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SENTINEL

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Thursday 05 March 2026



Dina and Dusted

Emergency Services assist Bulk Carrier with crew member needing medical attention



"He was, and still is, a hero"



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Death Valley in California is one of the driest places on earth as is reflected in its name. Late in 2025, it experienced a record-breaking rainfall with over 2.4 inches of rain falling in the three months from September to November. This was the first rain to fall in this arid desert land in over a hundred years. This has led to an amazing transformation where parts of the desert have been covered in a rare wildflower superbloom during February and March this year.

When my son Erik told me about this amazing miracle of nature, he shared a very important life lesson that he took from it - patience is always rewarded. The old proverb holds true 'Good things come to those who wait.' Patience and perseverance can lead to better outcomes.

I have to confess I am very much a product of today's world of instant gratification. We rush around and bustle about, busy, busy, busy... everything has to fall in place immediately, answers need to be instant and we are always striving to bring about results as quick as possible. Gone are the times where we contemplate, think things through and dwell upon that which is important and wait...

Patience is a virtue listed as a fruit of the Spirit in the Bible representing a 'longsuffering' endurance. It is not a quality that can be gifted or granted, but rather one that is nurtured and grown in ourselves. Unfortunately, growing patience often goes hand in hand with facing challenges and frustration sure to make for an uncomfortable and even painful process.

I do believe the end result of working towards growing patience is as rewarding as the superbloom experienced in the most unlikely of places. So my advice (to myself as much as to you) is to work towards growing patience in your life and then enjoy the fruits of your efforts.

Have a great week and enjoy The Sentinel.

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ST HELENA NEWS

"He was, and still is, a hero"

Governor presents Elizabeth Emblem to the family of PC Leonard Coleman for a life given in service



Liam Yon, SAMS

In what will no doubt have been an emotional, though celebratory, atmosphere at Plantation House on Thursday, 26 February, His Excellency Governor Nigel Phillips, presented the Elizabeth Emblem to the family of the late Police Constable, Leonard Coleman.

The Elizabeth Emblem, a new award only introduced in March 2024, is a national commemorative award for the next of kin of UK public servants (such as police, fire, or health workers) who die in the line of duty. It acts as a civilian equivalent to the Elizabeth Cross, recognising bravery and sacrifice.

PC Coleman, as many will know, died in the line of duty in 1982 at just 21 years of age, as detailed by The Governor in his speech on the evening of the reception.

"The story of PC Lenny Coleman's professional life and sacrifice is well known, but it bears repeating," he read. "Lenny was recruited to the St Helena Police on 1 August 1979. He was recognised as having a bright future. Not only was he good at what he did, he was also a friendly, and well-mannered community officer. On 2 December 1982, PC Lenny Coleman put himself in harm's way. Police officers are regularly praised for moving forward toward danger when others are moving back. PC Coleman was no different. He confronted a man who was threatening his wife and children with a shotgun. For that act, he lost his life. Lenny showed selfless determination to protect his community and, in doing so, paid the ultimate price. He was, and still is, a hero."

The Governor said that the late PC Coleman's example "continues to guide the Royal St Helena Police Service today," adding that therefore, "it is entirely appropriate that in tribute to his sacrifice, the Police Station was named in his honour."

With PC Coleman's family in attendance, along with invited guests, The Governor presented the Elizabeth Emblem to local resident and Lenny's brother, Michael Coleman, before a toast was duly given to His Majesty The King and PC Leanord Coleman for a life given in service.

Cheers to PC Lenny Coleman.



ST HELENA NEWS

Call Back Later

International calling to Ascension disrupted following the end of Sure SA Ltd



Ascension Island Mobile are the new telecoms provider on Ascension Island

Liam Yon, SAMS

On Saturday 28 February, Sure South Atlantic Ltd ceased their long-term telecommunications operations on Ascension Island.

The company had been an ever-present on Ascension for over 100 years with their predecessor entity, The Eastern Telegraph Company, which later became Cable & Wireless in 1934 and Sure SA Ltd in 2013, having established a permanent presence on Ascension since way back in 1899.

Following notice in 2025 that Sure would cease operations after February 2026, Ascension Island Government put in work to appoint a new provider, with Ascension having recently entered into a new era of telecoms with newly-licensed provider 'Ascension Island Mobile' (AIM).

Due to this change in service provider, Sure have advised customers of a disruption to international telephone calling between St Helena and Ascension. "St Helena Island will not be able to make calls to or receive calls from Ascension Island via our international calling service from 1 March 2026," they said in a public notice last week. "This also affects mobile SMS services between the islands."

Sure went on to advise that they are "currently working with Ascension Island Mobile" in order to "enable calling services between the islands to be reinstated as soon as possible."

St Helena Government (SHG) have since also recognised this disruption to calling services between the Sister Islands and informed that "AIM recognises the importance of maintaining affordable routes of communication and is actively working with Sure South Atlantic and other global partners to put in place the necessary arrangements as soon as possible."

They go on to add that "international dialling arrangements may vary by country and provider" and therefore advised callers "to contact the intended recipient in advance to confirm the correct number to dial from outside Ascension Island."

However, as a workaround, and in the interim, SHG are encouraging residents to stay connected via Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology, such as WhatsApp, and/or via social media messaging services, such as Facebook Messenger – recognising however that these will require internet availability to work.



Sure, and their predecessors, have operated on Ascension for over 100 years


Sure ceased operations on St Helena on 28 February

FOR SALE:
Two settees - one two-seater and one three-seater.
For more information contact Ivy Ellick on 24733

"Working Together as a Team"

Emergency Services assist Bulk Carrier with crew member needing medical attention



Roping the basket stretcher in a confined space

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena have once again provided assistance under it's Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) obligations, when the Bulk Carrier, MV CSPC Aries, sailed into James Bay at around 8pm on Sunday evening with a crew member requiring urgent medical attention.

As such, St Helena's Emergency Services kicked into action; boarding the vessel to allow medical personnel to assess the crew member before carrying out an extraction to disembark the patient and bring them ashore for further assessment and attention.

This then allowed for the vessel to continue its voyage; the vessel had recently departed the Port of Sao Luis, Brazil, and is currently en route to Nansha, China, with an estimated arrival date of 1 April.

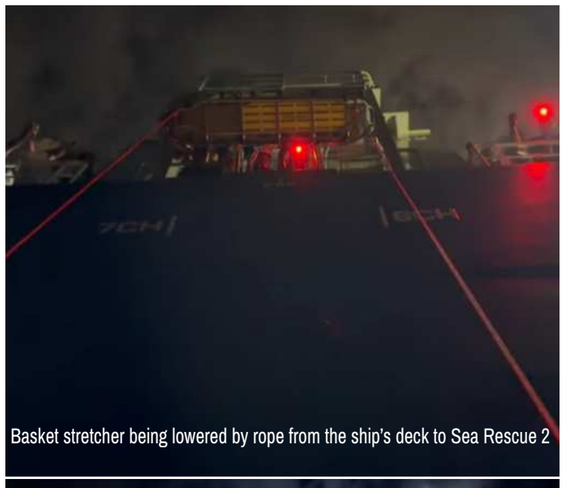
Joining the emergency response team during the operation on Sunday night was SHG's Head of the Public Service, Ian Todd, who posted about the actions of the multi-agency team via a Facebook Post, where he gave details on the situation.

"It was a privilege to be part of the medical team boarding the MV CSPC Aries in James Bay last night," he commented. "The ship arrived after dark, with a significant sea swell and a patient in a much worse condition than we'd anticipated. In the end, the patient had to be lowered from the side of the ship by rope in a basket stretcher."

As detailed by Ian, the operation involved the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre, the Sea Rescue Service, the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service, the Ambulance Service, the General Hospital, Port Control, Immigration, Solomon's, Emergency Planning and likely others, before he described the team as making it "look easy" adding that this is a "a testament to the planning, training and confidence in working together as a team."



