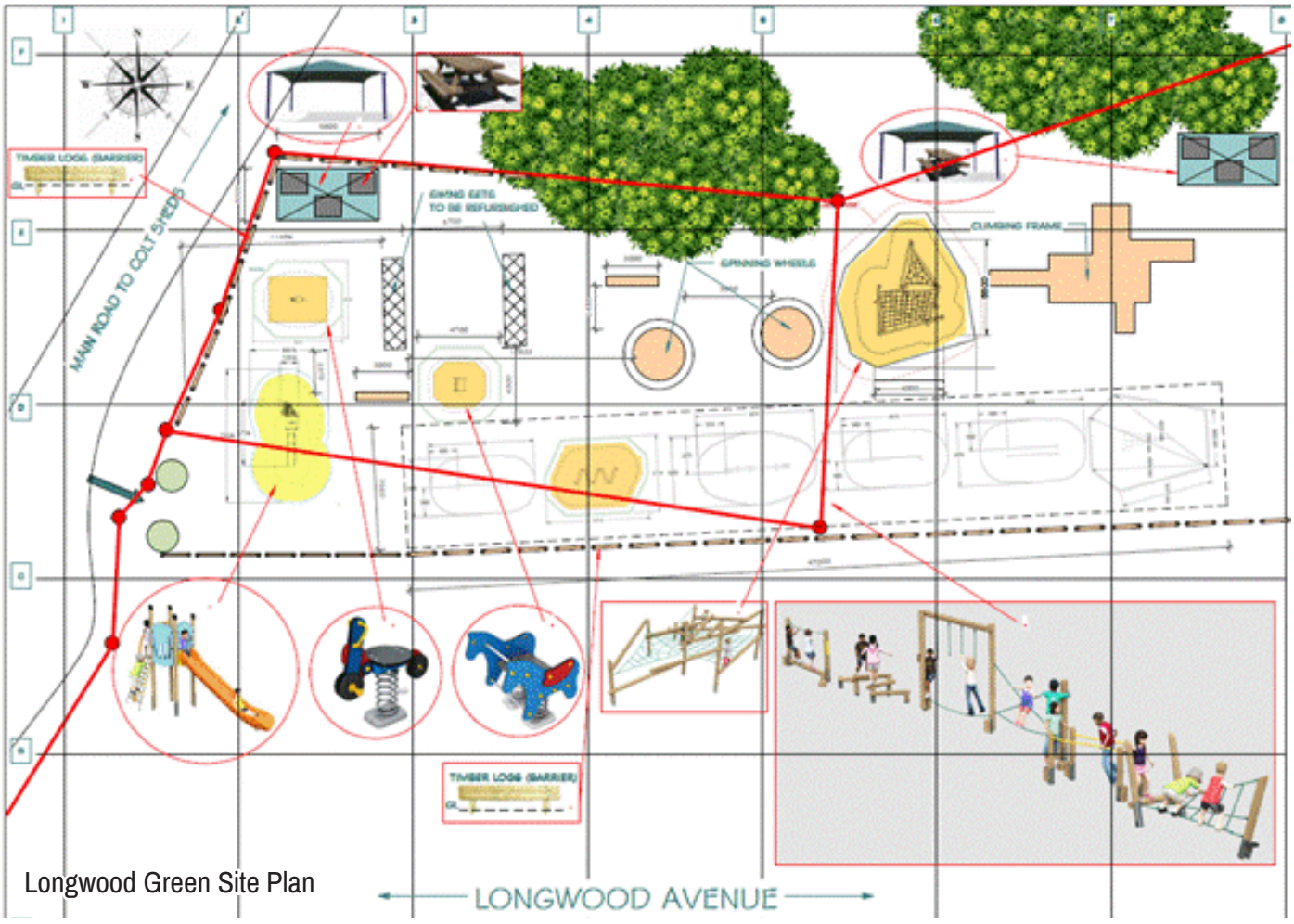
The benefits of involving prisoners in these works were lauded by Superintendent of Prisons, Paul Duncan. "This is an amazing opportunity to be involved in," he commented. "This will bring benefits for the island, for the community and for the prison."

