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THE ST HELENA AIRPORT FIASCO

A Timeline of St Helena's "Major Incident" and current progress to resolution inside

"A Remarkable Legacy"



History Made "One of One"



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Donna Crowie, SAMS

Before I dive into my comment just remember; this is my personal opinion.

Ok with that said, two weeks ago I was driving up Market Street and passed a marked Police vehicle, which was fine, continuing up the road, a white Land Rover travelling down with a fair bit of speed just kept coming; by right, those travelling down need to wait for those travelling up, but this was not the case. When the Land Rover passed, I noticed it was a Police Officer driving. Why are they driving unmarked vehicles? If they were responding to an incident, should they not have some sort of identification? With the speed they were driving, I can only assume there were responding.

I know, I am sorry to start my comment off so heavy, but if you want respect on the road from the community, you should show it back also!

Last Friday's news was shocking – What did you think?

We have heard of flight delays due to weather - and I bet that is a headache for those passengers affected – but this is on a different level. Looking at comments via Social Media, you can read people's frustration.

One thing that was alarming was the comment made in the Press Conference about claiming through travel insurance – ok, sure, maybe – but getting the money back doesn't just happen overnight, these things can sometimes take months, and more, to recover. Those who might be on holiday might need the money sooner, which is likely the case. So, I hope assistance is there for those affected.

Personally, I am trying to be open-minded and I pray a solution is found very soon; I do fully understand that safety is key. Moving to Cat 4 is a good step forward – permitting small planes to land on the island to then allow, fingers crossed, for the correct and much-needed parts to be sourced and delivered soon.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Below is a letter issued to the Island's Ministerial Team.

Dear Chief Minister and Ministers,

You will be aware that the public and visitors are expressing great concern and disappointment on the closing of our Air Port, due to the three fire appliances not being serviceable.

The fact that our Air Port is a Category C and two fire appliances must be serviceable and ready at all times for Air Port activities, the concern of the public is how we got to be in this terrible situation. Our reputation has been severely damaged and likely to impact upon future Saints and Tourists planning to visit.

This incident has had a tremendous financial impact on those persons who had made travel arrangements. Persons are stuck in Joburg as well as St Helena, the cost to them will be tremendous; flight, hotels, guest houses, leave from their jobs, the list goes on. Whereas some might be able to claim through insurance, this is not a quick fix, it will take time and trouble.

I will ask that you direct that an immediate full and proper investigation be carried out, not by Air Port Personnel, but by an independent body appointed for this purpose to determine what went wrong, to include dates and times. Upon such initial investigation, it might be necessary to bring in additional specialist support, we owe this to the public, no cover up, but the true facts must be established.

I will ask that this matter be given the utmost urgent attention and the public be informed of the outcome.

I look forward to this matter being treated seriously.

Thanks,

Derek Thomas
St Helena Legislative Council, MLC







THE ST HELENA AIRPORT FIASCO

A Timeline of St Helena's "Major Incident" and current progress to resolution

Liam Yon, SAMS

Friday, 6 February - St Helena Resilience Forum Declares National Major Incident

Last Friday, at around 2.30pm, St Helena Government makes a major announcement stating that it "regrets to inform the public that St Helena Airport is currently unable to operate as normal."

SHG reported that, "following technical assessments, the aviation regulator is expected to confirm that the airport must be downgraded from Category 6" adding that "this decision is based on fixed international safety requirements and a lack of confidence in the operational readiness of the fire tenders, meaning the airport cannot safely support standard flight operations at this time."

In what came as shock news to all on St Helena and beyond, SHG confirmed that "a downgrading from Category 6 means Airlink will not operate" and therefore "Airlink flights will be cancelled until the issue can be resolved."

It was indicated at the time that the issues would "affect all flights until at least 20 February" with flights beyond that said to be "under review" until certainty around the resumption of business as usual is known.

Having made the concerning announcement, SHG said they recognized that this affects many people and would be "working urgently with all stakeholders to understand the full impact" including Airlink, Solomons and other partners.

SHG made it clear that the "priority is to restore normal operations as quickly and safely as possible" and stated that they were "assessing all available options" before asserting that "no aircraft will operate until we are fully confident that the airport meets the safety standards required to keep passengers, crew and staff safe."

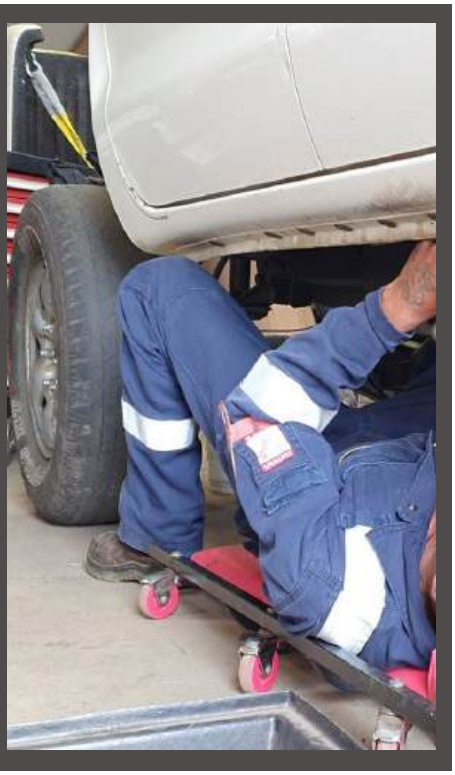
In response to the situation, SHG also confirmed that "a Major Incident has been declared" with Chief Secretary, Ian Todd, assuming control as Gold Commander and directing the response to this incident through a Gold Command group, comprising key stakeholders.

Those with flight bookings were directed to contact Solomons or Airlink.

Friday, 6 February – News Reaches the Wider Community and Frustrations are Clear

Following the announcement, the breaking news becomes the talk of the town on St Helena, and lengthy discussions take place on Social Media with the majority calling for accountability by those responsible. Many believe the situation must have been avoidable if due processes were in place and being followed correctly.

The situation is described as "embarrassing" and "detrimental" to the Island's tourism and economic growth goals. Those directly affected shared their frustration and concern over their own travel arrangements. Calls for a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to this incident are made by many.



Friday, 6 February – St Helena Government Holds Press Conference with Local Media

Following the announcement on Friday afternoon, members of the press, including SAMS, were invited to a Press Conference in the Council Chamber; the panel including HE The Governor alongside the Chief Minister.

Governor Phillips opened the session by explaining what caused the major incident. "Put simply, the airport fire engines have each developed faults; this degrades the level of fire cover that can be provided," he explained, before adding that "domestic fire engines do not have the ability to do everything an airport fire engine can, so they are not, therefore, a direct replacement or solution," ruling out early ideas that the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service fire engines could provide cover.

Continuing on, The Governor explained that "airports are categorised on the level of fire cover that can be provided," and therefore, for Airlink to conduct operations, St Helena Airport must meet Category 6, which is not possible due to the faulty fire tenders. "As of now, we cannot achieve that level, and as a consequence, Airlink operations have been suspended," confirmed The Governor. "There is currently no date on when they will recommence."

His Excellency later detailed that, for the Airport to meet the standard required to operate at Category 6 and allow for commercial Airlink flights, at least two of the fire tenders "with the required capabilities" would need to be operational. In St Helena's case, all three fire tenders – that being the two six-wheelers and one four-wheeler – is currently not operational.

When asked how this was allowed to happen, the Governor explained the circumstances leading to the current situation. "So, there's a pattern of routine maintenance at the airport," he began. "We were aware there were some issues with the fire engines; the airport were taking steps to address those, and were in touch with the manufacturers to get the necessary spare parts."

"We believed, at that time, that the actions taken were proportionate, and as a consequence, we were able to operate," he continued. "It was not until yesterday, when they opened up the pump on the final vehicle, known as R1, that they realised that the problem on that vehicle was also so severe that it potentially compromised its ability to operate."

Detailing the actual problem, the Governor revealed how "the issue here, is you are seeking to ensure that you are able to put sufficient fire suppressant onto an aircraft should that be required" adding that "if that is not certain, the only responsible way to proceed is to consider the vehicle unserviceable."

So, to summarise, the Governor recapped that R2 had a fault, and after being checked on Thursday, R1 was also deemed unserviceable. "That is what occurred," he said, "and that is where we determined we had a real issue and had to stop."

Having suspended flights, and with no timeline set for the recommencement of Airlink flights, it was noted that many travellers will now find themselves in difficult situations; this includes those currently on-Island and waiting to depart, as well as those off-Island and waiting to return or visit. Another group affected would be those already booked to travel in the coming weeks and beyond with the recommencement of commercial flights unknown.

The Chief Minister was asked whether those affected by the suspending of Airlink flights would be supported financially by the Government. "Absolutely, people will not be left alone," she made clear. "I said that Solomons would be the first point of contact to get that information but basically, yes, we will be financially supporting those that meet reasonable needs going forward."

The Governor also sought to add that travellers would need to speak to their insurance providers for assistance under the unexpected circumstances that had arisen due to the suspending of flights.

Looking ahead, the message from the panel during the Press Conference was clear, the priority of SHG, SHAL and wider stakeholders was to work to get St Helena Airport back to Category 6 status "as quickly and as safely as possible."

The full Press Conference can be heard via https://open.spotify.com/episode/6yCb7roOUkZpJNDLAnUHf?si=A6TJk22ET1-k5YFgSCU7ig.



Saturday, 7 February - St Helena Government Updates the Public on Essential Services

In their first daily update on Saturday, following the news on Friday, St Helena Government focusses on the concerning issue of medical continuity and overseas treatment.

As such, they report that the Health and Social Care Portfolio is "working closely with patients scheduled for overseas medical referrals" adding that "individuals currently awaiting overseas medical treatment will receive ongoing contact and regular updates regarding their specific travel plans and appointments."

