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SENTINEL

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"Dare to Dream"

St Helena Secondary School hosts Annual Certificate and Awards Ceremony



Andre Thomas sentenced to 34mths by St Helena Supreme Court for offences on St Helena and Ascension

Come On Dina - You Got This!





OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

There are many different ways of thinking. To some people, there is no such thing, but there is, and I, for one, don't think that it's a bad thing. There's probably so many tests and examinations that can explain why you think differently these days, but it wasn't always the case. People had to try to mold themselves around the so-called smartest person, or often the loudest in my opinion. Having the right paths to allow people to use their different way of thinking, I believe, is so important.

To recognise it may be hard, and to accept it may be harder, but it was always, and sometimes continues to be, "do it this way" – well, what if you can't? Then you're setting people up to fail. Remember, some of the greatest minds that this world has seen had diagnosis of ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia and so on. Wouldn't they have found it hard if they were only allowed to keep inside the lines, as they say?

Elon Musk publicly disclosed that he is on the Autism spectrum, specifically mentioning he has Asperger's Syndrome. He has acknowledged that his neurodiversity contributes to his direct, sometimes blunt, communication style, and intense, obsessive focus on engineering and technology. Besides being on the spectrum, I do believe that thinking differently can be an advantage when used in the right way.

Some of the world's greatest inventions came from thinking outside the box. Can you imagine the first person to introduce an aglet (the small plastic or metal sheath on the end of a shoelace)? That probably wasn't a priority in society at the time, but just thinking outside of the box probably changed the world. So, you see my point?

So, for those who feel different, for those who think differently to others, embrace it! Who knows, your way of thinking may change the world someday.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor

Actions and Timelines

With reference to the article printed in The Sentinel dated 19th Feb 2026, I wish to comment and question the article printed.

The update to date that concerns me was the 2019/20 figures of 50% losses; at that time the URA agreed with Connect that this should be 35% within 5-7 years.

The recent report confirms the loss of 48% water from the network in 2024/25.

With a demand of 411m3 per day X 48% losses = 197m3 loss per day. At a cost of £7/m3, this equates to a loss of £1,379 per day. One cubic metre (1m3) equals 220 gallons, therefore 197m3 per day X £7.00 per cubic metre equals £1,379.

My question to the URA is, can we afford these losses? Why should we have to pay for all this water seeping into the ground for the past five years?

Cyril Robert George



Thanks Governor

SHG cautious, but Governor clear in confirming that two new Fire Tenders have been secured for St Helena Airport

Governor Phillips at the SHSS Awards Ceremony

— **Liam Yon**, SAMS

His Excellency Governor Nigel Phillips may have jumped the gun recently, when he publicly announced that St Helena Government had secured two new fire tenders for St Helena Airport, with the communications hub taking a more cautious approach to the announcement.

As one of the outcomes of the recent Major Incident at the airport, it was stated by SHG that they would be exploring the option of procuring new fire tenders for St Helena Airport, with the potential assistance of the FCDO, in order to ensure better resilience and to avoid a repetition of recent issues.

Quite unexpectantly, though welcomed by those in attendance, HE The Governor informed at the recent SHSS Awards Ceremony that SHG have now secured new fire tenders. Having arrived late to the ceremony, the Governor apologised to the audience before explaining that he was late for good reason, having just attended an important meeting, the outcome of which was the confirmation that SHG have now secured two new fire tenders for St Helena Airport.

With this news reaching The Sentinel, we sent off to the SHG Comms Hub for more details, however they did not outright confirm the Governor's surprise announcement, instead providing the following statement: "At this stage, no further information can be provided regarding the procurement of the fire tenders, as the contract is still being finalised. Further updates will be shared as they become available."

Nevertheless, it would seem that progress has been made in the procurement of fire tenders for the airport. This is good news as SHG continues to implement measures to ensure the closing of the airport to commercial flights, due to a lack of fire safety capacity, does not repeat in future.



Fortunately Unfortunate

Delayed Medivac Flight allows for second patient



Liam Yon, SAMS

On Monday, after an incident last weekend, a Guardian Air aircraft made an early journey to St Helena for an emergency medical evacuation to South Africa. It has been suggested that the earlier scheduled travel on this occasion was in an attempt to beat what was forecasted as bad weather at St Helena Airport later in the day.

The flight was however making good time. "Weather conditions along the planned route were initially clear, and the flight avoided Walvis Bay due to fog," reports SHG. "With favourable winds, the aircraft was able to continue directly without requiring a stopover."

Unfortunately, however, despite the efforts to beat the weather, once having arrived at St Helena, the aircraft could not land and, observing on flight tracker, she could be seen doing fly arounds at the Airport likely waiting on a window of opportunity to land.

Unfortunately, on the seventh loop around and therefore unsuccessful opportunity to land, she made the decision to head off in the direction of Ascension Island, touching down at Ascension's Wideawake Airfield at just before 11.30am – as is the correct procedure with Ascension being St Helena's primary diversion for flights unable to land.

St Helena Government on Tuesday provided further detail. "As part of standard planning, and due to a forecasted area of rain and cloud expected to arrive later in the day, an emergency diversion option to Ascension Island was arranged," they said to The Sentinel.

While information received from the weather office suggested "the likelihood of needing this diversion was considered low," the situation changed as the flight neared St Helena.

"Approximately 30 minutes before reaching St Helena, the aircraft encountered an unexpected weather system that arrived earlier than forecast," SHG explained. "The crew entered a holding pattern for the maximum safe duration, but conditions did not improve enough to allow landing, and the flight subsequently diverted to Ascension."

While this would've been disappointing and no doubt distressing for the medivac patient and their family, there was however a silver lining to the delayed arrival of the flight to St Helena.

"Whilst the weather disruption was unfortunate, there was a positive outcome," explained SHG in their statement on Tuesday. "During the diversion window, a second emergency patient presented at the hospital. This patient was also able to be transferred on the next available flight this morning, avoiding the need to arrange a separate medevac mission."

Therefore, on Tuesday morning, in much improved weather conditions, the medivac flight was able to land and depart from St Helena, with not one, but two patients onboard to receive the necessary treatment and care in South Africa. We wish them both well and hope for speedy recoveries.

Correction to incorrect photo: In last week's article titled 'Commission Appointed' published on Page 6 of The Sentinel, we incorrectly published a photo of Tyanne Williams indicating that she formed part of the newly appointed Governance Commission. This was a mistake and, as detailed in the text of the article, it was in fact Marcella Mittens who forms part of the Commission and who should have therefore been photographed with the other members. The Sentinel apologises to both Tyanne and Marcella for this mistake, as well as to our readers for the oversight.


Marcella Mittens, Member of the newly-formed Governance Commission

"What you possessed were images of the worst type of sexual abuse"

Andre Thomas sentenced to 34 months imprisonment by St Helena Supreme Court for offences on St Helena and Ascension



Liam Yon, SAMS

On Friday, 13 December, in the St Helena Supreme Court, local resident, Andre Thomas, was sentenced to 34 months' custody in His Majesty's Prison, Jamestown, by Acting Judge of the Supreme Court, Duncan Cooke, for a number of offences that breached the Welfare of Children Ordinance, 2008, and the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 1992.

The offences included taking 236 indecent images of a child in category B and 151 indecent images of a child in category C, on St Helena, between the 4 December 2004 and 8 February 2005, while he was also found to possess 835 indecent images of a child in category A, 172 indecent images of a child in category B, and 11,871 indecent images of a child in category C on Ascension Island on 12 October 2024.

When speaking to the offender during his ruling, Judge Cooke noted how "for the St Helena offences the victim was 14 years of age and known" by the offender, adding that "it is clear that on multiple occasions over two months," the offender, Mr Thomas, took photographs of the 14 year old boy in the offenders bedroom. The description of some of these images are too graphic to share.

The Judge confirmed that the offender, having been 44 years old at the time of the offences, was therefore 30 years older than the victim. The images in question were discovered with the Ascension Island material stored on hard drives and, as stated by Judge Cooke, "depict multiple incidents of sexual abuse of the boy during which (the offender) was present."

Moving onto the Ascension offences, the Judge recapped how these "involve a significant number of images of many different victims, some of which are moving images," adding that "some of the victims were very young indeed, including images of those as young as 4 to 6 months" being abused by adult males. With "most victims" being "pre-pubescent" and some being "babies or toddlers," Judge Cooke asserted that what the offender possessed, "were images of the worst type of sexual abuse," and that they were "clearly possessed over a considerable period of time."