Paul continued that "prisoners working in the community significantly boost resettlement and reduce reoffending by building skills, routines, responsibility, and positive links to the outside world, easing the transition with practical help for employment and providing vital real-world adjustment" later describing this type of initiative as "a powerful catalyst for offenders to rebuild their self-worth, motivation, and sense of purpose."

Without critiquing other EDIP-funded SHG projects, the feel on St Helena is that this Playgrounds Project is the first project in a while that has brought genuine excitement and joy to the community as it will, once completed, directly improve the quality of life for families and children on the Island.

Half Tree Hollow Playground Site Plan





Longwood Green Site Plan

Sailing A-'Wavy'

Young St Helenian residents take opportunity to sail between St Helena and Cape Town with Wavysail



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

In December 2025, Tony Leo interviewed sailors on the yacht named 'Rocket' for his Northward Sounds Show. He spoke to Cerys Joshua, Isabella Scott, Marion Terrell and Captain and Co-founder of Wavysail, Dave 'Wavy' Immelman, to share their experiences from the sailing trip they undertook.

Cerys, who had completed her journey at the time, and Isabella, who was yet to sail, were both successful applicants of the St Helena Open Oceans Fund; an initiative by SHG and Wavysail offering fully funded, offshore sailing experiences to residents and the diaspora of St Helena. It provides a place on a yacht for a voyage—often between Cape Town and St Helena—including accommodation, aimed at building skills and confidence, with no prior experience required.

At the end of 2025, Cerys Joshua was given this opportunity as she flew out to Cape Town to partake in the journey back to St Helena while Isabella Scott joined the crew on St Helena to take Cerys' place on the 'Rocket', sailing back to Cape Town.

Wavy Immelman has been visiting St Helena in various yachts since the mid-80s, now totalling between 20 and 30 trips over the past 40+ years. He came to St Helena for the first time with his brother when he was very young as he elaborated. "We sailed here and I've been coming back ever since. I love the island." Wavy has taken part in a number of Governor's Cup Yacht races over the years, but he mostly travels to St Helena now as part of his business-offering called Wavysail, based in Cape Town. One of the sailing journeys he offers is a return trip on a yacht between Cape Town and St Helena. The route they take includes a visit to Lüderitz in Namibia on their way to the island and then affords tourists, that form part of the crew, time on St Helena to explore and experience the island. On a trip like this to St Helena, Wavysail usually carry a maximum of six client-crew members and the Captain (Wavy) as well as a first mate. "It's a privilege to bring people here and they all seem to love it, which makes it even better," he enthusiastically told Tony. "We arrived here on a quiet Sunday and Customs and Immigration and Port Control still made the effort to come out and assist us, which is wonderful, it is just a lovely welcome for our clients." During the week they spend on the island, they gather all the provisions needed for their return journey back to South Africa. The trip at the time was heading out in the direction of Uruguay to avoid the prevailing South Atlantic high pressure system before heading south towards Tristan da Cunha. Only when the yacht gets closer to Tristan will it turn northwards to head back to Cape Town.

Cerys joined the crew in Cape Town and Wavy recalled this experience. "We had Cerys Joshua on board and she was an absolute pleasure to have on board." Wavy continued to share how fortunate they were to have "some of the luckiest marine encounters we've had in a long time, including a spectacular giant ray, which is not something you see all the time; it was magnificent!" They also saw numerous whales going up the coast and even had a show when a young whale slapped his tail on the ocean right next to the yacht. Although they were initially plagued by windless tranquil days just after their departure, this soon changed and they had smooth sailing from Lüderitz to St Helena. On the day before their departure, the weather forecast was perfect with a light easterly breeze predicted, making for good sailing conditions to welcome Isabella to life at sea on her journey to Cape Town on the 'Rocket'. "We will look after her," reassured Captain Wavy, "she will get into the way of life at sea in no time. It is not quite the same as living on land, but you have the benefits of living at sea." Wavy ended his interview with Tony by thanking all the islanders "for giving us another wonderful welcome to the island."

Cerys works in the Marine Conservation section as a Marine Conservation and Fisheries Assistant for SHG and explained that they travelled from Cape Town via Saldana Bay to Lüderitz and then onwards to St Helena. This was Cerys' first time sailing on a yacht although she had gone on other boats before for her work in the Marine section, among other reasons. "It was quite rocky in the cabin that I was sleeping," confided Cerys as she was trying to mentally prepare Isabella for the coming trip at the time. Cerys said she was pleased that she proved to be a good traveller and quite proficient at the helm, except for one night when she got sick. "It was really, really bad

and I ended up sleeping on the deck because I couldn't go down into the cabin at all," she recalled. "The smell and the heat and everything was just too much. I think that was the only night of the whole trip that somebody got sick...and it was me!"