Emergency personnel prepare to head to the vessel



Basket stretcher being lowered by rope from the ship's deck to Sea Rescue 2



MV CSPC Aries at anchor

Collective Spirit of our Community"

Major Incident stood down, new fire tenders ordered, and investigation into root cause of the issues "in the planning phase" say SHG



After nine days, St Helena Airport was recertified at Category 6 and all three fire tenders are now back to being operational following repairs

Liam Yon, SAMS

On 6 February, St Helena Government (SHG) declared a 'Major Incident' after St Helena Airport lost its Category 6 Status and all commercial Airlink flights were suspended following issues with the airport fire tenders.

Just nine days later, however, and St Helena Airport was recertified at Category 6 after an incredible effort by all involved - led by the Gold Command - with repairs having been made to reinstate the necessary fire safety capabilities, allowing for the resumption of commercial flights.

Now, with flights back up and running as normal, SHG have confirmed that the major incident (and, as such, the Gold Command) have now been stood down. They also gave an update on the procurement of new fire tenders and an investigation into the root of the issues leading to the major incident.

"SHG is pleased to confirm that the major incident regarding airport operations has now been stood down," they announced last Friday. "This follows the return of all three airport fire tenders to full operational status and successful flights to and from St Helena, Ascension and South Africa this week. Normal operations have now resumed."

As such, a final briefing by Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, was given which included a thank you to all the teams involved, before the Gold Command was officially stood down.

As detailed by SHG, "the work of Gold Command was underpinned by the Multi-Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC) training undertaken last year, as well as emergency response plan testing overseen by the Emergency Planning Department."

They state that, "this internationally recognised framework ensured that the Major Incident was managed with a high level of coordination."

While the Gold Command has been stood down, "a formal multi-agency debrief will be conducted in the forthcoming weeks" in order to "identify further improvements to the process and highlight where close multi-agency working was successfully implemented," as informed by SHG.

Similarly, while the major incident is now over, a number of workstreams will continue led by St Helena Airport Ltd and relevant portfolios in order to strengthen resilience and infrastructure going forward. This includes the procurement of new fire tenders with SHG now confirming that, "with thanks to support from the FCDO," two new fire tenders have been ordered for the airport with delivery expected "early in the new financial year."

In addition, "work on a support package for local businesses directly impacted by the airport closure continues to progress," while, as previously committed to by HE The Governor, "an investigation to establish the root cause of the airport closure" gets underway. According to SHG, this investigation is currently "in the planning phase" with further details to follow.

To conclude their update, SHG noted how "the successful restoration of services in less than two weeks is a testament to the resilience and collective spirit of our community" with Chief Secretary and Gold Commander, Ian Todd, expressing his gratitude to all involved.

"I am extremely grateful to everyone involved for the long hours and hard work put into resolving this incident," he commented. "That is not just public servants but also the Governor's Office, St Helena Airport Ltd, Solomon's and many other individuals and organisations. The teamworking ethos has been exceptional. Our major incident plans have worked effectively, which I hope reassures the public."

Additionally, SHG received feedback from one of the passengers affected by the suspension of flights. "Following the temporary closure of St Helena Airport, I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in resolving the situation and restoring flights as quickly as possible," commented Lauren Williams. "As someone travelling alone, it was a stressful and uncertain time, and I really appreciated the regular updates and clear communication, which helped reassure us and kept us informed throughout. I'm also extremely grateful for how well we were looked after in Johannesburg — accommodation, meals, and support were all organised and handled smoothly, which took a huge weight off my shoulders. Thanks to the hard work, overtime, and commitment of everyone involved, I was able to return home safely to my family sooner than expected, and I will always be grateful for the care and effort shown during such a difficult situation."

Dina and Dusted

Dina Levačić completes Ultra Marathon Swim around St Helena in incredible 17hrs and 13mins



The Croation Marathon Swimmer set an incredible time and was welcomed back to a huge crown of supporters at the Wharf

Liam Yon, SAMS

Last Thursday, history was made on St Helena, when Croatian marathon swimmer, Dina Levačić, became the first to complete a certified and ratified open water swim around the entire Island, finishing the incredible 46km distance in 17hrs 13minutes and 28seconds.

Organised by renowned open water swimming event co-ordinators, Open Water Africa, and assisted by expert local mariners from the Enchanted Isle and Seahawk Odyssey, Dina was the first of three brave competitors having registered to take on the extreme endurance challenge.

Having arrived to the Island just the weekend prior, alongside Open Water Africa's Managing Director, Howard James, Dina had just a few days to prepare on-Island; working with Howard and the team on St Helena to plan the route and details of the challenge before announcing on Wednesday of last week that she would set off from the Jamestown Wharf at a minute after midnight on Thursday, 26 February.

Supported by her mum, and with a fair crowd – considering the time – having gathered at the landing steps to show their backing, Dina dived in to begin her long and arduous swim.

As stipulated by Open Water Africa prior to the event, Dina had to adhere to "the typical traditional values of open water swimming," meaning she would have to swim the entire distance unassisted wearing only a standard swimming costume, one silicone hat and goggles. The only other item being worn, as requested by the pilot crew, was a Sharkbanz – a band, worn on the wrist or ankle, to deter sharks using patented magnetic technology. The organisers made clear that this device "does not affect the unassisted rule as it falls under safety, not assistance."

Flanked by two support boats – Enchanted Isle, skippered by Johnny Herne and his crew on the outside, and Seahawk Odessey, skippered by Jamie Yon and Jamie Essex on the inside – and under the watchful eye of mum, Zaljana Levačić – who it was reported did not take her eyes off Dina for the full 17-hour swim – Dina impressed with a solid swim and good pace where she made incredible progress with each passing hour, swimming in a clockwise direction around the Island.

Also supporting and formally observing the marathon swim was Howard James, with the Open Water Africa founder documenting all things related to the swim; including stroke rate, fluid intake and frequency, wellbeing, wind direction, and water temperature. This would all be transcribed and submitted to a board to ratify the swim and place it into the history books, with a route and standard being formed.

With regular updates from all those involved being posted to Facebook, excitement and support grew with each milestone being reached during Dina's incredible swim. As she neared the finish line, a huge crowed had gathered at the pierhead to welcome Dina and the crews back to dry land with the athlete greeted with rapturous applause and cheers as she stepped ashore having completed the unbelievable 46km swim in just over 17hrs and 13minutes.



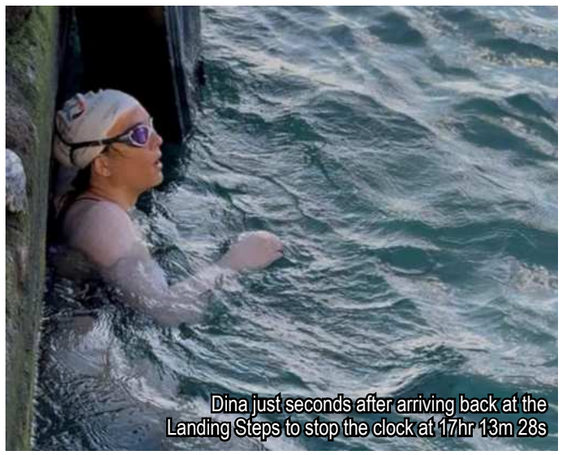
Dina ready to dive-in for the start of the marathon swim at the Landing Steps

Huge congratulations to 29-yr-old Dina for a truly remarkable and historic achievement – what a legend she is!

While Dina becomes the first to complete a certified swim around St Helena Island, two more will rise to the challenge soon, as the spotlight remains on St Helena as the centre stage for probably the most difficult open water swimming marathon currently underway on the planet.



Dina braved St Helena's waters under both the stars and the South Atlantic sun



Dina just seconds after arriving back at the Landing Steps to stop the clock at 17hr 13m 28s



Dina's mum, Zaljana Levačić, kept a close eye on the swimmer for the entire 17 hours

Dina showed incredible technique to tackle the waters around St Helena



The St Helena team that assisted the Ultra Marathon Swim from Enchanted Isle and Seahawk Odyssey

“Opportunities for the Private Sector”

SHG to host Play Equipment Inspection and Maintenance training with GB Sport & Leisure with future playground maintenance intended to be done through private sector contracts


Playground equipment at Blue Hill

Liam Yon, SAMS

With a view to handling the future maintenance of developed playgrounds on St Helena through private sector contracts, SHG have announced a Play Equipment Inspection and Maintenance training course to be delivered this month in partnership with GB Sport and Leisure.