The Judge then explained his categorisation of the offences and addressed various factors of the case. It was here were he refused the suggestion that Mr Thomas did not look at the images. "The suggestion that you made in your pre-sentence report that you never looked at the images is not one I can accept," said Judge Cooke. "You kept them locked in a safe and the images were stored on USB sticks and DVDs. When asked for the combination to the safe, you refused to provide it. Additionally, some images were described and catalogued on an excel spreadsheet recording the ages of the children in the images and what those images depicted. This indicates clearly that you knew what you possessed, that the images were illegal and that you deliberately stored them on removable media to aid you in hiding them."

Judge Cooke then spoke to the offenders attempts to minimise the seriousness of his offending. "I do not hold your minimisation of the offences against you, it is difficult for people to come to terms with having committed these types of offences," he said. "I can only urge you to take part in the Horizon intervention programme to assist you in future and to prevent repetition of similar offending."

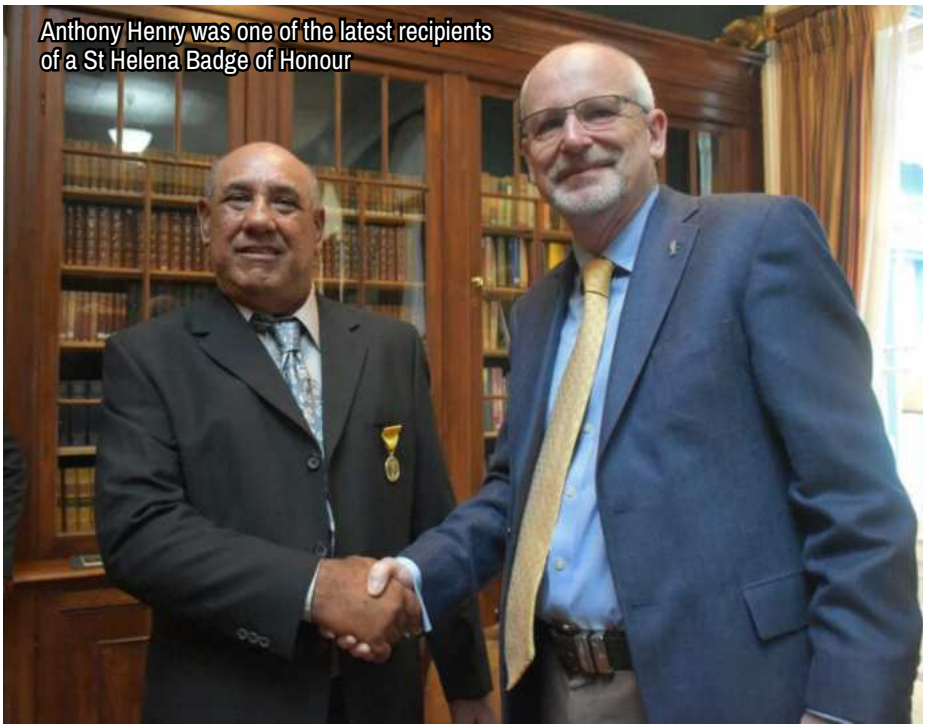
Judge Cooke then went through the offences with Mr Thomas, detailing the sentences associated with each when considering the guidelines along with the aggravating and mitigating factors of the case. He then gave the final sentencing. "These two sets of offences represent offending at differing times and it is appropriate that the sentences run consecutively to one another, making a total of 44 months. I now consider totality and reduce the total sentence to 40 months. I then apply a further discount of 15% to reflect prison conditions. Reducing the sentence to 34 months."

In addition to the custodial sentence issued, it was ordered that "all USB sticks, CDs, laptops, hard disc drives, DVDs, VHS cassettes, cameras and any other digital media devices capable of storing data seized by the police are to be forfeited and destroyed after 12 months of this order."

Mr Thomas will also be subject to a sex offenders prevention order and "will also remain subject to the notification requirements for an indefinite period."

Who Deserves It?

Nominations now Invited for UK State Honours and St Helena National Awards



Anthony Henry was one of the latest recipients of a St Helena Badge of Honour

Liam Yon, SAMS

Once again, St Helena Government are urging the public to nominate individuals for the next round of UK State awards, also known as New Year Honours, as well as St Helena National Awards.

These honours include, alongside the UK State Awards for 2027, St Helena National Awards like Certificate and Badge of Honour awards, Acts of Bravery Awards, Badge of St Helena awards, and the Freedom of the City of Jamestown award.



OBE Medal

The UK State Awards include the British Empire Medal (BEM) for 'hands-on' service to the local community and Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for an outstanding achievement or service to the community, among others like an OBE, CBE, all the way up to a Knight or Dame. More details on these awards are available on the UK Government website.

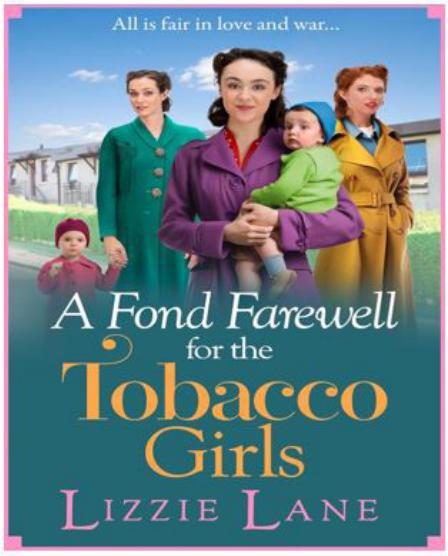
As for the St Helena National Awards, these awards recognise individuals for their exceptional service and dedication, including and particularly voluntary work, while acts of bravery are also recognised. Further detail on the criteria for these awards is available on the SHG Website.

Nomination forms for those wishing to make a nomination are available from The Castle in Jamestown and must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' addressed to 'The Secretary, Honours and Awards Committee' by Monday, 27 April. As always, Nominees must not be made aware they are being put forward for an award.

Recipients of the 2027 New Year Honours will be revealed after the first minute on the 1 January 2027 as is a long-standing tradition in the United Kingdom.

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



A Fond Farewell for the Tobacco Girls by Lizzie Lane

It has finally happened! The war is over and Europe rejoices.

May 1945. VE Day

After battling against the odds, the three friends are uncertain of their futures.

Maisie Miles must wait on tenterhooks for Japan to surrender and for poor Sid to return home. Will they still be sweethearts and have a future together? But tragedy strikes when Maisie's lodger Carole dies leaving 2-year-old Paula orphaned, Maisie is determined to keep the child she has grown to love as her own.

Meanwhile Bridget O'Neill's husband has been patiently waiting her arrival in America but Bridget's been struggling to leave her family and friends behind. Will she stay or will she go?

Phyllis Fairbrother receives the devastating news that husband Mick has relapsed and suffering a life changing diagnosis. Their dreams of a new life in Australia lie in tatters, or so she thinks.

With a new dawn, there are high hopes and boundless dreams.

Can the Tobacco Girls unite once more to overcome life's troubles and find the happiness they so deserve?

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

'The Ultimate Adventure that Marathon Open Water Swimming didn't know it had been waiting for!'

Open Water Africa Managing Director, Howard James, arrives alongside Croatian Marathon Swimmer, Dina Levačić, ahead of St Helena Island Ultra Marathon swim



Liam Yon, SAMS

In recent times, St Helena has emerged as a destination for those seeking a true challenge of endurance; from Jasmine Harrison's attempt to be the first to swim the circumference of the Island, to Victor Thiele becoming the first to complete a gruelling 42km marathon and Jacob's Ladder Challenge.

Now, Open Water Africa have arrived on-Island ahead of a an ultra-marathon swim challenge, where three elite marathon swimming athletes will follow on from Jasmine to take on the incredible challenge of swimming the full circumference of St Helena Island in what Open Water Africa is calling "the ultimate adventure that Marathon Open Water Swimming didn't know it had been waiting for!"

Described as the "the premier destination for open water enthusiasts," Open Water Africa "collaborates with leading experts in open water safety and event planning" all in order to provide "unparalleled support" for a certified and ratified open water swim by established marathon swimmers – and their latest challenge brings them here to St Helena.

Through March and April, the Open Water Africa team will be supporting three epic solo island circumferential marathon swims, as these athletes attempt to navigate around the 42km of St Helena, described as a "remote adventurous haven where values are embellished deep."



Marathon Swimmer, Dina Levačić, at the seaside with Open Water Africa's Howard James



Open Water Africa Managing Director, Howard James, giving an update after touching down at St Helena Airport

It was back in September 2025 when Open Water Africa announced the event and called for competitors. "Experienced open water swimmers are invited on a pilot-guided adventure to Saint Helena Island, tackling a 45km ultra-marathon swim around one of the planet's most pristine and remote island destinations," they said in the release. "As you navigate the island's rugged coastline, you'll be immersed in its raw natural beauty and rich marine life, surrounded by a culture that deeply values conservation and protecting the island's unique ecosystems. A swim direction will be carefully planned in the days leading up to your event, ensuring a safe and exhilarating experience as you embark on the Saint Helena Island Ultra Marathon swim."