She had to learn the ropes fast during the preparation time in Cape Town while they were getting supplies and getting ready to set sail. On the yacht it was a quick learning curve to master all the skills to assist as crew on the yacht. Watch turns would be staggered, ensuring that there were always two people on duty at all times. With regards to her experience on the trip she noted how "the wildlife that we saw was eye opening. We saw whales, a bioluminescent dolphin at night, birds, sunfish and seals." Cerys did tell Tony that she would like to sail again, but not necessarily a whole ocean crossing again. "Sailing is not glamorous at all!" she laughed. "There was no showering for eight days and wearing the same clothes for three, four days in a row. But that is what it is like on a yacht..." Cerys ended off by saying she kept a mini-journal and recorded a lot of the journey through the blogs sent out by Wavysail during the trip stating that she would "never, ever forget" this trip.

Isabella Scott joined the 'Rocket' when it departed St Helena. Captain Wavy had kindly delayed their departure date to allow her to take part in the swim time trails to qualify for the Commonwealth Games taking place in 2026.

"I'm extremely nervous," commented Isabella about the then upcoming trip, "but speaking to everyone has made me a lot more excited! They definitely amp it up when they talk about all the sunsets, the sunrises, the nature and all the wildlife you can see when you're on the yacht. It is definitely going to be an experience like no other. I don't know if I will ever be able to do this again in my life." At the time of the interview, Isabella confided that she was quite apprehensive about getting seasick, but hoped that if this was the case she would get over it quickly. She had met all her fellow travellers and crew members and said, "everyone seems so nice and it seems like it is going to be a lovely trip to go on."

With regards to her plans for the future, after the trip, Isabella said she hoped to go to University to study and would then like to return to the island to work here. She did tell Tony that her parents were a bit nervous and quite shocked when she announced that she had applied and been accepted to go on this yacht trip. After meeting the crew, they felt more at ease and confident to let her join the crew on the journey. As she was heading out on her adventure, Isabella said she would be taking some personal comfort items with her, among others some of her books as she planned to do some "reading, writing, learning and just enjoying myself," during her adventure aboard the 'Rocket'.

Marion Terrell, daughter of Heather Sim from Kent Cottage, had visited St Helena for the first time in her life to track down her heritage and connection to the island in October 2024. Although she had the opportunity to spend some time on-Island, she had always dreamt of arriving by sea. She decided to make this dream a reality when she booked with Wavysail to sail to St Helena in December 2025 as part of the paying crew members on the 'Rocket'.

In addition to travelling to the island by sea, Marion also longed to spend more time on the island than on her previous visit, largely because of the many extended family members she discovered on St Helena. When she had the news that there was an opening in the crew heading for the island last December, she jumped at the opportunity. Before she knew it, she was heading to Cape Town to join the crew of the 'Rocket' on this exciting journey. Marion said she loves the island and if she is only to live to the age of 90 she wants to have experiences to treasure. "I loved it. I love sailing with Wavy. He is fantastic. I wish I didn't have to go home today or tomorrow," she told Tony at the time of the interview.

Marion said she enjoyed the whole sailing experience and all the learning. It was also fortunate that she didn't get seasick except for feeling a little ill at one point when the sea was rough and she was in the kitchen cooking some food for the rest of the crew. She did say that she has to be careful at what she ventures out to do on the yacht as "I am not as agile as I was, because I'm not as young as I was, of course. I am more confident in what I can do," after all the assistance and guidance all the newcomers got from Wavy and the first mate. When asked if she would do another trip on a yacht, she replied "you never know, what I would like to do, dependent on commitments at home, I'd like to do this trip again outward and stay on St Helena for a while till January, February, March or whenever everybody gets fed up with me."

At the time of the interview last year, Captain Wavy was already arranging his next trip to St Helena and he is expecting to arrive to the island at the end of February/beginning of March with five more clients looking to experience the unique destination of St Helena.









SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

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

FRI. Jan 30
- 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 31
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Feb 01
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Liam Yon
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Feb 02
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna

TUE. Feb 03
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 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. Feb 04
- 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. Feb 05
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 10am: Legco (LIVE)
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Anita (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 enjoy listening to artists like Charley Pride, Loretta Lynn, George Strait, Luke Combs and more? If the answer is 'yes' then The Country Classics show will have you covered! For an hour and a half, Donna brings you nothing but great country music - so put on your cowboy boots and dance away on Monday afternoons from 5:30pm, or catch the repeat on Friday evenings at 7:30pm. Catch the Country Classics Show right here, 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 'Medium' *(Solution in next weeks issue)*

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

Throwback Thursday



29th January 1979: New, smaller St Helena banknotes are introduced, in denominations of £10 and £5.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Crazing some Focaccia Bread? Want to see how effective that air fryer really is? Well, here's your chance to satisfy both!

Easy Air Fryer Focaccia



Ingredients

- 185ml luke warm water
- 4 tsp dry yeast
- Pinch of caster sugar
- 225g plain flour
- 2 tsp table salt
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Assorted colourful vegetables & fresh herbs, to decorate
- Sea salt flakes, to sprinkle

Method

1. To make focaccia, place water, yeast and sugar in a jug. Stir until combined. Set aside in a warm place for 5 minutes or until frothy.

2. Combine the flour and table salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the centre. Pour in yeast mixture. Use a wooden spoon to stir for 2 minutes or until a sticky dough forms.

3. Line base of an air fryer basket with baking paper. Pile dough into centre of prepared basket. Cover top of the basket with a clean tea towel. Set aside in a warm place for 30 minutes to rise.

4. To finish focaccia, drizzle the oil over dough. Use fingertips to spread out dough to fill basket, making sure dough is coated with oil. Cover basket with tea towel. Set aside for a further 30 minutes or until rises slightly.

5. Decorate dough with veg and herbs. Sprinkle with sea salt. Cook at 180°C in air fryer for 15 minutes or until golden. Cut into strips.

The Island Pulse

A Collective Voice for St Helena's Future



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

This week's edition of The Island Pulse on SAMS Radio 1 marked a quiet but significant milestone: the seventh episode of a programme created with a simple yet powerful purpose – to give St Helena's elected councillors a regular platform to speak directly to the community they serve. Hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas, the programme continues to grow in both confidence and reach, and feedback suggests that listeners value hearing unfiltered reflections on the challenges, opportunities and decisions shaping island life.

This week's broadcast was centred on a major recent event: the visit of the Financial Aid Mission (FAM) team, who spent time on St Helena engaging with government, councillors, the private sector and community representatives. All six councillors joined Julie in the studio to share, openly and candidly, the interventions they made to the FAM team on behalf of their constituents.

Councillor Ronald Coleman opened the discussion by setting the scene. He spoke of St Helena's beauty, resilience and friendliness, but made it clear that these strengths sit alongside serious structural challenges. A shrinking population, an ageing demographic and a declining working-age cohort are placing increasing pressure on health, social care and public finances. Rising costs of pharmaceuticals, overseas medical referrals and diabetes-related care were highlighted, alongside the reality that many young people delay or forgo starting families due to the high cost of living.

Crucially, Councillor Coleman stressed that the island cannot simply absorb further tax increases without deepening hardship. While expressing gratitude for continued UK support, he reinforced the long-standing call for multi-year financial settlements delivered on time, allowing St Helena to plan realistically and sustainably. He also raised concerns about litigation costs draining contingency funds, arguing these resources should be preserved for genuine emergencies.

Councillor Dennis Leo, attending his first FAM engagement, focused on a more preventative vision. He emphasised the link between agriculture, healthy eating, sport and long-term health outcomes, arguing that investment in local food production and lifestyle change is essential if the island is to tackle diabetes and reduce future healthcare costs.

Councillor Julie Thomas then delivered a detailed intervention, reading directly from her prepared statement. She outlined the stark reality of an island expected to deliver the full range of public services of a modern state, without the economies of scale or neighbouring support enjoyed elsewhere. With health and social care alone threatening to absorb up to half of the budget, investment in economic development is being steadily eroded – undermining the very growth needed to reduce long-term dependency.