Currently ongoing is the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) Playgrounds Project, with major renovations and upgrading of equipment taking place at both the Half Tree Hollow Playground and Longwood Green.

Now, as part of this project, SHG’s Crown Estates have announced what they describe as a “specialised training opportunity” in partnership with UK-based company GB Sport and Leisure, with a training course to be delivered from Monday, 16 March, to Friday, 20 March, commencing at 8:45am in the upstairs room of the Canister in Jamestown.

“The training is designed to align with the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) accredited standards,” they explained. “Participants will gain comprehensive knowledge through classroom sessions and practical site visits to Longwood Green, Half Tree Hollow (HTH), Sandy Bay, and Blue Hill Field Centre.”

Key modules of the course include Legal and Safety Standards, Practical Inspection; methodology, identifying faults with photographic examples, and risk assessments, as well as Reporting; compiling professional inspection reports and following manufacturer maintenance guidelines.

SHG states that this training provides “opportunities for the private sector” with the Crown Estates said to be intending “for the future maintenance of developed playgrounds, starting with Longwood Green and HTH, to be delivered via private sector contracts (subject to recurrent budget).”

“This training is highly recommended for private individuals or businesses interested in tendering for these upcoming contracts,” they encouraged. “Whilst placements are reserved for relevant SHG personnel (e.g., Crown Estates and Building Services), remaining placements are open to the public.”

SHG revealed how the training is being provided free of charge with the total placements being limited to a maximum of twelve participants. Those having registered their interest will know of their placement on the course, if successful, on Friday.


Future playground maintenance is intended to be delivered through private-sector contracts



The course is being leviered in partnership with UK-based GB Sport & Leisure

`Sisterhood Strengthening Sisterhood`

RSHP Women in Policing Network donates nearly £200 to local charity

Liam Yon, SAMS

The Royal St Helena Police Service’s Women in Policing Network – `Sisterhood Strengthening Sisterhood’ – are currently holding a number of events in the lead-up to International Women’s Day, celebrated globally on 8 March.

As such, they recently held a bake sale at Coleman House to raise money for the Women’s Issues St Helena (WISH) charity, with the total amount raised, including donations, being £193.40.

“Thank you to all of you who bought cakes and generously donated to such a worthy and necessary Charity,” commented Chairperson for the RSHPS Women in Policing Network, Inspector Julianne Stevens. “The WISH Charity is intended to contribute to making the lives of women on St Helena better. It is so heart-warming to know that as a community we are actively supporting women.”

Inspector Stevens noted how “women face many daily challenges,” before stating that the Women in Policing Network wants to “remind all women and girls that they are not alone” and are valued.

Focussing on her own working environment, Inspector Stevens noted how, “we are so very fortunate to have such a wonderful Police network of not only strong women, which includes our officers, staff, controllers and their partners, but also our male allies” before adding that, “together we are looking for ways to give back to the community, therefore, if you feel that there is some way we could help, please do reach out to us.”

According to the Inspector, there is plenty more planned over this week in the lead up to International Women’s Day on Sunday, with plans to engage with the elderly, vulnerable and young members of the St Helena Community, culminating with an International Women’s Day mini-conference on Sunday which will include inspirational women speakers and guests, alongside tasty tea and eats.

Great work by St Helena’s Women in Policing Network.

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Collaborating with Montserrat

Minister Martin Henry and Dr. Peter Moss give feedback on their recent visit to Montserrat and share comparisons between the healthcare systems



Visiting the building site of the new Montserrat hospital (Montserrat CMO on the right of the picture)

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

During the recent radio program, 'In The Know', a platform for Ministers to share information with the public, Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Peter Moss, gave an update on their visit to the island of Montserrat with the aim to look at the similarities and differences in the health systems and how the two islands can benefit and learn from each other.

First off, Minister Henry shared some of the political insight, explaining that although there are some similarities between the two islands, this mainly relates to external systems that originated in their shared history with regards to being British territories and now both being dependent on the UK Government for financial aid. Although the two islands have similar constitutions, St Helena's constitution is more mature, especially with the latest updates recently having been adopted.

These similarities are however in no way reflected in the two island cultures as there are "huge differences between Montserratian and St Helenian cultures," Minister Henry observed. The biggest difference however is the fact that Montserrat is not nearly as isolated as St Helena with quick and affordable access to Antigua as well as other Caribbean islands. A lot of the healthcare provided to Montserratians takes place on other Caribbean Islands and they also receive a lot of financial support from the Pan-American Health Organisation. This truly puts St Helena's isolation into perspective as the island, apart from being physically more isolated, is also isolated with regard to financial support from international health organisations like the Pan-American and the UN's African Health Organisation. St Helena's isolation also makes it more difficult to secure a dependable supply of medication and other medical supplies to the island.

In addition, Montserrat does not have to deal with the challenge of an ageing population, as is the case on St Helena, where an ever-increasing number of people need more medical and social care support. This explains the difference in how the two health systems respond to the unique needs faced. Having highlighted the differences, Martin continued, "I think Montserrat could learn a lot from St Helena especially as they will likely be moving towards a similar age dependency ratio in the future where they will face what we are now experiencing on St Helena."

In 1995, Montserrat had to deal with a major disaster when the dormant Soufrière Hills Volcano erupted, destroying the main town, Plymouth, and causing many residents at the time to leave the island. The population shrank form 12,000 people to a mere 1,000. Since then it has increased again to, in the region of 4,500, including a high number of younger migrant workers. This resident base leads to their average being around 40 years compared to St Helena's average of 53 years. In keeping with a higher average aged population, health statistic show a significant decrease in the health of the population and conversely an increase in medical costs especially with regards to the treatment of chronic diseases and cancer.

Although Montserrat has some advantages over St Helena, one of the challenges they face is the need for a fit-for-purpose hospital building as they have been using a converted school building since the destruction of the hospital during the eruption of the volcano in 1995. A new hospital is currently being constructed, but this "has been a real struggle working in a temporary building on a long term basis," explained Dr. Moss. "I think the two islands have very different problems that they're facing in terms of health. The biggest thing I've learnt, having been told that the two islands are very similar, is that, in fact, they're not. There may be

things we can learn from each other, but the whole setup in health and other areas are completely different," Peter elaborated.

Due to the Montserratian population being made up of a large number of migrant workers, a big part of the population have dual citizenship, providing them with access to more than one healthcare system as well as the private healthcare system that is available to all residents on Montserrat. This marks a huge difference in their approach to medical care in comparison to St Helena where we have the single public service provision of healthcare with very little alternative options and access. In turn, this places additional challenges on St Helena's healthcare system as they are expected to tend to the entire spectrum of health needs on the island.

Two areas where Montserrat can learn a lot from St Helena is in the rolling out of a regular screening program and the collection of medical data of residents to ensure a holistic approach to individual health. In the case of St Helena this is an easier process as all residents attend the only health service provider whereas Montserrat also have the option for residents to attend private medical services.

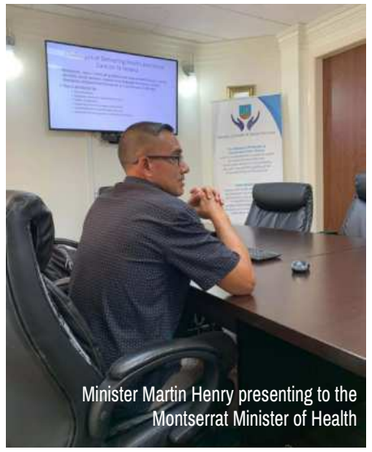
When attending private practices, patients need to pay for their medical care, but at the state facility on Montserrat there is also a substantial cost for the medical treatment determined on a means-based matrix. In addition, Montserratians earn similar or even lower income than St Helenians. When referred for treatment abroad, Montserratians "are expected to make a very significant contribution, sometimes the majority of the cost of the treatment," explained Dr. Moss. This reality where Montserratians pay significantly more for healthcare than St Helenians, while earning even less in some case, left Minister Henry saying, "we often see ourselves as being pushed in a corner and having no money to do anything. Now that we have been in this environment, I feel quite privileged."