Since the release, three brave athletes have emerged as the competitors willing to take on the incredible challenge, given a five-star experience rating by Open Water Africa. The first of these is renowned and highly-decorated Croatian Marathon Swimmer, Dina Levačić, who arrived on the Island over the weekend. Dina is a world-renowned Croatian marathon swimmer and the youngest woman ever to complete the Oceans Seven challenge - a global marathon swimming challenge consisting of seven of the world's most treacherous and iconic open-water channel crossings. Born in 1996 in Split, Croatia, she has become a national sports icon by conquering some of the most treacherous waters on Earth, and next she will take on St Helena.

Having arrived alongside the athlete was Managing Director of Open Water Africa, Howard James; a record-breaking endurance athlete best known for his extraordinary feats in the English Channel where, in 2016, he achieved a historic "double" by setting records for both the earliest and latest swims of the season in a single calendar year.

Howard, who founded and manages Open Water Africa, took to Social Media upon arrival at St Helena Airport to update and build momentum among followers ahead of the ultra-marathon swims.

"Hi, I'm Howard James and I'm representing Open Water Africa on St Helena Island," he began. "St Helena is deemed one of the most remote locations on earth that actually has an economy. Over the next four weeks, our aim is to place the island on the map for marathon open water swimmers.

"In doing so, we have three established swimmers making their way to the island who will each, in turn, attempt to swim the 45km circumference," Howard continued. "In the next few days, we're going to introduce you to the team involved, the proposed route along with the obstacles it poses. We're going to inform you of the rules that the swimmers are going to adhere to for ratification purposes and of course, we're going to introduce you to those swimmers themselves. But for now, we're going to find our feet, settle in and we'll keep you posted. See you soon!"

No doubt, excitement and momentum for this event will continue to build over the coming weeks as the ultimate endurance challenge spotlight shines on St Helena once more.

Utilising local expertise, Open Water Africa have recruited the assistance of residents, Johnny Herne, Jamie Essex and Jamie Yon, with the three mariners all listed as Pilots for the St Helena Island Ultra Marathon swim.

UPDATE: *On Wednesday, it was revealed that Dina would be taking on her marathon swim at midnight, meaning that, by the time this article is published, she will be well on her way, so be ready to welcome her back to dry land everybody! Go Dina!*




Dina Levačić getting a feel of St Helena's waters

A Fresh Surface Wherever U-Turn

Roads Team "still on track" with Road Resurfacing Project despite the recent rains causing delays



Local resident testing out the new road surface at Longwood

Liam Yon, SAMS

The SHG Roads team are continuing to push on with the current and ongoing island-wide Road Resurfacing Project – funded by the UK Government through the Economic Development Investment Programme – with 9km of main road across the Island set to be resurfaced and rehabilitated by the end of March this year.

The team had been making good progress since well before the turn of the year and were working ahead of schedule – though heavy rains and unpredictable weather in recent weeks have brought about unforeseen delays.

Nevertheless, Roads Manager, Deon Robbertse, reports that the team remains on schedule to complete the project and continues to make good progress, despite the weather. "We are still on track to complete the 9km of road resurfacing before the end of March," he updated earlier this week. "We are currently 85% complete with about 1200m outstanding (500m on the road between Longwood and Hutt's Gate and 700m on Side Path Road to Button-Up Corner). With favourable weather, we estimate to have it completed by the last week in March at the latest."

While the team is currently still carrying out resurfacing in the Longwood District, preparatory works have already gotten underway on the section of road from the top of Side Path to Button-Up Corner – which is the last section of works under the project. The plan, as detailed by the Roads Manager, is to move the slurry machine over as soon as it is finished with the Longwood road work.

As stated, the team have had to deal with poor weather conditions in recent weeks, but remain on schedule thanks to the progress made prior to the rains. "We have lost a few days production to the rain we had, and continue to have, but we managed to build up a positive buffer with some very good production in the period prior to the rain starting," Deon explained. "This allowed us to be ahead of the planned programme, and thus allowed us to soak up some of the lost time due to uncontrollable factors. Hopefully the weather will give us sufficient time to complete the project, of which we are currently on programme."

With this project comprising of many hours of work for his team alongside



Public cooperation with the necessary road closures is appreciated by the Roads Team in supporting the project



Roadworks at Longwood





an understandable inconvenience for the public in terms of the necessary daily road closures, the Roads Manager had plenty of praise for everyone involved, including the St Helena community.

"I cannot highlight enough how good the Roads Team are in executing this project," he commented. "The slurry machine and the slurry mix are working perfectly, but this will not happen if you do not have a team to do the work, and they have been brilliant, to say the least. I also want to complement the public in cooperating with the Roads Section to make this project a success. It is not easy to do this type of work, closing roads for certain times, and still trying to accommodate residents etc., but overall, I think it is something that we all can be proud of achieving."

The team have completed the resurfacing of main highways at Ladder Hill, Half Tree Hollow, Alarm Forest and Longwood to date and are now into the final stages of the project with further works still to be done as they remain on track for completion by 31 March.



One-lane only at Longwood as new surface sets



Preparatory works underway on the section of road from the top of Side Path to Button-Up Corner

"Dare to Dream"

St Helena Secondary School hosts Annual Certificate and Awards Ceremony



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Friday, 20 February, St Helena Secondary School (SHSS) held their annual certificate and award ceremony recognising students for their achievements. All invited guests were welcomed at the newly-renovated reception area before being seated in the main school hall for the ceremony at 11am.

Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, delivered the opening speech. "St Helena Secondary School represents the ambition and hard work of every student as well as the belief that every young person has extraordinary potential," he addressed.

Minister Turner then handed over to Mr Phil Toal, Head of SHSS, who announced the first certificates to be presented for General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and Vocational Related Qualifications (VRQ) achievements. Ms Kerry Peters would ensure that students, who could not be present to collect their awards in person, would receive their certificates. This was followed by certificates for Level 3, Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced Level (A-Level) achievements. The certificates were handed out by Mrs. Emma Phillips on behalf of the Governor as His Excellency was only able to join the proceedings later due to an urgent meeting.

Entertainment items by students showcased their talents and hard work throughout the year ably led by music teacher, Mr. James Fantom. The first item was a violin performance of '10,000 Reasons' by Willow Yon-Duncan followed by the Year 7E class who performed the Cameroonian folk song 'Bela Mama.'

The various prestigious individual awards were then presented. Minister Turner presented the Jean Beadon Art award in recognition of outstanding commitment and achievement in art to Sitthipon Sawangwong. The Governor's award for Academic excellence and achievement in Key Stage 3 were awarded by Governor Phillips to Bethany Bennett and Jude Jacobs for the highest average grade score for a female and male. The PTA's Student of the Year award was presented by Mr Ed Oyewo, Chairperson of the SHSS PTA and went to Asa Bushuru as the top performing student in Year 11 and Leah Bedwell in Year 13. Next, the highest achieving (based on student's average points score) male and female students from the 2025 Year 11 cohort received the Sure awards presented by Miss Keira Wade from Sure to Rebekah Braaf and Asa Bushuru.

Miss Jeanette Williams presented the Maths award, donated by her to celebrate the highest achieving student in Mathematics in Year 11 and 13. This year Asa Bushuru received the Maths award for the highest achievement in GCSE Maths while the highest achiever in Year 13 was Kalem Henry. Likewise, the English awards in recognition of achievements in English for Year 11 and 13 students were presented by Mr Ceri Morgan; Portfolio Director for Education, Skills and Employment. Rebekah Braaf again received this award for the highest achievement in English in Year 11 with Isabella Scott receiving the Year 13 award. Rebekah's awards were collected on her behalf by her sister Rachel.

The Eliza Mary Trust Award in recognition of commitment to agricultural related courses was presented by Councillor Ronald Coleman to Ashley Henry. Mr Toal also took the opportunity to thank Miss Andy Timm and her team at ENRD for their support to reinstate this program and assist the school where needed. Father Ernest presented the Bishop Houghton award recognising a student for giving pastoral care to other students and the community. This year the award went to Erik Robbertse for his willingness to offer guidance to younger students by giving up his time alongside his own academic commitments to support them with their revision and studies.

The final award, the Joy George award, was presented by the donor herself and celebrates outstanding effort, progress and achievement as well as good attitude and behaviour for a student at the end of Year 9. Jacob collected this award on behalf of his sister Sadie Herne.

Although this concluded the awards to students, there were still some recognition to be given for staff achievements. Mr Steve Plato was awarded his Professional Development Qualification Diploma in Teaching and Learning while Mrs Gavie Williams received her Postgraduate Certificate in Education.