She spoke candidly about workforce shortages, skills gaps and "brain drain" within the public service, warning that overstretched staff and weak performance management systems are damaging morale, delivery and public confidence. Without urgent action, she warned, ambitions around migration, economic growth and social cohesion will falter.

Julie also highlighted unresolved UK commitments that continue to fuel frustration: the promised uplift to UK pensions for St Helenians and full access to UK student maintenance loans. These delays, she said, risk creating a sense that islanders are not being treated as equal members of the British family – a sentiment echoed by other councillors later in the programme.

Economic development took centre stage in Councillor Robert Midwinter's contribution. Drawing on his experience with the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), he reminded the FAM team that EDIP was designed to unlock private-sector investment – not

to fund core infrastructure like the prison, albeit the need to invest in such, was acknowledged and supported. With the programme now largely exhausted, he argued that serious thought must be given to what follows if St Helena is to avoid stagnation.

Dr Corinda Essex focused on the mechanics of funding itself. She made a compelling case for multi-year settlements, explaining how annual and rollover budgets undermine effective planning and delivery. Using the example of road maintenance, she illustrated how capital investment without corresponding recurrent funding simply spreads limited resources thinner, degrading services over time. Encouragingly, she reported that the FAM team appeared receptive to these arguments.

Councillor Derek Thomas centred his intervention on the three budget scenarios currently under consideration. He argued that only Scenario Three comes close to meeting the island's reasonable needs, allowing investment in areas such as mental health, minimum wage uplifts and income-related benefits. Without action, he warned, living standards will continue to decline, hitting both households and local businesses.

Councillor Clint Beard brought a strong community perspective, speaking about cost-of-living pressures, respect, inclusion and the unintended consequences of economic decisions. He questioned whether future infrastructure, such as the Rupert's commercial port, has been fully costed for maintenance and long-term obligations. Above all, he stressed that people must remain at the heart of decision-making: St Helena must become a place where people choose to stay, not feel forced to leave.

The programme also reflected on the "State of the Nation" presentation by Chief Statistician, Neil Fantom, which revealed a population of just over 4,000, with a top-heavy age structure that carries profound financial implications. Several councillors called for the presentation to be made publicly available so residents can better understand the data shaping policy decisions.

Balancing these heavy discussions was a feel-good segment celebrating SHAPE's 20th anniversary. Councillor Midwinter shared highlights from the event, including the unveiling of SHAPE's new butterfly-inspired logo and motto, "Opportunities for All Abilities" – a powerful symbol of growth, inclusion and transformation.

The programme closed with important practical information: dates for upcoming quarterly constituency meetings across the island, encouraging residents to engage directly with their councillors, raise concerns and shape local agendas.

As The Island Pulse continues, one message is clear: St Helena's challenges are complex and urgent, but they are being voiced with honesty, unity and determination. The conversation is ongoing – and the community's voice remains central to what comes next.



Constituency Meetings

Councillors invite all residents to the next series of District Meetings aimed at strengthening communication and collaboration between the Council and the community.

These meetings are your opportunity to share your views on local issues, raise concerns and highlight priorities of your district and our island

All meetings will start at 7.30pm as follows:

Date	Venue	Chairperson
Monday, 9 Feb 2026	Blue Hill Community Centre	Cllr Clint Beard
Wednesday, 11 Feb 2026	Jamestown Community Centre	Cllr Dr Corinda Essex
Thursday, 12 Feb 2026	Harford Community Centre	Cllr Denis Leo
Monday, 16 Feb 2026	Alarm Forest at Jamestown Community Centre	Cllr Julie Thomas
Tuesday, 17 Feb 2026	Guinea Grass Community Centre	Cllr Robert Midwinter
Wednesday, 18 Feb 2026	HTH Community Centre	Cllr Derek Thomas
Wednesday, 18 Feb 2026	St Michaels's Church, Ruperts	Cllr Dr Corinda Essex
Thursday, 19 Feb 2026	Sandy Bay Community Centre	Cllr Clint Beard
Wednesday, 25 Feb 2026	Silver Hill Bar	Cllr Ronald Coleman

Legislative Council, 26 January 2026



FEBRUARY 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	Monday, 16 Feb 2026	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Tuesday, 17 Feb 2026	09:30 – 13:00

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

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+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

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.

