THE South Atlantic Media Services, Ltd.

www.sams.sh

# SENTINEL

Vol. 14, Issue 49 - Price: £1 *"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"* Thursday 19 March 2026

## "Three Very Special Ladies"






## *'A Walk Through History'*




## One Man, One Incredible Swim



## OPINION

# SENTINEL COMMENT

**Luke Bennett**, SAMS

Who decides what you believe or not? We believe in things that we cannot see and most of this is down to religion because we were taught to believe it. But what about the things people did see; what or who decides if these sightings are credible or not?

Remember the Monkcat! That took the island by storm, but most say it was just a rumor. But what about the people who did see it? There were a few witnesses that had claimed to have saw this Monkcat; but it still seems to be a myth. Later, it turned into a big cat species, but still it remains a rumor. There have even been photos (though not very good ones) and a video (again, taking from a fair distance away); so why is this still a myth?

Why do we allow our minds to be restricted to what we see is real, because what if you don't see it? Does that mean you are right and they're wrong? 80% of the world's ocean hasn't been explored, but we still seem to think that creatures like the megalodon, mermaids and so on doesn't exist - just because we haven't seen them?

The Giant of Kandahar, have you ever heard of that? There is witnesses who were in the military who have claimed to have fought a giant in Kandahar. Witnesses have come forward who are from Kandahar to say that there was a giant there and people use to send livestock up to the cave to feed it. So how can anyone say it's not real just because they didn't see it themselves? Don't even get me started on area 51!

The bottom line is, if you choose to believe, then why not? Imagine the first telephone, before seeing it most people probably thought that was a myth! So, you see my point.

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## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Another little tale of medical woes

I have been a patient, on St Helena, of Senior Medical Officer Dr Jannas Du Plessis for a number of years since coming to live on the island. He is familiar with my medical history and the numerous orthopedic procedures I have experienced over my lifetime. I was last seen by him on Wednesday 4th February 2026, after attending several other local doctors, due to a bad fall from a height on the 5th January 2026. This fall severely impacted both of my wrists which have suffered the effects of advanced osteoarthritis, confirmed by local x-rays, over a considerable period. Since this fall the sustained levels of pain in both my wrists and their Carpal bones is constant day and night and becoming intolerable despite painkillers and prescribed anti-inflammatory drugs which have undesirable side effects if taken long term.

Resulting from my last appointment with Dr Du Plessis he listed me to see visiting orthopedic surgeon Dr Phillip De Lange from South Africa who was due to arrive in St Helena on Saturday 7th February 2026. Unfortunately, due to the sudden airport closure over defective fire appliances this flight was cancelled and my enquiries indicate it is not known when Dr De Lange will next visit the island now that the airport has reopened. Presumably, Dr De Lange would have referred my case to a specialist hand clinic in South Africa equipped with MRI scanning facilities which are essential to map the surgical area prior to the required Carpal bone surgery.

Due to the passage of time plus enduring constant discomfort and pain I contacted the outpatients 'appointments' receptionist on Friday 6th March 2026 to book another appointment with Dr Du Plessis only to be told that he does not hold regular clinics but she would forward my request. I confirmed with the receptionist that I was an existing patient of his and needed to see him urgently to discuss my surgical options. I am aware that Dr Du Plessis has personally been instrumental in referring various recent medical cases to South Africa for surgical treatment hence my faith in his ability to move matters forward. On Monday the 9th February 2026 I again contacted the receptionist and was informed that Dr Du Plessis **might** respond directly to my request but she wasn't expecting a reply via herself ------to be continued.

As a retired old grunter who has lost enough blood, sweat and tears in service to the Crown I have developed a thick skin and know when I am being given the run around to speak out loud and clear. I have nothing but respect for the medical skills of Dr Du Plessis but this selective lottery of who benefits from his medical attention, or a surgical referral, and who does not is evidence of a broken medical system **still** in need of urgent overhaul.

**A.H. Nicolls**

## Interested in submitting a 'Dear Editor' letter to The Sentinel?

If yes, then please note the following SAMS' policies applicable to Letters to the Editor:

- Letters to the Editor are welcomed from all members of the St Helena Community.
- Letters to the Editor are encouraged to stimulate discussion on topics relevant to St Helena.
- Letters to the Editor are permitted to raise controversial topics.
- Letters to the Editor are permitted to express opinions that are not necessarily the opinion of SAMS.
- Letters to the Editor are subject to the laws of St Helena.
- Letters to the Editor must not advocate that anyone commit an act that is illegal under the laws of St Helena.
- Letters to the Editor must not defame or possibly defame an identified person or other legal entity.
- Letters to the Editor are not necessarily verified by SAMS for their factual accuracy.

*Being able to exercise your freedom of speech and share your opinion and views respectfully is important and The Sentinel encourages you to utilise the 'Dear Editor' section of The Sentinel to do just that.*
*Contact news@sams.sh.*

# We Don't Want a Repeat

## SHAL Chairman and Non-Executive Directors support internal investigation




SHAL's Chairman and Nen-Executive Directors will support the internal investigation at the Airport

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Following the issues at St Helena Airport, which caused a near two-week closure of the Airport and suspension of Airlink flights in February, an investigation into the root cause of the problems was mooted and said to be commencing soon following reinstatement of the Airport at Category 6.

Recently, the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors of St Helena Airport Ltd (SHAL) released a statement where they gave their support to the internal investigation in order to prevent similar issues in the future and improve the Airport's resilience.

"The Chairman and Non-Executive Directors of St. Helena Airport Ltd support the internal investigation that is currently underway," they said. "In addition, they are undertaking an independent investigation and any matters arising from the respective investigations will be examined to protect SHAL against future recurrence and improve resilience."

The Chairman and Non-Executive Directors added that they "remain fully committed" in working alongside the Executive Director and Airport Management Team, as well as St Helena Government and other stakeholders, in order "to maintain confidence in the operation of St Helena Airport for those who work there and those who use its services."

The outcome of this investigation will no doubt attract high-interest with many calling for its findings to be made publicly available; following on from what was an open, and much appreciated, communication strategy from SHG to the public during the Major Incident in February.



Mechanical issues were identified with the Airport Fire Tenders which ultimately caused the Airport to lose its Category 6 status

# Fees on the Rise

## SHG to increase Land Registry Fees from 1 April 2026




**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Land Registry Fees on St Helena are set to increase for the first time in six years with Executive Council having approved the increases at the start of the calendar year with a view to the revised fees coming into effect following the end of this financial year.

"On 27 January 2026, Executive Council approved an amendment to the Registered Land Rules 1981, to increase fees for Land Registry Services, including the registration of interests in land, land surveys and other services as provided under the Registered Land Ordinance 1980," announced SHG last week.

They detail how, "Land Registry fees were last reviewed and updated on 1 November 2020 and have remained unchanged until now."