In terms of support for visitors on Island, stranded due to no commercial flights, SHG reassured "all tourists and visitors that their health remains a priority" and that, if any prescribed medication is depleted as a result of the flight delays, and essential medication is required, they can be purchased at the Jamestown Hospital Pharmacy during normal opening hours. They inform how "a valid prescription is required" in order to do so and the Pharmacy should be contacted early "to avoid any interruption to their treatment."

While no specific update was given on developments to solve the issues at the Airport, SHG did reiterate that "Gold Command is actively exploring all available options and working with international partners to restore normal airport operations as quickly and safely as possible."

Again, those with enquiries related to flight bookings and travel logistics were encouraged to contact Solomons or Airlink.

Conversations and plenty of criticism continues to be aired on Social Media by a clearly frustrated St Helena community. Passengers due to return to the Island share their anxiety amid a lack of clarity on travel arrangements.

PHARMACY

Sunday, 8 February - St Helena Airport approved at Category 4 Status

On Sunday, St Helena Airport announces that they have "secured regulatory approval from Airport Safety Support International (ASSI) to operate at Category 4."

This is the first major development since the news broke on Friday. "This certification will permit small aircraft, such as medical evacuation flights, to use the airport," explained SHG, who add that while "this provides additional reassurance to the public in the event of medical emergencies, it also opens up a viable air transport route for essential spare parts and technical personnel."

The update mentioned the "support of the SHG Fire and Rescue Service and additional training for airport personnel" which ensured that achieving a Category 4 certification was made possible.

SHG does however assert that "this categorisation does not allow for the resumption of Airlink commercial airline operations" as they reiterate the Gold Command's goal to get the Airport back to Category 6 as soon as possible.

A rumour begins to spread of a potential flight arriving with the necessary parts and personnel this week following the Category 4 status being achieved, though this is not mentioned in SHG's update.

The topic continues to gain high public attention on Social Media with accountability continuing to be the main request from an irritated community.



Sunday, 8 February – Travellers Frustrations Grow Around Lack of Clarity on Flights

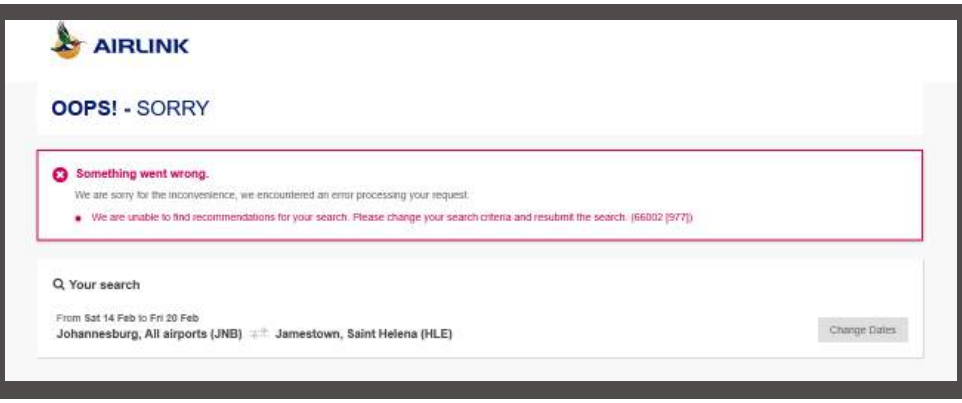
FThere is a growing frustration around the lack of clarity with regard to timelines for the Airlink service to recommence, for both those stranded as well as those planning to fly into, and out of, St Helena in the weeks to come.

While SHG indicated that the current situation "will affect all flights until at least 20 February" SAMS is informed of Airlink's wording to a customer due to arrive on 17 February, where they state that "concerning the current booking, the flights will be cancelled up until 6 November 2026."

Although confusing, and concerning, at first, there was valid suggestion that this statement by Airlink likely refers to Cape Town flights to St Helena as opposed to flights in general. Cape Town flights happen seasonally and therefore will not occur again until the next peak season in November 2026.

Nevertheless, the lack of clarity and information from organisations, such as St Helena Tourism, is mak-

ing it very difficult for booking agents and local travel agencies to provide customers with clear answers.
According to sources, all bookings for flights to St Helena through Airlink for 2026 has been removed from the Airlink website, meaning potential travellers have no way to reschedule their travel plans and no new bookings can be made



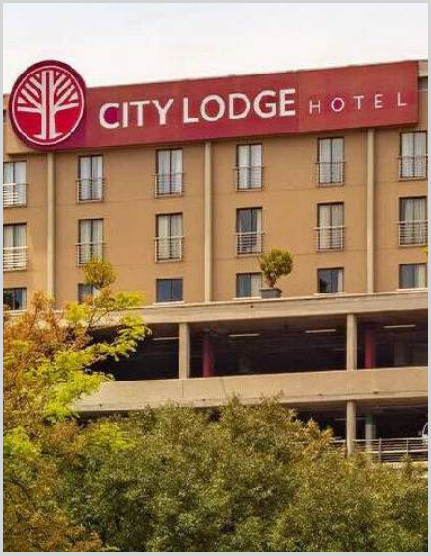
Monday, 9 February – Governor and Chief Minister Deliver Radio Press Statement

HE The Governor and Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks make a radio press statement to update on the major incident.
In the statement, Governor Phillips confirms that, "at this time, the only flights that have been cancelled are those that were due to depart on 7, 10, 14 and 15 February," with flights after 15 February said to be "under review" until certainty can be given around the resumption of business as usual.
This leads some to believe that SHG are eyeing a potential return to business sometime next week with the flight on 17 and 21 February having not been cancelled.
Interestingly, the Governor also alluded to the attention that this saga is receiving on social media, stating that all parties want answers and that an examination of what has happened will take place, but that the first priority for St Helena is to restore commercial air access.
The Chief Minister echoed the Governor's words and gave thanks to those who are working to resolve the issue from within the Gold Command and beyond. She states that the priorities remain as restoring the airport to Category 6 as safely and quickly as possible; maintaining medevac capability and vital medical provision; supporting everyone directly affected; and getting everyone where they need to be as soon as possible.
She also committed to keeping the community updated with what she described as "clear, verified information," adding that people should avoid speculation.



Monday, 9 February – Saints in Cape Town Told They Will Be Relocated to Johannesburg

Saints and inbound passengers in Cape Town receive a letter from Solomon's where they advised that, despite best efforts, no suitable accommodation could be sourced in Cape Town and that a decision was made "to transfer passengers to Johannesburg, where accommodation options were more readily available and could be confirmed without further delay."
Solomon's also confirmed that "when flights resume to St Helena, departures will operate from Johannesburg" which they noted means that transferring Cape Town based travellers to Johannesburg now allows them "to better manage arrangements while minimising further disruption."
It was later confirmed by a passenger that they, along with others, were due to fly from Cape Town to Johannesburg at 2pm on Tuesday and would be accommodated at the City Lodge Hotel where they would be served breakfast and receive R150 per person for lunch and R350 per person for dinner.
In terms of those on-Island waiting to depart, sources have revealed that they are being given £20 food vouchers as a means of financial support as they await the resumption of commercial flights.
Despite the clear frustration of travellers from both sides, it would seem SHG are following up on their commitment to support them financially, even though SHG have not revealed details on this in any update so far.



Monday, 9 February – Story Gets Picked Up by International Media

The story of St Helena's suspension of commercial flights is picked up by numerous international media outlets, including a BBC Article which began doing the rounds on Social Media.
In the article, the BBC Reporter outlays the situation on St Helena, recounts how the Airport which opened in 2016 has been, in his words, "beset by problems," and shares accounts from passengers affected. These include an individual and couple from the UK stranded on the Island and a couple returning to St Helena who were stranded in Cape Town – all accounts told of a stressful and frustrating situation to be in.

Tuesday, 10 February – SHG updates on St Helena Airport Operations and Restoration of Services

Late on Tuesday afternoon, SHG issued another update on the current circumstances and, for the first time, their planned next steps to resolve the issue with the Airport Fire Tenders.

They reminded of the Airport's new Category 4 status and again said that it provides a viable route for spare parts and additional technical expertise to arrive. This repeated statement goes in line with the now strong rumour within the community of a flight later in the week with the parts onboard – though SHG still does not make mention of this.

The Category 4 certification also proves to be immediately instrumental as SHG confirms that "due to an incident overnight" on Monday, a Medevac flight is expected to take place on Wednesday.

SHG did however make clear that the aim is still to reinstate Category 6 certification as soon as possible. "Whilst this is a vital step in maintaining a lifeline to the island, we stress that Category 4 is not a replacement for commercial services," they said. "Airlink have currently suspended future bookings to St Helena. This should not be taken as an indication of how long the disruption will last and flights will only be cancelled on a flight-by-flight basis, as necessary. Restoring the airport to Category 6, required for Airlink's commercial flights, as soon as possible, remains our highest priority."

To this end, SHG gave their first real update in terms of the next steps being taken to rectify the current issues with the Airport Fire Tenders as they revealed that they are "pursuing multiple short and long-term solutions in parallel."

In terms immediate repairs, SHG informed that "specialised spare parts are currently en route from Germany" and are "expected to arrive on-island later this week." Once having arrived, they confess that fitting, reassembly and testing will take "a number of days" due to the complexities involved and that, although they are "confident in the approach being taken, success will only be certain once the testing has been completed."

SHG also advised that they are actively "seeking two new fire appliances" with potential support from the UK Government, subject to certain conditions, in this regard. They add that, "as these are highly specialised vehicles, they are typically built to order" however SHG will be "actively exploring all alternatives for both temporary and permanent replacements."

SHG also confirms that residents are being relocated from Cape Town to Johannesburg in order to assist with repatriation at the earliest opportunity and say they are aware that health provisions of travel insurance may be running out and it is strongly recommend that those people speak with Solomons to extend cover.

Once again, SHG reiterates that their Gold Command is and will continue to meet daily to coordinate efforts both locally and internationally, adding that "the Major Incident Response Plan is functioning effectively, with personnel across various agencies working around the clock."

