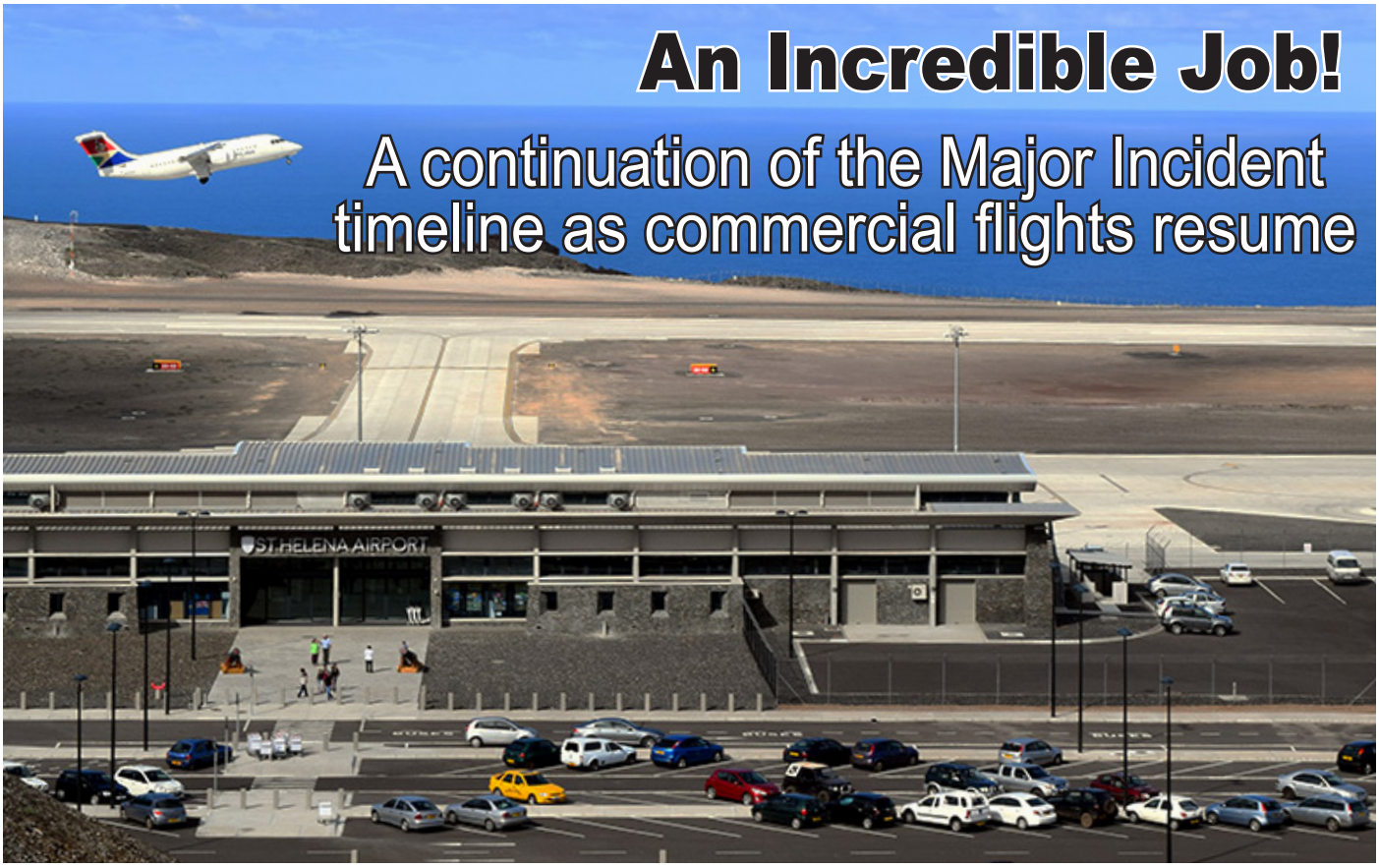
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SENTINEL

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An Incredible Job!

A continuation of the Major Incident timeline as commercial flights resume

"Issues, Responses, Planned Actions, and Timelines"

Connect St Helena publish 'Improvement Plan' in response to URA Report



Museum Toilets closed due to weekend vandalism as Police appeal



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

It's my turn for The Sentinel 'Comment' again and I'm writing this as the deadline for this week's issue lingers over my head – but I have to admit, I love the pressure that comes with having to produce a weekly paper, and of course daily news bulletins, with strict deadlines. It's stressful, but it's where I thrive (my happy place, if you will) :)

Speaking of pressure, I can only imagine the amount of stress that St Helena's Gold Command and the other officials and teams working alongside them have been under since Friday, 6 February, when a major incident was declared and commercial flights were suspended. Obviously, this news was met with anger, frustration, concern and, in a lot of cases, sarcasm towards the Government – all which you might expect. There are questions on how this was allowed to happen, and how we are going to make sure it doesn't happen in the future – but for now, let's give credit.

Friday, 6 February, a Major Incident is announced; Sunday, 8 February, St Helena receives Category 4 Certification; Thursday, 12 February, Charter Flight arrives with parts and engineers; Sunday, 15 February, Airport regains Category 6 Certification; Tuesday, 17 February, first scheduled Commercial Flight arrives after recertification, and business as usual returns. This is an incredible display of resilience, determination, hard work and collaboration by all involved.

There is the matter of an investigation into the how these issues came about, while questions around costs have also begun to arise, but for now, can we all take a moment to appreciate and commend the incredible work of all involved to efficiently and quickly get St Helena Airport recertified and commercial flights back in operation. The resilience shown was nothing short of spectacular – well done to all!

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YOUR LETTERS

The following letter was sent to The Sentinel prior to the news that St Helena Airport had regained its Category 6 Certification for the resumption of commercial flights by Airlink.

Dear Editor,

It was a shock when we heard the news concerning the closure of the Airport, with no Airlink flights coming to the island until an important part for the fire appliances would arrive and the appliances fixed. Hearing the background story from SAMS Radio 1, from the powers that be in the Castle, and the immediate steps that have been put in place, I became very restless and I wanted to learn more.

If this situation occurred somewhere overseas, the media, TV cameras and Radio Journalists would be standing outside of offices demanding questions and filming or shouting to anyone that appeared from buildings requesting information. In our case, outside the Castle it was very quiet, but inside there must have been a lot of very worried people who were discussing a way forward. The Airport incident was a serious one and because all flights to or from the island had ceased, Ministers and officials were discussing the next steps. This closure affected a large number of people, and a good radio journalist would know that people come first in any form or manner. I had to realise that I am not working for a radio station now but I was itching to make contact with someone in authority to get more on the subject. I held back, but kept an ear to the radio at all times. The story unfolded and we are into the second week with no commercial flight into the island, and all those affected have received up to date information from the various organisations dealing with accommodation, flight cancellations and transfers and know what to expect.

I commend all those involved who made the decision to get some of those needing medical attention off the island and bring a few back home. It is a forgone conclusion that when hot news breaks, everyone listens to the radio to hear if the story is true. It is the case that what you hear coming from a news broadcast on radio is taken as the truth. I felt more at ease when I heard updated news at intervals on SAMS Radio 1. This brings me to the point and the reason for writing this article. I always like to give praise where it is due.

It was a great pleasure for me to hear a well-focused and very professionally conducted interview by Liam Yon with the Chief Secretary at the Castle. Liam is SAMS News Journalist and news reader. He portrayed all of the important issues we wanted to know, up to that point in time, and guided his client to a point that he was obliged to answer Liam's questions more fully. Liam's professionalism as a radio journalist came through very clear, concise, and compelling. All the important points came across well, he was also very prompt in popping the next question. He made himself familiar with the subject and didn't deviate. As a result of this excellent radio news interview, we are now aware of what happened, the immediate steps SHG took, who are affected by the closure of the airport and how the refitment of spares are progressing. It will be very interesting to learn how much this whole exercise will cost, and who is paying. My congratulations to Liam Yon, SAMS Radio 1 News Journalist.

Tony Leo



Note from Editor: Hi Tony, many thanks for your kind words and positive feedback. At SAMS, we will always strive to keep the St Helena community, and beyond, informed on issues that matter to them as best we can, with timely and accurate information. In this case, we commend the Chief Secretary for his willingness to engage with SAMS and to provide clear information to our listeners. It is also pleasing that as of today (Tuesday), commercial flights to and from St Helena will recommence. Well done to all involved. - Liam



An Incredible Job!

A continuation of the Major Incident timeline as commercial flights resume

Liam Yon, SAMS

Thursday, 12 February - Charter flight arrives with parts and engineers

On Thursday, 12 February, an SHG chartered flight arrives to St Helena – made possible through the Airport's Category 4 Certification – carrying the necessary spare parts and specialist personnel in order to carry out essential repairs to the airport's fire tenders.