The one thing Peter and Martin felt they could take back from Montserrat to improve on in St Helena is their mental health service. Montserrat has access to a lot of support from other Caribbean Islands enabling them to provide a much more comprehensive service across the whole spectrum of the mental health service provision, including specialist care. The initial investment in mental health came about in the aftermath of the trauma caused by the eruption of the volcano with many people being displaced and losing their livelihoods. The level of service provision in this area has been maintained throughout. Although the people working in the area of mental health on St Helena are doing their best to provide as many services as possible, this is an area that the H&SC Portfolio are working to review and improve.

Minister Henry utilised the additional time he had in the UK due to the closure of the airport to meet with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to look at how to garner some support for further developing mental health services on St Helena, especially related to suicide prevention, while also meeting with the individuals supporting St Helena in developing the H&SC Portfolio's mental health strategy. This also provided a valuable opportunity to network and secure connections and support.

Another positive learnt from Montserrat is their primary health and community healthcare provision. On the island they have two primary healthcare centres fully staffed with clinics running a on a daily basis. Dr Moss said that this is an area that they will also be looking to improve as he elaborated. "The service provision at the Longwood and Levelwood Clinics are perhaps not as good as they could be. We will never be able to run them on a full-time five-days-a-week clinics as we simply do not have the staff or the money, but we can certainly look at whether we can provide more of our services out in the community rather than just in Jamestown. So this is one thing I will try to look at, whether we can follow their model to some extent." Minister Henry reiterated that there have been, and are, many business cases to extend primary care and create a separate primary care facility, but that there are many other projects that are at a higher priority for funding.

Going forward, a team from Montserrat's Health Section are looking to now visit St Helena for a week to conduct another four collaboration sessions, specifically looking at health promotion and other subtopics of importance to both islands. "Once their teams come here, they will hopefully be able to support us and help to improve some of the areas we might not see," said Martin. Dr. Moss also explained that they will be exploring whether the island could tap into resources and support from the Pan-American Health



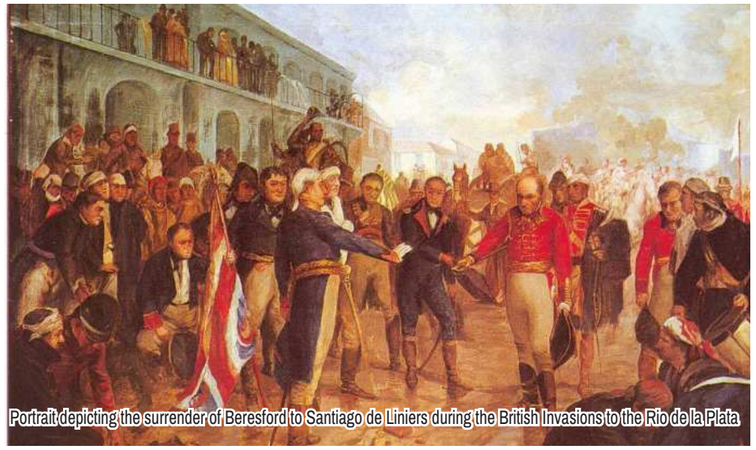
Minister Martin Henry presenting to the Montserrat Minister of Health

Organisation as the island is situated almost halfway between Africa and South America. As St Helena is not receiving any assistance from World Health Organisation Africa it might be a different route to consider gaining valuable support especially with regards to obtaining vaccines via this route. Minister Henry concluded by revealing that one of his future focuses will be on obtaining increased support from the UK, not necessarily with regards to funding but physical support and administration. One of these would include assisting the island by upholding the MOU in providing St Helena with ten places in the UK for advanced treatments. Martin thanked the UKHSA for sponsoring this trip for them and for "providing us with support and a platform to work from. It has been non-stop support from them. We currently have Jacob here who is supporting the health promotion team for six months for free," all contributing to putting systems in place to improve the health strategy as well as the service offering on St Helena.



Approaching the Island of Montserrat

The British Invasions of The River Plate - South America in 1806 and 1807



Portrait depicting the surrender of Beresford to Santiago de Liniers during the British Invasions to the Rio de la Plata

Aubrey George, Contributed

A Brief Introduction

Two hundred and twenty years ago to the present day, the British invasions of the River Plate were two unsuccessful attempts to seize control of the Spanish colony of the vice royalty of the Rio de la Plata, located around the Rio de la Plata in South America (which is Argentina and Uruguay today). It was part of the Napoleonic Wars, war of the third coalition at a time when Spain was an ally of Napoleonic France. From the start of the European conquest of the Americas, Britain had ambitions and interest in the riches of the region, considering the estuary of the Rio de la Plata as a suitable location for a British colony.

A Brief Background

In 1711, John Pullen stated that the Rio de la Plata were the favourable location for a British colonial trading base. During the time of Queen Anne's reign, the Treaty of Utrecht 1713, signed by Spain and Great Britain, granted the British South Sea Company, which was formed in 1711, trading concessions in South America.

A Summary of British Interest in The Region

Britain had long interest of a foothold in the South American region in past conflicts before the invasions. During the 1739-1748 War of Jenkins Ear between Spain and Great Britain, Vice Admiral Edward Vernon made a successful capture of the city of Portobelo in Panama in 1739; The Battle of Cartagena de indias (sitio de Cartagena de indias). In 1741, Vice Admiral Edward Vernon led a British Fleet to attempt the capture of the city of Cartagena de Indias (in present day, Columbia) but his amphibious operation was a disastrous defeat for the British expedition. Vice Admiral Edward Vernon also served as a Member of Parliament (MP) on three occasions, and was outspoken on naval matters, again declaring the benefit of new trading markets in South America for the British economy in 1781. In 1789, during the Nootka Crisis between Great Britain and Spain, the Venezuelan revolutionary Sebastian Francisco de Miranda met with British Prime Minister William Pitt, with his proposal to emancipate (free from restraints) the New World territories under Portuguese and Spanish rule. In early 1805, Prime Minister William Pitt commissioned Admiral Home Riggs Popham to review the Venezuelan Francisco de Miranda's proposed military plans to the British Government. Admiral Popham, knowing that the Spanish colonies were discontented, then persuaded the authorities to promote a rising in Buenos Aires.

The Treaty of Amiens in 1802

Previously, the British successfully captured the Dutch colony at the Cape of Good Hope on 16 September 1795, with an amphibious expedition under Rear-Admiral Sir George Keith Elphinstone during the war of the first coalition. Following the 1802 Treaty of Amiens (French: la paix d' Amiens,lit 'the Peace of Amiens') signed on 25 March 1802, which ended hostilities between France, Spain and Britain in the war of the second coalition, and the end of the French Revolutionary wars, Britain gave up recent conquests, including returning the Cape of Good Hope colony back to the Dutch, and the newly established Batavian Republic - a French sister Republic which replaced the Dutch Republic.

Precedent to The Invasion

The 1802 Peace of Amiens was a short period, before the outbreak of the Napoleonic War and the Third Coalition on 18 May 1803. To ensure their trade route to India were secure, a second British invasion of the Dutch Cape colony was mounted midst the ongoing conflict with Napoleonic France. In August 1805, Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham received orders from the British Admiralty to escort Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird's led expedition of the Dutch colony at the Cape of Good Hope. Known as the Battle of Blaauwberg, or the Battle of Capetown, South Africa, from 8 – 18 January 1806, it was a successful British amphibious operation which captured the Dutch Cape colony. Following the congress of Vienna in 1814 which marked the end of the Napoleonic War, it remained part of the British Empire until the establishment of the Union of South Africa in 1910.

Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham – Acting Beyond His New Orders

Following Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird's led expedition in the recapture of the Dutch colony, the Admiralty dispatched new orders to Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham to patrol the east coast of South America, in order to detect any attempt to counter-attack the Cape colony. At this time, Admiral Popham had the idea of taking the Rio de la Plata (Buenos Aires) similarly to the Cape colony. Been informed by his agent William White of the local politics, and the discontented groups to the Spanish restrictive regulations to international commerce. Acting beyond his new orders, Admiral Popham convinced and concurred with Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird his will to attempt an invasion of the River Plate's Rio de la Plata (Buenos Aires) with or without his involvement. Lt. General Baird authorised Admiral Popham the 71st Regiment of Infantry, artillery and 1,000 men, and promoted colonel William Carr Beresford to a general, who was also designated vice-governor if the invasion was successful.

The Departure from South Africa

Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham expedition squadron with General William Carr Beresford and his troops, sailed from Table Bay, Cape Town, on 14 April 1806.



Portrait of Don Santiago de Liniers

A Contribution to The Expedition from St Helena Island (Deserving of a dedicated Memorial Plaque)

After several days outbound, on the 20 April, Admiral Popham's squadron headed north-west for the island of St Helena, arriving there on 2 May. His expedition took onboard a battalion of infantry, a company of artillery corps, and a number of St Helenian men from the locally raised St Helena Regiment, in all a contingent of 300 reinforcements from the island for the onward expedition to the River Plate, and the Rio de la Plata in South America.

A Summary of The British Unsuccessful Invasion of The River Plate – Buenos Aires 1806

Admiral Sir Home Riggs Popham's squadron with General William Carr Beresford and his 1500+ troops, arrived and assembled in the Rio de la Plata in 8 and 13 June 1806. Admiral Popham's ships bombarded the city's citadel fortress. After the first landing, the British troops took control of Quilmes near Buenos Aires on 25 June, their forces then advanced and occupied Buenos Aires on 27 June. Rafael de Sobremonte - the city's Spanish Viceroy had absconded, he had fled to the northwest city of Cordoba with the city's treasury, which left Buenos Aires poorly defended, and Sobremonte lost the treasury to the pursuing British troops during the escape. Soon after, Admiral Popham sailed for England in his ship HMS Narcissus with the captured treasury, this left General Beresford in a difficult position. Local residents met the British with a lukewarm welcome, while several political groups were annoyed, and many merchants were displeased to the opening to British trade. One of their leaders was Martin de Alzaga. Juan Martin de Puegrredon organised a militia group near Buenos Aires, it was defeated before in readiness. Santiago de Liners commanding a coastal defence, were able to infiltrate the city and observe the ongoing situation. Liniers instructed merchant Alzaga to hold his plans, and move to Montevideo. The Governor Pascual Ruiz Huidobro, assigned Alzaga command of 550 veterans and 400 soldiers to return to Buenos Aires to attempt a re-conquest. Sobremonte was attempting likewise in Cordoba, however, Liniers reached Buenos Aires first. Liniers landed at Las Conchas, north of Buenos Aires, with a combined force of Buenos Aires line soldiers and Montevideo Militia, thereafter advancing to the city on 4 August, taking control of Miserere and El Retiro – the major points to the north and west entries to Buenos Aires. On 10 August, British General Beresford and his forces faced fierce onslaught in a series of relentless battles between 10 – 12 August with Liniers troops and the militias. The British were defeated and forced to capitulate. General William Carr Beresford finally surrendered to Santiago de Liniers on 14 August 1806.

Conclusion

The captured treasury arrived in Britain in September 1806. It was a shipment of silver amounting to 27 tons, 17 hundred weight and 4 lbs, at a value of $1,088,208.00 – equal to £570.000.00. During the combat and fighting, the 71st Regiment of Foot (RoF) lost both of their Regimental Colours, they are currently held in the Santo Domingo convent in Argentina today. The British casualties and losses of the invasion were 157 dead and wounded, with 1300 taken as prisoners. The two successive British invasion campaigns of the River Plate and the Spanish Rio de la Plata in South America in 1806 and 1807 as a whole was unsuccessful, and is known as the, "Reconquista and the Defencesa". According to a Uruguayan journalist, Juan Jose' de Soiza Reilly, hundreds of British troops who lost their lives during the campaigns are buried in a mass grave under passage way – Cinco de Julio, near Avenida Belgrano in downtown Buenos Aires. In Argentina, with the 1806 victory and the two campaigns as a whole, 12 August is commemorated and celebrated as the day of the "RECONQUISTA DE BUENOS AIRES".



Sir William Beresford, commander of the British troops



71st Regiment of Foot Colour, captured by the Spanish forces during the first battle of Buenos Aires

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. Mar 06
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 11am American Connections (Repeat)
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Mar 07
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue
- 12noon-1pm: 80's hour
- 1pm-3pm: Northward Sounds (Repeat)
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Mar 08
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke
- noon-1pm: Ministers' Question Time (Repeat)
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5-7pm: Public Accounts Committee (Repeat)
- 7pm: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Mar 09
- 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. Mar 10
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Anita
- 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 11
- 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 12
- 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***

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





During March Anita will be bringing you the Tuesday Morning Show.

Listen to some nice upbeat tunes to get you going and ready for work. We will be delving into different special days celebrated on this date and might even share a fun recipe to try out.

So tune in to get you going this Tuesday, only on SAMS RAdio 1

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

TIME OUT

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Expert'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



5th March 2006:

Two local radio amateurs make a second contact with the International Space Station while it is passing over St Helena.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Peanut Butter Granola Bars



Ingredients

- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey or maple syrup
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips (optional)
- 2 whole eggs
- Optional add-ins: pinch of salt (omit if peanut butter is salted), walnuts, pecans, almonds, chia, sunflower, or pumpkin seeds, or dried fruit

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 C degrees
2. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well. *If your peanut butter is solid at room temperature, heat it for 10-15 seconds to make it a drizzlier consistency before adding to the mix.
3. Line a 9×9-inch baking dish or pan with parchment paper. This makes it much easier to remove the bars from your dish once baked.
4. Transfer the mixture to the prepared dish or pan. Very firmly press the mixture into the pan in an even layer — the firmer you press, the better the bars will stick together. If you're using chocolate chips, sprinkle them on top, then press them down into the bars.
5. Bake for 15-17 minutes or until the centre is baked through and the edges are just starting to brown. Start checking at 14 minutes, as all ovens are different.
6. Remove from the oven and place pan on a cooling rack.
7. Let the bars cool completely (this is important) before cutting into 16 squares with a sharp knife.

The Island Pulse

Your Voice, Your Government, Your Island



— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

Each week on The Island Pulse, broadcast on SAMS Radio 1, island councillors open the microphones to share updates, answer questions, and reflect the concerns of the community. Hosted by Communications Champion Julie Thomas, the programme has become more than a radio slot - it is a platform for transparency, accountability, and democratic engagement.

This week's edition brought two key focuses:

1. Feedback from the latest round of quarterly district meetings, and

2. An in-depth discussion on the newly established Governance Commission.

Below is a comprehensive overview to keep you informed and involved.

District Meetings: What You Told Us

Over 150 residents attended constituency meetings across the island - a strong show of civic participation. Three districts featured prominently in this week's discussion: Sandy Bay, Rupert's, and Levelwood, bringing this round of quarterly meetings to a close. Across all meetings, several common themes emerged:

- Cost of living pressures
- Infrastructure concerns
- Utilities and telecommunications reliability
- Youth employment and skills development
- Transparency and accountability in government processes

Let's look at each district in turn.

Sandy Bay: Progress, Practicalities and Public Expectations

Councillor Clint Beard reported a well-attended meeting at Sandy Bay Community Centre, with 20 constituents present.

Key Issues Raised

1. Infrastructure & Maintenance

- Street lighting requirements
- Road patching and verge spraying
- Drain clearance ahead of winter
- Improved directional signage

Residents expressed concern about proactive maintenance, particularly regarding drainage and road safety. There was acknowledgement of ongoing slurry works but calls for visible progress remain strong.

2. Utilities & Water Quality: Questions were raised about pathogen monitoring and water testing processes, reflecting public concern about safety and environmental impact.

3. Agriculture & Land Support: Residents queried assistance for agricultural activities on private land, noting the importance of food production to the island's resilience. Water costs for agricultural use were also highlighted.