Before the closing remarks, the Enrichment Rock Band performed 'Seven Nation Army' with Mr. Fantom providing the vocals to the crowd's delight.

Governor Phillips then shared his closing remarks, congratulating all awardees and encouraging all to "dare to dream" and do their best, as he quoted Nelson Mandela with the famous line: "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

SAMS wishes to congratulate all awardees on their achievements.















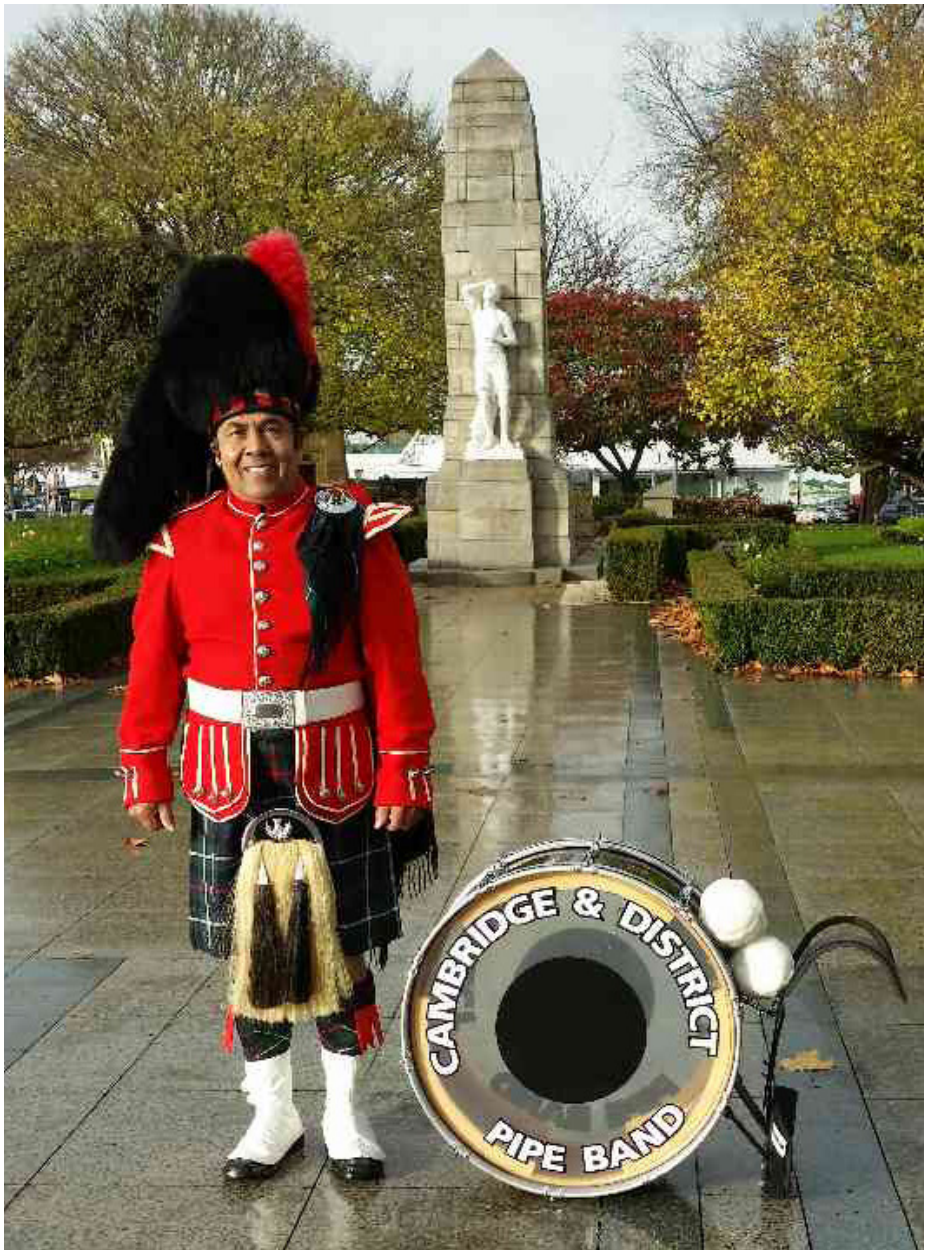





LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

At Home with the Kiwis

Catching up with Saint in New Zealand, Chris Reynolds



Donna Crowie, SAMS

Chris Reynolds, son of the late Grace and Walter 'Christmas' Reynolds, departed St Helena back in 1973. Before venturing offshore at the age of 19 years old, Chris worked on St Helena with Solomon's in the cold store before moving on to the Butchery.

Chris is a music-lover and, looking back on his early years on the Island, he reminisces playing in the "Kratos" with Larry George, Kenny Brothers and Boogie Leo. Now residing over 8,000 miles away in New Zealand, with his family, his love for music continues. "I've been playing the drums now in the Cambridge Pipe Band for over 20 years," he said in a recent interview with Tony Leo on the Northward Sounds. "It's not a competition band, it's pure social, every Thursday night we have practices, and so that is one of my hobbies."

Chris actually played in this band for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations where he recalled being dressed the part; wearing a top fluffy head and red robe, just like the guards at Buckingham palace (see photo).

Chris, who is now enjoying retirement, has worked numerous jobs in New Zealand. "When I first came to New Zealand I did various jobs, I worked on the factory floor, I did a bit of work in the meat works, very similar to what I did on St Helena, and then I worked in the hospital as an orderly, and then as we were starting our family, I thought, well, one starts thinking you need a trade or a profession of some sort, and I was asked about taking up nursing. I thought could I do nursing? Never thought about it, but anyway, I did my nursing course, which is three years, and so now I became a New Zealand registered nurse, and I specialise in operating theatre work, doing surgery and that, cardiac surgery, etc."

Chris lives with his wife Sandra (nee Martin) who was a voluntary service overseas teacher at Sandy Bay School and went on to teach at Secondary Selective school. The couple had three children of their own, and later adopted a daughter. Three of their children are of working age with the oldest being a lawyer who has moved to Australia with her family; their son owns his own gardening business; they have a daughter who is a psychologist; and finally, their adopted daughter is still in high school.

Since Chris sailed away from the island back in 1973, he has only returned home on three occasions. Even though Chris hasn't returned for a while, he still remembers and would like to say hello to his teacher Rita Nicholls and Joy George along with his friends Carmen Bennett, June Dook, June Caswell and Boy Dubs; adding that there are so many to mention.

Chris no longer has any immediate family on St Helena, just a few distant cousins. "One wouldn't say never, but at this point in time, I don't think there's any need for me to return," he says on plans to come back to the island. For now, he continues to enjoy retirement in New Zealand, stating that he "would not change New Zealand for anything else."

Chris is also hoping to meet up with Gavin George who recently arrived in New Zealand to take part in the Over 70's Men's Cricket World Cup.

Lighten Up Jacob!

Jacob's Ladder to receive new lights as SHG advise of temporary closures

Liam Yon, SAMS



Jacob's Ladder lit up at night

Having been in the planning for quite a while, the project to install new lights to replace the current lights on St Helena's iconic Jamestown stairway, Jacob's Ladder, is set to get underway next week as SHG advise of temporary closures set to be in place in the interest of public safety.

It was on Monday when SHG announced that "construction works to replace the existing lighting on Jacob's Ladder will commence on 2 March 2026."

Continuing to provide funds to support the upkeep of the historic feature adjacent to the Museum of St Helena, the new lighting to be installed has been generously donated by Lord Ashcroft to the UK St Helena Heritage Trust. Jacob's Ladder was last rehabilitated through funding by Lord Michael Ashcroft between August 2022 and April 2023.

In terms of the installation works to replace the existing lighting, this is being funded through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) and will be delivered by Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc. According to SHG, the works are being carried out in two phases and they expect this to take "several weeks to complete" with no indication of a specific timeline given.

They also detail the necessary temporary closures that will be put in place during these works.