SHG, in their update that afternoon, describes this charter flight as "instrumental" in its "recovery efforts" confirming the arrival of "spare parts, tools and oil in addition to two specialist engineers to begin immediate work on the airport's fire tenders."

To this end, SHG informs that repairs are underway "with teams working additional shifts." It was however recognised that "repairs are complex and may still take a number of days," hence why SHG chooses not to publicise a potential date for the return of commercial flights. Instead, they sensibly inform that "once reassembled" they would "test the tenders to ensure they meet the necessary criteria to return us to Category 6 capability."

Additionally, SHG say they "were able to utilise spare capacity on the aircraft to repatriate six people, including returning overseas medical referrals (OMRs) and critical employees," who were "selected against clear prioritisation criteria." In turn, "the outbound flight also enabled eight people to leave the island, with OMRs and other health concerns taking most of the seats."



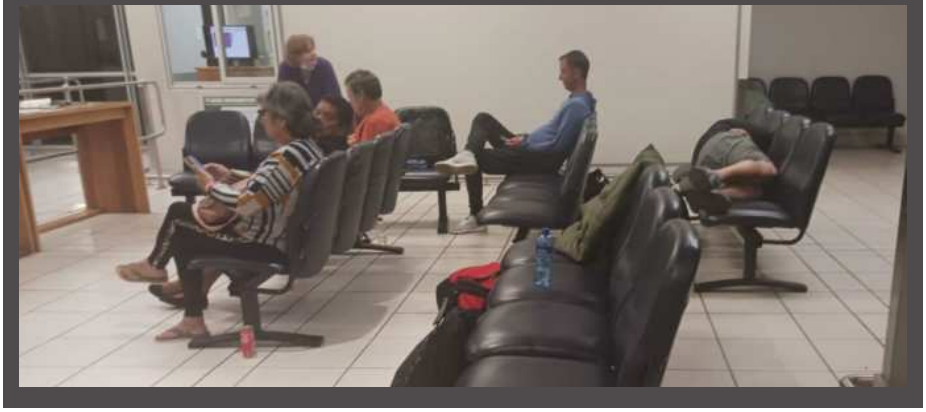
SHG concludes by turning their attention to sea access and informs of the successful docking of the MV Karoline following a period of rough seas, and lauds the arrival of the MV Azamara Journey and the landing of over 200 tourists to the Island. In terms of a potential route for repatriation, SHG confirms that "unfortunately, the ship was operating at full capacity and so was unable to offer any berths to those waiting to leave the island."

Thursday, 12 February - Overseas Medical Referrals held up overnight at Lanseria Airport

SAMS receive reports that Overseas Medical Referral patients from St Helena on the outbound leg of the SHG charter flight is held up by immigration at Lanseria International Airport overnight. This will no doubt have been a stressful situation for these passengers.

It was however reported that the pilot of the charter flight stayed with passengers from St Helena during their keep at Lanseria, which would've helped to ease anxiety.

Passengers were able to continue their onward journey the following morning.



ST HELENA NEWS

Friday, 13 February – Gold Commander, Ian Todd, speaks to SAMS' Liam Yon

For the first time since the declaration of the Major Incident and forming of St Helena's Gold Command, SHG's Head of the Public Service, Ian Todd, wearing his hat as Gold Commander, comes into the SAMS Radio 1 studio to give a well-rounded update on the situation from the start – recognising the issue and reporting it to the regulator – up to the current point, with works having got underway by the airport mechanics and Marce engineers to the airport fire tenders.

To his credit, Ian willingly takes on questions and provides clear and comprehensive answers to each. During the course of the interview, he recaps on the problems at the airport including details on the specific mechanical issues with the fire tenders, gives insights into the formation and workings of the Gold Command and other officials, confirms the start of repair works and commits to an investigation into the circumstances that led to the major incident – asserting that this would happen only after the issues had been resolved, with the priority of the Gold Command always being to get St Helena Airport recertified at Category 6.

Ian also speaks on the unfortunate incident regarding medical referrals being held up by immigration in Lanseria and gives credit to those who worked through the night to resolve the situation.

Having been questioned, he also touches on accountability within SHG, where he agrees that more can, and will, be done to ensure openness, transparency and accountability under his tenure as Head of the Public Service – even giving examples of his previous experience which he feels will place him in a good position to act on this commitment.

The interview with Ian by SAMS continues to be received well by members of the community and those following this story from abroad. To hear the interview, visit: https://open.spotify.com/episode/6y9bvfpGvgMFlXXGUVlHeO?si=MSrmOJqMQ9SNTFEf21wekQ&nd=1&dl=si=3cb6d65575b94758



Sunday, 15 February – St Helena Airport is recertified at Category 6 by ASSI

On Sunday, 15 February, the Island receives the news that it has been waiting for when SHG confirms that "full air operations can now resume" with the Airport having been recertified at Category 6. Therefore, commercial flights can now resume with "the first scheduled flights" set to commence again on 17 February.

When making the welcome announcement, SHG credits "the incredible hard work and long hours put in by the mechanics at the airport, supported by specialist engineers from Marcè" which results in St Helena Airport regaining "Category 6 accreditation for its firefighting capabilities."

"Full commissioning tests have been undertaken with tender R1, which will be supported by R3 and St Helena Fire and Rescue Service. The results have been accepted by the independent regulator, Air Safety Support International (ASSI)," updates SHG. "Repairs to R2 will continue, but do not affect accreditation. We continue to look at longer term replacement options, with the support of FCDO, to ensure better resilience."

Looking ahead at the next flights, SHG confirms that tickets will not be sold for the scheduled flights on Tuesday, 17 February, or Saturday, 21 February, with the remaining seats – after those already pre-booked to travel – set to be "used for repatriation and allocated based on length of delay."

Instead, flight bookings would reopen for Tuesday, 24 February, and beyond. SHG concludes by thanking "everyone for their patience, support and resilience through this challenging period."



Monday, 16 February – HE The Governor and Chief Minister issue press statement

On Monday, just over a week after the same pair panelled a press conference announcing the major incident, His Excellency The Governor and Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks, issues a press statement, this time celebrating the work of all in getting St Helena Airport recertified at Category 6.

Available here: https://open.spotify.com/episode/1zigfXg0n0senZ7JIHDvkX?si=SmQtZz1h-SA-kcIfbMhqToA



Tuesday, 17 February – First scheduled commercial flight operates after Airport recertification

On Tuesday, at around 1:30pm, Airlink flight 4Z131 from Johannesburg touches down successfully at St Helena Airport on her second attempt in a welcome arrival for the whole of St Helena; the first commercial flight to operate since the suspension of flights on 6 February.

With scheduled flights back in operation, attention turns to repatriation, with those having missed their flights due to cancellations needing to be accommodated.

According to information received, both the inbound and outbound journeys of Tuesday's flight, surprisingly, does not contain a full capacity of passengers. It was however noted that, among them, were travellers who had formerly been stranded both here on Island and in South Africa.

"We were able to bring back all our delayed residents who wished to travel, as well as supporting around half of the waiting tourists to leave the island on the return flight," confirms SHG. "An urgent medical patient was also conveyed, saving the need for a dedicated medevac flight. We anticipate that the backlog of tourists waiting to leave the island will be fully addressed with Saturday's Airlink flight."



While this is positive, there is one group of travellers who are yet to understand their travel arrangements now that commercial flights have returned. Passengers from Ascension and the Falklands who were scheduled to travel back on the Ascension flight on 14 February remain in the dark about when they will be able to return to both Ascension, and subsequently the Falkland Islands. Similarly, those on Ascension waiting to fly to St Helena, also remain unclear on their travel arrangements.

"We are working closely with Airlink and the Ascension Island Government (AIG) to find an early flight window to Ascension Island," updates SHG. "Due to the unique nature of St Helena's airport, only certain pilots and crew have approved flight status, which means managing their regulated flying hours can be challenging, especially at short notice."

SHG also gives a positive update on the works to airport fire tender R2. "Today's flight also delivered additional spare parts to support the repairs to fire tender R2, which we hope to have fully operational later this week to add resilience to our airport fleet," they inform. "In the meantime, we remain grateful to St Helena Fire and Rescue Service for their continued support."

The cease of daily updates, as expected, were confirmed by SHG, who will now "only communicate key messages when necessary." They do however add that "the Gold Command team will continue meeting regularly to consider the long-term recovery strategy for the island and to ensure that any necessary learning takes place to avoid repetition of this incident."