In the update, under "Public Discourse and Professionalism" SHG reaffirmed their commitment to "a transparent review" of the events that caused the current major incident "at an appropriate time" and only "once the operational response is no longer the primary focus" before speaking strongly about the current "online commentary" regarding the major incident.

"We do not condone discrimination nor racism," they assert. "Abuse directed toward St Helena Airport or SHG staff will also not be tolerated. Our teams are working tirelessly to resolve this crisis and they deserve a safe and respectful environment in order to do this. We thank the community for its continued patience and resilience. This situation will not be resolved overnight, but we are moving as quickly and safely as possible to return to normal operations."

Alongside the update on Tuesday, SHG also advised that they have now formulated a Q&A document, available via their website, which aims to address a number of the questions raised by members of the public. This Q&A, it is said, will continue to be updated as the situation changes.

Wednesday, 11 February – Medivac Flight Arrives and SHG Issues Further Update

Wednesday saw the successful arrival and departure of the first medevac flight since it's Category 4 certification. A Falcon50EX aircraft touched down just before 1pm and departed again shortly after 2pm. This is a positive development in terms of the Airports capability to accommodate critical medevac flights while commercial services are down.

SHG issues a further update late on Wednesday, at around 4pm, just in time for inclusion in this week's The Sentinel, where they detail the medevac flight and all but confirm the rumour of a flight later this week with parts and engineers on board to resolve issue with the Airport Fire Tenders.

In terms of the Medevac flight, SHG detailed that "as a result of the need for this Medevac flight, three patients who were receiving medical



treatment overseas have been able to return home. A further two patients have been able to leave the island on this flight for scheduled urgent care."

Turning attention to the progress being made to resolve issues at the Airport, SHG confirmed that "the spare parts and specialised tools required to repair the airport's fire tenders are now en route to the island. They will be accompanied from South Africa by two specialist engineers to provide additional capability and capacity to conduct repairs as quickly as possible, with teams working in shifts. We anticipate they will arrive on a charter flight later in the week."

In addition, SHG said that they "have again taken the opportunity to fill the remaining seats on this flight, in both directions, from a carefully prioritised list including those with prioritised medical care needs and critical personnel."

Continue to check SAMS Radio 1 and the SAMS Facebook Page for further developments on this story, including the regular SHG updates.

"A Remarkable Legacy of Service"

Henry Brothers awarded Badges of Honour for exceptional service to Maritime and Sea Rescue on St Helena


The brothers and their mother, Mrs Ethel Henry

Liam Yon, SAMS

Two local residents, and siblings, Anthony 'Futcher' and Doran Henry, have both been awarded with the St Helena Badge of Honour by His Excellency The Governor at an official ceremony at Plantation House - with the brothers' family and friends in attendance to witness and celebrate the tremendous occasion and worthy recognition.

While the two brothers received their Badges of Honour this year, they have long been recognised for their unwavering lifelong commitment and exceptional service to the island's maritime environment and sea rescue service; Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, noted their incredible contributions during her visit to the Island all the way back in 2002.

As most locals will know, both Doran and Futcher have been part of the maritime industry for decades, learning the ropes from their late father, another local maritime legend, in Mr Charlie 'Boar'. In fact, their entire family holds a strong connection to the ocean and the maritime industry.

"The Henry brothers' expertise is rooted in a lifetime of experience on the Jamestown wharf," noted St Helena Government on the recent Badge of Honour recipients. "Learning their craft from an early age under the guidance of their father, they developed an intimate knowledge of St Helena's coastal waters and fishing grounds. This foundational skillset led to invaluable contribution to the island's maritime operations."

SHG detail how, "for decades, both men were integral to the complex cargo and fuel tanker operations managed by Solomons," noting how "their ability to, on occasion in the past, liaise directly with ship Captains and execute boat manoeuvring in rough seas was often the deciding factor in successful medivac transfer and successfully landing essential supplies for the island."

Alongside this, the Henry brothers have also demonstrated a vital commitment to Sea Rescue, having volunteered as Sea Rescue members for over 40 years, even prior to the formalisation of the current Sea Rescue Service in Rupert's, to which they were also recruited to provide their expertise before retirement. In relation to this, Doran and Anthony are known to have responded to emergency cases involving individuals in distress in the water as well as emer-


A toast to Anthony and Doran Henry



Certificates of Honour

gency situations regarding fishers on the rocks around the island; their ability to manoeuvre vessels in close quarters and under adverse conditions to facilitate rescues and recoveries bring well known within the community.

HE Governor Nigel Phillips, presented the awards to the brothers and commented on their "remarkable legacy of service" to St Helena. "It was a great pleasure to present the Badge of Honour to Anthony and Doran Henry at Plantation House," said the Governor. "Their lifelong dedication to St Helena's maritime safety and their specialised skills in our coastal waters represent a remarkable legacy of service. From their early days on the wharf to their decades of commitment to sea rescue, they have played a vital role in protecting our community and ensuring the delivery of essential services to the island. This award recognises not only their past achievements but also the invaluable knowledge they have contributed to our maritime heritage."

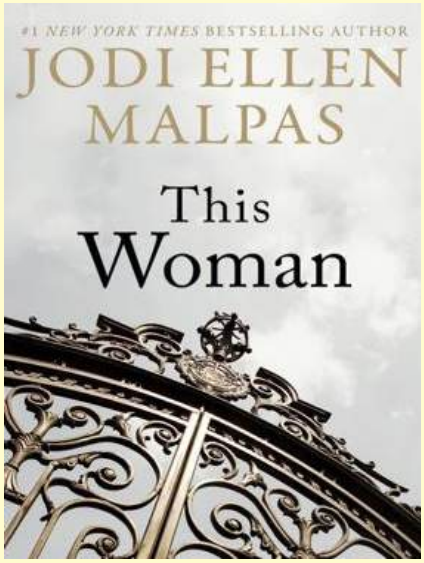
The Sentinel would like to extend our congratulations to both Doran and Futcher; your recognition is well-deserved, thank you both for your service.


The original Search and Rescue Team (L-R) - Kelvin Williams, Doran Henry, Graham Sim and Anthony Henry


HE the Governor, Mrs Phillips, Anthony and Doran Henry, and invited family and friends

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



This Woman by Jodi Ellen Malpas

Jesse Ward has stumbled through life drinking and indulging himself within the rooms of his high-class sex club, The Manor, numbing himself to the pain, grief, and guilt of his wrongs. Pleasure and alcohol are his medicine. Hedonism is all he knows.

It's how he copes.

How he survives.

Until Ava O'Shea strolls into his office and knocks him back with her breath-taking beauty, ambition, and drive. It only takes one look into her eyes, one touch of her skin, and one word murmured, before his heart is kick-started, offering him something he never thought possible. A distraction from his daily torment. A semblance of peace.

Women never reject Jesse Ward. They fall at his feet, melt from his charismatic, devious smile, and obey his every salacious command. All except the one woman who unwittingly becomes his obsession and the only thing that can keep him from the brink of self-destruction.

He needs Ava and will do anything to have her.

Even hide every last skeleton in his large closet.

Because the truth could destroy them both.

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

A Baton Each



King's Baton celebrations to be held in April on St Helena as NSASH seek interest for St Helena's Baton design in new era for traditional Baton Relay

King Charles III launched the King's Baton Relay in March 2025

Donna Crowie, SAMS

In March 2025, His Majesty King Charles III launched the official King's Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace, ahead of this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, from 23 July to 2 August 2026.
King Charles delivered the Glasgow Baton to Sir Chris Hay, former Track Cyclist from Scotland who, in an interview, told the BBC he felt honoured that the Games would be taking place in Scotland.
Making history, this is the first Baton Relay since the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2022.
To mark the newly named, King's Baton Relay, organisers have introduced a new initiative. "For the first time ever, every Commonwealth nation and territory will receive their own Baton for their celebrations and have been asked to customise and decorate this Baton to represent their culture," reports Commonwealth Sport, "at the Opening Ceremony in Glasgow, all 74 batons will be reunited."
So, instead of one baton containing the King's Message for the Commonwealth, this relay will include 74 unique batons each containing one word from the King's Message; taking each piece of the message far and wide across the Commonwealth until the full message is reunited at the Opening Ceremony for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games where, once the final Baton is presented, it will be read aloud by His Majesty to declare the Games open.
Because of this new-style baton relay, the King's Baton has been described as the lightest baton ever to be used, weighing a mere 800 grams.
St Helena is privileged to be included in the 74 nations taking part in the 2026 Commonwealth Games, as recently reported, with the Island set to compete in both Athletics and Swimming over in Glasgow. This means St Helena will receive or own baton and, once received, the word engraved on it will be made public during celebrations planned for April, with the National Sports Association of St Helena (NSASH) informing that, "a programme of celebrations will be announced in the upcoming weeks" – planned for 10-13 April.
In order to leave our mark on this Baton Relay, NSASH is seeking interest from people who would like to help decorate St Helena's baton which will join the other 73 batons as part of the overall Kings Baton and must be decorated to represent St Helena's own unique culture.



Sir Chris Hoy, former Track Cyclist for Scotland, was the first Batonbearer for the King's Baton Relay



Trinidad and Tobago King's Baton Relay design

"They had not agreed to attend a Public Meeting"

Police absence explained as Councillors give update on follow-up of Longwood Public Meeting with Chief of Police "enlightened on the issues raised"



Liam Yon, SAMS

On 14 January, a public meeting was held at Longwood, organised by resident, Nicky Yon, to give members of the public a chance to air their concerns with regards to the Royal St Helena Police with the aim being, in the words of the organiser, "to try and resolve matters between the public and the Police."

Leading the meeting were Councillors, Derek Thomas and Dennis Leo, alongside Councillor Clint Beard taking notes. This week, Cllr Beard provided an update on what has happened since this meeting, confirming that a discussion was held on Monday, 26 January, between the three Councillors and Chief of Police, Kevin Weir, as well as Police Inspector, Julianne Stevens, regarding the meeting and the concerns raised.