According to SHG, the increases in fees are necessary in order for them to better align "with the cost of delivering these services" as well as to "ensure the long-term viability of Land Registry, and support the timely delivery of land registry processes."

The revised fees, which have been made available to view on the SHG Website, will come into effect on 1 April 2026.

# "A Stronger, Fairer Future for St Helena"

## New Government publishes their Draft Vision and Strategy for 2026-2029




Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, and her Ministerial Team have set their Vision & Strategy for their term of office

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Six months into their tenure and the new Government for St Helena have now set their Draft Vision and Strategy for 2026-2029, having released this in a two-page Press Release last week as published in The Sentinel.

To begin, Government says that St Helena has "come a long way in recent years," with the successful delivery of the Rupert's port, improved road infrastructure, tourism recovery through the Tourism Recovery Strategy, internationally recognised marine and terrestrial conservation initiatives, and the commencement of primary re-organisation described as "wins" for the Government, among other "key projects and policies".

They add however that, despite this, the Island continues to face "a complex set of interlinked social, economic, and environmental challenges that threaten the island's long-term sustainability and the well-being of our community."

To this end, they list issues like the rising costs of living, the Island's aging and declining population, labour shortages, fragile national infrastructure, and declining trust in institutions; all which they say "have eroded public confidence and reinforced a cycle of uncertainty and outward migration," with these issues said to go hand-in-hand with each other, with one impacting on the next.

As such, Government informed that it is "developing its new Vision and Strategy" which will set out "a clear path to first stabilise and start to reverse these trends and build a fairer, more resilient, and forward-looking St Helena," adding that they "believe in a community where every person is valued, has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life, and where families, businesses, and the environment can thrive together."

The vision was then published: 'Our vision is for a fair, inclusive, more resilient and forward-looking St Helena, confident in its future, responsible in its stewardship and united in purpose to become a sustainable thriving community with people at its heart.'

"We recognise that rebuilding confidence will require phased reform, and a clear focus on what is affordable and what can be delivered sustainably within our financial and institutional capacity," said SHG. "We also recognise the increasing costs of service delivery, as a result of our aging population and shrinking workforce as well as the impact of increasing international costs, for example supply of pharmaceuticals. This means we need to look carefully at the sustainability of our current range of service delivery."

Turning their attention to the new strategy, they note how this "will be built around three themes that have been shaped by the voices and experiences of St Helenians across the island." These themes are "Stabilising the Population and Labour Market" through creating conditions for people to stay, return, and contribute through fulfilling careers, skills development, and fair access to services; "Protecting Living Standards and Core Services" through ensuring immediate support for those under pressure, while reforming health, social care, education, and infrastructure for long-term sustainability; and "Enabling Sustainable, Locally Driven Growth" by diversifying the economy, investing in digital and physical infrastructure, and developing productive economic sectors which safeguard the environment as a strategic asset, creating an enabling environment to accelerate opportunities for growth.

In terms of "key actions" going forward, these include "aligning education and workforce planning with current and future needs, commitment to partnership with the community in preventative healthcare, affordable utilities, and public service modernisation."

SHG say that "the strategy also recognises the need for incremental tax and revenue reform and disciplined public financial management." It will, in addition, "support initiatives already in train, such as the continued implementation of the Tourism Development Programme, Company Registry and Financial Services Development Programme, and completion of the long overdue immigration reforms." With that said, they were clear that the strategy "also seeks to explore new areas of government intervention, with fresh thinking already commenced with the fishery, in high value agriculture, wharf redevelopment, and on expanding the St Helena Research Institute."

Government then add that to reach these targets, and fulfil this ambitious strategy, implementation will need to "be phased" and comprise of "clear milestones and measurable outcomes" which they say "will be shared pending the outcome of budget discussions with the UK Government."

They then commit to being open when communicating "about pro-

gress and constraints" alongside being adaptable when needed based on "evidence and lived experience" while continuing to "work in partnership across portfolios, communities, business, and civil society."

One thing Government say that it is clear on, is "that St Helena cannot only tax its way out of structural challenges by increasing the burden on wages in a shrinking population. Instead, they note how "long-term sustainability requires a broader and fairer revenue base, improved compliance, and growth-linked revenues, alongside disciplined public financial management," which it is hoped this strategy will achieve.

"By focusing first on stabilising people's lives and rebuilding trust, while strengthening the foundations of our economy, services, and environment, we will restore confidence and set St Helena on a more secure and hopeful path, step by step, and together," committed SHG.

Finally, Government sought to focus on their policy priorities for the period 2026–2029, where they say they will "focus on nine cross government policy priorities" which are to stabilise the population and labour market; protect health and social care and improve prevention outcomes; reform education and build the future workforce; reduce the cost of living through investment in utilities and infrastructure; enable sustainable, locally driven economic growth; grow revenues fairly; reform and strengthen the public service; safeguard the environment as a strategic asset; all while protecting living standards during transition.

These priorities, they state, "are aligned with a set of Strategic Outcomes, that reflect the importance of cross portfolio partnerships, the reality of resource limitations, and the interconnections and interdependencies inherent in bringing about changes," with outcomes said to guide the work streams across different sectors of SHG.

Workstreams listed by Government include, in Health, stabilising hospital flow, reducing overseas referrals, expanding residential care, and developing sustainable financing models; in Education, COBIS accreditation, primary school reorganisation, Additional Educational Needs reform, post-16 vocational pathways, a more inclusive educational system and establishing a Higher Educational Provision; in Utilities, renewable energy transition, telecoms regulation, and water security; in Growth, tourism development, Impact Company Registry, financial services reform, as well as agriculture and fisheries revival; and in Public Service, digital transformation, workforce planning, and performance management.

SHG concluded their release by looking ahead to finalising this vision and strategy. "Over the coming weeks, the Government will discuss the draft strategy more widely with focused stakeholder groups and invite discussion to help identify any remaining gaps, including issues relevant to groups we have not yet reached," they informed. "Our aim is to finalise and publish the strategy once we have confirmation of our budgetary aid settlement, expected in April 2026, and at this time, clear milestone and timelines will be confirmed. We will review the strategy annually to ensure it remains responsive to the island's changing needs."

Once the final Vision and Strategy of this Government is set, the public will no doubt be expectant of Government to follow-through with these commitments, which could set the tone for the relationship between SHG and the people going forward; progress of course will build confidence, though stagnation, on the contrary, will only grow frustration and compound on issues already being faced by the Island.

The new Vision and Strategy was the focus of discussion on the latest 'In The Know' radio programme on SAMS Radio 1 this week – with the final airing of this episode going out at 1pm today, 19 March.