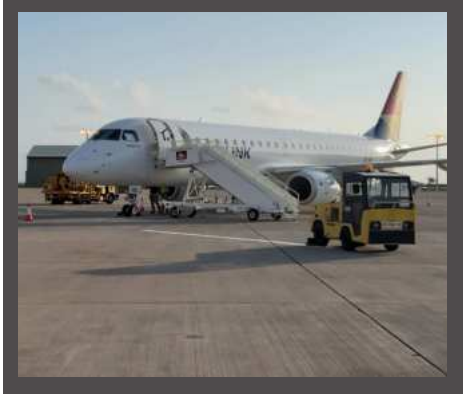
Wednesday, 18 February – Rescheduled charter flight to Ascension is confirmed for next week

After murmurs of a flight to Ascension on the cards for next week in the morning, SHG in the afternoon confirms the scheduling of an "early flight window" to repatriate Ascension and Falkland's travellers next week.

"St Helena Government is pleased to confirm that in close liaison with Airlink, an early flight window to Ascension Island has been agreed," they update. "This arrangement will support those whose travel plans were disrupted by the recent closure, including passengers awaiting onward connections to the Falkland Islands via Ascension."

This flight schedule is confirmed for Tuesday, 24 February, where she will arrive to St Helena and depart for Ascension Island on the same day. A return flight from Ascension will then arrive back to St Helena on 25 February, before departing onward to Johannesburg.

"Passengers affected by changes to the outbound flight will be contacted directly by Solomons," confirms SHG. "We remain grateful to the public for their support and resilience."



Commission Appointed

Recommendations from 2025 St Helena Governance Review Report to be reviewed by newly appointed Governance Commission, with public participation "critical" in ensuring any changes "reflect the needs" of the community


Governance Commission Chairperson, Janet Lawrence


Andrew Pearce


Cllr. Julie Thomas


Mark Brooks


Tyanne Williams

Liam Yon, SAMS

In 2024, the St Helena Government (SHG) commissioned a comprehensive independent review to evaluate the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the Ministerial form of Government – a new form of government that was introduced and adopted on St Helena for the first time back in 2021, replacing the former Committee System, following a consultative poll on governance reform.

This review was conducted by an independent team of experts including Dr Ronan Cormacain, Steven Tweedie, and Lord Robert Lisvane, with support from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD). As such, this team visited the island in December 2024 to conduct public meetings and stakeholder interviews, focusing on the structures of government and the division of responsibilities between the Governor, Executive Council, and Legislative Council.

Having completed their visit and gathered the information required, the team published their findings in an interim report in January 2025, with a final Governance Review Report being published later in June of the same year. This report, which was made public, contains 49 recommendations aimed at strengthening governance arrangements and improving outcomes for St Helena.

Now, in an update on this review and what it will mean for St Helena, SHG have announced the appointment of a Governance Commission team to review and progress the recommendations made in the 2025 report.

"Following a call for Expressions of Interest issued at the end of 2025, an independent Governance Commission has been appointed to review and assess the recommendations arising from the 2025 St Helena Governance Review Report," announced SHG last week. "The Commission comprises Janet Lawrence (Chairperson), together with Mark Brooks, Marcella Mittens, Andrew Pearce, and Councillor Julie Thomas as Members."

Detailing the role of the newly-formed Governance Commission, SHG states that they will "independently review and assess each of these recommendations, considering their feasibility, relevance, and potential impact."

They also make clear that "central to the Commission's role is leading meaningful community and stakeholder consultation, ensuring that the public has a direct and informed opportunity to contribute to shaping how governance on St Helena should evolve."

Similar to the review team that visited at the end of 2024, this Governance Commission is said to be operating independently of SHG and will "manage its own proceedings" to assess the report's recommendations and gather views on the implementation of the recommendations in the best interests of the island.

According to SHG, the Commission have already held "a series of preliminary meetings to familiarise itself with the report and to agree a structured and inclusive approach to its work," since being appointed. They have also held "initial discussions" with the Attorney General "to seek early legal and constitutional perspectives in relation to the recommendations and their respective responsibilities."

Looking ahead, SHG informed that in the weeks to come, the Commission will be meeting with HE Governor Phillips, Madam Speaker, Maureen Thompson, as well as Head of the Public Service, Ian Todd, with the aim being to better understand how the recommendations may affect their roles and the wider governance framework."

The Commission then, following this, intends to engage with the Legislative Council, described by SHG as "custodians of the Governance Review Report" to outline how they propose to conduct public consultation, give indicative timelines, and also to discuss the process for reporting back.

SHG adds that "details of public meetings, engagement sessions, and methods for submitting feedback will be shared shortly" before commenting on

the importance of public engagement.

"Public participation will be critical to ensuring that any changes to governance structures are well-informed, practical, and reflect the needs and aspirations of the St Helena community," they said. "The Commission strongly encourages individuals, organisations, and stakeholders to take part in the consultation process once it commences.

Chairperson of the Governance Commission, Janet Lawrence, spoke on the importance of the review report and also described community engagement as "vital" in going forward.

"The transition to a Ministerial form of Government in 2021 was a significant milestone for St Helena. This review process provides an important opportunity to reflect on how the system is working in practice and how it can be strengthened," she commented. "Community feedback on the recommendations will be vital to ensuring that our governance arrangements continue to serve the best interests of the island, and we look forward to engaging openly with all stakeholders."

Both the St Helena Governance Review Report and the Governance Commission Terms of Reference are available to view on the SHG website. The Governance Commission can be contacted directly at sthelena.grc@gmail.com.



Members of Review Team, Steven Tweedie and Dr Ronan Cormacain, (left of HE The Governor) at a reception with the then Legislative Council in December 2024

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

CUSTOMER REMINDER

Go paperless – Sign Up for E-Bills

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When paying your Connect bills at the Bank of St Helena (BOSH), please ensure you insert your Connect customer reference in the Detail box on the account transfer form as shown below.

Details:

For those using BOSH online banking, please enter your customer reference in the credit narrative box.

Credit Narrative

If you are unsure of your customer reference number, please contact Connect on the details above.

For further information then contact Alison Wade or Annabel Jonas on telephone 22255 or 22341 or email them at the addresses listed above.

18 February 2026

"An important step in modernising St Helena's financial services"

SHG announce update to Financial Services Regulatory environment after policy endorsement by Executive Council





Liam Yon, SAMS

Recently, St Helena Government announced the endorsement of the Financial Services Regulation Policy, 2025, which they say aims to "modernise selected parts of the Island's financial services regulatory framework" through four objectives; namely to enhance the attractiveness of St Helena as a place to do business, to strengthen consumer protection, to reinforce governance standards and to improve the effectiveness of regulatory framework.

This endorsement was made by the current Executive Council toward the end of January following approved having being given by the former Executive Council a year prior, in January 2025, when the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill, 2026, was approved to be presented as Government business to the Legislative Council, and the Financial Services (Amendment) Regulations, 2026, was approved in principle to come into force following enactment of the Bill.

According to SHG, this work and the changes made were "driven by the Sustainable Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2023-2033, as well as SHG's Vision and Strategy.

Within the SEDS, it is stated that, "SHG has identified that St Helena's financial services laws and regulations require reform and modernisation to encourage competition within the sector and support economic growth." It goes on to add that, "there are substantial gaps in current legislation" and that "SHG's objective is to enhance the financial services landscape by removing barriers to entry, while working toward compliance with international best practice and recommendations."

This leads the SEDS to note that "comprehensive reform and updates to existing financial services laws and regulations are required for St Helena to achieve its development goals."

SHG then explains how the four objectives of the Financial Services Regulation Policy are "all inter-related" as they go on to detail the effect of the changes. "In particular, success in making St Helena a commercially attractive destination for financial services businesses in turn requires a more modern regulatory framework to cope with the needs and expectations of new businesses, especially overseas owned or managed businesses which choose to establish a presence in St Helena," they said. "In addition, the regulatory architecture helps to fulfil the customers' needs of improved consumer protection measures and high-level service standards, in turn increasing the confidence and accountability within the financial service sector."

Minister for Economic Development, Karl Thrower, described the policy's endorsement as "an important step in modernising St Helena's financial services framework" adding that "it supports our Sustainable Economic Development Strategy by making St Helena a more attractive place to do business—removing unnecessary barriers, encouraging healthy competition, and strengthening governance."

Thrower concludes that "just as importantly, these reforms enhance protections for customers by improving consumer safeguards and raising service and accountability standards."

A copy of the Financial Services Regulation Policy, 2025, is available to view on the SHG Website.