According to Cllr Beard, it was at this meeting that "Inspector Stevens explained that her and a colleague had agreed to attend a meeting with the organisers and Councillor Derek Thomas to discuss some policing concerns they had; however, they had not agreed to attend a public meeting." For context, it had been informed prior to the public meeting that RSHP representatives would be in attendance to listen to the public's concerns. Frustratingly for those in attendance, there was no police presence at the meeting.

While the reasoning given by Inspector Stevens explains the police non-attendance on the night, the RSHP's lack of engagement is still something that has frustrated members of the public, especially considering that the RSHP themselves posted to Facebook, on the same evening as the public meeting, that they would, "work with local councillors to hold joint public meetings." This has been seen by many as contradictory to their actions on the evening.

Continuing with feedback from the discussion held with the RSHP, Cllr Beard informs how the Chief and Inspector were "enlightened on the issues raised by the public," to which he reports that "both Police Officers felt the points were useful and would go some way in addressing their Community Policing where they wish to engage more with the community and establish a closer relationship."

Additionally, the Chief of Police informed of the RSHP's new Complaints System, described as "improved" and "robust," while adding that "the public are at liberty to make complaints should they wish."

With regard to complaints, the Chief encouraged that complaints be made soon after the event, adding that this allows for "prompt investigations to be carried out while things are still fresh in people's minds."

To conclude the update, Cllr Beard informed that the Police will soon be meeting with the entire Council to discuss and seek support with their Community Policing and that RSHP will also be engaging closer with the public to improve relationships.

It was not stated whether discussion has yet been held with the Governor, who the Councillors made clear during the meeting was in charge of the RSHP, and committed to making him aware of the concerns raised.



Chief of Police, Kevin Weir, and Police Inspector, Julianne Stevens

Connect working towards Water Security

Connect's Technical Manager for Water talks about ongoing infrastructure challenges and maintenance programmes to improve operations



Water catchment with Cloud Forest and mist in the background

Arjelo Onde, Contributed

Mercy Ncube, Technical Engineer for Water with Connect St Helena Ltd., spoke to Tony Leo on the Northward Sounds show, updating the public on the challenges they have been experiencing with regards to old infrastructure leading to the common occurrence of burst water mains and leakages. During this time, when the island is experiencing a dry season, the burning question is whether the island can afford to lose so much water when this is such a scarce and expensive commodity.



Mercy Ncube Technical Manager-Water

"Since 2013 when Connect was divested by the St Helena Government (SHG), it inherited infrastructure that was quite old," explained Mercy. "We have pipelines which are, on average, over 30 years old." Adding to the problem of the age of the pipes, are the fact that a lot of them are above ground, which leaves it exposed to the elements, contributing to their deterioration. The pipes used are made of high-density polyethylene (HTPE). Another cause for the water pipes bursting, as Mercy explained, is "the high water pressure on the old pipes."

Although these pipelines are obviously due for upgrade and replacement, the whole island's water infrastructure could not be replaced at the same time due to limited availability of funds. The HTPE pipes are a good quality and suitable product and continue to be used to replace pipes in the infrastructure network. The one thing the phased maintenance and replacement program aims to do is to relocate the new infrastructure underground as this "is the proper way of laying these pipes," assured Mercy.

Connect is running a reactive and proactive maintenance programme concurrently, with both programmes placing all pipes underground. Two areas identified to have the highest number of emergency water issues are Longwood and the Cowpath area in Half Tree Hollow. "Those are the areas that we are targeting in the near future," said Mercy. Connect aims to reduce response times to emergency call-outs, working to do necessary repairs within 24 hours to minimize water losses. The relocation of the water infrastructure underground will ensure longevity while also minimising leaks and water loss. The biggest challenge to both maintenance plans remains as limited funding.

Connect has embraced GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to map and record all subterranean infrastructure to ensure future access. The infrastructure mapped includes water, waste water and even electricity services. In the past, there was a drive to map infrastructure but, due to staff changes, this has not been completed. Connect have now appointed a GIS officer to remap all infrastructure (above and below ground), working with the well-established SHG GIS Team to improve asset management and access.

Small leaks to household lines can usually be repaired quite quickly, but when larger supply lines burst, repairs will usually take longer with water often being shut off from early morning until 4pm or even later depending on the scale of the repairs required. Excavation can also pose a challenge when the team encounters harder material. Once repairs are undertaken, other issues might also be identified requiring additional work. "Some pipes are known, some pipes are not known and when you dig, you may find other things as well underground, not just water pipes and sewer pipes, like phone lines. So we need to be very careful. We are trying to be cautious and make sure we do the job properly," Mercy elaborated.

Another topic discussed during the interview was the current threat of water shortages on St Helena due to the dry and hot weather being experienced at the moment. "We have a drought management response plan," said Mercy, "managed by SHG and Connect. We monitor the water supply in the reservoirs to determine how much water we have available in storage as well as how much water we expect to have before the next rainy season." There are various triggers in the drought management plan dependent on the water

levels that will activate certain procedures and a notification process. Recently, these protocols were triggered when the water supply for the island reached a predicted 60-day supply level. This is the first minor warning trigger when the Resilience Forum and the Emergency Planning Department will be informed and a meeting set to discuss and decide on actions to be implemented. During hot weather, consumption tends to be quite high, exceeding what can be extracted. Notices will then be published to urge everyone on St Helena to use water sparingly, conserving as much of this valuable resource as possible.

If no rainfall occurs following this trigger and water levels continue to drop, further measures will be put in place to conserve water and address the issue. The next critical trigger point will be when the reserves deplete to 45 days worth of water supply, initiating the next phase of actions to be implemented.

Connect also has a response plan to supplement the water supply from alternate sources like the boreholes at French's Gut, Sharks Valley (Ironpot) and at the Airport (Borehole 5). Connect had already started in December to supplement the island's water supply from the first two boreholes. The next step will be to source additional water from the airport borehole. Borehole 5 initially has high salinity levels though and needs to be pumped for up to 10 to 14 days to ensure this level decreases and ensure the water is fit for human consumption. During the time the water is pumped, it is unfortunately also unsuitable for agricultural use. This pumping process has been initiated to prepare the borehole for use if no rainfall occurs. "Of course, we will hopefully get some rain and we should be able to get by with the French's Gut and Sharks Valley boreholes, but we will continuously monitor the reservoirs as well as the consumption. So far there is still good potential in terms of the water supply that we have from these boreholes."

Connect and SHG are working on a long-term strategy and water resource management plan that will cater for 30+ years of secure water resources for the island. This will be reliant on aid funding, taking several options into consideration. This plan is still in the draft stage, although it has been in the pipeline for several years. With the contract just having been signed, this project will soon be finalised, hopefully by the end of February according to Mercy. Stakeholder engagements will be undertaken to obtain feedback on the suggested models and findings, for example the expansion of Harpers Dam 2 to increase storage capacity. "There are also potential in Levelwood and Longwood for more reservoirs and deepening some of the reservoirs so they can hold more surface water. We are also talking of borehole rehabilitation, so we can depend on them during droughts as an alternative source of water," Mercy detailed. As part of the pre-Water Resources Management Plan, there are suggestions to add more boreholes, complementing surface water to decrease the risk of water shortages. The St Helena Cloud Forest Project has been running for the past four years, where the research is showing that about 60% of the mist precipitation in this area can be harnessed to recharge boreholes and reservoirs, providing a positive nature-based solution. "There are quite a lot of projects that are coming on board, including the reuse of grey water, rainwater harvesting and many other initiatives that have come out of that report," explained Mercy. She also stated that Connect is looking to reduce the amount of water loss through leaks as is this is one of the critical areas identified to be addressed. Mercy stated that Connect had taken all users' needs into consideration while formulating the Water Resources Management Plan, including irrigation needs for farmers, industrial use, domestic use as well as any other usage (like beautification of the island) to address the whole spectrum of water provision.

Connect is not only responsible for providing water but also other services such as sewage and grey water management. In the Half Tree Hollow area, specifically there are challenges where certain dwellings cannot be developed and occupied due to the lack of sewage disposal provision. Mercy informed that they were working with the Economic Development Investment Programme to fund the construction of two sewage treatment plants - one in Half Tree Hollow and another in Jamestown. Once these two treatment plants are completed, existing and new sewer lines will connect to them providing this service to part of the St Pauls area, all of Half Tree Hollow (including the new Community Development Area) and the whole of Jamestown. These new treatment plants will also address the problem of untreated and partially treated waste water being dumped directly into the ocean, as has been the case for many years on island. "We are saying as St Helenians, let's stop this and have good practices in place, which are also in compliance with the international standards so we can attract more tourists as well as comply with the Blue Ocean standards," said Mercy.

Mercy ended off by assuring Tony that she has a lot of experience, working as one of the principal engineers in the third largest city in Zimbabwe, before being appointed at Connect St Helena Ltd as Technical Manager for Water. "I've got quite a lot of experience and exposure, both internationally and regionally, especially of this nature. Although it is a small island, there are big challenges. The issues throughout the world are the same. I am pretty confident that I will be able to work with the team to offer some solutions."

Let's hope that there will be positive outcomes for Connect to solve the island's water supply challenges, ensuring a reliable supply of water and wastewater provision for St Helena for the years to come.


Drilling for water- borehole


Relocating waterpipes underground


Levelwood reservoir

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. Feb 13

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

SAT. Feb 14

- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue
- 12noon-1pm: 80's hour
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 5pm: 7:30pm: In the Know with Ministers
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Feb 15

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna Crowie
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Seventh Day Adventist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Feb 16

- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 10am: Select Committe 1 hearing
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm: In the Know with Ministers

TUE. Feb 17

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

WED. Feb 18

- 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 19

- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 1pm: In the Know (repeat)
- 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***

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Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week



"In the Know" is a new programme to the SAMS Radio 1 Schedule

This weekly programme is led by our Ministers, offering updates, features and insights from their portfolios, often supported by relevant SHG officals.