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

Vacancy
Labourer/Driver

Salary for the post will commence at £10,869 per annum (£209 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within Warrens Wholesale for a Labourer/Driver.

As the Labourer/Driver you will provide an efficient service preparing and distributing goods to customers and company outlets.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic skills in English & Maths
- Be customer focused and committed to providing excellent customer service
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with the ability to use own initiative
- Be knowledgeable of, and able to carry out manual handling duties as well as undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to perform maintenance and minor repair works
- Ideally have cash handling experience
- Have a valid drivers' license, including Class D and ideally Class H3 (Forklift)

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

Jeremy Thomas, Senior Supervisor, via 22422 jeremy.thomas@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 05 February 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy
Building Works Foreman

Salary for the post will commence at £16,668 per annum (£1,389 per month)

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

As the Foreman you will supervise the delivery of building services in accordance with plans, policies and Health & Safety requirements, and to co-ordinate operations and oversee workers at construction sites.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English or equivalent
- Have a minimum of 3 years' experience as a qualified tradesperson and ideally possess NVQ Level 2 or above or equivalent in the construction field
- Have proven experience as a Construction Foreman and the ability to organise and lead a team
- Be knowledgeable of and able to perform hands on construction and carpentry works
- Be computer literate and knowledgeable in the use of Microsoft Applications
- Have the ability to understand drawings, and plans and ensure job specifications are met accordingly
- Have knowledge of construction procedures, equipment and HSE guidelines with the ability to carry out risk assessments ensuring that health and safety requirements are adhered to at all times.
- Be able to motivate and mentor staff members
- Be able to produce estimates, costing and quotation for jobs
- Be aware of quality standards, ensuring completed works meet requirements
- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers licence in classes A & C

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

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via 22380 gm-services.properties@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **12 February 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers

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 vacancies for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

For further information contact:

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 12 February 2026.**

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Security Officers

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 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
- 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 **Thursday, 12 February 2026.**

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

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Skilled Operator

Since 1790

Rate of pay will be £7.02 per hour.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Skilled Operator to join the Company's Stevedore Team.

The successful applicant will be responsible for operating heavy equipment, including facilitation of the loading and offloading of shipping containers and cargo from sea vessels. This position will primarily be based ship-side.

Working hours will be according to ship and cargo operations, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be in possession of a clean and valid drivers' licence in classes H3, J1, J3 & J4, with a minimum of two years' experience
- Have - strong technical skills
- Have excellent hand-eye coordination and ability to work at heights
- Ability to adapt quickly to changing conditions ensuring operations remain safe
- Demonstrate attention to detail with an excellent level of vigilance within the work environment
- Possess strong communication skills
- Good level of physical fitness with the ability to undertake physically demanding tasks
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment with a high regard for Health & Safety and Port Compliance
- Be able to work in varying weather conditions

For further information contact:

Mario Coleman, Marine & Cargo Ops Manager via 22523 mario.coleman@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 **12 February 2026.**

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

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Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week

St Helena Island

St Helena iRecord

Date: Saturday, 31 January 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain
Google Map location: -15.943679, -5.687986
Duration: approx 5 hours

THE BARN

Walk grade: Strenuous | 9 - 10

This is a demanding walk with steep slopes and loose gravel to traverse but with impressive geological features, ending at the Haystack on the top of the Barn offering great ocean views and a unique view of the Airport.

There are narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water. A very challenging walk suitable only for fit, experienced walkers.

Walk led by walking enthusiast, Andre Bak will lead.

Date	Upcoming Walks
07 Feb 2026	Great Stone Top

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

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services

1st February

Sandy Bay Chapel, 08.45 am

Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45 am

Jamestown Chapel, 6.00 pm

Bible Studies

Tuesday, 3rd February - Baptist School Hall, 7.00 pm

Thursday, 5th February - Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Adventure Kids – Age 4 – 11yrs old

Saturday, 31st January -

Baptist School Hall/J Town, 10.00 am to 11.30 am

Ladies Meeting

Wednesday, 4th February -

Baptist School Hall/J Town, 10.30 am

Gospel Outreach Service

Sunday, 8th February - Sandy Bay Community Centre, 3.00 pm

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: 31/01/26

TIME: 10h00-11h30

Refreshments will be served.