Vandalism are “not victimless crimes”

Museum Public Toilet closed due to weekend vandalism as Police issue appeal

Donna Crowie, SAMS

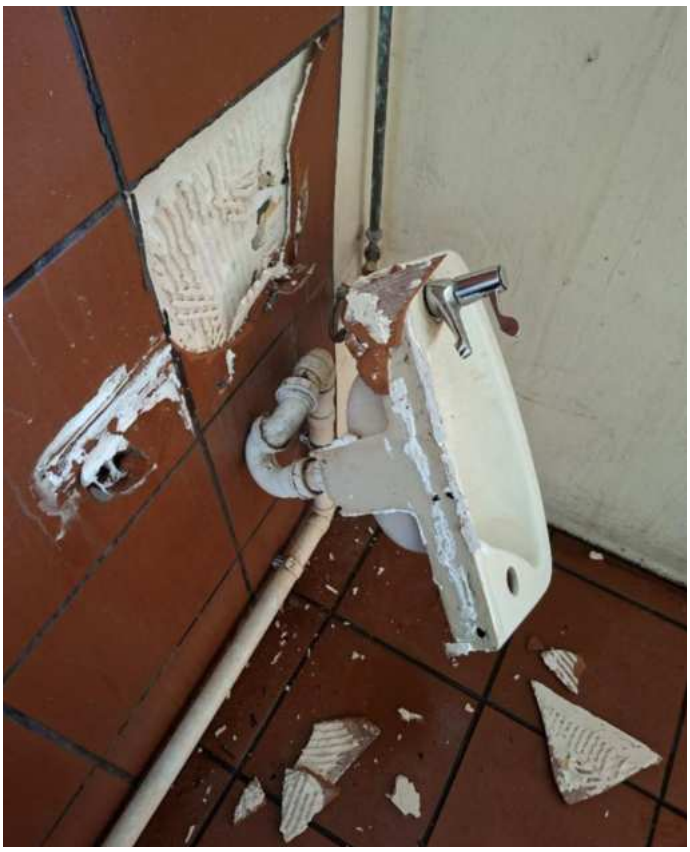
Between Friday evening, 13 February, and Saturday morning, 14 February, at around 1:20am, an act of vandalism and criminal damage took place within the public toilets opposite the Museum in Jamestown.

Damage was caused to the wash-hand basin, with the sink having been forcefully knocked away from the existing structure. Due to this damage, the toilet facilities, which are well used in lower Jamestown, has had to be closed off.

Police, having picked up on the incident, are now looking for the public’s help in identifying the person or persons responsible for the damage.

“Acts of vandalism against public property are not victimless crimes,” said Police Constable, Graham Lane. “These facilities are maintained by taxpayer funds and provide an essential service to our residents and visitors. The cost of repair is significant, and the loss of the facility impacts everyone.”

Police are urging anyone with any information at all that may aid their investigation to contact them.



“Surrendered to Custody peacefully”

Police say they will “work together” after wanted resident hands himself in

Liam Yon, SAMS

In a saga that has gone on for weeks on the island and gained high public attention, the Royal St Helena Police have issued an update where they confirm that one of the local residents wanted by Police have now handed himself in.

“The RSHPS would like to advise that Mr Rick Thomas has surrendered to custody peacefully,” Police said on Tuesday evening. “We can now begin to work together with him and others.”

With regard to the investigation into Threats to kill, Police say this will “continue in an objective, impartial and fair manner.”

Many who have followed this story, particularly on Social Media, have commended Rick for his decision to surrender to custody. There has however been no update on resident, Keegan Thomas, which suggest he remains wanted by Police.

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

TIP OF THE WEEK

Every Drop Counts!

Seen a water leak? Please report it immediately:

Connect Office: 22255

Out-of-hours contractor: 22522 or 61307

Your quick call helps us save water and protect our island’s precious resources.

"Issues, Responses, Planned Actions, and Timelines"

Connect St Helena publish 'Improvement Plan' in response to URA Report



Liam Yon, SAMS

Following the Utilities Regulatory Authority's (URA) report on Connect St Helena's performance and quality of service – where the regulator made clear their dissatisfaction with a large proportion of the services provided by Connect – the Island's utilities provider have now published their Improvement Plan where they address the URA's concerns and give planned actions and timelines in order to improve on areas deemed to be below the standard required, according to the URA.

The seven-page document outlays all of the issues identified by the URA, with explanations as to where many of the issues have arisen, along with steps towards rectification.

In terms of 'Electricity Supply Interruptions' – which the URA noted was "exceedingly high" for the reporting year, with customers having been without electricity for an average of 591 minutes, or 9 hours and 51 minutes, over the year – Connect focussed on the effect of falling trees on the network and measures being taken to address this, along with further actions including a 'Safe Gird' trial and a comprehensive review by specialists.

"St Helena operates a relatively large network for the number of customers it serves, due to the extensive geographic area that must be covered," they explained. "A significant portion of the network runs through forestry land, where nearby trees can cause interruptions by falling onto or coming into contact with power lines. This is mainly due to weather conditions, which are beyond our control."

To alleviate these issues, Connect say that they work with ENRD and landowners "to remove trees that fall outside the 1.5-metre either side of the line clearance boundary, within which Connect is permitted to carry out vegetation clearance."

In terms of actions to address the URA concerns, Connect inform of a "formal request letter" to ENRD in early-February, "to clear trees that are high-risk to the network," and to not plant new trees under overhead lines. Connect say they also plan the trial of 'Safe Grid' to provide a "comprehensive solution" in locating, predicting and preventing grid faults, with an estimated cost of £50,000. "By streamlining fault monitoring and management, this is expected to enable utility operations to shift from reactive to proactive grid management," they said.

In addition, Connect inform that "a comprehensive review of the grid protection system will be conducted by qualified specialists using appropriate test equipment," to the tune of an estimated £25,000.

In terms of indicative timelines for this work, Connect state that collaboration with ENRD and land owners regarding tree removal is "a continuous process" adding that "a joint inspection and conversation" occurred on 4 February with ENRD regarding "the clearing of trees from St Helena Secondary School to Scott's Mill," throughout March. Trial of Safe Grid, they say, is planned for 31 January next year, while the review of the grid protection system is planned to take place from 1 June to 30 September this year.

Moving on to 'Renewable Energy Generation' – which the URA described as "disappointing" with only 11% of electricity produced from renewable sources for the reporting year – Connect explained how Wind Energy Solutions (WES), the manufacturer of the turbines on the island, "went into liquidation, resulting in a lack of technical support and spare parts for the turbines," which they attribute as the reason for the "wind turbines being offline for a prolonged period."







Looking ahead, Connect say they have "secured support" from AEC Wind – a UK-based company that specialises in installation, servicing, and repair of wind turbines – along with assistance from Huygens Engineers – a Dutch engineering consultancy – in order "to bring some turbines back online." They add that "this work involves major maintenance activities that require favourable weather conditions to be carried out safely," before indicating that, at the time of writing on 28 January, conditions were suitable, "and an additional turbine is now online."

Regarding a timeline, Connect reveal that "the plan is to have four turbines online by the end of March 2026, subject to suitable weather conditions for safe working and the availability of staff and cranes." They indicate further that Wind Turbine 11 should go online on 14 March; Wind Turbine 12 on 31 March; Wind Turbine 7 on 30 August; and Wind Turbine 8 on 30 October. AEC Engineers are said to be visiting in January 2027, "or earlier if feasible," in order "to conduct inspections and implement any necessary optimisation works."

No other indication of any different renewable energy generation works, or update to current works such as the Solar Farm Project at Ladder Hill, was given by Connect, who focused solely on the wind turbines at Deadwood in their URA Report Improvement Plan.

One of the key grievances by the URA in their report related to the lack of progress by Connect to address the water quality and turbidity levels, with Connect's water quality reports described by the URA as "depressing".

According to Connect, "the current system, in particular, Chubbs Spring, does not provide for incoming water to settle." They add that planned "repairs and cleaning of all catchments" will take place by 31 March in order "to improve water quality," with this work estimated to cost £50,000.

Filter media for all treatment plants are also planned to be renewed by 31 August, again "to improve water quality" said Connect, with an estimated cost of £5,000. In addition, Connect informed of plans to install catch pits "after monitoring of the repairs to the catchments in 2026/27" in order to "improve turbidity" at a cost of £3,000, with works to this regard starting on 30 September and ending on 31 January 2027. Finally, to improve water quality, Connect plan to install chlorine boosters, starting from June 2026, at an estimated cost of £30,000, with EDIP funding said to be provided for phase one of these works in the Longwood area.

With St Helena threatened by a period of drought conditions already this year, one of the standout figures of the URA's report was the 48% water loss from the network by Connect for the reporting period, described by the URA as "far too high" and representing "a significant loss" to consumers.

According to Connect however, during the period in question, "a number of data integrity issues were identified, resulting in overstated figures" where they add that "some unbilled usage was misclassified as real losses," suggesting that the 48% figure was not a true representation of the water loss from the network during that time.

In terms of improvement, Connect say they are planning "the creation of District Metered Areas and metering points to account for water losses and aim to reduce real losses in 2026/27," while they also inform of the "implementation of in situ meter testers to verify the accuracy of meters to account for accurate usage from bulk meters." Phase one of these works were given a timeline of 30 September this year, and phase two, 31 January 2027. It was not indicated whether these dates pertained to the start or completion of these phases of work.