4. The "Three-Day Work Scheme": There were renewed calls for expanded labour opportunities to assist with community upkeep and job availability.

5. Connectivity & Telecommunications: The ongoing Connect review was discussed, alongside broader telecom improvements expected to progress later this year.

6. Airport & Transport: Residents sought reassurance about long-term airport reliability and raised concerns about transport costs.

The clearest takeaway from Sandy Bay was that people want to see tangible progress. There is appetite for engagement - but also an expectation that issues raised leads to action.

Ruperts: Governance, Infrastructure and Clarity

Dr. Corinda Essex reported strong proportional attendance in Ruperts, reflecting the district's continued engagement.

Major Topics of Discussion

1. Wind Turbines: Due to discontinued models and lack of spare parts, turbines are being cannibalised to maintain operation. Residents were updated on current limitations.

2. Fishing Industry & STC Operations: Concerns persist about local fish supply during exploratory fishing trips. A broader industry review is underway, including stakeholder consultation and analysis by Ann Muir.

3. Road Closures & Communication: Residents recommended clearer signage, particularly when closures are time specific. Misinformation regarding merchant-only access was clarified.

4. Sewage Connections: Perhaps the most pressing issue was delays in connecting private homes to the sewage plant. Questions were raised about minimum operational loads and plant efficiency if connections stall.

Levelwood: Cost of Living, Youth Opportunity and Accountability

Eighteen residents attended the Levelwood meeting, described as "conversational and engaging."

Key Themes

1. Cost of Living: Shipping frequency, freight costs, and price increases dominated discussion. Clarification was provided that freight rates have not increased, and MAC's additional Walvis Bay collection costs were not passed on to consumers, when this service was provided over the festive season.

2. Utilities & Connect Reliability: Residents reported power outages during rain and disruptions to TV and internet services.

3. Housing & Vacant Buildings: Questions were raised about government-owned properties potentially being repurposed for housing.

4. Youth Employment & Skills: A strong concern emerged about:

- Young people leaving the island
- Limited post-16 training pathways
- Generational job progression barriers

An Education, Skills and Employment review is underway, with calls for clear timelines and budget commitments.

5. Equal Pay for Equal Work: While no concerns were raised about TC officer benefits, residents stressed fairness in pay structures.

6. Road Closures & School Transport: Road closure coordination and bus routing for schoolchildren were criticised, particularly regarding Harford School, as refurbishment works at this location have yet to commence.

7. Cemetery Drainage at The Dungeon: Storm drain placement has reportedly caused grave subsidence - an issue requiring urgent review.

Governance Commission: Strengthening the Ministerial System

The second half of the programme featured Janet Lawrence, Chair of the Governance Commission.

Why Was the Commission Formed?

In 2025, a governance review examined the island's first term under the ministerial system. The review produced **49 recommendations** aimed at strengthening governance.

The Commission's role is not to repeat that review, but to:

- Assess each recommendation
- Determine feasibility
- Propose practical implementation
- Engage the public

Who Is on the Commission?

- Janet Lawrence (Chair)
- Andy Pearce
- Mark Brooks
- Marcella Mittens
- Julie Thomas

The Commission operates independently.

What Are They Working On?

The recommendations fall into three broad categories:

- Constitutional reform
- Legislative reform
- Administrative reform

Some recommendations are straightforward. Others are complex and interdependent. Many require careful consideration of local context, resource implications, and procedural evolution. One illustrative example discussed on air was the use of **Certificates of Urgency** - a mechanism allowing matters to proceed without the usual consultation timeframe.

Currently used for urgent legislation (such as during COVID or annual budget approval), Certificates of Urgency bypass normal consultation timelines.

The Commission is examining:

- Whether the process should be more formally documented
- Whether explanations should be read into the record
- Whether additional political countersignature is appropriate

The aim is greater transparency — not restriction.

Consultation and What Comes Next

The Commission has already consulted the Attorney General and HE The Governor. Upcoming consultations include with the Chief Secretary and the Speaker of the Legislative Council.

Following this, a structured public consultation process will begin - likely within the next six weeks.

The intention is not to present 49 dense recommendations and ask for abstract opinion. Instead, the Commission will present simplified explanations, identified options, and practical implications.

This is about meaningful consultation - not symbolic consultation.

Residents are encouraged to begin reviewing the governance report, available via the St Helena Government website, and to engage early if they have strong views.

The Commission can be contacted at: sthelena.grc@gmail.com

Engagement Is the Engine of Progress

The combined attendance across districts - over 150 people - demonstrates something powerful: The people of St Helena care deeply about their island's future.

The work now is to transform discussion into delivery.

As Councillor Coleman noted, engagement must continue if we are to strengthen governance, improve services, and build opportunity for future generations.

A Final Word

St Helena stands at a critical juncture in its democratic journey. Five years into the ministerial system, we are refining - not retreating. Strengthening - not abandoning.

And that process belongs to all of us.

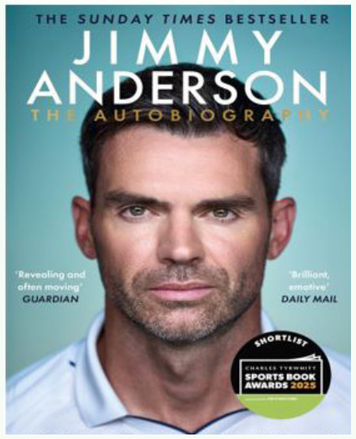
"Democracy does not advance through silence. It grows stronger each time a citizen attends a meeting, asks a question, challenges a decision, or engages with their elected representative. The future of St Helena will be shaped not only in council chambers—but in the conversations we choose to have."

Please note: 'The Island Pulse' is broadcasted on Tuesdays at 2pm and rebroadcasted on Thursdays at 7:30pm and again on Sundays at 5pm.



Book of the Week

Public Library Service



Finding the Edge by Jimmy Anderson
21 years, 188 Test Matches, 704 Test Wickets.
This is Jimmy's story: an intimate, honest reflection told with his trademark humility and dry humour. From growing up in. Burnley as an outsider, isolated at school, bunking off, dreaming of being somewhere – anywhere – else, to dominating the 22 yards of the wicket as part of the deadliest England attack ever assembled.
Jimmy takes us inside the dressing room, to those unforgettable moments: his debut under Nasser Hussain, facing off the Aussies with Monty Panesar, Kevin Pietersen's 'textgate' and that Mitchell Johnson incident. He reflects on the intense rivalries with Michael Clarke and Sachin Tendulkar and the burgeoning friendships with Alastair Cook and Stuart Broad. Delving behind the cricket, Jimmy reveals his experiences of personal loss alongside the pain of professional injury, and the strength he found from his marriage and the arrival of his two children.
Finding the Edge is a front-row seat at the greatest games of the last two decades as England journey from perennial losers to world number one. But, above all, it is a coming-of-age story that reveals the real Jimmy Anderson: vulnerable, introspective, relentlessly determined, and constantly evolving - a bowler unequalled, a career like no other.
Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

NOTICE BOARD

Festival of Walking
Deadwood Plain - Sugarloaf - Banks & Buttermilk Point - Ruperts - Jamestown

Date: Sunday, 8 March 2026
Start Time: 09:00
Meeting Point: Deadwood Plain entry (transport will be provided to the walk starting point from the Tourist Office, Jamestown at 08.30 prior booking is essential)
Google Map Location: -15.94263, -5.68796
Duration: approx 5 hours

Walk grade: Strenuous | 9 - 10

Starting from Deadwood Plain, this walk will take you from green pastureland (home to the endemic wirebird) and on to the coastal path with a changing landscape and views of the ocean. Approach the majestic Sugar Loaf landmark and head towards the coast, past historical ruins at Banks & Buttermilk Point before heading back to Jamestown via Ruperts. This walk will be led by Louis Youde. This walk is suitable for experienced walkers.