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 31st January 2026 at 8:30am

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue

Praise and Worship

Open-Air Service @ Millennium Forest

"Caring for God's Creation"

Sunday 1st February 2026 @ 11.00am

Cell Meeting

Tuesday 03rd February 2026

Cape Villa at 5.00pm, (Contact Priscilla:51919)

Combined Cell Meeting

Wednesday 04th February 2026 @ 7.00pm

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue

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.

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 1st February 2026 - 4th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
	Wednesday 4th February	
19.00	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**St Andrew**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 1st February 2026 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
	Monday 2nd February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	Thursday 5th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 1st February 2026 – 4th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 3rd February	
7.00 p.m.	70x7 Forgiveness	St Mark

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

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Temporary Painter

Total Package value up to £20,846 pa

(comprising salary up to £10,589 pa plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

We are looking for a Temporary Painter to support the Repairs and Maintenance team with a programme of external redecoration works across AIG properties in Two Boats. This is a hands-on role suited to someone who takes pride in practical work and is able to work safely and efficiently as part of a small operational team. The maximum duration of employment is nine months.

What you'll do

You will carry out exterior painting and decorating of bungalows and other AIG buildings in Two Boats, including preparation works such as sanding, scraping and minor surface repairs. You will work to agreed schedules, liaise with the Property Works Officer on work programmes and materials, and ensure all work is completed to a high standard. You may also be required to assist other trades staff when needed and to work in and around occupied residential areas, so a professional and respectful approach is important at all times.

What you'll bring

You will have previous experience in painting and decorating or have gained a relevant qualification in this area. You will have a good level of physical fitness, including the ability to lift reasonable weights and work at heights and in varying weather conditions. You will be able to manage your own workload, meet deadlines, and work well both independently and as part of a small team. You should also have a good awareness of workplace health and safety, including safe manual handling and use of materials. You must hold a valid Class A driving licence.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £10,589 pa (depending on experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a nine-month single status contract and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free accommodation valued at up to £1,200 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance £3,840 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance paid in kind worth £3,296 pa
- A single status water allowance paid in kind worth £1,921 pa
- 30 days paid annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free annual travel insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Basic Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: **Sunday 15 February 2026**
Interviews: W**eek commencing 16 February 2026**
Start date: **As soon as possible**.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply, visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/

If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac



NEW LIFE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Saving for the Future

What will you do with yours?

5% interest per annum

You have the option to save until 60 or 65 years

Unlimited deposits

Upon reaching account maturity date, your New Life Savings balance is transferred to your Current Account

*Terms and Conditions Apply

(+ 290) 22390 www.sainthelenabank.com

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.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 06 February 2026.

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

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Bank of St Helena Ltd

Golf Report – Monthly Medal

SHGC, Contributed

Eighteen players took to the course on Sunday for the Club's Monthly Medal stroke play competition, enjoying warm and sunny conditions ideal for good scoring.

Delivering a commanding performance, Lawson Henry secured 1st prize, finishing well ahead of the field with an excellent net 66 (2 under par) to top the leaderboard.

In 2nd place was Tony Green, posting a strong net 68, but not quite close enough to challenge Lawson's impressive margin.

In the Two Ball Pool, the balls were shared between Laura Buckley, who birdied the 7th hole, and Lawson Henry, who added to his successful round with a birdie on the 5th.

Looking ahead, the Club will host an 18 hole Stableford – 4 man Cha Cha Cha competition on Sunday, 1 February 2026, kindly sponsored by Laura Buckley. Registration closes on Saturday, 31 January 2026, tee off 12:00. Those planning to take part are encouraged to bring their best game for what promises to be a lively and enjoyable event. You will record your score as per normal for stableford and the rest of the tallying of the scores will be done by the acting games manager.

Another great event to look forward to is the 3-club Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge that will take place on 8 February 2026.

A final reminder to those who have not paid their subscription for 2026 to please do so. Our BOSH account number is 13270002. Ref "your name - Subs 2026". For news and information on our activities follow us on Facebook and checkout our website www.sthelenaggolf.com.

Happy golfing!