SHG say 'rebuilding confidence will require phased reform, and a clear focus on what is affordable and what can be delivered sustainably'

# One Man, One Incredible Swim



South African, Angus McPherson, becomes first man to swim around St Helena

Angus with his entourage and the crews after completing his swim, with crowds at the Wharf showing their support

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Swimming around St Helena has recently gone from a never-before-heard of crazy idea, to a bit of a common occurrence. With that said, however, it is still an incredibly difficult challenge which takes immense endurance and both next-level physical and mental strength.

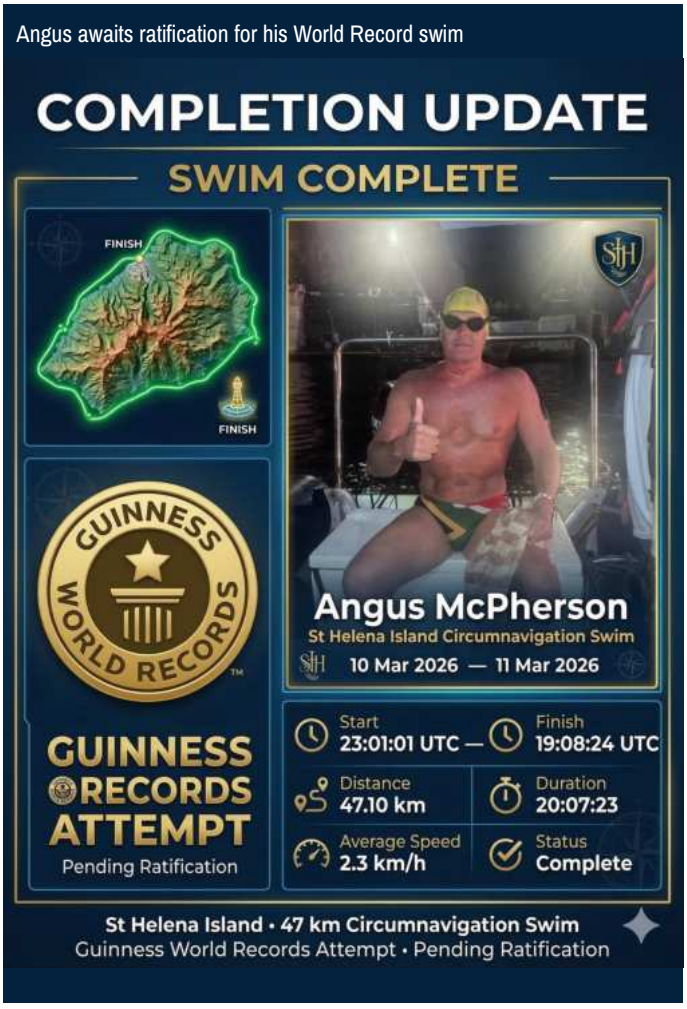
Last Wednesday, having set off at 11pm the night before, South African Open Water Swimmer, 59-year-old Angus McPherson, became the first ever man to swim the 47km around St Helena Island as part of Open Water Africa's Ultra Marathon Swim Challenge.

Angus, who just last year successfully swam the English Channel, arrived to St Helena as the second competitor to register for the Ultra Marathon Swim Challenge around St Helena, following Croatia's, Dina Levacic, where he would become the first man to attempt the unbelievable feat.

Having met the organisers and pilot crews, and after enjoying a few days on the Island to both experience St Helena and, more importantly, to prepare for the marathon swim, Angus, proudly donning a pair of South African flag swimming trunks, and supported by a crowd of people who had gathered, jumped into the South Atlantic waters at 11pm last Tuesday evening to begin the long and arduous swim.

Swimming at an incredible pace, by Wednesday morning, Angus had already swum to nearly the halfway mark and those following his progress via a live tracker online would no doubt have been impressed by his performance. Understandably, Angus' pace slowed going around the southwest side of the Island, however he continued to

Angus awaits ratification for his World Record swim



push on, determined to complete the challenge and actually picked up the pace as he neared the finish.

At around ten minutes past 7pm, Angus arrived back to the Jamestown Wharf where, yet again, a large crowd of locals had assembled to welcome the swimmer back with warm applause and appreciation. Angus performed incredibly, clocking a time of 20hrs 7minutes and 23seconds according to a number of sources close to the event.

The next steps for Open Water Africa will be to ratify the swim with the World Open Water Swimming Association, based on a report compiled by the eagle-eyed official observer, Howard James. Once ratification is received, Angus will officially become the first man to complete a certified swim around St Helena, which will see him set and hold a World Record. Congratulations and a massive well done to Angus McPherson!



Angus showed incredible determination to power through the swells for over 20 hours

# Stepping it Up

## Solomon's progressing with light replacement project on Jacob's Ladder

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Many will have noticed the signage and barricades up at St Helena's historic Jacob's Ladder as Solomon and Company (St Helena) Plc undertake the contract to replace the lights and fixings which line both sides of the incline from Jamestown to Ladder Hill.

These lights were generously donated by Lord Ashcroft, while the works to install them are being funded through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

This work is planned to take "several weeks" to complete, according to SHG, and will involve "temporary closures" of Jacob's Ladder.

SHG have asked for cooperation from the public in respecting the closures and restricted access in place as this critical work continues to improve lighting on one of the Wonders of St Helena.

# "A Modern High-Speed Mobile Network"

## Launch of Ascension Island Mobile described as "significant step forward" by Ascension Island Government, though prices are steep compared to Sure




Ascension Island Mobile was switched on during 2 March on Ascension Island

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Ascension Island Mobile (AIM) have begun a new era of connectivity for Ascension, and follows the long-standing operations of Sure SA Ltd and their predecessors, Cable & Wireless, on the Island.

Ascension Island Government (AIG) said they were "proud to announce the successful launch of the new Government-owned mobile network on Ascension Island" in a public notice issued recently, detailing how, "in less than three months, AIG has sourced, procured and built a modern high-speed mobile network, which is now live and providing coverage across the island."

AIG described this launch as "a significant step forward for the community, businesses and visitors, strengthening everyday connectivity and enabling emergency calls to be made even from the most remote parts of the island."

Commenting on the launch of AIM, Administrator of Ascension Island, Rowan Laxton, said it "has been a truly global effort, from our network build partners Omnitouch and their suppliers in Australia to the RAF, who supported the project through complex logistics."

"Everyone involved worked with determination and at pace to ensure that Ascension stays connected," he continued. "The completion of the network is just the start of this exciting journey. While further testing and service releases will continue, this launch lays the foundations for a resilient, modern communications service for the island, and I thank the community for their patience and support throughout the transition."

According to AIG, the newly launched network will allow AIM customers "to make calls and use data in areas where it wasn't possible previously," adding that this "significantly improves the safety of the community with a network which will allow calls to be made to the emergency services from the remotest parts of the island."

AIG concluded by acknowledging the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) for funding the project before expressing gratitude to Sure. "AIG would also like to thank Sure South Atlantic for its many years of service to Ascension Island and for the valuable support given by the Sure team on Ascension during the transition to the new network."