In addition to those detailed, Connect also, in their Improvement Plan, address concerns by the URA relating to electricity connection times, power quality targets not being met, an underinvestment in infrastructure, staff turnover, a lack of investment in the electricity sector, increasing debtors, subsidy, the Rupert's Sewerage Treatment Plant, financial security and future reporting. The full Improvement Plan is available via their website at: www.connect.co.sh/uploads/2/9/0/2/29020443/ura_report_improvement_plan.pdf



ST HELENA NEWS

What a 'Journey'!

St Helena shows its resilience as alternative arrangements ensure visitors from 2026's first cruise ship could disembark at Rupert's Bay



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Last week was a time filled with uncertainty due to the major incident where St Helena airport was downgraded to a Category 4 airport and the Karoline was unable to dock due to unsettled sea conditions. When the Azamara Journey arrived on Wednesday morning there was a lot of speculation and valid concerns that the passengers would not be able to disembark at Jamestown. St Helena however showed its resilience; deploying all resources to Rupert's Bay, expertly handling the complete cruise ship operations from start to finish from Rupert's.

The MV Azamara Journey was the first cruise ship to be welcomed to St Helena for 2026. The blue and white vessel arrived from Walvis Bay carrying around 663 passengers and 388 crew members on board, with approximately 208 passengers reportedly having pre-booked island tours. The passengers aboard the Journey were mainly British, American and Canadian but also included individuals from various other countries.

There was a very strong likelihood that without the swift, solution-driven thinking of the Port Authorities, Solomon's and the Tourism team, the ship would have continued on its way without disembarking anyone. By giving the Captain of the Azamara Journey the option to use Rupert's Bay to land passengers, the island's economy benefited with guests booking marine excursions, island tours, walking tours, food, beverage and souvenir purchases. This was especially good for St Helena with no tourists coming in via the Saturday flights at that time.

Several tour guides commented that disembarking at the Rupert's jetty worked incredibly well and that the work done by all stakeholders to prepare a contingency for bad weather proved to have been an effective alternative. Although the sea swells made it impossible for the Karoline to berth, the smaller tenders ferried the tourists from the large cruise ship and disembarked at the Rupert's Jetty without incident. The Saint community made vehicles available to act as shuttles moving guests not booked on organised tours to Jamestown where they spent their time walking the historic streets and enjoying the unique Saint hospitality.

One of the tour guides on the day, David Jeremiah, shared his experience and views of the day with The Sentinel.

"Yes, it was a good day," he recalled. "The sea conditions had been dreadful only the day before and it had rained heavily during the night. We all gathered at Jamestown Wharf half expecting for the visit to be called off, but were then told that they would try to land passengers in Rupert's. The landings were all achieved, without incident, using the ship's own boats. One regular problem at the steps is that Captains often refuse to land passengers in conditions that local boatmen can handle with ease, because their own rules require them to use their own boats."

"Round in Rupert's, sheltered by the wharf, they coped fairly easily," he continued. "The boats came alongside, secured each end with ropes, and just needed a hand to help them step off. There was also plenty of room for all the buses to line up there, whereas at the steps they can only go down two or three at a time while the rest stay further back on the Wharf. The only downside at Rupert's is that it is not as picturesque, and the visitors do not see Jamestown until the end of the tour. This requires a bit of change to the commentary; telling about Prince Rupert, how he was a Royalist General in the English civil war, and how he went to sea after defeat by the Parliamentarians. Also, the visitors can be shown the slave reburial site. After that, it is the normal tour route, starting with the Tomb. There is an unresolved problem at the Tomb."

David continued by explaining that, "after that, the most popular stops are the view over Sandy Bay (Lot, Lot's wife and Mount Pleasant) and from the top of Ladder Hill. At the end (the tour ended outside the Post Office, from where they were shuttled back to Rupert's) I took those of mine that wanted on a guided walk round the town. I think I enjoyed my group as much as they enjoyed my commentary during the tour! As you may know, I have a great interest in island history, and I find sharing the knowledge I have acquired over the years very rewarding."

After spending a day on St Helena taking in the sights and experiencing the island, the ship departed for Banju in Gambia. The positivity created by the cruise ship visit was much needed by all after the adversities experienced on-Island during last two weeks. This successful visit by the Azamara Journey also illustrates just what the island can achieve if all work together to find creative solutions.

"The System has proven unreliable"

Emergency Planning officially suspends Public Warning System after years of "persistent complications"



Public Warning System that was located in Jamestown

Liam Yon, SAMS

Nearly three years on since their initial installation in May 2023, St Helena's Public Warning System - originally purchased in 2021 with the intent to provide an audible emergency alert for the residents of Jamestown and Rupert's – is set to be "officially suspended" as announced by the Emergency Planning Department last week.

This decision will come as no surprise to those who have followed updates on this warning system since its initial setup; the equipment experiencing many problems from the get-go, despite extensive efforts by Emergency Planning to rectify issues and get the system running as intended

"Due to persistent complications between the system's communication technology and the island's unique topography, the system has proven unreliable," said Emergency Planning, before adding that the decision to officially suspend the Klaxon, as they had named it, came after much work and effort to try and get it working. "Despite conducting a range of fault-finding investigations, repair efforts, and exploring various technical upgrades, it has become clear that the system cannot be restored to a reliable operational standard," they detailed.

While Emergency Planning will no doubt be disappointed that their efforts were in vain over the last few years in relation to the unsuccessful Public Warning System project, they remain adamant that the safety of the community remains their "highest priority" and therefore that they "will continue to warn and inform the public using established methods that have been successfully relied upon for many years." These include, as listed by SHG, door-to-door notifications, loudhailer announcements in affected areas, and urgent broadcasts via local radio and digital media services.

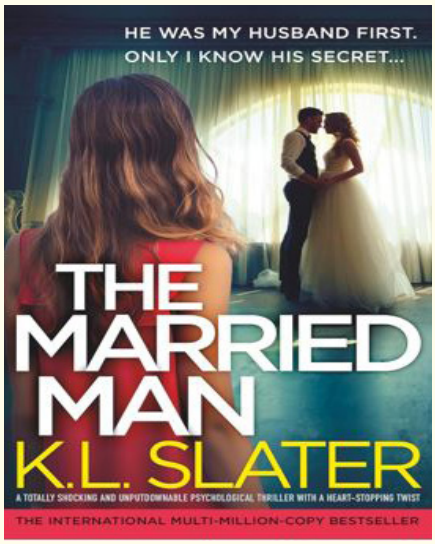
The Emergency Planning Department concluded with a 'Commitment to the Community'. "The Emergency Planning Department is committed to ensuring that any system in place is effective and dependable," they commented. "Whilst no system is without limitations, we believe it is important to be transparent with the community when a specific technology does not meet the rigorous standards required for public safety. We will continue to rely on our tried-and-tested manual notification procedures while exploring future sustainable options for the island."



Public Warning System that was located in Rupert's Valley

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Married Man by K.L. Slater

He was my husband first. Only I know his secret.

Eleven years ago, my husband had to disappear. He told me about the terrible thing he had done, that would put me and our son in danger. We had no choice but to pretend he was dead.

My heart broke for our little son, who missed his father every day. But when you are married you do what you must to protect the people you love.

Every day was a struggle, but I've survived because he promised that he would return to us one day. That we would move to a new town and start all over again. But now, I have made a shocking discovery. My husband has a new wife, and a new perfect life. Without us. This was never part of our plan.

After everything I did for him, he's betrayed me. And now, I have to stop him before it's too late. Because what he's done hasn't just put me in danger, but also our son. I'll do anything to protect him.

I don't know why my husband has thrown away everything we've worked for. But his secret is no longer safe with me. And he has absolutely no idea just how far I'll go to get my revenge.

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

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 20
- 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 21
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue
- 12noon-1pm: 80's hour
- 1pm-3pm: Northward Sounds
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Feb 22
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita & Deon
- 12noon:Minister Question Time (repeat)
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Anglican Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Feb 23
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 1pm-3pm: Indie Waves with Sue
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm: In the Know with Ministers

TUE. Feb 24
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: The Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Feb 25
- 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 Anita

THU. Feb 26
- 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***

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week



80s RETRO

We have something special for our 80's fans!

On Saturdays, an hour of non-stop great 80's tunes will be playing on SAMS Radio 1 to keep you singing along and tapping your feet to one of the greatest decades of music there ever was!

From 12 to 1pm you can jame to the 80's to get you ready and in the mood for all the afternoon shows, only on SAMS Radio 1.

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Medium'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



19th February 1745:

Four acres in Sandy Bay leased to one Francis Wrangham (now the site of Wranghams).

(sainthelenaisland.info)

First Choice is a well-known brand on St Helena. They continue to offer up some mouthwatering recipes. Here's one for you to try!