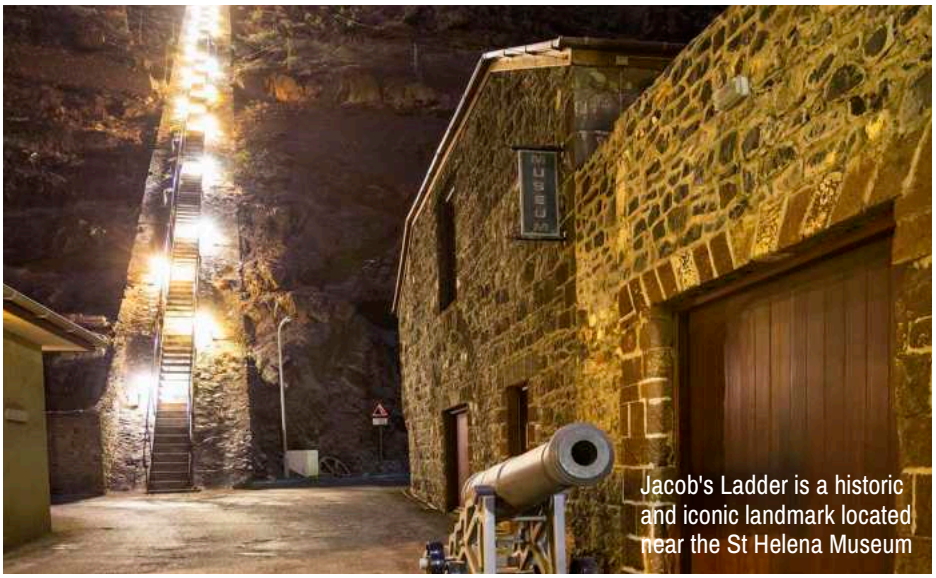
"During the initial phase, access from the top of the ladder to the footpath connecting to Shy Road will remain open during daylight hours," they announced. "However, as the existing lights will be disconnected during the works, the entire ladder will be closed nightly from 17:00 and reopen at 07:45 each morning to ensure public safety. As the project progresses, it will also become necessary to close the full length of the ladder to protect the safety of all users."

SHG add that "the area will be secured, and appropriate signage will be placed at all access points" before requesting that the public "comply with the safety measures in place and to refrain from entering restricted areas."

Jacob's Ladder is a well-used access route in and out of Jamestown from Ladder Hill and its closure will be inconvenient for members of the public and visitors alike, however improvements to the lighting will no doubt be welcome by all.



The existing lights are aged and many have been broken



Jacob's Ladder is a historic and iconic landmark located near the St Helena Museum



Jacob's Ladder was restored in 2022-23 through generous funding by Lord Ashcroft, who has also donated the new lights

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 27
- 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 28
- 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. Mar 01
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Liam
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Mar 02
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 9:30am: Public Accounts Committee (LIVE)
- 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. Mar 03
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Anita
- 10am: Minister Question Time
- 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. Mar 04
- 7am-8:30am : Midweek morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 1-3pm 1548 show with Cyril Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Vibes With Annika

THU. Mar 05
- 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





Stay up to date with all of the latest from St Helena's political arena with the upcoming live broadcasts of the Public Accounts Committee, as well as Ministers Question Time next week.

Tune in 'live' to SAMS Radio 1 to hear the PAC and Legislative Councillors carry out important scrutiny of the work of SHG and Ministers, in the Council Chamber!

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Hard'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



26th February 1880: In the 'Blue Book' for 1879, Governor of St Helena, Hudson Janisch, reports that a Mr Deason has, at considerable expense, landed two pairs of Ostriches; they are laying well but it is too early yet to foresee the result of this experiment. Sadly the birds did not survive.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

We all love a good roast dinner and, with Easter coming up you, may be hosting an Easter Sunday 'get-together' with that nice piece of lamb waiting in the freezer to be cooked. So, why not try out Mary Berry's Roasted Lamb Shoulder with rosemary and paprika rub.

Roasted Lamb Shoulder with Rosemary and Paprika Rub



Ingredients

- 2.2kg/4.5lb whole lamb shoulder
- 3 tbsp rosemary, leaves picked and finely chopped
- 2-3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp ground paprika
- salt and pepper
- 2 onions, sliced
- 1.2 litres/2 pint stock
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 1 tbsp redcurrant jelly
- gravy browning (optional)

Method

1. To make the tomato sauce, heat the olive oil in a saucepan. Add the onions, garlic and carrot. Cook for 5-7 mins over a medium heat until softened. Turn up the heat a little and stir in the tomato purée. Cook for 1 min, pour in the white wine, then cook for 5 mins until this has reduced by two-thirds. Pour over the chopped tomatoes and add the basil leaves. Bring to the boil then simmer for 20 mins. Leave to cool then whizz in a food processor. Will keep, cooled, in the fridge for up to three days or frozen for three months.
2. To make the white sauce, melt the butter in a saucepan, stir in the plain flour, then cook for 2 mins. Slowly whisk in the milk, then bring to the boil, stirring. Turn down the heat, then cook until the sauce starts to thicken and coats the back of a wooden spoon. Will keep, cooled, in the fridge for up to three days or frozen for three months.
3. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Lightly oil two large baking trays and add the peppers and aubergines. Toss with the olive oil, season well, then roast for 25 mins until lightly browned.
4. Reduce the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Lightly oil a 30 x 20cm ovenproof dish. Arrange a layer of the vegetables on the bottom, then pour over a third of the tomato sauce. Top with a layer of lasagne sheets, then drizzle over a quarter of the white sauce. Repeat until you have three layers of pasta.
5. Spoon the remaining white sauce over the pasta, making sure the whole surface is covered, then scatter over the mozzarella and cherry tomatoes. Bake for 45 mins until bubbling and golden. Enjoy!

The Island Pulse

Councillors Share Constituency Concerns and Economic Focus



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

Listeners tuning in to The Island Pulse on SAMS Radio 1 this week were given a detailed insight into the work of their elected representatives, with updates spanning economic scrutiny, constituency concerns, infrastructure, fisheries, immigration, and public service delivery.

The programme, hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas in her role as Communications Champion, aimed to bring residents closer to the realities of governance - both the progress being made and the frustrations being voiced at community level.

Select Committee 2 to Scrutinise Economic Strategy

Councillor Dr. Corinda Essex opened the programme with a substantive update on the work of Select Committee 2 (SC2), which is preparing to scrutinise St Helena Government's Sustainable Economic Development Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Now in operation for approximately two years, the strategy is structured around five core objectives:

- Lowering costs and removing barriers to economic activity
- Reducing import and export barriers
- Increasing investment
- Expanding the labour force
- Increasing value adding

Dr. Essex stressed that the committee's role is not adversarial but evaluative: to assess what has worked, where gaps remain, and what recommendations should be made to stimulate sustainable economic growth.

With limited administrative support currently available to the committee, SC2 may initially focus on one or two priority areas. Public input is therefore being actively sought. Residents are invited to indicate which of the five objectives they believe should be examined first and to provide any broader comments on the strategy's performance.

The committee hopes to hold a live public hearing before the end of March or by mid-April at the latest. Feedback is requested by approximately **13 March** to allow adequate preparation time.

Dr. Essex emphasised that economic development remains central to St Helena's future, particularly in light of stagnation in certain sectors and the pressures faced by lower-income households. The scrutiny process aims to identify practical actions to support growth and resilience.

Airport Operations Restored – Investigation to Follow

The programme acknowledged the positive development that St Helena Airport is now fully operational at Category Six status. Councillors collectively thanked those involved in restoring full service.

However, it was made clear that scrutiny will continue. While the immediate operational issue has been resolved, members expect a thorough investigation to understand how the disruption occurred, to prevent recurrence, noting the reputational implications for the island.

Longwood Meeting: Infrastructure, Immigration and Risk Registers

Councillor Dennis Leo reported on his first solo constituency meeting in Longwood, attended by 19 residents. The session covered a wide range of issues.

Immigration Ordinance

Residents queried the status of the Immigration Bill, which is expected to be tabled by April 2026. Councillor Leo explained that current work relates primarily to legal drafting and technical adjustments rather than policy changes.

Dr. Essex clarified that multiple island-wide consultations have already taken place on the immigration policy. Unless substantive policy shifts emerge in the final draft, further consultation may not be necessary.

Public Infrastructure Concerns

Practical matters featured prominently:

- A request for a handrail and water tap at the New Dungeon Cemetery
- Concerns about road water runoff affecting graves at the same burial ground
- Faded speed bump markings in Jamestown
- A hazardous manhole near the Barracks, Jamestown
- Poor internet connectivity in Deadwood
- Lighting for newly installed pavements in Longwood

The issue of hospital toilet facilities was also raised, with concerns that certain spaces are not fit for purpose.



Renewable Energy and Utilities
Questions were asked about turbine operations, as only one unit was working at the time of the meeting. Councillor Leo later reported positive discussions indicating efforts to bring additional turbines back into service, alongside the solar installation at Half Tree Hollow.

Minimum Wage
The proposed increase in the minimum wage generated mixed views. While some expressed concern about the impact on small private businesses, others supported raising earnings, particularly for under-18s, to assist families facing high living costs.

Risk Registers
Risk management emerged as a recurring theme. Residents questioned whether government departments are actively maintaining risk registers, particularly following recent airport disruption. Dr. Essex confirmed that risk registers do exist and recently the Economic Development risk register was scrutinised by Select Committee 2.