The Sentinel recently got sight of AIM's package offerings for their mobile, home internet and landline plans; noting how prices are steeper than those offered by Sure on St Helena, with no unlimited allowance packages available.

In terms of mobile plans, the cheapest option 'Take AIM' costs £30 monthly and comprises of 3GB of data, 100 local/mobile minutes and 100 SMS text messages; next is the 'AIM Sharp' option for £40 per month, with 15GB of data alongside unlimited calls and texts; and the top option is the 'AIM High' package which includes 30GB of data alongside unlimited calls and texts for £70 monthly.

As for home internet plans, the three options all include what they describe as a "high speed, low latency" home internet connection, with router and local support included. The starting package 'AIM True' offers 60GB for £65 per month; the 'AIM Together' package offers 120GB for £85 per month; and the high-end 'AIM Far' package offers 240GB for £110 per month.

Finally, AIM offers one package for landline connection, 'AIM Home', costing £25 per month, with an initial setup fee of £60. The package includes a Grandstream HT802v2 Analog Telephone Adapter with a plug and play setup which can connect to any analogue phone. Customers on this package will be able to make unlimited local calls on Ascension, with international calls charged at Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) rates.

Ascension Island Mobile was officially switched on for Ascension Island customers on 2 March with packages available from 1 April.




A mid-level Mobile and Home Internet package with a Landline connection would cost customers £150 per month with Ascension Island Mobile

# ‘A Walk Through History’

## Arch Terrace transformed with seating areas and educational interpretive art installation, funded through Tourism Development Fund



The newly installed ‘A Walk Through History’ has transformed an area on the Arch Terrace

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

A section of the Arch Terrace adjacent to The Castle in Jamestown has recently been transformed, beautifying the area with attractive seating and plants, while presenting an educational feature on the wall opposite, where famous visitors to the Island since its discovery in 1502 have been depicted on slate slabs installed along the wall in a feature titled “A Walk Through History”.

A plaque detailing the feature and placed on one of the benches reads:

*‘Despite its small size and extreme isolation, St Helena has played an outsized role in global history since its discovery in 1502. For centuries, the island stood as a vital mid-Atlantic crossroads; a lifeline for ships travelling between Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. It served as a crucial source of fresh water and provisions, and as a strategic military outpost.’*

*‘Across the ages, an extraordinary procession of visitors has passed through these shores. Some are remembered for their achievements and contributions to humanity; others for the influence they wielded, or the empires and conflicts they shaped, and in some cases, for the shadows they left behind.’*

*‘Created as part of the UK Government-funded Tourism Development Programme, this interpretive art installation commemorates a selection of the island’s most notable visitors, marking the dates of their arrival on St Helena and the moments in history they represent.’*

The new improvements made to the area were done by resident Mark Brooks and funded through the Tourism Development Fund. While many will have noticed the slate artwork having been installed for a while, the recently set up benches, plant beds and information plaques have pulled the whole feature together and it has already attracted interest and positive views from locals and visitors alike.

Commenting on the new installation, the Governor’s Office note how it has brought “St Helena’s extraordinary story to life” describing it as “a powerful reminder of the people, moments and global events that have passed through our shores over the centuries.”

“If you haven’t already, take some time to go and have a look, it’s well worth the visit and a great way to connect with the island’s rich and fascinating heritage (it even features Jonathan!),” they commented. “A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this project happen, especially St Helena Tourism; your hard work and collaboration are clearly paying off and creating something that locals and visitors alike can enjoy and learn from.”

The Sentinel agrees that the ‘A Walk Through History’ installation is an excellent addition to an area that formerly lacked any real points of interest other than the historic Arch itself. Hopefully, noting how this is a hotspot for vandalism and criminal damage during the weekends, the feature can be looked after and appreciated by those attending the area and it is not subject to the same treatment as the recently installed solar lights in the Castle Gardens.



Even the Island’s most famous resident is included on the wall of historic figures

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

# "Unforgettable Experience"

## Gavin George reflects on his journey to the International Masters Cricket Over 70's World Cup



**Luke Bennett,** SAMS

Following last week's article on Gavin George participating in the IMC Over 70s World Cup in New Zealand, The Sentinel reached out to Gavin and asked if he would share his feelings after having represented the Rest of the World team.

"Over 70's Cricket World Cup; who would have thought such a thing existed?" smiled Gavin. "To my surprise, and beyond our isolated shores and other cricketing nations, it is a strongly contested sport, especially in the major cricketing nations."

The World Cup, hosted in New Zealand, was an excellent tournament; strongly contested in the best traditions and sportsmanship. Gavin represented the Rest of the World which brought together 15 players and three officials from 11 different nations. "Most of us met for the first time giving us a distinct disadvantage initially, mostly regarding to players skills and how to take advantage of this," recalled Gavin.

After the first game, the Rest of the World restructured their batting order which helped them develop into a stronger unit as they moved forward. "A typical example of this was to move me from batting at number four to opening batsmen on the basis of my ability to play straight, requiring me to hang around at the crease and allow others to play around me," Gavin explained.

What was clear was that the standard of cricket at the Over 70s World Cup was outstanding; as were many of the players. One factor that gave Gavin an advantage, especially in his team, was his level of fitness; which the skipper and coach used to their advantage. Despite his throwing arm not being as strong as it used to be, they set Gavin to patrol the boundary, mostly at deep midwicket or deep cover point, to stop the boundaries getting through.

However, whilst fielding against Australia, Gavin took a sprawling catch at ground level where he landed hard on his ribs; it was later confirmed by the local hospital that he had cracked his sixth rib on the left side. To his frustration, this saw Gavin sidelined against the hosts, New Zealand, where his side narrowly lost; falling to defeat on the second to last ball.

Gavin's injury was no doubt a concern for the Rest of the World team and, obviously, for Gavin himself, however he had come too far to give up. "I was determined not to sit out the last two games, having made a tremendous effort to get to New Zealand especially after the doctor left the decision to play up to me, providing I manage the pain," he reflected.

Taking the decision to return to the action, Gavin braved the final two matches for the Rest of the World, though was understandably playing at around 75% of his best due to the injury sustained; this was especially difficult considering the amount of running required.

As the tournament neared its end, and despite rains affecting the pitches, the final was set to be contested against the two best teams in the tournament; setting up a tasty tie between England and Australia. This would be played at the incredible Hagley Oval, the number one venue for test matches in Christchurch, New Zealand. Gavin, who was in attendance had high praise for the Hagley Oval. "The facility is first class and the playing surface was like a green carpet," he described. "How I would have loved to play on that!"

In the end, after an incredible tournament of high-level cricket and admirable sportsmanship, England took home the crown of Over 70s World Cup Champions, bringing to a close a tournament, and an experience, that Gavin George will hold close forever.