Plaited Chicken and Cheese Pie



Ingredients

- 80g First Choice Butter
- 250g mushrooms, sliced
- 1 onion, chopped and cooked
- 800g chicken breasts, cooked, deboned and cubed
- Salt and black pepper
- 25g cake flour
- 150ml First Choice milk
- 100ml chicken stock
- 150g First Choice mature cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 roll (400g) puff pastry
- 1 egg, whisked with 30ml First Choice Milk (egg wash)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C. Grease a large baking sheet.
2. Heat the butter in a saucepan and fry the mushrooms until cooked and golden brown. Season.
3. Add the cooked onion, chicken, flour and stir well.
4. Add the milk, chicken stock and stir it well into the chicken mixture.
5. Allow the mixture to simmer on low heat for a few minutes, stir regularly.
6. Remove from the heat, stir in the cheese and set aside to cool completely.
7. Roll out the puff pastry into a 25 x 35cm rectangle. Divide in three lengthways. Only mark, do not cut.
8. Spoon the filling onto the centre third. Cut the pastry on either side of the filling into 2cm wide strips, right up to the filling.
9. Brush the strips with the egg wash. Fold strips alternately over the filling to obtain a pretty plaited effect.
10. Place the plaited chicken pie on the prepared baking sheet and brush with more egg wash.
11. Bake for about 30 minutes until golden brown.

The Island Pulse

Informing the Public on St Helena's Demographic and Policy Challenges



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

The latest edition of The Island Pulse, broadcast on SAMS Radio 1, delivered a comprehensive and measured discussion on one of St Helena's most pressing long-term issues: the island's ageing demographic and its wide-ranging social and economic implications.

Presented by Councillor Julie Thomas in her role as Communications Champion, the programme reaffirmed its purpose as a platform for engagement between elected members and the public. Designed to complement formal Legislative Council proceedings, The Island Pulse provides residents with accessible insight into policy development, constituency issues, and the work of Select Committees.

This week's primary focus was the **Aging Demographic Situational Analysis Working Paper**, recently prepared as part of the briefing materials for the Financial Aid Mission (FAM). Joining the panel was Ann Muir, Head of Strategic Policy, alongside Councillors Clint Beard, Dr Corinda Essex, Derek Thomas, Ronald Coleman, and Robert Midwinter.

Select Committee Update

The programme opened with Councillor Robert Midwinter, Chair of Select Committee 1, explaining the postponement of a scheduled live hearing. The decision was taken due to uncertainty surrounding the return of Minister Martin Henry to the island, with the Chair emphasising the importance of in-person participation for meaningful scrutiny and alignment on progress against previous recommendations. A revised date will be communicated once confirmed.

Understanding the Situational Analysis

Ann Muir clarified that a situational analysis is not a decision-making document but an evidence-based assessment of current conditions. Its purpose is to assemble demographic, economic and social data to inform Ministers when considering future policy options.

The headline issue is clear: **St Helena's population is ageing**, with more **deaths than births and a shrinking cohort of women of childbearing age**. This is not a new trend, but the working paper consolidates existing data to provide a clearer strategic picture.

A particularly significant statistic discussed on air was that over **50% of residents aged 65 and over remain in employment**. Many of these individuals work in the care sector, where approximately **half of care workers are themselves over 65**. While this "silver economy" reflects strong community contribution, it also signals a looming workforce gap as this cohort ages further.

By 2036, projections suggest the island could require up to **90 residential care beds** - effectively doubling current provision. Given fiscal constraints and reliance on UK development assistance, this represents a substantial long-term funding challenge.

Labour Market and Migration Pressures

The panel examined outward migration and labour shortages as critical structural drivers. Councillors highlighted the need to increase the working-age population, both to sustain public services and to support economic growth.

Dr Corinda Essex stressed that international recruitment strategies must actively include Saints living overseas. Returning residents, she argued, often bring skills, cultural familiarity, and greater long-term retention potential than expatriate hires. Encouraging repatriation may therefore provide better value and sustainability for public service delivery.

The erosion of traditional informal support networks was also discussed. Historically, neighbours and extended families provided unpaid care within the community. With higher employment rates and changing expectations around care standards, reliance on formal social services has grown, increasing financial pressure on government.

Income Expectations and Social Support

The discussion moved to tax, social security and family support. Rising public expectations around living standards were noted, alongside data suggesting that **41% of families could fall below a low-income threshold if measured at 60% of median income**.

The concept of a minimum income standard was referenced, with estimates indicating that individuals require **disposable income equivalent to approximately £5 per hour after housing and tax** to meet expected living standards. Balancing these expectations against constrained revenue remains a persistent policy dilemma.

Councillor Essex reported that constituents in Jamestown advocated for an immediate increase in the minimum wage to £5 per hour, citing affordability concerns in the current economic climate.

Housing and Land Use

Affordable housing was identified as a multifaceted issue. While government landlord stock is oversubscribed - particularly for lower-income households - the analysis also highlights the need for more "mid-

dle-tier" housing for those who earn above eligibility thresholds yet cannot afford private rents.

Notably, the island currently has over 800 empty properties, approximately 277 of which are considered habitable. This raises strategic questions about whether policy should prioritise new land allocation for housing or incentivise the use and refurbishment of existing stock.

Councillors also discussed independent living arrangements for young adults and potential shared or co-living models, reflecting changing demographics and financial realities.

Health and Social Care

Health and social care pressures were a central theme. Increased demand for residential care, greater prevalence of diabetes and obesity among working-age adults, and budgetary strain all featured prominently.

The panel highlighted the importance of defining a clear "core offer" of healthcare services to ensure transparency about what can realistically be delivered within existing resources. The island's health legislation currently operates under an ordinance dating back to 1939, underscoring the need for modernisation aligned with contemporary service models.

Preventative health measures were emphasised as essential to extending workforce participation and mitigating long-term dependency pressures.

Education and Skills Development

Demographic decline is equally visible in education. **School enrolment has halved over two decades**, with projections suggesting that by 2033, Key Stage 1 enrolment could fall to approximately 45 pupils in total. Reception classes may see as few as 10 - 12 pupils annually.

These trends have significant financial and social implications. Fixed staffing and curriculum requirements remain, even as pupil numbers shrink. The programme also explored the need to align education and training pathways with labour market demand, particularly in skilled trades. With many experienced tradespeople approaching retirement, apprenticeship models and structured mentoring schemes were identified as urgent priorities.

Economic Context

The broader economic environment was described as a "bind": rising expectations, constrained revenue, and continued reliance on UK aid. While calls for increased support from the UK government persist, the panel acknowledged the fiscal pressures facing the UK itself.

Ann Muir noted that controlling cost of living through subsidies is rarely sustainable; increasing disposable income through wage policy and economic growth is more viable long term.

A striking statistic shared during the broadcast was that St Helena has the second highest age dependency ratio in the world, after Japan. This underscores the structural nature of the demographic challenge and the urgency of strategic planning.

Constituency Engagement

The programme concluded with reports from recent constituency meetings in Blue Hill and Jamestown. Attendance was modest but engaging, with residents raising issues including renewable energy strategy, water security, infrastructure maintenance, traffic management, minimum wage policy, and communication around airport disruptions.

There was strong appreciation for ministerial question time and Legislative Council rebroadcasts, alongside requests for improved advance notice of broadcasts.

The discussions reflected a consistent theme: constituents' value honest communication, transparency, and realistic expectations about what can and cannot be delivered.

Conclusion

This edition of *The Island Pulse* exemplified the programme's purpose: to bridge formal governance processes and community understanding. By presenting data-driven analysis in accessible language and encouraging open dialogue, the broadcast reinforced the importance of informed public participation in shaping St Helena's future.

As the Aging Demographic Situational Analysis progresses from evidence gathering to policy formulation, continued engagement - both on air and within districts - will remain critical.





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 "Brown" 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 21 @ 6 pm.

Prize - £20 per week.

Last week's winner was Mrs Diana Roberts.

79	87	18	84	35	46	12	6	71	10
44	86	78	37	80	23	4	19	85	28
60	32	41	65	34	17	90	8	54	21
39	47	66	82	31	15	61	40	11	5
33	16	74	30	58	50	20	45	3	88
62	22	49	77	59	9	48	25	81	13
51	76	27	68	2	64	42	53	14	36

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services (22 February)
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 24 February - Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 25 February -
Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 26 February - Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Adventure Kids – Age 4 – 11 yrs old
Saturday, 21 February - Baptist School Hall, 10-11.30am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 4 March - 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: 21/02/26

TIME: 10h00-11h30

Refreshments will be served.