"In the Know" can be heard first on Mondays at 7:30pm and also repeated on Thursdays at 1pm and Saturdays at 5pm.

Get 'in the know' with Ministers here on SAMS Radio 1!

Local news and notices:

7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Easy'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



12th February 2002:
Careers Fair 2002 is the first event held in The Leisure Park.
(sainthelenaisland.info)

Looking for a sweet treat?
This week's recipe has you covered!

Mars Bar Weet-Bix slice



Ingredients

- 250g packet scotch finger biscuits (plain digestive)
- 8 Weet-Bix
- 395g can condensed milk
- 6 x 47g Mars bars, chopped
- 400g milk chocolate, chopped

Method

1. Line the base of a 3cm deep, 16cm x 26cm slice pan with baking paper, allowing the paper to extend 3cm over long sides.
2. Place the biscuits and Weet-Bix in a food processor and process until fine breadcrumbs form. Transfer to a medium bowl.
3. Place the condensed milk, Mars bars and half the chocolate in a saucepan. Melt over medium-low heat, stirring often, for 3 minutes or until smooth and combined. Pour chocolate mixture over Weet-Bix mixture. Stir well to combine (see notes). Press mixture into prepared pan. Smooth top.
4. Place the remaining chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave, uncovered, on medium, stirring halfway, for 1 minute or until melted and smooth. Pour chocolate over slice. Smooth top. Place in the fridge overnight to set.
5. Remove the slice from the fridge and set aside for 30 minutes. Use a hot knife to cut them into squares to serve.

THE ISLAND PULSE

The Island Pulse

Legislative Council Lifts the Lid on Key Issues Facing St Helena



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

Last week's edition of The Island Pulse on SAMS Radio 1 offered listeners a wide-ranging and candid insight into the work of St Helena's Legislative Council, as Councillors came together in the studio to unpack the outcomes of the Formal Legislative Council meeting held on Thursday, 5 February.

Hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas in her role as Communications Champion, the programme took an unscripted but informative turn after scheduled guests from the Social Policy and Economic Development portfolios were unable to attend at late notice. Instead, Councillors used the opportunity to provide the public with a clear synopsis of recent proceedings, highlight ongoing concerns, and reinforcing the importance of community engagement.

A Busy Legislative Council Sitting

Councillor Thomas opened by outlining the scale of the most recent Formal Legislative Council meeting. The Order Paper included six Sessional Papers, a record 21 oral questions, two written questions, a motion brought by Councillor Dr Corinda Essex, and the customary adjournment debate.

Councillor Dr Essex explained that most Sessional Papers were routine but highlighted one relating to excess expenditure on Ascension Island for policing services. Now laid in the House, this matter will be scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee, with the option for further debate once that process concludes.

Councillor Robert Midwinter also drew attention to a report from Audit St Helena tracking progress on previously issued audit recommendations, as well as updates from Select Committee 1 on Health and Social Care. He confirmed that a '*live*' public hearing of Select Committee 1 will take place on Monday, 16 February, particularly important given changes in both ministerial leadership and committee membership since the original reports were produced.

Updates were also provided on Select Committee 2, which has received responses on inquiries into social housing and roads, with further information awaited on asset disposal.

Scrutiny Through Questions

Much of the programme focused on Councillors reflecting on the questions they raised in the House and the responses received.

Councillor Clint Beard spoke candidly about concerns around due diligence, particularly in relation to fisheries operations, vocational education, and staff retention within St Helena Government. He emphasised the need for evidence-based approaches, including an employment audit to understand why people continue to leave the public service.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex raised

strong concerns about the international recruitment strategy, arguing that support packages for returning Saints are not being clearly communicated. Without transparency, she warned, potential applicants abroad may never realise assistance is available. She also expressed frustration at the lack of clear timelines for the long-overdue Fisheries Review and questioned progress on revising customs tariffs to increase disposable income.

Councillor Derek Thomas focused on practical, community-facing issues drawn directly from his election manifesto. These included lowering the motorcycle driving age, introducing an internationally recognised driver's licence, and reviewing annual medical tests for drivers over 70. While reassured that these matters fall within a wider rewrite of the Road Traffic Ordinance, he pressed for faster progress through regulation, describing them as "quick wins" for the community.

Councillor Ronald Coleman highlighted the renovation of the former Longwood First School, now refurbished under a UK agreement with St Helena, in respect of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) and earmarked for future social housing use, if not required for migrants. He also raised the absence of consumer protection legislation and spoke positively about the role of the Public Solicitor's Office in supporting residents with limited means.

Councillor Dennis Leo discussed immigration reform, including the development of an electronic "ePortal" designed to streamline applications. While welcoming progress, he echoed concerns about slippage and the frequent use of vague timelines. He also questioned delays in reviewing public transport and stressed the importance of data collection in shaping agricultural policy and land access for farmers.

Fisheries, Climate, and Connectivity

Councillor Robert Midwinter reinforced calls for urgency on the Fisheries Review, noting repeated delays in producing clear terms of reference. He also provided updates on pension buy-off discussions for residents with UK pensions and raised concerns about climate change, particularly emissions from older vehicles and their impact on public health.

Councillor Julie Thomas herself addressed air freight challenges, primary school reorganisation, and the ongoing issue of offloaded passenger baggage. She stressed the need for clearer public guidance on imports and exports, acknowledged transport difficulties arising from school reorganisation, and confirmed that offloaded baggage costs are being met through contingency funding, though further scrutiny is required.

A Motion Passed on Social Housing

A significant highlight of the programme was Councillor Dr Essex's successful motion calling for urgent action on government landlord housing. With over half a million pounds ring-fenced for construction or conversion, she described continued inaction as unacceptable given the level of housing needs across the island.

The motion was passed with full support, and Councillor Dr Essex confirmed she will closely monitor progress. She also raised concerns about procurement processes and the need for better contractor training and clearer procurement planning to ensure projects can move forward without unnecessary delay.

Community Engagement Remains Central

The programme closed with reminders about ongoing constituency meetings across districts, reinforcing the importance of residents raising issues directly with their Councillors. Councillor Thomas emphasised that transparency, communication, and public engagement remain at the heart of *The Island Pulse*.

As the Councillors reflected, many of the island's challenges are well understood. The key issue, repeatedly highlighted, is not a lack of policy ideas, but the need for clearer timelines, better communication, and decisive action. For listeners, the programme offered reassurance that these issues are being robustly debated – and that their voices continue to matter.



"One of One"

Victor from Germany becomes first recorded person to complete 42km Island Marathon and Jacob's Ladder Challenge in one continuous run



Victor Thiele became the first person to complete an Island Marathon and Jacob Ladder Challenge in a single run

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena has been the arena for incredible feats of endurance recently and Victor Thiele, a 26 year old World ARC participant from Germany, has now etched his name into the Island's history books after successfully completing a 42 kilometre marathon run around the Island, with a 2000m elevation, followed by the 699-step climb of Jacob's Ladder to finish – becoming the first recorded person in history to complete both the marathon and the ladder climb in one continuous run.

Victor, who arrived to St Helena as part of the World ARC – a thrilling 26,000-nautical-mile, 15-month circumnavigation through some of the world's most stunning destinations – had his heart and mind set on taking on this arduous challenge on St Helena during his short stay here, having made contact with local organisations, including The Sentinel, on Saturday 31 January, prior to his arrival, to state his intent.

"On Monday morning, I plan to run the full marathon distance of 42.2 kilometres on St Helena, with approximately 1,800 metres of elevation gain, following existing walking and hiking routes. I intend to start early in the morning, around 6am, and to finish the run by climbing Jacob's Ladder as the final section," he informed with determination as he sailed the Atlantic. "This challenge is something that I have been planning and preparing for several weeks. I am currently sailing across the Atlantic Ocean as part of the World ARC 2025/2026 fleet, travelling from Namibia to Brazil, and will be staying on St Helena for two to three days during the passage. Completing this run on the island is a personal goal I have set myself during this journey."

Sticking with his plan, Victor arrived by yacht and, on Monday morning, 2 February, he set off to complete the incredible challenge – a full Island Marathon followed by the Jacob's Ladder Challenge – and by Monday afternoon, Victor had accomplished his mission as he caught his breath sat in the conference room at SAMS.

"It was hard," laughed Victor as he spoke to The Sentinel following a 42.2km run at 2000m elevation, culminating with a gruelling ladder climb. "I knew that the end would be hard, so I tried not to over pace myself; so, every very big mountain, or even if it's going down a steep section, I just tried to kind of walk to protect my knees and my quads for the big final."

Victor is no stranger to these type of endurance challenges and said he is "good in training" having previously prepared for an Ironman - one of the world's most challenging, single-day endurance triathlons, requiring participants to complete a 3.86km swim, 180.25km bike ride, and a 42.2km marathon run. However, having been sailing in the weeks prior to arriving to St Helena, he could not prepare in the way he normally would for a marathon like this.

"I came from nine days on the boat, so I wasn't even preparing myself perfectly," he explained. "But I tried my best, did hiking exercises for all the elevation metres and stuff, and I had to focus on some strength exercises to maintain my fitness levels."

Nevertheless, Victor was determined to fulfil his goal, and took on some of St Helena's most difficult hiking routes during his full Island marathon, starting with the Sugar Loaf Hiking Trail - an extremely chal-



Victor joined by friends for a section of his marathon run



Victors views captured during his marathon run



lenging route for runners with a large amount of elevation and sections that leave hikers exposed to the full brunt of the South Atlantic sun. Despite the challenge, Victor took in some short moments, when he could, to admire the beauty of the Island.