"This experience was an unforgettable one and New Zealand pulled out all the stops," he commented. "I would stress to anyone who might be given this opportunity in the future to take it, because you will never regret the experience, including the friends you make along the way."

"My only caution is to be aware that in agreeing to take part you must take full responsibility for all costs involved," he concluded. "The bottom line is that cricket is the winner here and it thrives through all ages, well into the 70s!"



Gavin George and the Rest of the World team

# ‘I will give you rest: Come’

## Women’s World Day of Prayer 2026



**Cyril Gunnell,** Contributed

The Women’s World Day of Prayer (WWDP) is traditionally celebrated on the first Friday of March each year, to encourage Christian women to engage in personal prayer. WWDP is celebrated all over the world in 170 countries on seven continents. This year the movement celebrated 99 years.

On 6 March 2026 in St Helena, the WWDP was hosted by the Baptist Church, Jamestown. Some men were included in the excellent attendance, and music to accompany singing was provided by Mrs Wendy Benjamin, on organ, and Mr Newton Oduns, on piano.

The WWDP is a global ecumenical movement of Christian women. Each year, a different host country prepares the service content, highlighting the country’s culture and regional justice issues. The theme for 2026, ‘I will give you rest: come’ was drawn from Matthew 11:28-30.

This year the writer country for the WWDP worship service was Nigeria. Nigeria is the largest country in Africa by population and one of the largest in the world – over 211 million, with over 500 indigenous languages, and over 250 ethnic groups. The official language is English. Nigeria has two main faiths; Christian and Islam, and many local belief systems.

According to the Service booklet, which the writing group prepared, in Nigeria many women and girls in particular, face difficult circumstances: “Healthcare and education are difficult to access, especially for women. Maternal and child Health services are poor - Nigeria has one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates globally, and remote and marginalized areas suffer most disadvantage. Women and girls suffer deeply rooted gender discrimination and inequality. They are limited in education and employment opportunities and political representation, and there is discrimination in hiring, promotion and pay. In rural and northern areas there are girls as young as 12 who face early marriage; cutting short their education and exposing them to health risks and, marital violence and rape often go unreported. Widows in Nigeria can suffer greatly – from loss of property, degrading practices on the death of their husband and appropriation by the late husband’s family.”

The 2026 worship service from Nigeria, started with Pastor Theresa of the Baptist Church welcoming everyone and then leading the opening prayer. This was followed by the Hymn of Invitation, Art Thou Weary. This song is well known in Nigeria; the lyrics however were reworked by Nigerian sisters for this service.

The scripture reading was taken from Matthew 11:28-30. This was followed by the theme song, Come unto Me. This was composed especially for this World Day of Prayer event.

The next part of the service was Stories & Prayers as laid out in the Service booklet. Beatrice’s story was entitled, The Burden of Systemic Oppression; Jato’s was, The Burden of Religious Persecution; and Blessing’s was, The Burdens of Poverty and Despair. These stories were read by representatives of the various Christian churches on the island, and after each story, an Intercessory Prayer was read by different representatives and responded by the congregation.

A collection was taken up and this was followed by the announcement by a Baptist representative that, in March 2027, the World Day of Prayer, as a movement, will celebrate 100 years. Australia was part of that very first service in 1927, holding services in Queensland and New South Wales. 2027 will be a year of great thanksgiving and excitement; the worship service has been written by the World Day of Prayer International Committee on the theme: United in prayer for Justice and peace.

The Call to Action was read by the Rock Christian Fellowship.

“As we have journeyed through this service, we have become informed about the burdens carried by our sisters in Nigeria and around the world. We have prayed together, bringing these concerns before God, our great Burden Bearer.”

“Now, we come to a moment that calls us into prayerful action. The motto of World Day of Prayer is Informed Prayer and Powerful Action, reminding us that our prayers should lead us to action for the transformation of the world. Let us respond together, affirming our commitment to be Christ’s hands and feet in a world longing for hope and rest.” This received appropriate action.

During the closing, Pastor Theresa and Mrs Emma Phillips delivered very powerful prayers.

The 2026 worship service concluded with the song: Brother, sister, let me serve you. Thereafter refreshments were served amid fellowship in the ‘School Room’ adjacent to the church.







LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

# Travelling and Family Trees

## Elsie Hughes shares her life story and explores the roots of her family tree



Elsie and her family tree

**Anita Robbertse,** SAMS

During a recent interview with Tony Leo on the Northward Sounds, well-known and well-travelled local resident, Elsie Hughes, shared some of her life experiences with him while also taking listeners along on her journey to discover her roots among the liberated Africans.

Tony started by listing a lot of the places Elsie has lived in and where she lived since leaving the island. She lived in the UK and Wales before Dubai and the United Arab Emirates. In the UAE, she has been to Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Al-Ami, Amman, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia. In South Africa, she stayed in Constantia, Woodbridge Island, Stellenberg Wine Estates, and Meriden Wine Estate. Other places that she has travelled to include Moscow (where she visited the Red Square), Thailand, Hong Kong, Philippines, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Holland, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, New York, Canada, the Niagara Falls, New Orleans State, Phoenix, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas (where she stayed in Caesars Palace), Death Valley, Mammoth Mountain, San Diego, Chicago, Lake Taiko, and San Francisco.

Elsie was born to Doris and Richard Herbert Anthony (or Herbie Kimble as he was known locally) and lived in Jamestown at Botanical Gardens. With her step-siblings, they numbered a total of eleven, of whom seven are still alive and living across the globe. "We all turned out like a box of Quality Streets, we are all different colours," Elsie jokingly added. Doris was a seamstress and her dad left to work on Ascension. At the ages of sixteen, three of her siblings, Tony, Cecil and Enid left to work abroad and contributed to supporting the family from their income. Later Doris married Gerald George and the family left to work on Ascension to ensure a better income.

Elsie fell pregnant and from the age of 16 ended up being a single mother for her three children living in Half Tree Hollow with very little support. Although she had a job as a nursing assistant, it only paid £22 per week and to make ends meet she would go fishing in the afternoons after work. "Next door to me in Half Tree Hollow where I stayed, near Three Tanks, lived Billy Boy and Stag who used to go out fishing as well. They had a little van, a little blue square matchbox type of truck. They used to take my blue buckets, put it in the back for me and take them down to the seaside. I would walk down and go down the ladder to the seaside. Freddie Johnson used to have a little boat to take you out and I used to go out to the pontoons where I would fish for mackerel. Then Freddie would come back and fetch me," recalled Elsie. "I always used to say to Freddie, 'Make sure Billy Boy and Stag don't go home before me.' They were the ones who had to take my mackerel back up to Half Tree Hollow for me and I would walk up the ladder to get home again." Elsie would then


Elsie at the Hoover Dam in Nevada, USA

string up her fish and walk around the neighbourhood to sell the mackerel to her neighbours for a couple of extra pennies. She also used to bake birthday cakes on order and made fudge to make a little bit more money to support her and her children, as well as dabbling in a bit of dressmaking herself. "I had no assistance from anywhere. You had to do it on your own, and I am proud to say, I did!"