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 22nd February 2026 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral
	Wednesday 25th February	
7.00 p.m.	Lent Course	St Andrew
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 22nd February 2026 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 26th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 22nd February 2026 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 24th February	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**St Mark**



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 21st February 2026 at 8:30am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 22nd February 2026
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 24th February 2025
Jamestown, (Contact: Bramwell 62117)
Wednesday 25th February 2026
Half Tree Hollow, (Contact: Mercy 61707)
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 7.00pm
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

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

NOTICE BOARD

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

Richard James International



Please note that from the beginning of 2026, RJI are now X-ray scanning all personal effects consignments to ensure that there are no undeclared hazardous goods, used lithium batteries and other prohibited goods.

We have seen a rising number of personal effects goods arriving with us with undeclared hazardous products such as used mobile phones and other used lithium batteries, lighters, aerosols and flammable perfumes etc. This is extremely dangerous and has meant that we have had to invest heavily in equipment to detect these items before loading.

Shipping and Airlines are extremely strict on the transport of hazardous materials and the freight forwarder can be fined tens of thousands of pounds and have containers removed for sending undeclared hazardous. Some shipping lines are now refusing to ship used lithium batteries due to the risks involved.

The scanning and removal of undeclared hazardous items from consignments adds significant additional time to our processing system and we will be charging for this time. We may also refuse to ship a consignment if a large volume of undeclared hazardous goods is found.

With this in mind, we would like to advise our local customers to please adhere to the above and to inform family members and others who send goods from the UK to process the declaration form correctly and declare all hazardous cargo or, in other words, to not pack hazardous cargo with other personal cargo, have it packed separately which will make it a lot easier to declare and to have it shipped.

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY ADVERT

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit person for the following post: **CNS Specialist.**.

We are seeking an individual that can ensure the effective operation, maintenance, and continuous improvement of communication, navigation, and surveillance (CNS) systems at St Helena Airport.

Applicants must be in possession of the following:

- ✈ 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics (NVQ2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- ✈ Specialised trade or craft qualification in Air Traffic Management Systems, Electronics or a related field (NVQ-4) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- ✈ At least 5 years post qualification experience within the CNS field.
- ✈ Knowledge and experience of AGL (Airfield Ground Lighting Systems)
- ✈ Strong interpersonal skills to form effective working relationships with people at all levels

Applicants must be of a professional manner and also be able to provide the following:

- ✈ A full medical assessment
- ✈ A 5-year verifiable employment history check and be able to show proof for periods of unemployment in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.
- ✈ Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- ✈ A Criminal Background Check.

Other essential requirements are listed in the Job Description.

The salary for this post is between **£36,087.61 and £43,775.43** per annum, depending on qualifications and experience plus a 12.5% company pension contribution.

For more information and if you want to receive an application form please contact Elaine Hopkins, HR Officer on email address recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 Ext 0.

The closing date for this position is **6 March 2026**.

St Helena Government

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2026/07:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Replacement Garage,** Nr CCC, Ladder Hill, on Parcel HTH0411 & HTH0581, **Applicant:** Kelly Jonas.

2. **Application 2026/08:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Conservatory & Change in Roof Profile** Nr St. Mary's Church**,** Half Tree Hollow on Parcel FP0001 **Applicant:** Evelyn Yon.

3. **Application 2026/09:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Ping Pong Game Centre,** Levelwood on Parcel SH0483**. Applicant:** Walter Barshai.

4. **Application 2026/10:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Four Bedroom Dwelling,** Bottomwoods CDA**,** on Parcel LWN0512. **Applicant:** Phanual Shangwa.

5. **Application 2026/11:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Half Tree Hollow Wastewater Treatment Works,The Guns, Ladder Hill** on Parcel HTH1213**. Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

6. **Application 2026/12:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Replacement Information Sign at Butchers Grave, Plantation Forest** on Parcel SCOT0648**, Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

7. **Application 2026/13:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of a New Information Sign at Castle Gardenson Parcel** JT040007**, Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

8. **Application 2026/14:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of a New Information Sign at Dolphin Stone Garden, on Parcel** JT030012, **Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

9. **Application 2026/15:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Replacement Information Sign at Halley's Mounton Parcel** DPRR0204, **Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

10. **Application 2026/16:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of a New Information Sign at Maskelyne Observatory on Parcel** AF0077**, Applicant:** St. Helena Government**.**

11. **Application 2026/17:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Replacement Information Sign for Plantation House on Parcel** SCOT0136**, Applicant: St. Helena Government.**

12. **Application 2026/18:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Replacement Information Sign at Sandy Bay Beachon Parcel** SBW0132**, Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

13. **Application 2026/19:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of a New Information Sign at St Pauls Cathedralon Parcel** SCOT0514**, Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

14. **Application 2026/20:** FULL Planning Application **Proposed Change of Use of Land from Forestry to Use Class B2 - General Industrial Use and Siting of Two Containers for Use as Workshop and Storage on** Parcel SCOT0137**, Applicant:** Phil Constantine, C/o Theo Meij

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 08.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

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

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 5 March 2026

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

NOTICE BOARD

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT
TWO BOATS SCHOOL

VACANCY NOTICE
Deputy Head Teacher

Total package value up to £48,118 per annum
Comprising salary of up to £30,940 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role
Two Boats School is a unique, friendly primary and secondary school located on the beautiful island of Ascension in the South Atlantic. With around 65 students aged 3–16, our small and nurturing environment enables every child to be known, valued and supported to achieve their best. We are now seeking a dedicated and forward-thinking Deputy Head Teacher to lead our Primary sector and contribute to the strategic development of the whole school. This is an exceptional opportunity to work in a close-knit, community-centred setting, where you will have a meaningful and lasting impact on teaching, learning and student outcomes across the Primary phase.

What you'll do
As Deputy Head Teacher, you will lead the Primary phase and support the Head Teacher with the day-to-day running of the school. This is a teaching role (with a reduced timetable), so you will have recent and relevant Primary teaching experience and strong knowledge of the UK National Curriculum. You will champion high-quality teaching and learning, model excellent practice through a reduced teaching timetable, and oversee curriculum planning, assessment and pupil progress. You will also act as the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the whole school and take a key role in pastoral care and behaviour. In the Head Teacher's absence, you will step up to lead the school.

What you'll bring
You will be an experienced and motivated Primary teacher with QTS and strong knowledge of the UK curriculum. You'll have proven leadership experience, excellent communication skills and the ability to drive high standards in teaching and learning. A commitment to safeguarding, inclusion and supporting the wellbeing of all students is essential. You'll be resilient, adaptable and ready to play a key role in a small, close-knit island community.

What's it like to live and work on Ascension?
Ascension is a small volcanic island, situated in the South Atlantic, with a warm stable climate (26-34°C). We are part of the wider UK Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, situated approximately 1,000 miles from the mainland of Africa and 800 miles from our nearest neighbour, the island of St Helena. To thrive here in this high-profile role, you must be resilient, adaptable and able to live and work in a remote environment and small community.

What we offer
In addition to an annual salary of up to £30,940 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract and the following benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,680 pa accompanied, or Single status £3,840 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £3,296 pa
- A water allowance worth £3,202 pa accompanied, or £1,921 single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays)
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- Free primary dental and medical care and off island, with medical referral if required including medivac arrangements in an emergency.
- Free schooling for dependent children from 4 to 16 years.
- Free annual travel insurance
- Death in Service insurance

NOTICE BOARD

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check and Qualified Teacher Status checks
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependents)

Closing date: **Wednesday 11 March 2026**
Interviews: **Week Commencing 16 March 2026 (via video call if off island)**
Start date: **September 2026 (Travel to Ascension Island would take place during the last week of August 2026)**

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

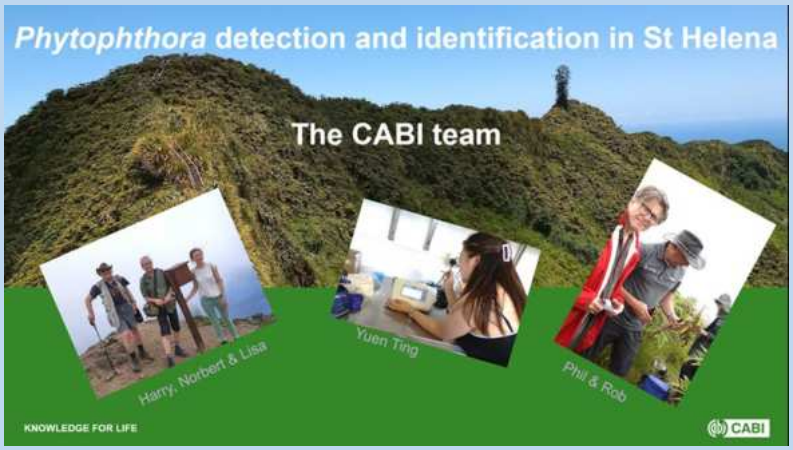
If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

'Restoring a globally significant Cloud Forest'

News from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Welcome to another 'news bite' from the St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Today, we'd like you to meet one of our key international partners—CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International)



CABI is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. For St Helena, CABI continues to carry out critical work in researching plant pathogens for our FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project!