Alarm Forest: Delays, Fisheries and Community Facilities
Councillor Julie Thomas reported on her Alarm Forest meeting, attended by 15 residents.

Proactive Communication
Residents called for better coordination within the public service, citing examples where operational decisions were announced without sufficient cross-departmental alignment.

Bunkers Hill Development
Frustration remains over the prolonged Bunkers Hill project, which has been ongoing for four years without clear resolution. Residents seek certainty before committing to further road improvements that may later be disrupted, should this development proceed. A commitment has been made by SHG for a substantive response to be received next month (March 2026).

Fisheries and Fresh Fish Supply
Alarm Forest residents expressed serious concern about stagnation in the fisheries sector. Fishermen present supported the ongoing fisheries review but questioned its timeline, noting that the island has operated under restricted arrangements for six years.

Additional questions were raised regarding whether PQTSH/STC will continue to compete for domestic supply or whether they will now prioritise exports as was their initial intention, and whether commercial rental rates are now being applied equitably, noting that their Business Plan was submitted to SHG in November 2025.

Youth and Social Challenges
Behavioural concerns among young people were discussed. This will be a large ongoing piece of work, however as a starting point, a multi-agency meeting is scheduled for early March to examine the influence of social media and to explore preventative strategies, with the intention of including youth representation.

Community Centre for Alarm Forest
Alarm Forest remains the only district without a community centre. Councillor Thomas has undertaken to explore whether Judge's Lodge could be reclassified for community use, subject to discussions with Crown Estates. This is being explored with the support of Alarm Forest residents.

St Paul's: Governance, Budgets and Perceptions
Councillor Robert Midwinter reported on a lively St Paul's meeting in Guinea Grass, attended by 16 residents.

Key themes included:
- The relationship between St Helena Government and Connect
- Water losses and infrastructure maintenance
- The BIOT partnership agreement
- Progress on the Road Traffic Ordinance
- Governance review implementation
- UK pension uplift negotiations

Councillor Midwinter addressed a common misconception regarding the MV Karoline's recent docking decision, clarifying that weather conditions - not cruise passenger priority - determined the ship's berthing arrangements.

As in other districts, minimum wage impacts on the private sector were debated, alongside frustrations about slow legislative progress.

Half Tree Hollow: Legislative Pace and Service Delivery
Councillor Derek Thomas reported strong attendance at Half Tree Hollow, with 32 residents participating.

Concerns mirrored those heard elsewhere:
- Airport disruption and accountability
- Delays in EDIP-funded projects
- Sewage connections in Half Tree Hollow
- School bus safety
- Rising utility costs
- Lack of public toilets and lighting

Residents questioned the pace of legislative output and the absence of a clearly published legislative programme. Some also asked why a new ministerial vision is required every four years, rather than building on existing frameworks.

The Road Traffic Ordinance and parking enforcement were also raised, with clarification provided that parking regulations fall under the existing ordinance.

Fisheries again emerged as a pressing concern, particularly the limited availability of fresh fish despite St Helena's maritime setting.

A Consistent Message: Progress and Communication
Across all four districts, a consistent theme emerged: residents are engaged but are increasingly impatient. There is clear interest in policy, infrastructure, economic development and governance - but frustration about perceived slow progress and communication gaps is growing.

Councillors emphasised that communication is a shared responsibility. With The Island Pulse broadcast multiple times weekly and a synopsis available via the weekly newspaper The Sentinel, residents are encouraged to follow developments, listen to formal council sittings, and engage constructively.

As Select Committee 2 prepares its economic scrutiny and ministers work toward publishing a strategic vision, the coming months are likely to prove significant in shaping St Helena's legislative and economic direction.

For now, the message from across the island is clear: people are watching, participating — and expecting delivery.



NOTICE BOARD

Business Skills Training

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Following the successful delivery of Tour Guide and Destination Management Company (DMC) training programmes, tourism operators on St Helena have expressed strong interest in strengthening their business and operational skills to enhance sustainability, profitability, and competitiveness within the tourism sector.

St Helena Tourism is therefore seeking **Expressions of Interest** from suitably qualified individuals or organisations to design and deliver a tailored Business Skills Training Programme for tourism operators.

Proposed Training Topics (Full details will be provided to registered applicants):
·Business Plan Development
·Financial Management (basic accounting, tax compliance, cash flow management)
·Legal & Regulatory Compliance (business registration processes, liability and insurance)
·Customer Service Skills
·Sales (B2B sales, commission structures, working with the travel trade, B2C, digital and direct sales)
·Sustainable Tourism Practices (responsible tourism, environmental sustainability)

Who Should Apply
We welcome submissions from experienced trainers or a consortium of trainers with a strong understanding of:
·Small business development
·Tourism industry operations
·Training delivery within small or developing economies
The training programme is anticipated to be delivered in **March 2026.**

Submission Requirements
Expressions of Interest should include:

- Relevant experience and/or qualifications
- An outline of the proposed delivery approach
- Confirmation of availability in March 2026
- Fee proposal

Submissions should be delivered to the Tourist Office or emailed to **visit@sainthelena.gov.sh** no later than **4pm on Friday, 6 March 2026.**

sthelenatourism.com

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.

Legislative Council Office Assistant (£11,604 per annum)

The Legislative Council Office is seeking to recruit a motivated individual with proven effective administrative skills to provide the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Members of the Legislative Council with secretarial, research and administrative support. If you are interested in this opportunity, then we would be keen to hear from you. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anita Legg on Tel No. 22470 or Email: anita.legg@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 11 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 16 March 2026
Interview date: 25 March 2026

Harbour Master & Port Manager (£19,814 per annum)

The Harbour Master and Port Manager role is focused on enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our community and fostering the prosperity of the island by overseeing the management of St Helena's Port in compliance with the Ports Ordinance 2016, ensuring safety and efficiency. The Harbour Master and Port Manager serve as the authoritative figure for coordinating the daily operations, management, and development of the port of Jamestown, along with any other designated harbours and landing sites, and will undertake any additional responsibilities necessary for the effective management of the position. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Alex Mitham on Tel No. 25870 or Email: Alex-richard.mitham@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 11 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 16 March 2026
Interview date: 25 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

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

CONNECT SAINT HELENA LTD UPGRADES EMAIL SYSTEM TO MICROSFT 365

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is proud to announce a major step forward in modernising our IT infrastructure. Over the coming weeks, we will begin migrating selected staff email services from our current on-premises Exchange system to the cloud-based Microsoft 365 platform.

This upgrade represents a vital investment in our Company's future. By moving to Microsoft 365, we are creating a more secure, reliable, and connected environment for our staff and strengthening the way we connect with our customers.

As part of this transition, we're launching a new domain: connectonline.co.sh. Both connect.co.sh and connectonline.co.sh will run simultaneously to ensure uninterrupted service and smooth communication for everyone.

We want our staff and the public to be aware of this exciting change. This migration to Microsoft 365 will provide us with the tools to work more efficiently and securely, while strengthening the way we work together to deliver trusted services to the island community.

For further information or queries, please contact our Business Support team on 22255 or via enquiries@connect.co.sh.

23 February 2026

PRESS RELEASE

CONNECT CELEBRATES THE RETIREMENT OF ERIC LEO, WATER CARETAKER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) extends heartfelt congratulations to Mr Eric Leo, who retired in December 2025 after an extraordinary 55 years of public service, including 34 years dedicated to the Water Division.

Eric began his career with the St Helena Government in 1970, working within the Agricultural and Forestry Department before transferring to the Water Division in 1991. As a resident of Blue Hill, he took great pride in safeguarding the district's newly installed piped domestic water supply. He walked the pipelines daily, often before dawn, to ensure the community always had water.

Eric's deep local knowledge, practical wisdom, and steady dedication made him a trusted caretaker and mentor. His contribution was formally recognised in 2022 when he was awarded the Badge of Honour for long and dedicated service.

On behalf of the entire team, Connect expresses sincere thanks to Eric for his decades of commitment and the legacy he leaves behind. We wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

25 February 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Festival of Walking
Walk of the Week

Date: Saturday, 28 February 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Silver Hill Shop, Levelwood
Google Map Location: -15.974767, -5.683016
Duration: approx 5 hours

Walk grade: Fairly Strenuous | 7 - 8

Sharks Valley is an impressive walk on a cliffside with sections of wild mango brambles, streams and rock formations. In the valley there are a couple of small waterfalls and a pebble beach to relax and enjoy the ocean view.

There are narrow sections (at a height) and cliffside walking. Pathway can become muddy and slippery when wet. Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, sunscreen and bring a minimum of 2L of water. Walk suitable for fit and experienced walkers.