When she fell pregnant, she lost her job as a nursing assistant. After the birth of her child she went back but there was no position available as nursing assistant so she started working with Pat Thomas known as Pat Dubbs. "She was the cleaner at the hospital. I remember she would say: 'Ok you start the floor from that side and I start the floor from this side. This was the wooden floor upstairs and we polished. She was a hard worker and I didn't mind doing it because she was not a person who treated you unkindly. She was proud of what she did." So Elsie would continue doing what she could and working wherever she could find employment.

After this, she worked on the RMS St Helena as a stewardess as well as on the Falklands for Calvin Catering. In 1992, she left St Helena to go to the UK where she lived in Chelmsford, Colchester, and in Wales for about a year. After this she moved to the United Arab Emirates with her three children to live there with her husband, Ian Hughes, in Dubai. Here she first worked as a Dental Nurse, but the work hours proved to be very long, often requiring her to work well into the evening even up to 9pm. With having to still take care of the household and her children, this job was a bit too demanding. For three months she stayed at home, but then decided to take up employment as a nursery school teacher as well as taking on some management duties.

In 2016, Elsie decided it was time for her to retire and move back to the island as she explained, "I wanted to stay here, rather than living in a place like Dubai or the UK. My home is here and I wanted to be home in my own surroundings. The place where I was born and grew up as I always wanted to return." Since then she has been living at their house in Barren Ground undertaking various ventures to support charities like the Cancer Support Charity, as well as travelling abroad with her husband on his business trips on a regular basis.



Elsie in Dubai

Elsie became interested in researching her roots, tracking down her ancestors among the Liberated Africans that came to St Helena during the 1800's. Initially, the Liberated Africans who were not Christians were not allowed to be buried in the Churchyard in Ruperts, but were buried amongst their relatives further up in the hills. This is where Elsie remembers her grandmother, Elsie John, told her, her great-grandparents were buried. Although she cannot pinpoint the exact place where they were buried, she has a good idea of the general area where their graves used to be. Her grandmother, Elsie Christina John was born in 1896 to Henry and Lena John. Henry was a labourer from Rupert's Valley. Talking to Tony, Elsie traced her ancestry all the way back through various records to her great-great-grandmother, Sarah John, a widow who came to the island on the ship HMS Waterwitch. She brought with her a son named Harry Faithful John. Some of the family names mentioned in Elsie's extensive family tree researched by her, include surnames such as John, Fuller and George as well as Anthony and Yon on her father's side with several of the members of her family descending from Liberated Africans.

In those days, they had large families and very little money and they had to work hard to make a living, leading Elsie to reminisce, "I like to think the little of them I have within me has given me their strength and courage to make me who I am today. They had to really, really fight hard and that is why I wanted to find out where I came from." She went on to have her DNA profile done showing ties to Angola and the Congo with 32.7% of her DNA originating from Africa and as Tony concluded, "they always say most of us have got some ties with Africans. So it is in our blood. That is why we feel so close to Africa." Elsie said many people say that their ancestors are part of Elsie's family tree and why does she not have more information on them and their families as part of the family tree to which she replies, "If I do everybody's story, I'm going to lose the context. That is your story!"

Thank you Elsie for sharing your interesting story with us and our listeners and inspiring us to follow our dreams, work hard and cherish our roots.




Elsie in the USA- San Fransisco Alcatraz island

## 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 20**

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

**SAT. Mar 21**

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

**SUN. Mar 22**

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

**MON. Mar 23**

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

**TUE. Mar 24**

- 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 25**

- 7am-8:30am : Midweek morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 1-3pm 1548 show with Cyril Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett

**THU. Mar 26**

- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 1pm: In the Know (repeat)
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Annika (repeat)
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Anita
- 7:30pm: The Island Pulse

sure

Bringing you the

**BBC World Service**

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

## Featured this Week





**Up to date on the latest music hitting the charts in the UK?**

**Well, never fear, Liam is here to keep you in touch with the UK Chart Show airing every Tuesday afternoon at 5.30pm and repeated on Sunday's at 3pm on SAMS Radio 1!**

**During the 90-minute show, he will introduce you to the songs brand new to the Official Singles Chart before looking at the movement of songs in the Top 15, revealing at the end, which song is at Number 1!**

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

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

# Sentinel Sudoku Session

***This week's difficulty is 'Easy'***

*See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:*

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

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

# Throwback Thursday



**1964 Sean Connery's first day of shooting on the James Bond film "Goldfinger"**

*Would you waste your stout on a cake? It's the best of both worlds! Go on, give it a try…*

## Chocolate and Stout Cake



### Ingredients For the cake

- 150ml stout
- 75g dark chocolate, broken into pieces
- 100g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 275g soft light-brown sugar
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 175g self-raising flour

### For the icing

- 100g milk chocolate, broken into pieces
- 50g unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp stout
- 100g icing sugar
- 50g chopped roasted hazelnuts, to decorate

### Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Grease a 20cm cake tin with butter.
2. For the cake, bring a little water to the boil in a pan. Reduce the heat until the water is simmering, then suspend a heatproof bowl over the water, making sure that the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water.
3. Add the stout and dark chocolate pieces to the heatproof bowl and heat gently until melted. Once melted, remove the bowl from the heat and set aside to cool.
4. In a separate bowl, beat together the butter and sugar until light, fluffy and well combined, using either a food processor or electric whisk.
5. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well between each addition.
6. Pour in the cooled chocolate-and-stout mixture and beat until well combined. Fold in the flour.
7. Spoon the cake mixture into the prepared tin and bake in the middle of the oven for 30-35 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean.
8. Remove the cake from the oven and set aside to cool in the tin for a few minutes, then remove from the tin and set aside to cool completely on a wire rack.
9. Meanwhile, for the icing, repeat the process of bringing a little water to the boil in a pan. Reduce the heat until the water is simmering, then suspend a heatproof bowl over the water, making sure that the bottom of the bowl does not touch the water.
10. Add the chocolate, butter and stout to the bowl, stirring until just melted. Remove the bowl from the heat and set the mixture aside to cool slightly.
11. When the melted chocolate mixture has cooled, transfer it to a food processor, add the icing sugar and pulse until smooth and well combined. (Alternatively, whisk in the icing sugar using a hand-held electric mixer.)
12. When the cake has completely cooled, spread the icing evenly over the top and sides, then sprinkle over the chopped hazelnuts. When the icing has dried, serve.