Building on work under the Darwin Plus project DPLUS157, they are conducting important research into plant pathogens and their impacts on our endemic trees in the Peaks National Park!

This work is critical for the survival of our rare endemic plant species and the future of St Helena's Peaks National Park.
We thank CABI for their continued expert support! More on CABI: www.cabi.org

Look out for another update soon on CABI's recent visit to the Island!

Be sure to follow the St Helena Peaks National Park on Facebook, and @StHelenaPNP on X, to stay up to date with all the latest news and information on the FCDO-funded St Helena Cloud Forest Project

Scan the QR Codes below for quick access to:
Website **Facebook** **Twitter/X**

NOTICE BOARD

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT
TWO BOATS SCHOOL

VACANCY NOTICE
Secondary Teacher (Science)

Total package value up to £41,018 per annum
Comprising salary of up to £23,840 plus food and utilities allowances, housing and other benefits – details below.

About the role
Two Boats School is a unique, friendly primary and secondary school located on the beautiful island of Ascension in the South Atlantic. With around 65 students aged 3–16, our small and nurturing environment enables every child to be known, valued and supported to achieve their best.

What you'll do
We are seeking to appoint a Secondary Teacher of Science to join our small and supportive school community on Ascension Island. The post will commence at the start of the September 2026 academic year. The role will primarily involve teaching Key Stage 3 Science and GCSE Science/Marine Science lessons. Due to the size of the school, teachers are expected to be flexible and contribute to the wider curriculum, and the ability and willingness to teach Music, French and/or Food technology would be an advantage.

What you'll bring
You will hold Qualified Teacher Status (or an equivalent recognised teaching qualification) and have experience teaching Science at secondary level. You will be adaptable, organised and committed to safeguarding, with a positive approach to working in a small-school and island community setting.

What's it like to live and work on Ascension?
Ascension is a small volcanic island, situated in the South Atlantic, with a warm stable climate (26-34°C). We are part of the wider UK Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, situated approximately 1,000 miles from the mainland of Africa and 800 miles from our nearest neighbour, the island of St Helena. To thrive here in this high-profile role, you must be resilient, adaptable and able to live and work in a remote environment and small community.

What we offer
In addition to an annual salary of up to £23,840 (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts an accompanied status contract and the following benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £3,000 pa (taxable benefit)
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,680 pa accompanied, or Single status £3,840 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth £3,296 pa
- A water allowance worth £3,202 pa accompanied, or £1,921 single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays)
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- Free primary dental and medical care and off island, with medical referral if required including medivac arrangements in an emergency.
- Free schooling for dependent children from 4 to 16 years.
- Free annual travel insurance
- Death in Service insurance

The appointment will be subject to:
- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check and Qualified Teacher Status checks
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance (employee and any accompanying dependents)

NOTICE BOARD

Closing date: **Wednesday 11 March 2026**
Interviews: **Week Commencing 16 March 2026 (via video call if off island)**
Start date: **September 2026 (Travel to Ascension Island would take place during the last week of August 2026)**

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

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

House for Sale



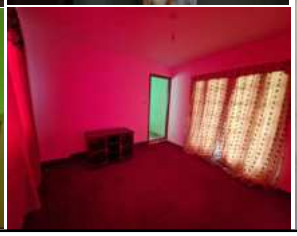


Two Bedroom House.
Secluded area.
Potential for extensions, animal rearing, and gardening.
Location St Paul's, Knollcombes, Nr Bishops Bridge.
Parcel FP0240. Just over two acres (2.11 acres).
Price £120,000.
For further details contact Peter Young via +290 23709 or oursins@helanta.co.sh













NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Due Diligence Assistant

Salary for the post will be £1,041 per month

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Insurance Agency for a Due Diligence Assistant on a three month fixed-term contract.

As the Due Diligence Assistant, you will assist with collecting customer identification documents, and perform customer screening and risk assessments in accordance with established Anti Money Laundering processes.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess grade C or above in English & Maths (or equivalent)
- Be proficient in the use of IT and competent in the use of Access Dimensions
- Have strong customer service skills with a friendly, professional approach
- Demonstrate excellent organisational, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Be analytical with strong attention to detail
- Be able to work both independently as well as part of a team and use own initiative
- Be target driven with the capability to achieve deadlines
- Be flexible to work outside of normal work hours as and when required

For further information contact:

Tracey Thomas, Insurance Manager via 22860 traceyt@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **26 February 2026.**



St Helena Golf Club Report

SHGC, Contributed

Twenty four golfers had signed up for what was expected to be a highly competitive Greensome competition with 3/8 of the combined handicap applied. With such a strong turnout, anticipation was high for an exciting afternoon of golf.

Unfortunately, persistent showers and fog swept across the course, making conditions unsafe and unplayable. As a result, the competition was cancelled for the day.

Despite this setback, the clubhouse remained lively. A group of members stayed behind and enjoyed a relaxed and entertaining afternoon of social euchre, while others opted to head home to the comfort of a warm and dry Sunday indoors.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Medal – Sunday, 22 February 2025

The Club will host the Monthly Medal competition next Sunday. Members are encouraged to sign up early and support one of the staple events on the golfing calendar.

Annual General Meeting – Sunday, 1 March 2026

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Sunday, 1 March 2026, at the Clubhouse. The AGM will be preceded by a Texas Scramble shotgun start competition, providing a fun and social start to the day.

All documents relating to the AGM will be:

- emailed to members on the mailing list, and
- posted on the Club notice board for easy access.

During the AGM, the Club will also be electing new committee members. We encourage as many volunteers as possible to step forward. You do not need to be a playing member to serve on the committee. You can sign up as a non playing member and put your name forward for election enabling you to make valuable contributions to the Club and the wider community.

Stay Connected

For updates on fixtures, results, and club activities:

- Follow us on Facebook
- Visit our website: www.sthelena-golf.com

WSA Volleyball League









SPORTS ARENA

"Bowl first I reckon"



Gareth Johnson produces seven-wicket haul in latest SHCA District matches

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The SHCA District Tournament continued over the weekend at Francis Plain.

The first game of the weekend, however, saw the postponed 35-over League match between Jamestown Heat and Sandy Pirates play out on Saturday. Pirates elected to bat first and found themselves losing wickets regularly due to a brave bowling performance from Heat, with young Hugo Richards standing out with his two wickets for 12 runs. Player of the Match, Rhys Francis, would however produce a commendable 55, accompanied by a quickfire 43 from Brooklyn Fowler which helped Pirates to a total of 202, all out.

69 runs from Dax Richards in the reply would give Heat a good start to the batting innings, with youngsters Zach Francis and Lebron George weighing in with 22 runs each to help the total. However, an outstanding bowling performance from Sandy Bay Pirates would limit runs and restrict Heat to a total of 172, with Pirates taking the win by 33 runs.

On Sunday, the T20 Districts continued with St Pauls defeating Sandy Bay in the first match of the day. Sandy Bay elected to bat first but the innings belonged to Player of the Match, Gareth Johnson, who took an incredible seven wickets to help skittle Sandy Bay's batting order, all out for just 28. A 23 from St Pauls Captain, Cliff Richards, would see the chase done and dusted by the sixth over, giving St Pauls the win by nine wickets.

The second match on Sunday was another low scoring game when Jamestown got bowled out for 96, led by Player of the Match, Ashton Benjamin, who produced figures of four wickets for 14 runs. Although having lost wickets in their batting innings, Longwood were able to chase the total by the 14th over, walking away as winners by seven wickets.

The final match of the weekend was the highly anticipated clash of Levelwood and holders Half Tree Hollow. Levelwood batted first but fell victim to an impressive all-round bowling performance from Half tree Hollow. A solid 44 runs from Weston Clingham would help Levelwood to a total of 123 in the innings. During the reply, an explosive innings from Player of the Match, Andrew Yon, with 44, and an equally impressive 56 from Chris Owen, would see Half Tree Hollow reach the total required in the 12th over, to take the win by nine wickets.

This latest round of fixtures puts Half Tree Hollow firmly in the driving seat to retain their title this year, though there may be more surprises to come as the T20 District continues over the coming weeks.

FIXTURES

Saturday 21st Feb
08:30 Cobras v Western A Mustangs
(35 over league postponed match)
Umpires:Jordi Henry and Cliff Richards

13:30 Longwood v Levelwood
Umpires: Dax Richards and Damien O'Bey

Sunday 22nd Feb
09:30 HTH v Sandy Bay
Umpires: Damian Burns and Stefan Leo

13:30 St Pauls v Jamestown
Umpires: Dane Leo and Clayton Leo