"The island was so, so beautiful; I saw nearly every corner, I would say," he recalled. "I didn't have much time to really enjoy each point, but I would say that I saw more things than any usual tourist would, because I got to places where nobody gets to, like the really hard hiking spots where I was even wondering how people get there normally, and I was really careful when running there. So, yeah, I would say I saw pretty much everything."

One sight, worthy of mention by Victor, was when he passed Longwood House. "I'm half French, by the way, so it was kind of special for me to see also Napoleon's residence," he smiled.

With Victor being a first-time visitor to St Helena, his impressive run was made even more so by his ability to navigate his way around the Island, a place he had never been before; thanks to the help of a GPS, and of course, the local residents.

"I actually spoke with many, many locals here. It was fun, because everybody was like looking at me; Who is this guy? What is he doing here?" Victor laughed as he recalled some help he received along the way. "I was asking them friendly, 'hey guys, I'm running a marathon, I want to get to this place, am I right?' And they were like, yeah or no, and basically helped me out a bit. But without internet, it went very good by GPS; I had my phone with me, and hoped that it wouldn't die, but everything went fine."

Having accomplished such an amazing feat, Victor was over the moon as he is now the first person in history to complete both a 42km marathon and 699 step Jacob's Ladder climb in the same day during one continuous run. "I feel amazing because I don't know exactly how many people ever did this in history, as far as I know, no one," he said on his history-making achievement. "That's why it's special for me, because I think, okay, I'm really one of one who did this, I'm the first, and it's a pleasure for me to do this."

After reflecting on his incredible day and accomplishment on St Helena, Victor looked ahead to completing the final leg of the World ARC. "My sailing journey will end in Brazil," he revealed. "There we are going to meet a friend of mine who's studying in Mexico, so we will meet in Brazil and then I'm going to fly back with him. So, we enjoy a few weeks in Brazil, maybe Mexico, and then we're going to fly back to Germany to work."

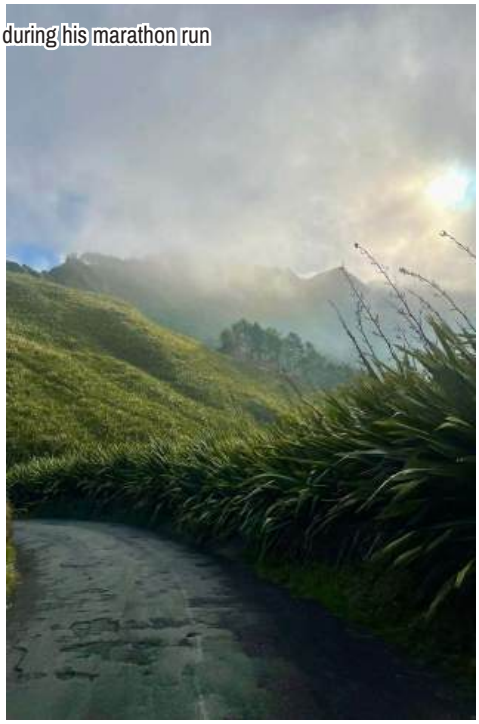
Victor will never forget his day on St Helena however, and to ensure his challenge and triumph remains on record, he has informed of a planned documentary that will showcase what went on during his unbelievable feat of endurance.

"I am planning a professional documentary film (approximately 20–30 minutes) about this journey and the run on St Helena," he revealed. "The footage has already been recorded, and the film will be produced by a professional German production team. Given the uniqueness of St Helena and the story behind this run, there is realistic potential for the documentary to reach a wide international audience."

Congratulations to Victor for an amazing job and becoming the first in history to complete this demanding endurance challenge on St Helena, and we look forward to seeing the documentary when completed. History made!



Victors views captured during his marathon run



LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

World Radio Day 2026

Importance of local radio capability in St Helena


Donna and Legislative Council recording The Island Pulse

Cyril Gunnell, Contributed

Friday, 13 February, is World Radio Day (WRD). It is an international day celebrated on 13 February each year. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) designated this important annual activity on 3 November, 2011, during its 36th conference. The first WRD was officially celebrated in 2012. Each year activities promoting radio are planned with broadcasters, organisations and communities around the world. Radio broadcasts provide real-time information and is one of the most immediate ways to reach your audience.

Radio is the use of electromagnetic waves for broadcasting or two-way communication without the use of linking wires. The radio is a powerful medium to exchange information, provide social interchange, and educate people all over the world on topics that affect them. One can even say it helps to save lives in humanitarian and disaster situations where the radio medium is often the first call.

In St Helena, FM radio broadcasts provide real-time information and is one of the most immediate ways to reach your audience, as said earlier. These days, that audience potentially include listeners from abroad as live streaming is provided.

The importance of capable and efficient local radio cannot be overstated. Last week on SAMS Radio 1, the significance of this came to the fore when it was necessary for government to report, and then to take questions about, the airport being closed for a temporary period.

Also last week, via SAMS, at the most recent formal Legislative Council Meeting, seven members of the Council found they had as many as 21 questions for oral answers; that being the maximum amount of oral questions that Councillors collectively can put at any one meeting on behalf of their constituents. One would need to wade through years of Committee System Order Papers to find anything similar.

It is interesting to note that Legislative Council, under the Ministerial form of Government, have increased significantly their use of SAMS Radio 1 for reflecting their work benefitting the community. This includes additional Select Committees, Ministers Question Time, and Island Pulse.

Radio capability on-island has developed extensively over the years, and it would be very remiss in this contribution not to mention early local radio pioneers.

Although radio is over 100 years old, and some in St Helena had radio sets back in the 1930s, soon after 'wireless sets' became available, the first full blown radio station was not set up until the official opening of the St Helena Government Broadcasting Station on Christmas Day 1967. It was later known as Radio St Helena (RSH) which broadcasted in the medium waveband nonstop for 45 years until Christmas Day 2012.

For a period, RSH, once a year, on a special "Shortwave Day," broadcasted to the rest of the world on shortwave frequency. The experience of broadcasting live out to the big world was quite fantastic, and it was great to receive email messages from listeners telling what time they were receiving the broadcast and what the reception was like.

The late Mr Stedson Francis and late Mr Bert Constantine were among the first voluntary producers at RSH and they stayed committed right up until the station closed its doors. Bert served for 42 years; he also volunteered at Saint FM and continued until early 2022.

Stedson did 43 years with RSH. For many years on the Sunday before Christmas, family and friends from abroad had the opportunity to send Christmas greetings and messages via RSH live on air on his Christmas Connection programme. Although RSH paid presenters, a lot of the broadcasting, particularly in the evenings and at weekends, was done by many unpaid "voluntary presenters."

Today, SAMS Radio 1 and Saint FM stations broadcast daily on the FM waveband. SAMS also rebroadcasts the BBC World Service, and both stations provide live streaming online.

But it is worth reflecting on how it was before modern technology and even electricity. Radio sets were imported to St Helena soon after they became available. They could receive the BBC on short wave, and also a few stations in Southern Africa on medium or long wave, mostly at night. One remembers enjoying "Top of the Pops" requests from the BBC in London and especially when a request was heard for someone in St Helena over the airwaves from another country.

Another popular programme was "Top 20" from Lourenco Marques. Interestingly, Lourenco Marques was the first commercial radio station in Africa. It was the first radio station ever to play a music hit parade. Historically Lourenco Marques was a shortwave station broadcasting to South Africa and Rhodesia from Lourenço Marques, the colonial era name of Maputo, hence the name "Lourenço Marques Radio" from 1936 to 1975 when it was shut down by the government of the then newly independent country.



Liam and Luke on the Feel Good Thursday Show


Renowned and long-running radio presenter, Tony Leo

One supposes the first commercial radio station in St Helena was the late Mr William (Billy) Stevens in the 1960s. Like many others, he was a ham radio operator. Amateur radio stations started operating in St Helena from 1952 and many are still active today.

They all have personal call signs and Mr Stevens' was ZD7SD. 'Billy' went on air with scheduled musical programming, broadcasting to the Island on medium wave from his home at Nr Three Tanks, Half Tree Hollow. It couldn't have been easy to get started, but it is believed Mr Stevens put some ideas together after several attempts were made at local radio broadcasting by amateurs.

Research shows the first known radio broadcast on-island was in 1958. Mr Percy Teale had obtained a temporary license and made a one-time broadcast of a public meeting held in the Jamestown Cinema Hall. Soon afterwards, Mr A.J. Davis assembled a radio transmitter from electronic parts that Mr Teale imported from England. He too made a few broadcasts and it is claimed that a Mr Freeze made a notable broadcast in the 1960s from the Arts Club in Jamestown. Bobby Freeze passed away early in 2020.

Mr Stevens did radio a show every Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evenings relaying messages and playing requests for popular songs from vinyl records. These were long play, 33 and a third, and 45 speeds. He charged three pence (later six pence) for a request. These had to be left at Mrs Eva Benjamin's shop in Jamestown. Inevitably there was country music and very popular was a Burl Ives song, "There's A Little White Duck Swimming on The Water".

The show was very popular, and the set-up was very basic, but it worked. 'Billy' would speak into the microphone, and when the announcement was over, he lowered the microphone down to an old mono record player, which was operated by his son.