NOTICE BOARD

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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# SIGNIFICANT LOCAL WOMEN

**In celebration of International Women's Day 2026**

## Strength Through Support: The Life of Samara Thomas

Samara Thomas has shown St Helena what it means to "Give to Gain." Born with significant disabilities and once carried everywhere by her grandparents, she has grown into a woman whose determination, community spirit, and quiet courage have made her a powerful voice for inclusion on the island. Her story reflects how strength is built through support and how a community rises when it lifts every one of its members.

### A St Helenian Woman's Story of Strength, Support, and Shared Humanity

On an island where community is woven into everyday life, one young disabled woman has spent her 36 years proving that strength grows where support is given, and that when we lift one another, we all rise. Samara Thomas' journey, marked by challenge, courage, and the generosity of others, reflects this year's International Women's Day theme: "Give to Gain."

### Growing Up with Determination

Life began with hurdles. As a child, she could not walk or communicate clearly. "My grandparents used to carry me everywhere," she recalls. But at eight years old, with the help of teachers and health professionals, she learned to walk, feed herself, and take her first steps toward independence. School became a place of growth, where teachers guided her hand as she learned to form letters and words, helping her find her voice.

That voice would later reach across the island. At just 14, she volunteered as a presenter at Saint FM, a role she held for more than a decade. "It really helped me develop my speech and build my confidence," she says. Even the steep stairs to the studio didn't stop her; co-worker McKail Harris supported her step by step, a simple act of kindness that allowed her to give something meaningful back to the community.

### Gaining Skills Through the Generosity of Others

After undergoing surgery in Cape Town, she joined S.H.A.P.E, where she discovered a love for painting. With the encouragement of volunteers like Heidi Sotto, she learned to paint with her hands and eventually with a brush, developing a passion for nature and animal art. "The teachers, health professionals and volunteers all helped shaped my life as it is today," she says. "They gave me a fair chance."

Since 2015, she has worked at Plantation House, proudly contributing through her daily duties. But everyday life still



brings challenges, from navigating stairs to wishing she could cook a meal for her family. "I want to be able to do anything and everything, but I just simply can't," she admits. "I'm 36 and still need my mother's assistance to dress."

### Barriers to Work and the Need for Inclusive Opportunities

Yet her honesty is not a sign of defeat. It is a reminder of the barriers disabled people face; and of how much difference a supportive community can make. Her journey into employment has not been easy. Despite strong skills, reliability, dedication, and excellent listening, she was often overlooked. "As a woman I have a lot to offer," she says. "But these factors were never considered."

Her dream of working in IT was cut short when the department could not

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PRESENTS

# SIGNIFICANT LOCAL WOMEN

**In celebration of International Women's Day 2026**



provide the support aids she needed.

Later, she worked at Prince Andrew School, but the office was located at the top of steps, which she struggled to climb daily. At Thorpes grocery store, she often had to wait long periods for help reaching shelves, leaving her feeling like a burden. "I felt like a nuisance," she says quietly. She believes that organisations must recognise the need for accessible workplaces, including designated support workers and adaptive equipment. "If there were more workplace aids, disabled individuals would feel more included and supported," she explains.

"It would improve their confidence and help them feel part of society."

## Pride, Achievement, and the Joy of Giving Back

Despite the obstacles, she has built a life filled with achievements she treasures. Her artwork remains one of her proudest accomplishments. "It brings me great pleasure," she says. Even after losing sponsorship that once helped her sell her paintings, she continues to create - not for income, but for joy.

Her time at Saint FM also remains close to her heart. "It supported me in growing my confidence and independence," she says. The encouragement of listeners, friends, and family helped her believe in her own abilities.

She hopes her story will inspire other young women, especially those living with disabilities. "Don't give up," she urges. "Keep pushing forward for greater things. My inner strength, my family, and my faith have kept me determined."

## A Vision for a More Inclusive St Helena

She believes disabled women have a vital role to play in shaping the island's future, as advocates, entrepreneurs, artists, leaders, and policy influencers. Their lived experience, she says, brings resilience, empathy, and insight that can help St Helena grow into a more inclusive society.

But change is needed. More accessible public spaces. More workplace support. More opportunities for disabled women to participate in community life, even in events like Miss St Helena, where she hopes to see disabled contestants welcomed in the future.

## A Message to the Community

Her message for International Women's Day is rooted in her Christian faith and her belief in shared humanity. She recalls a passage she once heard:

"Though we differ in form and circumstance, the soul within each of us is the same, and justice demands we honour one another as equals."

## Her hope is simple but powerful:

Her story is a reminder that when we give, time, support, understanding, we all gain. And when we choose inclusion over indifference, we build a St Helena where every person has the chance to thrive.




For more information contact EHRC on +290 22133 or email info@humanrightssthelena.org

# The Island Pulse

## Commonwealth Day, Development Funding and key issues ahead of Formal



Formal LegCo is held in the Council Chamber referred to often as 'the Honourable House'

— **Councillor Julie Thomas,** Contributed —

*The latest edition of The Island Pulse on SAMS Radio 1 brought together members of St Helena's Legislative Council to reflect on recent events, discuss major development funding for the island, and preview the issues Councillors will raise at the upcoming Formal Legislative Council meeting.*

Hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas, the programme offered listeners an overview of three key topics: celebrations for Commonwealth Day 2026, an update on the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), and the questions Councillors intend to put forward at the next Legislative Council sitting scheduled for today, Thursday, 19 March.

**Celebrating Commonwealth Day on St Helena**

Commonwealth Day 2026 was marked on Monday, 9 March with an official ceremony at Anne's Place, alongside assemblies held across the island's schools.

Councillor Ronald Coleman, who served as compère for the event, described the gathering as an opportunity to reflect on St Helena's place within the global Commonwealth community.

The event began with a welcome from Madam Speaker Mrs Maureen Thompson, who reminded attendees that St Helena was joining 56 Commonwealth nations in celebrating their shared values and commitment to cooperation. This year's theme, **"Unlocking Opportunities Together for a Prosperous Commonwealth,"** emphasised the importance of collaboration, partnership and empowering young people.

His Excellency the Governor then delivered the Commonwealth Day message on behalf of His Majesty the King. The speech reflected on the diversity and unity of the Commonwealth, highlighting its nearly three billion people across every continent and the shared values of justice, democracy, opportunity and mutual respect.

Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks also reflected on the message delivered by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shirley Botchwey, who described the Commonwealth as a "chosen partnership" built on friendship, mutual respect and joint action between nations large and small.

Youth voices also featured in the programme. Miss Lilli Adams, representing the Youth Parliament, presented the Commonwealth Affirmation, which was echoed by those in attendance before the Commonwealth flag was raised in the Castle Gardens, just outside of Anne's Place.

The ceremony concluded with contributions from several speakers, including the island's Tourism Manager and two young entrepreneurs, who spoke about opportunities for St Helena's future.

Councillor Clint Beard reflected on the day by emphasising that the island's greatest strength lies in its people. "One thing that really resonated throughout the event was that people make St Helena," he said.