ST. HELENA'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ENTERPRISE
SHAPE
Opportunities for all abilities

SHAPE
Sandy Bay
St Helena Island
STHL 1ZZ
Phone: +290 24690
Email: SHAPE@helanta.co.sh

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION AND POSTPONEMENT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAPE (St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members of SHAPE, previously scheduled for **Saturday, 31st January 2026 at 10:00 am** at SHAPE Head Centre, Sandy Bay, has been **CANCELLED** and **POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

A new date, time, and venue for the Annual General Meeting will be communicated to all members in due course.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

For any queries, please contact the Company Secretary.

Ed Oyewo
Email: profjdislander@gmail.com
Company Secretary
SHAPE, Head Centre
Sandy Bay

Date of Notice: 27th January, 2026

Registered No 38 under the Companies Ordinance
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ABILITIES
SHAPE
Registered No CD0011 under the Charities Ordinance

UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

The Utilities Regulatory Authority has issued its annual report into the quality of services provided by Connect St Helena for the year 2024/25. The URA has found that Connect are deficient in their operation in all three areas of its basic core functions, electricity, water and wastewater.

The URA has concerns regarding the lack of investment in the electricity network, an over reliance on an unfunded renewable energy project to improve the network, falling use of renewables and an excessive level of power interruptions. Water leakages from the network are far too high and the water quality poor in some parts of the island. Connect took over and maintained the Ruperts Sewerage Plant when it was not being used at a cost to existing customers.

The report can be obtained by email from Yvonne Williams at yvonne.williams@judicialservices.sh or via the following link https://drive.proton.me/urls/YJ50XFPFVC#kJfM4I9nHZGA

URA, 26th January 2026

SPORTS ARENA





Fire at Will

Allstars post enormous total as Challengers continue winning run

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The SHCA League continued on the weekend as Sandy Bay Pirates Took on Western A Mustangs on Saturday afternoon.

Mustangs won the toss and elected to bat, but an impressive bowling performance from Pirates, led by Captain Rhys Francis, would see Mustangs lose their top order within the power play. However, 39 runs each from Kyle Bennett and Robert George would stabilise the innings and help Mustangs to a total of 156. A top bowling display from young Kieran Williams saw him walk away with three wickets in six overs.

In reply, Pirates got off to a blistering start with the bat as David Young racked up a half century after facing just 12 balls; though his dismissal and another quick wicket put the game back in the balance. However, Player of the Match Brooklyn Fowler, with an explosive 81 of 36 balls, powered Pirates across the finish line by five wickets.

The first game on Sunday saw Allstars defeat Cobras to put them into second place. Allstars batted first and produced a mammoth total of 450 thanks to Player of the Match, Delroy Leo, with an outstanding 227 runs, accompanied by Weston Clingham's impressive 95; an extraordinary total that could possibly challenge the record. After a very impressive batting display, Allstars followed suit with the ball, taking wickets at regular intervals, led by Brendan Leo with four wickets for 11 runs after seven overs. During the reply, it was youngster Kirk Lawrence with 42 who dug in and helped push the score for Cobras, however it was too little too late with Cobras being dismissed for 160 and Allstars finishing victorious by an incredible 290 runs.

The final match of the weekend saw league leaders, Challengers, take on the Jamestown Heat. After an impressive performance with the bat the previous week, the Heat elected to bat first. However, an outstanding bowling performance, led by Player of the Match, Jordi Henry, with four wickets in six overs, would see Heat lose their openers early in the innings. It was youngster, Lebron George, who would play a huge part in the game with bat and ball, getting stuck in and helping Heat to a total of 114 runs.

Challengers, so far prolific with the bat, started their batting innings in a similar fashion however, with Heat showing some fight and dismissing Challengers top order early; Lebron George impressively taking three wickets. It was Joey Thomas, with 32 runs, who would settle things down for Challengers and help them reach the total to bag another win and place them firmly on top of the league table.

This means that, after another exciting weekend of cricket, Challengers need just one more win to retain their title. Levelwood Allstars sit in second place, followed by Sandy Bay Pirates in third. The final fixtures will be interesting as the end of the 2026 league draws near.

FIXTURES

Saturday 31st Jan
13:30 Jamestown Heat v Cobras
Umpires: Delroy Leo and Stefan Leo

Sunday 1st Feb
08:30 Sandy Bay Pirates v Challengers
Umpires: Dax Richards and David George

13:30 Levelwood Allstars v Western A Mustangs
Umpires: Damian Burns and Jamie Essex