*A bus will be provided from Jamestown to the start of the walk at Deadwood, booking is essential. Please contact the Tourist Office T:22158 or email:dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh by **12.00 on Saturday, 7 March 2026.***

Date	Upcoming Walks
14 March 2026	Flagstaff

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

'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 share an update on the recent visit to the Island by the RSPB



The RSPB, or the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, is a prominent and world-renowned UK-based charity dedicated to the conservation of birds and wildlife. In terms of St Helena, the RSPB manages the St Helena Cloud Forest Project on behalf of local on-island partners, and has done so since the start of the this multi-year highly-collaborative project.

Visiting recently from the RSPB were Species Recovery Programme Manager, Jenny Weston, and Head of UK Overseas Territories, Jake Zarins. While here, they joined on-island Project Manager, Shayla Ellick, for a whirlwind round of partner meetings, project updates with key stakeholders, and team catch-ups.



Jake commented: *"Having heard so much about the St Helena Cloud Forest and managed a 'sister' project in Kenya that drew much of its inspiration from the St Helena work it was amazing to see the sheer breadth, complexity and professionalism of the work being delivered by all the project partners."*

It was great to have Jenny and Jake on the island and we look forward to their next visit!

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



EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Newsletter MAR 26

Welcome back and Happy New Year! All of us at the Equality & Human Rights Commission wish you a happy, healthy, and fair 2026. As we step into the year ahead, our focus remains firmly on strengthening justice for all — championing equal rights for women, supporting people with disabilities, and continuing our commitment to advocate for the people of St Helena.

The year is already in full swing, and we're hard at work reviewing legislation, raising awareness, and shining a light on those remarkable individuals who go above and beyond in the pursuit of fairness and dignity. There's plenty happening, and we're excited to share what the EHRC has been up to so far. Happy reading!

PUTTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FIRST: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION ON ST HELENA

24 January 2026 is marked as International Day of Education — a timely moment to highlight the major changes taking place within St Helena's education system. The Equality & Human Rights Commission spoke with Education Minister Andrew Turner about the primary school restructure, which aims to strengthen every child's right to a high-quality education. With falling pupil numbers and staffing pressures affecting consistency, the new model introduces larger peer groups, fewer mixed-age classes and teaching aligned with international COBIS standards ahead of the island's 2030–31 accreditation goal.

"These reforms are expected to improve teaching quality, support staff development and create a more resilient system that better prepares young people for further study and employment" explained Minister Turner.

Most importantly, the restructure reinforces St Helena's human-rights commitment to providing education that is accessible, equitable and focused on helping every child reach their full potential. The Education Directorate has thanked parents, teachers and students for their patience and support as the island moves through this early stage of transition.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE: FAIRNESS FOR ALL ON ST HELENA

International Day of Social Justice on 20 February offered an important opportunity for St Helena to reflect on how fairness and equality are upheld within our community, particularly when it comes to accessing justice. Around the world, this day highlights the need to remove barriers that prevent people from fully participating in society - where those barriers relate to income, discrimination, education or the legal system. Here, the Equality & Human Rights Commission continues to hear concerns about the affordability of taking a case to court.

While St Helena's justice system is built on principles of fairness and impartiality, the financial burden of legal representation and court fees can discourage individuals from defending their rights or challenging decisions.

When cost becomes a barrier, the right to a fair hearing - protected under clause 10 of the constitution of St Helena - becomes harder to realise in practice.

Social justice requires more than the existence of laws and courts; it requires that every person can realistically access them. International Day of Social Justice reminds us that fairness must be lived, not just promised. As St Helena continues to strengthen its institutions, this moment encourages renewed discussion about how to ensure that justice remains accessible, affordable and meaningful for all residents. It also highlights the importance of public awareness, early advice, and support systems that help people understand and exercise their rights. By continuing to address these challenges openly and constructively, the island moves closer to a society where dignity, equality and opportunity are not just ideals, but everyday realities.

STRENGTH OF A WOMEN: IWD 2026

International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March offers a powerful moment to celebrate the achievements of women on St Helena while recognizing the ongoing work needed to secure true equality. With the extension of CEDAW — the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women — St Helena has strengthened its legal and moral commitment to protecting women's rights. The extension means the island must actively work to prevent discrimination, promote gender equality in education and employment, address violence against women, and ensure women have equal access to justice and public life. It also requires government policies and services to be reviewed through a gender-equality lens, helping to identify gaps and improve protections for women and girls across the island.

This year, the Equality & Human Rights Commission will mark the month of March by highlighting remarkable women across St Helena whose leadership, resilience and contributions continue to shape our community. Their stories reflect the spirit of CEDAW in action — showing how stronger rights, better protections and greater visibility can empower women to thrive. As we celebrate International Women's Day, we are reminded that equality is not only a legal obligation, but a shared responsibility that moves the island closer to fairness and opportunity for all.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter to find out what we've been up too. If you'd like more information or our support please contact us via telephone +290 22133 or email info@humanrightssthelena.org

Vacancy: Human Rights Commissioner

The Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is inviting applications for the role of Human Rights Commissioner.

If you care about fairness, dignity and equality, and you're ready to play a meaningful role in strengthening human rights on our island, then we'd love to hear from you.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We welcome applicants who:

- Act with integrity and impartiality
- Respect confidentiality
- Understand the responsibilities of public conduct in a small community
- Can demonstrate fairness, dignity and respect in everyday life

ABOUT THE ROLE

Commissioners are expected to:

- Provide independent oversight and guidance
- Support the advancement of human rights across St Helena
- Uphold the reputation and values of the Commission

Training and support will be provided. The role requires a commitment of a minimum of 10 hours per month and is paid at an attractive hourly rate

Closing date: 23rd March 2026

The EHRC is committed to equality of opportunity and encourages applications from all members of the community. Previous applicants are welcome to re-apply.

HOW TO APPLY:

To apply please send a CV and a covering letter, explaining why you are fit for this role, plus a copy of your most recent vetting certificate to Carol@humanrightssthelena.org or for further information, please contact: Catherine@humanrightssthelena.org or call +290 22133

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 8th March
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 10th March: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 11th March: Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 12th March: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
World Day of Prayer - Friday, 6th March
Jamestown Chapel, 7.30pm

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

Gospel Outreach Service - Sunday, 15th March
Kingshurst Community Centre, 3pm

ALL ARE WLCOME

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: 07/03/26
TIME: 10h00-11h30
Refreshments will be served.

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 8th March 2026 – 3rd Sunday in Lent		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	**Evening Prayer/Annual Vestry**	**Cathedral**
	Tuesday 10th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship & Praise/Lent Course**	**Sandy Bay Community Centre**
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**St Helena & The Cross**
	Wednesday 11th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**Cathedral**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 8th March 2026 – 3rd Sunday in Lent		
9.30 a.m.	**Eucharist/ Annual Vestry**	**St John**
	Wednesday 11th March	
7.00 p.m.	**Lent Course**	**St James**
	Thursday 12th March 2026	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 8th March 2026 – 3rd Sunday in Lent		
11.15 a.m.	**Eucharist/ Annual Vestry**	**St Mark**
	Tuesday 10th 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 "Green" bingo sheet will be used – the last sheet. Numbers to be 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 7 March at 6 pm.

Prize - £20 per week.
Last week's winners: Mrs Dorothy Yon

34	18	50	76	5	21	63	32	49	84
44	70	61	28	81	58	37	80	7	11
79	2	30	52	69	25	88	16	31	42
64	72	1	26	13	38	51	23	10	43
71	62	36	90	24	57	87	59	22	35
47	65	39	3	66	29	48	86	15	40
27	53	78	12	82	46	68	6	33	20

NOTICE BOARD



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 7th March 2026 at 8:30am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 8th March 2026
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 6:30pm
Jamestown (Contact: Bramwell 62117)
Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7pm
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.

Scout Jackpot Draw

The winners of the February Scout Jackpot were as follows:

1st Prize - £100 – Joopy
Ticket No. 359

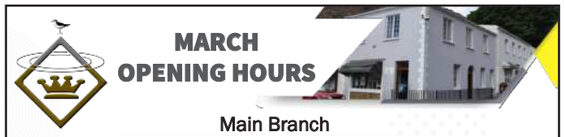
2nd Prize - £50 – Patsy Brown
Ticket No. 159

3rd Prize - £25 – Richards
Ticket No. 206

4th Prize - £25 – Eric Constantine
Ticket No. 433

The draw for March will take place on 27 March.