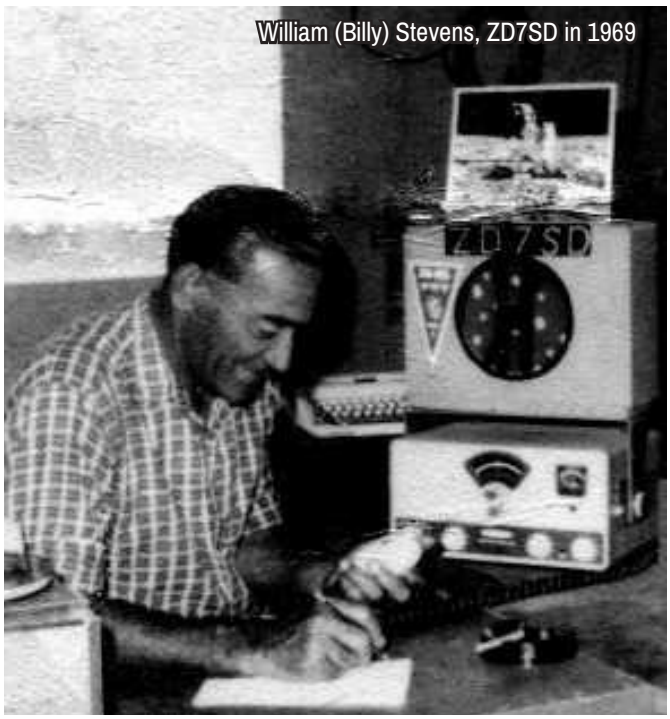
There was the odd complaint, but as Billy used to say, "If you don't like it, switch off". I guess people had a choice whether to listen or not, but not too many actually switched off I would suppose. The St Helena Association in the UK also recorded a programme called "Keeping in touch", the purpose being to record Christmas messages from members in the UK and to send them to Billy for broadcast.

Mr Stevens' contribution got Radio off to a good start in St Helena.

So tomorrow on World Radio Day, we must take a moment to appreciate the importance of radio, while recognising the pioneers that got us here – it is also, fittingly, SAMS Radio 1's birthday!


SPPS Choir sang carols 'live' on radio in December 2025


SHMSF Members conducting the 'live' Sweepstake Draw on radio



William (Billy) Stevens, ZD7SD in 1969

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

St Helena Health Invites Participants for New Diabetes Remission Pilot

— **Selvi Jeyaseelan,** Contributed —

St Helena Health is launching a new pilot programme aimed at helping people with Type 2 Diabetes significantly improve their health — and, in some cases, place their diabetes into remission.

The programme is based on strong international evidence and is being offered locally for the first time as part of a carefully monitored pilot. The new pilot is being supported by the UK Health & Security Agency in conjunction with Counterweight, who also provide the service in a variety of locations across the globe.

Who the programme is for?

The health team is inviting adults who:

- Are aged between 18 and 65
- Were diagnosed with type 2 diabetes within the last six years
- Are carrying extra weight that may be affecting their health
- Are willing to commit to a structured programme focused on weight loss and long-term lifestyle change

Participation is voluntary, and eligibility will be confirmed through a screening appointment.

What does "diabetes remission" mean?

Diabetes remission occurs when blood sugar levels return to the non-diabetic range without the need for diabetes medication. It is not described as a cure, but rather a state where diabetes is effectively "put to sleep".

People who achieve remission have a lower risk of developing complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, nerve damage, and vision problems — conditions that place a heavy burden on individuals and health services alike.

How the programme works

The pilot follows a structured, evidence-based approach delivered with close clinical support:

Phase 1: Total Meal Replacement (first 12 weeks) Participants temporarily replace regular meals with nutritionally complete soups, shakes, and porridge. These provide all essential nutrients while supporting safe, rapid weight loss. Medical monitoring continues throughout this phase.

Phase 2: Food reintroduction With guidance from trained coaches, participants gradually reintroduce everyday foods, learning how to build balanced meals and healthier routines.

Phase 3: Weight maintenance and support Ongoing support helps participants maintain weight loss, manage setbacks, and embed long-term habits that protect their health.

What the evidence shows

The programme is based on large clinical studies carried out in routine health-care settings. These studies found that:

- Nearly half of participants achieved diabetes remission within one year
- Among those who lost around 15 kg (about 33 pounds) or more, almost 9 in 10 achieved remission
- Average weight loss was around 10 kg in the first year
- More than one-third of participants remained in remission after two years

These results highlight the powerful link between weight loss and improved diabetes control.

Taking part

People interested in learning more are encouraged to speak with their Diabetes Specialist Nurse, who can check eligibility and explain the next steps.

Further information is also available from the programme team:

- **Telephone:** 22500
- **Email:** joslyn.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh or selvi.jeyaseelan@sainthelena.gov.sh

This pilot will help determine how well a diabetes remission programme works in the St Helena context and will inform future diabetes care on the island.



St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND HOME AFFAIRS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Updates on Road Closure Programme

To ensure the successful completion of the Roads Slurry Programme, preparation and cleaning work is set to begin on the final phase of the project.

Closure Details
In addition to the ongoing daily closures between Longwood Gate and Hutt's Gate, new daily road closures will be implemented as follows:

Location: Between the Briars, Side Path, Constitution Road junction and Button-Up Corner (Heart Shaped Viewpoint bus shelter)
Time: 09:00 to 15:00 daily
Duration: Monday, 16 February – Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Work Schedule
The project will be completed in two distinct stages:
Preparation Phase: 16 February – 28 February (Cleaning and repairs)
Slurry Operations: 2 March – 31 March 2026

Access for Residents
Residents living within the affected stretch are kindly asked to contact the Roads Supervisory Staff at 23640 to coordinate any essential travel during closure hours.

Appropriate signage will be displayed throughout the area. We request the public's full cooperation to help us complete these works safely and on schedule.
We thank you for your patience and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

SHG
5 February 2026
www.sainthelena.gov.sh

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

- → **Leave** – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- → **Pension** – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Administration Team Leader (£13,569 per annum)

The Administration Team Leader will contribute to service delivery by coordinating the daily operations of the Administration Assistants and Receptionists within the Administration Support Service, ensuring that all administrative tasks are performed efficiently and effectively to enable the Portfolios to operate smoothly. Located in the Central Support Service but mobile across the Portfolios, this role promotes efficiencies and assists the Senior Administration Team Leader in creating an effective administration service that adapts to the evolving requirements of a contemporary Public Service. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 February 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 February 2026
Interview date: 04 March 2026

Chief Nursing Officer (£24,503 per annum)

The Chief Nursing Officer is responsible for guaranteeing that all patients treated in the hospital and the community receive compassionate, high-quality care. This involves creating and executing strategies and action plans to maintain the quality of nursing and midwifery services. This position is crucial in achieving our broader vision of transforming St Helena into an excellent place to live, learn, work, visit, and invest. Heads of Service play a vital role in enhancing the overall financial stability of the Public Service and are accountable for ensuring value for money and return on investment within their respective Services and throughout the Public Service as a whole. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Tracy Poole-Nandy on Tel No. 22500 or Email: tracy.poole-nandy@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 24 February 2026
Shortlisting date: 27 February 2026
Interview date: 11 March 2026

Healthcare Assistant (£10,088 per annum)

The Health and Social Care Portfolio is looking to recruit a highly motivated individual with a caring and empathetic nature to support our Nursing team in providing direct patient care in a highly pressured working environment. The role involves assisting patients with basic daily task as washing, dressing and feeding, to ensure that patient's dignity, hygiene and comfort are always preserved. Beyond basic care, Health care assistants are tasked with monitoring vital signs, observing patients behaviour and reporting any concerns to senior nursing staff. Good verbal and written communication is essential for the post, Shift work is expected which includes weekends and public holidays. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Erika Bowers on Tel No. 22500 or Email: erika.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 24 February 2026
Shortlisting date: 27 February 2026
Interview date: 11 March 2026

The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh to discuss how we can support you. SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

- → **Leave –** 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- → **Pension –** 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted through the Director/Line Manager (where applicable) to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Sea Rescue Crew (Auxiliary)

(£6.38 per hour) 18 years + and must be able to swim and pass a fitness test. The successful applicant will receive a monthly retainer of £70 on completion of basic training.

Coxswain

(£11,604.00 per annum)

18 years + and must be able to swim and pass a fitness test.

Are you passionate about protecting lives at sea and helping our island community thrive? The St Helena Sea Rescue Service is seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join our team. If you have the ability to stay calm under extreme physical and mental pressure, this could be the opportunity for you.

Crash Course Experience – 21 February 2026

Curious about what it's like to be part of Sea Rescue? Come along to our crash course at the Sea Rescue Base in Rupert's, running from 08:30 to 15:30.
You will step into the daily life of a crew member, taking part in:

- Routine vessel checks
- Chart work and navigation
- Knot tying
- Search pattern exercises
- Emergency drills on board (for those able to swim)

It's a hands-on, immersive day that could be the start of your journey with us. Why not give it a try—you might discover this is the role you've been waiting for.

Ongoing Training

Our crew trains every Wednesday afternoon, giving you the chance to build skills, gain confidence, and become part of a dedicated team committed to saving lives at sea.

We invite you to contact us for more information and to discuss these exciting roles

Enquiries: Leeroy Caswell or Mark Caswell on Tel no. 25215 or
Email: leeroy.caswell@helanta.co.sh
Email: mark.caswell@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 27 February 2026
Swim Test: 03 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 05 March 2026
Interview date: 12 March 2026

The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh to discuss how we can support you. SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Island®
A breath of fresh air

Update on World's Most Remote Marathon

10 February 2026

To the St Helena Community,
We would like to provide an update regarding the World's Most Remote Marathon.

Due to the ongoing airport closure, which is currently expected to last until at least 20 February, it has become clear that our international participants will be unable to travel to the island in time for the 2026 event. As a result, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to postpone the marathon until March 2027.

We want to acknowledge the immense amount of work that has already been poured into this project. With meticulous planning and logistical support provided, the foundation is firmly in place. While we are disappointed by this delay, we view the coming year as an opportunity. We will continue to build on this momentum to ensure that when the starting pistol fires in 2027, it is an incredible and memorable event.

An event of this scale is only possible because of you. We are incredibly grateful to the local businesses and residents who have come forward to help create a truly authentic St Helena experience. Your hospitality and hard work are the heart of our tourism industry. Our breathtaking landscapes and challenging terrain remain ready and waiting. We have simply gained a little more time to make sure the rest of the world is ready for them too.