Walk led by local Tour Guide, Louis Youde.

Date	Upcoming Walks
07 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

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 1st March
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 3rd March: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 4th March: Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 5th March: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 4 – 11 yrs old
Saturday, 7th March: Baptist School Hall, 10-11.30am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 4th 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: 28/02/26
TIME: 10h00-11h30
Refreshments will be served.

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 1st March 2026 - 2nd Sunday in Lent		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
	Tuesday 3rd March	
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**St Peter**
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**St Helena & The Cross**
	Wednesday 4th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**Cathedral**
	Thursday 5th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise/Lent Course**	**St Andrew**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 1st March 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
	Monday 2nd March	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	Wednesday 4th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**St James**
	Thursday 5th March	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 1st March 2026 – 2nd Sunday in Lent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 3rd March	
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**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 "Pink" bingo sheet will be used.

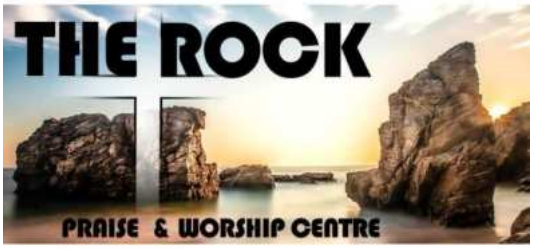
Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house will be the winner.

Claims to be made to Karen Henry on 23401 by Saturday 28 February at 6 pm. Last week's winner: Mrs Janette Francis.

Prize - £20 per week

10	44	19	58	3	86	38	24	67	22
18	40	54	16	29	78	59	14	2	46
7	37	20	45	83	51	25	70	68	12
48	72	82	9	66	32	77	30	27	80
26	89	13	49	71	64	39	53	15	62
75	36	43	81	57	6	33	88	65	60
79	84	8	21	52	34	74	50	11	28



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 28th February 2026 at 8:30am

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 1st March 2026 10.00am

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Cape Villa @ 5.00pm (Contact Priscilla 51919)

Jamestown @ 7.00pm (Contact: Bramwell 62117)

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm (Contact: Mercy 61707)

The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 7.00pm

(Contact: Tav 51727)

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.

Experience the theme of "God's Love" at "Sing and Rejoice" — a powerful evening of live music, praise, and testimony hosted by the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Bring your family, your friends, and your neighbours for an uplifting time of worship, encouragement, and community togetherness.

It's all happening on Sunday, March 1st at 5:30pm at the Longwood Community Centre. Admission is free — everyone is welcome, so don't miss it!

For additional information, call Doreen on 53133.

NOTICE BOARD

Thank You

We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who supported us during the recent loss of our beloved mum Ellen Buckley, known to all as Jean.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the dedicated nurses and carers who provided such compassionate care, and to our family and friends whose kindness and support meant the world to us during this difficult time.

We are also especially grateful to Bishop Dale and Pat Musk for conducting a beautiful and comforting service. Your thoughts and prayers have been a great source of strength to us both.

With heartfelt thanks,
Chester and Andre



EARLY CLOSURE AT MAIN BRANCH

WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH 2026

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers the Main Branch will close from **1:00pm on Wednesday, 4 March.**

The Bank apologises for any inconvenience this may cause and thank customers for their support.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 2 MARCH 2026

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will be held in the Council Chamber, The Castle, Jamestown at 9.30am on Monday, 2 March 2026.

The main programme of business will focus on the **Government of St. Helena, Statement of Expenditure in Excess (Amended), for the Financial Year 2024/25**.

Members of the public and other interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcast and streamed live via SAMS Radio 1.

ST HELENA PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
24 February 2026

St Helena Legislative Council

MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

Tuesday 03 March 2026

The fifth meeting of Ministers Question Time will take place on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 10am in the Council Chamber. This meeting is open to the public and will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1

The topic for this meeting is: **THE AGEING DEMOGRAPHIC: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS (AD2)**

A copy of the Order Paper will be published on the SHG Website on Tuesday morning, and can be accessed via www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/legislative-council/order-papers/.

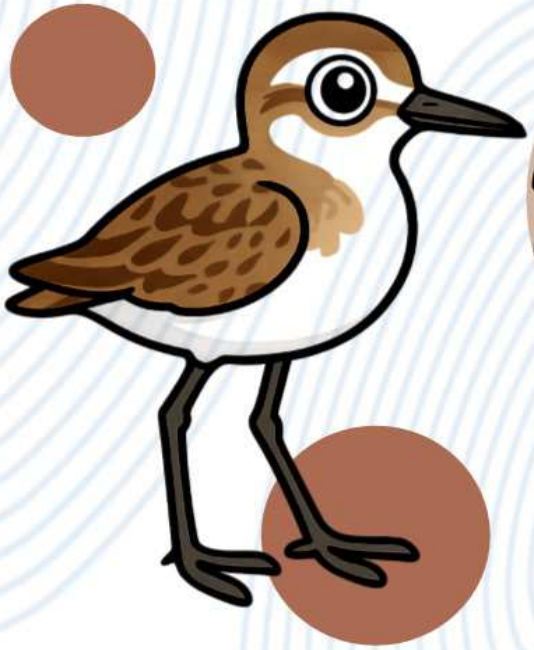
Legislative Council, 23 February 2026

NOTICE BOARD

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

2026 WIREBIRD CENSUS

FIELD COUNTS



575 ADULTS



6 JUVENILES



35 NESTS

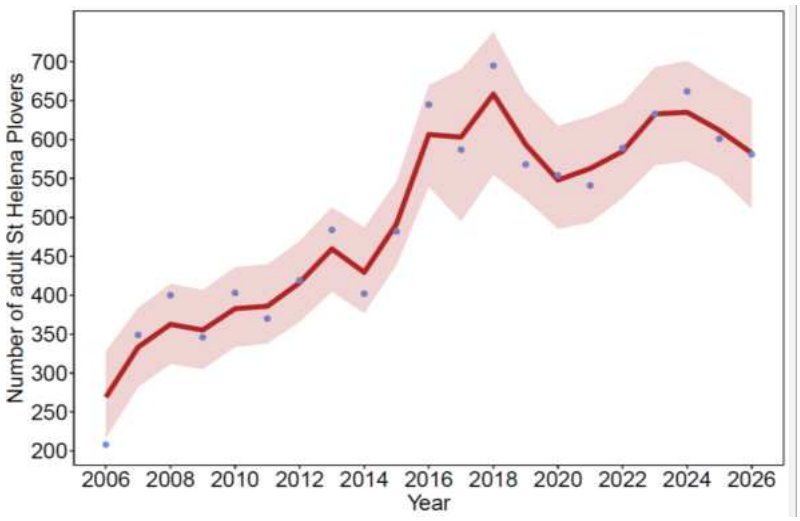


34 CHICKS

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

Trust News: Wirebird Census 2026

St Helena Plover population trend



The annual Wirebird census was successfully conducted throughout January 2026 by the Grasslands team as part of the Darwin Plus funded project (DPLUS190), marking another important step in the conservation of St Helena's national bird.

This year's census estimates between 511 and 652 adult Wirebird, with a best estimate (median) of 583 adults. While this figure is slightly lower than the past three years, the range is consistent with previous results.

This estimate was derived from detailed field counts, during which the team recorded 575 adults, 6 juveniles, 35 nests and 34 chicks. These snapshot figures give a picture of breeding activity and distribution across the island, adding depth to the overall population estimate.

Findings from January 2026 revealed a clear and consistent pattern. More wirebirds were recorded in significantly higher numbers in clean, well-managed pasturelands (grassland) compared to pastures heavily affected by invasive plant species. Dense vegetation reduces the open ground that Wirebird rely on for feeding and nesting, while also limiting visibility needed to detect predators.



St Helena Plover (Wirebird) Charadrius sanctae-helenae

The DPLUS190 project continues to play a vital role in guiding grassland management and conservation on St Helena. The 2026 census findings provide strong evidence that invasive species control and grassland restoration remains essential tools for safeguarding the future of the Wirebird and local livelihoods.

The Grasslands team was joined by Andy Timm, Freddy Green from the Environmental and Natural Resources Programme (ENRP), Dr Chris Hillman, Aurelie Hector, Dr Casey Dunn from Yale University, and Jolan Henry and Max Peters. Their combined efforts ensured comprehensive coverage of key Wirebird sites across the island.



F(L-R) Martina Peters, Aidan Plato, Gavin Ellick, Dr Casey Dunn, Matthew Owen

The team extends heartfelt thanks to all volunteers and partner organisations. Their contribution was invaluable, and the success of this work is a testament to the strength of community collaboration. The Trust hopes that this spirit of teamwork will inspire even more people to take part in next year's census, helping to safeguard the future of St Helena's national bird.