Remember to have any chance of winning, you must participate.



MARCH OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30

Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Tuesday, 24 March	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Wednesday, 25 March	09:30 – 13:00

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

An AGM of the HTH Community Centre will be held at the Community Centre on Monday, 9th March 2026 at 7.30pm following the resignation of the Chairperson and Treasurer.

The agenda:
Welcome by the Registrar.
Summary of Events.
Treasurers Accounts.
Election of Committee.
Any Other Relevant Business.

Your attendance to form a committee to run and manage the affairs of the Centre would be greatly appreciated.

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

Emergency Medical Technician (2-year fixed term) (£16,248 per annum)

As an EMT, you'll respond to emergencies, deliver clinical care across community and hospital settings, and take responsibility for the Emergency Department in the absence of a senior clinician. You'll provide care in line with JRCALC and UK Resuscitation Council guidelines, ensuring safe, high-quality, and compassionate care for every patient. The role includes on-call duties, unsocial hours, and opportunities to support service development and training. This is an opportunity to use your skills in a challenging but rewarding environment where teamwork, adaptability, and professionalism are key. You will be part of a service that plays an essential role in supporting the island's health and wellbeing. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Michael Gaga-Hale on Tel No. 25870 or Email: michael.gaga-hale@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 20 March 2026
Interview date: 30 March 2026

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

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

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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.

Data Management Officer (1-year fixed term) (£25,000 per annum)

The Data Management Officer will support the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer and the broader Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section team in the management, storage, and analysis of critical data necessary for the effective oversight of St Helena's Category 6 Marine Protected Area. The individual in this position will be instrumental in enhancing data systems, facilitating staff development, and ensuring data integrity throughout the section. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Adam Riggs on Tel No. 25966 or Email: adam.riggs@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 23 March 2026
Interview date: 03 April 2026

Senior Marketing Manager (£24,503 per annum)

The Senior Marketing Manager will help to improve the lives of all within our community by raising awareness of St Helena as a place to live, learn, work, visit and invest and help the island thrive by leading and coordinating all St Helena Government (SHG) marketing activities. A key focus of the role will be on improving visitor numbers and expenditure by delivering destination marketing initiatives that develop the island's tourism sector. The Senior Marketing Manager will report to the Head of Communications and will be part of the Communications Hub, overseeing the marketing function. The role will serve as a firm link strengthening working relationships, systems and structures between St Helena and external stakeholders, and will support a wide range of PR, product/service development, marketing issues and initiatives, and provide strategic marketing leadership for projects and partnerships. Interested? Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anne Dillon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: anne.dillon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 March 2026
Shortlisting date: 25 March 2026
Interview date: 02 April 2026

Casual workers (Tourist Office) (Rate of pay - £8.60 per hour)

Are you a highly motivated and reliable individual looking to grow your global skills in a customer facing role? The Tourist Office is looking to recruit a pool of casual workers to join the team when required, over weekends at the airport and office, during cruise ship visits and at various events.
As a Tourism Officer (Casual), your primarily role would be customer facing, providing information about St Helena and liaising with service providers to give visitors a positive visitor experience. Role may include assisting at special events, raising awareness about St Helena and promoting the various tourism activities the island provides. Applicants must be able to work at weekends and flexible hours.

Enquiries: Dianne Venning on 22158 or Email: dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 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



sure.

PRESS RELEASE: Disruption to International Calling Services

Disruption to calling between St Helena Island and Ascension Island effective 1 March 2026

Sure SA Ltd advises our customers that effective 28 February 2026 Sure's public telecommunications licence on Ascension Island will cease.

Due to the change in service provider on Ascension Island there will be a disruption to international telephone calling between St Helena Island and Ascension Island. Customers on St Helena Island will not be able to make calls to or receive calls from Ascension Island via our international calling service from 1 March 2026. This also affects mobile SMS services between the islands.

Sure is currently working with Ascension Island Mobile, the new telecommunications service provider on Ascension Island, to enable calling services between the islands to be reinstated as soon as possible. We will advise customers when services have been restored.

Should you have any questions regarding the above changes; please contact our Customer Services team on telephone +290 22900 or email us at service@sure.co.sh

SPORTS ARENA

Golf Report

Arthur Francis & Neil Joshua Triumph in the Texas Scramble Competition


New SHGC Committee

SHGC, Contributed

The St Helena Golf Club staged a Texas Scramble Strokeplay competition (3/8 combined handicap allowance) on Sunday, 1 March 2026, with 15 teams taking part in a competitive day's golf.
Arthur Francis and Neil Joshua set the pace with a gross 69. After applying their 11-stroke allowance, they returned an excellent net 58 to secure the overall victory.
Helena Stevens and Jeffrey Stevens finished on net 61 (76–15), claiming second place on the last nine holes countback.
Bramwell Bushuru and Asa Grahams Bushuru also posted net 61 (71–10), finishing third after countback was applied.
Laura Buckley and Keith Buckley placed fourth on net 62 (75–13), while Lawson Henry and Keith Joshua completed the top five with net 63 (71–08).
Two ball pool winners were Norman Thomas/Chedwin Lawrence ancd Laura/Keith Buckley on the 5th along with Annette Delacourt /Nigel Leaver on the 11th. Congratulations to the winners
Following the competition, the Club held its Annual General Meeting, where the following members were elected to serve on the committee for the coming year:
President: None
Captain: Bramwell
Vice-Captain: Neil Joshua
Honorary Treasurer: Dave Brown
Honorary Secretary: Ed Oyewo
Lady Captain: Helena Stevens
Course Manager: Jeffrey Stevens
Entertainment Manager: Phanual Shangwa
Games manager: None
Handicaps Manager: Laura Buckley
Congratulations to the new committee and all the best for your term in office.
The next competition will be a Par 3 Strokeplay event scheduled for Sunday, 8 March 2026. Tee off 12:00 noon.

Happy swinging!


Winners

WSA Volleyball League 2026





SPORTS ARENA



One Win Away

Half Tree Hollow continues perfect run in only match of the SHCA District

Luke Bennett, SAMS

A rainy Saturday on the weekend saw the continuation of the 2026 SHCA T20 District Tournament with holders, and current undefeated side, Half Tree Hollow, facing up against Jamestown.

Jamestown batted first but got off to a shaky start, losing their openers early on in the innings. A 15 from Damien O'Bey, accompanied by a 21 from Trystan Thomas, would go some way to steadying the innings for Jamestown, however battling against the elements and with two squad members short, it was always going to be difficult.

In addition, Half Tree Hollow were in fine form putting in an outstanding bowling performance that saw each of their bowlers walk away with at least one wicket, with Joey Thomas being the standout bowler, having taken three wickets. This ensured that Jamestown could only muster 85 runs before being bowled all out.

Half Tree Hollows batting innings was a complete contrast to that of Jamestown's, with their openers, Andrew Yon and Jamie Essex, attacking the bowling of Jamestown, scoring 51 and 27 respectively to complete the chase within seven overs.

This performance, once again, shows the clear intention of the holders to retain their district title this season.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather conditions, both of Sunday's fixtures were cancelled, therefore, the remaining five games of the district tournament, is set to be played out this weekend.

In light off this, the district competition comes down to the final week with Half Tree Hollow leading the pack; St Pauls, Levelwood and Longwood joint in second place; while Jamestown and Sandy Bay fight to get their first points - leaving it all to play for in the final matches!



FIXTURES

Saturday 7th March
Levelwood v Sandy Bay
Umpires:Scott Crowie and Damien O'Bey
St Pauls v Longwood
Umpires: Derek Richards and Barry Stroud

Sunday 8th March
St Pauls v Levelwood
Umpires: Andrew Yon and Jamie Essex
Longwood v HTH
Umpires:Dane Leo and Weston Clingham
Jamestown v Sandy Bay
Umpires: Jordi Henry and Stefan Leo