Thank you for your patience, your resilience, and community spirit that will make the event in 2027 a huge success.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Passaportis
Head of St Helena Tourism
St Helena Tourism

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 15th February:
Sandy Bay Chapel, 08.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 17th February: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 18th February: Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 19th February: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 4-11yrs old
Saturday, 21st February:
Baptist School Hall, 10.00-11.30am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 18th February:
Baptist School Hall, 10.30am

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: 14/02/26
TIME: 10h00-11h30
Refreshments will be served.

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 15th February 2026 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
	Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday	
7.00 p.m.	**Eucharist with Ashes**	**Cathedral**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 15th February 2026 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday	
7.00 p.m.	**Eucharist with Ashes**	**St James**
	Thursday 19th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 18th February 2026 – 6th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday	
7.00 p.m.	**Eucharist with Ashes**	**St Mark**



ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

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

This week the "lilac" bingo sheet will be used

Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner

Claims to be made to Karen Henry on 23401 by Saturday 14 February at 6 pm.

Prize - £20 per week

There were no claims for last week.

83	41	57	77	68	16	39	25	9	72
50	12	80	65	88	8	45	70	85	53
24	59	13	1	74	66	33	10	55	49
76	19	51	5	67	36	27	43	81	40
11	62	28	52	30	61	21	48	15	4
90	26	75	60	58	71	34	20	47	86
64	29	73	3	69	17	38	2	89	54

NOTICE BOARD



This young lady will be 80 on the 14th Feb.

Happy Birthday Mum

Lots of love and hugs

From all your children and Grand children



The "Let's Dance" group would like to thank all who attended and donated prizes for the Christmas fundraising event on Wednesday, 10 December 2025. A total of £349.00 was raised from the raffle and £87.00 was received in donations on the night. After expenses, a total of £300.00 was donated to the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre. Below are the raffle winners:

SHEET NO.	TICKET NO.	WINNER	ADDRESS	ITEM
5	2	Percy Thomas	Half Tree Hollow	Dinner for 2 at Mantis
1	3	Sandra George	Cow Path	TAD Fitness Gym Membership for a month
13	6	John Thompson	Alarm Forest	Coffee for 2 at the Coffee Shop
12	11	Mia Jory	Cow Path	Plantation House Tour for 2
1	15	Chelsea Lawrence	Half Tree Hollow	Manicure at Peaks Enterprise
16	15	Angela Peters	Guinea Grass	Boat Ride for 4 on Seahorse
17	9	Cynthia Joy George	Half Tree Hollow	Food Hamper
16	10	Brian Bennett	Half Tree Hollow	Photoshoot Creative Captures
12	20	Brenda Stevens	Alarm Hill	£20 Voucher Anne's Place
9	17	Angela Peters	Guinea Grass	Pedicure Peaks Enterprises
1	3	Sandra George	Cow Path	Voucher from Joshies



How it works.

The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 13th February at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.

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

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

Lisa Bailey will be taking calls on 25639 from 7pm on Friday 13th, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.

We politely ask not to call before this time.

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

Payments to be made by 25th February. Draw will be on the 27th February. Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.

Community Development Organisation

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 17 Feb 2026 | **Time:** 6:00pm | **Where:** Jamestown Community Centre

The Community Development Organisation (CDO) was established in 2013 to support St Helena's civil society through a Community Grant Scheme.

SHG funding for the Grant Scheme was suspended in 2020. We continue to offer match-funding grants up to £1,000 from our reserves. These grants act as a vital source of support for local organisations, many of which are solely reliant on volunteers.

If you are passionate about and believe in the value of St Helena's voluntary organisations, charities, Community Centres, clubs and Non-Government Organisations, please come along and show your support.

Light refreshments provided.

Current Committee

Chairperson:	**Mia Henry**
Vice Chairperson:	**Lori Pinter**
Treasurer:	**Dave Brown**
Secretary:	**Emerald Newman-Yon**
Committee Members:	**Shayla Ellick**
	Tracey Williams
	Vince Thompson
	Kenickie Andrews

Our Bank Balance at 31 March 2025 was £20,947.32.

Please help keep the Community Grant Scheme alive.

If you are interested in joining the Committee or would like more information in advance of the meeting please contact the Committee Secretary or email cdosthelena@gmail.com

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

INVITATION TO TENDER

Renovation of Alarm Forest Police Post & Red Gate House Roof

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

ED23-2025/26 – Renovation of Alarm Forest Police Post
ED24-2025/26 – Red Gate House Roof

A site visit to view the works will take place on Wednesday, 18 February 2026, at 09:00, meeting at the Police Post, Alarm Forest and at 11:00, meeting at Red Gate House, Red Hill, St Pauls.

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, 25 February 2026, clearly marked with the tender number detailed above.

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

SHG, 10 February 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week - Lot's Wife Ponds

Date: Sunday, 15 February 2026
Start Time: 08:30
Meeting Point: Sandy Bay Community Centre, then car share to Sandy Bay Beach.
Google Location: -15.97381, -5.70787
Duration: approx 5 hours

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Lot's Wife's Ponds is a coastal walk offering stunning views with fascinating birdlife. Take a refreshing swim in the natural pools before the walk back (bring swimming gear).
Note: This is a hike for fit walkers as there are some narrow sections on the path and cliffside walking. The walk will be led by local walking guides, Tom Wortley and Louis Youde.

Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water.
Please contact the Tourist Office to register for the walk and let us know if you would like to offer car share from the Sandy Bay Community Centre to Sandy Bay Beach and return.

Date	Upcoming Walks
Sunday, 7 March 2026	Sugar Loaf - Banks - Ruperts - Jamestown

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

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

PUBLIC NOTICE – WATER CONSERVATION

Over the past week, the people of St Helena have once again shown what can be achieved when we work together. Thanks to everyone's efforts to reduce water usage, we have been able to meet demand without placing undue strain on our limited reserves.

Every drop saved makes a real difference, helping to stretch our stored supplies further. While this progress is encouraging, it remains vital that we all continue to conserve as much water as possible in the weeks and months ahead.

Your commitment and cooperation are greatly appreciated. By keeping up these good habits, we can protect our island's resources and ensure water security for our community.

06 February 2026

Gerald George Defends Title at 3-Club Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge



SHGC, Contributed

The St Helena Golf Club held the 3-Club Leon Crowie Memorial Challenge on Sunday, 8 February 2026, in warm and sunny conditions, with a strong field of 22 players competing in the special-format event.

The competition honours the memory of Leon Crowie, widely regarded as one of the greatest golfers St Helena has ever produced, who sadly passed away on the golf course on 4 February 2024. The memorial challenge celebrates his legacy, love for the game, and lasting contribution to local golf.

For the second consecutive year, Gerald George claimed the title, posting an outstanding net score of 63 to secure Overall Winner. Having also won the inaugural event last year, George stands as the undisputed champion of the Memorial Challenge since its establishment. Larry Legg finished Runner-Up with a net 68 and also recorded the Lowest Gross Score of the day, while Jeffrey Stevens took third place with a net 71 after a closely contested round.



Prizes were awarded to the top three finishers, along with a recognition award for Most Played Golf won by Annette Delacourt, highlighting consistent participation and commitment to club competitions. There was no winner in the Two Ball Pool.

The event was generously sponsored by the Leon Crowie family, led by Mrs Crowie. The club extends its sincere appreciation for their continued support, including the sponsorship of drinks for members, which contributed to a fitting and well-supported memorial occasion.

Looking ahead, the next club competition will be held on Sunday, 15 February, in a Greensome format. Players may choose their partners, with 3/8 of the combined handicap applied. Registration will close on Saturday, 14 February 2026.

Happy golfing!

SPORTS ARENA

SIX or STICKS



SHCA T20 District gets underway as holders Half Tree Hollow start strong

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The SHCA District T20 Tournament got underway on Sunday with Jamestown taking on Levelwood. Jamestown batted first but got off to a shaky start thanks to some impressive bowling from Levelwood, led by Player of the Match, Clayton Leo, with three wickets for 11 runs. However, thanks to Dane Wade (36) and Trystan Thomas (44) for accumulating the bulk of the score, Jamestown eventually posted a total of 119 runs. In reply, Levelwood loss wickets at regular intervals with a brave bowling performance from Town, thanks largely to Jordan Yon who walked away with three wickets for his team. In the end however, it was Stefan Leo (36) who settled the game down and pushed his team across the finish line, leaving Levelwood to take the win by three wickets.

The second match of the weekend saw holders Half Tree Hollow defeat St Pauls. HTH batted first but loss their openers early in the innings, thanks to the bowling of St Paul's Captain, Cliff Richards, who finished with a total of two wickets for 13 runs. But it was Chris Owen who produced 95 off 56 balls to help his team to a total of 173. St Pauls proceeded with the bat but the bowling was too strong from HTH causing St Pauls to lose wickets early in the innings. Dax Richards (56) and Gareth Johnson (46) kept St Pauls in the game. It was Player of the Match, Joey Thomas, who finished off St Pauls with outstanding bowling figures of three wickets for 13 runs, helping his team to the win.

The final match of the weekend saw Longwood defeat Sandy Bay by five wickets. Sandy Bay batted first, getting off to a positive start, however wickets fell in the tail end of the innings. It was Brooklyn Fowler with 38 off 15 balls that helped his team to a total of 140. An all-round bowling performance from Longwood would see Sean-lee Thomas shine with the ball producing figures of three wickets for 27 runs. Sandy Bay took to the field and got off to a great start after dismissing Longwood's opener in the first over. But this would lead to false hope when Player of the Match David Young produced an explosive of 117 of jus 43 balls, consisting of 13 sixes and six fours, powering his team over the line to end of an exciting first round of district cricket.

FIXTURES

Saturday 14th Feb
13:30 Sandy Bay v St Pauls
Upires: Andrew Yon and Joey Thomas

Sunday 15th Feb
09:30 Longwood v Jamestown
Umpires: Jordi Henry and Cliff Richards

13:30 Levelwood v HTH
Umpires: David George and Rhys Francis