February 2026

DARWIN INITIATIVE RSPB

SPORTS ARENA

St Helena Golf Club Report

Sunny Skies and Strong Scores at Monthly Medal Competition



First Place

SHGC, Contributed

St Helena Golf Club hosted its Monthly Medal Stroke Play competition on Sunday, 22 February 2026, with 12 golfers taking to the course—11 senior players and junior golfer, Lukas Robbertse, the sole youth participant. The event was generously sponsored by Gerald George, and the warm, sunny weather provided ideal playing conditions.

Gerald produced an excellent round, finishing with a superb net 66 to top the field. In a fine display of sportsmanship, he declined to claim the winner's prize as the event sponsor. This moved Laura Buckley into the first place position, after carding an impressive net 67. She was closely followed by Dr Nigel, who secured second place with a strong net 68.

The junior prize went to Lukas, who showed great promise as the only junior competing on the day.

In the 2 ball pool, both Gerald George and Paddo Johnson shared the honours after each made a well earned birdie on the 16th hole.

The club extends warm congratulations to all prize winners and sincere thanks to Gerald George for his continued support as sponsor.

Looking ahead, the next competition will be held on Sunday, 1 March 2026. The club will host a Texas Scramble – Choose Your Partner Stroke Play event, with an 11:00 am shotgun start, followed by the AGM at 4:30 pm. Snacks and beverages will be provided.



Second Place



Junior Prize

Spike-tacular Round One



WSA, Contributed

Our ladies' Volleyball League concluded its first round of exhilarating matches last Sunday, 22 February, delivering a series of competitive encounters.

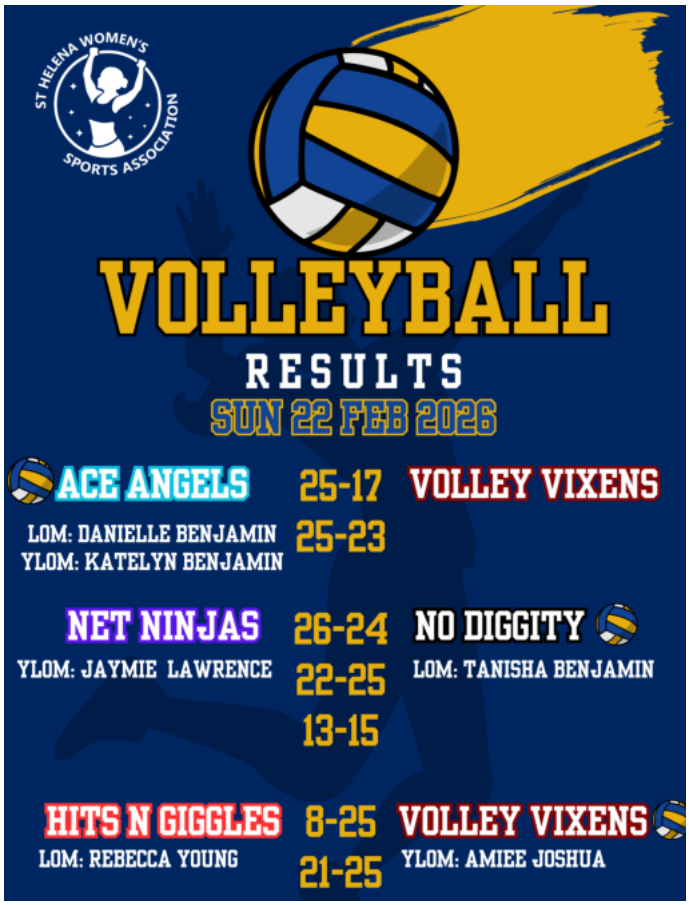
The day began with Ace Angels and Volley Vixens. The match lived up to expectations, featuring many impressive rallies and commendable displays of sportsmanship. Ace Angels dominated the opening set with confidence, gaining an impressive eight-point lead. The second set was tight, both teams exchanging points fiercely. Ultimately, Ace Angels crept ahead by two points to claim the second set, securing a definitive two-set victory. Ace Angels' Benjamin Sisters were both recognised for their commendable performance throughout the game, with Danielle taking home Lady of the Match and Katelyn claiming Young Lady of the Match.

Next on the court were Net Ninjas and No Dig'gity. This proved to be another thoroughly entertaining contest that was pushed to a decisive three sets. The Net Ninjas managed to creep ahead in the first set, with both teams showcasing a series of thrilling rallies. However, No Dig'gity rallied stronger in the second set, finding their rhythm and turning the tables to level the match. The atmosphere intensified in the third set as both teams battled, determined to maintain high spirits. No Dig'gity ultimately controlled the final set. Tanisha Benjamin of No Dig'gity earned Lady of the Match honors for her remarkable performance, while Jaymie Lawrence of the Net Ninjas was recognized as Young Lady of the Match for her impressive efforts.

The afternoon ended with Volley Vixens making their second appearance of the day, facing off against Hits N Giggles. The match highlighted the significant improvements both teams were making with each game. The Volley Vixens demonstrated strong play, clinching the first set with an impressive seventeen-point lead. Hits N Giggles reshuffled their lineup for the second set and delivered a standout performance. After a fierce battle, Volley Vixens ultimately claimed the second set with a four-point lead. Rebecca Young of Hits N Giggles claimed Lady of the Match for her exceptional performance on the court, while Aimee Joshua of Volley Vixens was named Young Lady of the Match for her impeccable play, contributing to her team's victory.

As Round One wraps up, the Ace Angels are top of the table, holding an undefeated record. However, with an entire second round still to play, the league is far from decided and anything can happen!

We are diving straight into Round Two this Sunday, 1 March. Spectators are warmly welcomed to join the excitement at the St Helena Secondary School Hall to cheer on the teams. Stay tuned for updates as the league progresses into Round Two!



SPORTS ARENA



Trophy Staying Put?

Half Tree Hollow stay undefeated in SHCA District Tournament

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The SHCA District Tournament 2026 continued over the weekend with holders Half Tree Hollow continuing their dominant title defence.

The first game on Saturday saw the postponed match between Western A Mustangs and Cobras. Cobras won the toss and elected to bowl, which turned out to be a wise decision. A very strong bowling display from Cobras saw them take wickets on a regular basis, led by youngster Kirk Lawrence with three wickets for 19 runs after six overs, accompanied by Martin Canfield with four wickets of his own. It was Kyle Bennett and Tyler Anthony who would produce the bulk of the score for Mustangs who finished with 118. When Mustangs took to the field however, they unleashed Player of the Match, Gareth Johnson, who took four wickets early in the innings. A fight back from Kyle Snow with 33 wasn't enough with Kurt Jonas and Tyler Anthony both taking three wickets each to dismiss Cobras for 70, giving Mustangs the win by 48 runs.

In the first district match on Saturday, Levelwood defeated Longwood. Longwood batted first and thanks to an impressive innings from youngster Zach Francis with 69, produced a total of 147 for the loss of eight wickets. A three-wicket haul from Cormac Crowie would make him Levelwood's standout bowler of the innings. Longwood took to the field to defend their total but a 66 from Delroy Leo and 44 from Player of the Match, Weston Clingham, would see Levelwood chase the score within 16 overs.

On Sunday, reigning champions Half Tree Hollow defeated Sandy Bay by an impressive 148 runs. Batting first, Half Tree Hollow produced 221 runs, thanks largely to a stunning 132 from Player of the Match, Andrew Yon. A subsequent impressive all-round bowling performance by Half Tree Hollow, led again by Andrew Yon, would see the holders dismiss Sandy Bay for just 73 runs as they continue to lead the charge to retain their title this year.

Lastly on Sunday, St Pauls defeated Jamestown in the final match of the weekend. Jamestown got off to a solid start with the bat as Makyle Fuller contributed 41 runs to the innings. However, an outstanding all-round bowling performance, led by inform youngster Kirk Lawrence with two wickets for 14 runs in his spell, would see Jamestown dismissed by St Pauls for 112. Although having lost wickets regularly during the innings, it was Player of the Match, Dax Richards, with 52 not out, that would guide St Pauls to victory, completing the chase in 18 overs.

After another exciting weekend of cricket, Half Tree Hollow continue to lead the race with an undefeated campaign so far, leaving Longwood, Levelwood, and St Pauls all equal on points and vying for second place as it stands.



FIXTURES

Saturday 28th Feb
13:30 HTH v Jamestown
Umpire: David Young and Delroy Leo

Sunday 1st March
09:30 Levelwood v Sandy Bay
Umpire: Scott Crowie and Damien O'Bey
3:30 St Pauls v Longwood
Umpire: Derek Richards and Barry Stroud