Councillor Robert Midwinter also acknowledged the work of the Commonwealth Day organising group, which included Councillor Dennis Leo and Clerk of Council Marita Bagley, for their role in coordinating the event.

**Schools Join the Celebrations**

Commonwealth Day was also marked across the island's schools, giving young people the opportunity to learn about the wider Commonwealth community.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex attended assemblies at the temporary Key Stage 2 school in Jamestown, where pupils gathered in two separate sessions due to space constraints.

Dr Essex said it was encouraging to see how well pupils from the island's previously separate primary schools had integrated following the recent reorganisation. "It was very rewarding to see how well the students have settled together," she said. "Friendships have clearly formed between children who previously attended different schools, which reflects the theme of togetherness and opportunity."

Students participated in discussions about the Commonwealth and listened to the King's message during the assembly.

At St Paul's, Councillor Robert Midwinter attended the Key Stage 1 assembly, led by teacher Miss Charlie Thomas, who delivered a presentation explaining the Commonwealth and how St Helena fits within the organisation through its relationship with the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, at St Helena Secondary School, an assembly was attended by Minister Andrew Turner, Minister for Education, Skills and Employment and Councillor Julie Thomas. The assembly was led by teacher Mr Stephen Powell and included a presentation highlighting the many member states of the Commonwealth.

Councillor Thomas addressed students about St Helena's role within the global Commonwealth family and the opportunities available through international cooperation.

Minister Turner delivered His Majesty the King's Commonwealth Day message, reinforcing the importance of shared values and collaboration across the Commonwealth's nations and territories.

Councillor Thomas also highlighted the significance of the Commonwealth for young people, noting that the organisation provides opportunities through international forums, education programmes and events such as the Commonwealth Games.

St Helena itself has also played a role in strengthening Commonwealth connections, having hosted the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's

British Islands and Mediterranean Regional (BIMR) Conference in 2024.

**Economic Development Investment Programme Update**

The second major topic discussed on the programme was the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), a long-term funding initiative supporting major infrastructure and development projects on the island.

Councillor Julie Thomas explained that EDIP was originally established as a **£30 million programme spread over six years** to support projects that enable economic growth and private sector development.

Due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme's timeframe has been **extended until 2028**.

For the current financial year, a total of **£13.5 million** has been allocated. This includes:

- £8.8 million for EDIP infrastructure projects
- £1.2 million for the Airport Fuel Facility
- £3.5 million for essential equipment, including £1.5 million specifically for the airport

Several large-scale projects fall under the EDIP programme, including:

- Rupert's Port development
- Wastewater and sewage infrastructure
- Road improvements such as Side Path and Field Road
- Renewable energy initiatives
- Water security projects
- Bulk fuel infrastructure
- Primary School Reorganisation

However, Councillors acknowledged that many of these projects are still in development stages or are awaiting confirmed funding.

Councillor Robert Midwinter explained that EDIP funding was originally intended primarily for projects that support economic growth. "Infrastructure such as Rupert's Port and wastewater systems fall within that remit because they enable housing and private sector development," he said.

**Concerns Over Costs and Funding**

Despite the progress made, Councillors raised concerns about rising costs and uncertainty around future funding.

Councillor Ronald Coleman pointed to the escalating cost of the proposed Prison Project, which has reportedly increased from earlier estimates of around £6-7 million to more than £14 million.

He also emphasised the importance of progressing renewable energy initiatives to help reduce the island's high utility costs.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex highlighted ongoing delays to sewage infrastructure in Jamestown and Half Tree Hollow, noting that some residents are unable to move into newly built homes until the systems are in place.

Councillor Clint Beard also stressed the need for clarity around infrastructure timelines, particularly when residents and returning Saints have invested in building homes. "If we encourage people to invest and return to the island, we must ensure the infrastructure is ready to support them," he said.

Councillor Derek Thomas added that elected members are seeking clearer information about the remaining EDIP funds and how they will be allocated in the coming years.

Current estimates suggest that around **£4.2 million may remain available for the final two years of the programme,** although councillors said confirmation of the exact figures is needed, as previously it was stated that only £1.5 million remained.

**Maintenance and Micro-Projects**

Alongside major infrastructure works, EDIP funding has also supported a range of smaller improvements and maintenance projects across the island.

Approximately £1.5 million has been allocated to backlog maintenance, including refurbishment and repairs to several government housing properties, as well as improvements at facilities such as the Community Care Complex and St Helena Secondary School.

Other projects include upgrades to public infrastructure such as Jacob's Ladder lighting, improvements to playground facilities at Half Tree Hollow and Longwood Green, and developments within the Millennium Forest.

**Questions Ahead of Legislative Council**

The programme concluded with Councillors outlining the questions they intend to raise at the upcoming Legislative Council sitting on 19 March.

Under Council rules, each Councillor may submit **up to three oral questions and up to three written questions** at each formal sitting.

Topics due to be raised include:

- the possibility of an independent inquiry into airport matters
- updates on the Bulk Fuel Installation project at Rupert's
- measures to support residents struggling with rising utility costs
- the potential installation of water storage to support farmers in Longwood
- telecommunications access following the installation of the fibre-optic cable
- maritime safety requirements for local fishing vessels
- workforce retention within the public service

Councillor Julie Thomas will also seek updates on several national initiatives, including the digital transformation strategy, healthcare planning for an ageing population, and confirmation of which projects fall under the current £13.5 million capital allocation.



Flag Raising Ceremony on Commonwealth Day

**Keeping the Public Informed**

Closing the programme, Councillor Thomas emphasised the importance of using Formal Council processes to pursue answers on behalf of the public. "When information isn't forthcoming through normal channels, we follow up through Legislative Council and Minister's Question Time to ensure the public receives the answers they are asking for," she said.

*The Island Pulse continues to air weekly on SAMS Radio 1, offering residents the opportunity to hear directly from elected members about the issues shaping life on St Helena.*



Councillor Dennis Leo with the Baroness Scotland of Asthal

# Honorary Members Honoured

## *The Women's Corona Society Worldwide - St Helena Branch*



**J. Patsy Flagg,** Contributed

On a beautiful sunny morning, in the lovely green tree and shrub surrounds of Cape Villa, St Pauls, the Executive Committee of the Women's Corona Society – St Helena Branch met in the cosy No.12 flat of resident, Miss Pat M. Williams.

The reason for this special visit on Monday, 9 March, was to honour and acknowledge three very special ladies; long time dedicated members of the St Helena Women's Corona Society.

They have each reached a stage in life where health issues and other related difficulties have hampered their active attendance and participation in monthly meetings and the various fundraising activities as well as other Corona events.

Based on our Constitution, and in recognition of their hard work, generosity and support over the years, all members (at a recent meeting) wholeheartedly agreed that they are each eligible for Honorary Membership; whereby they will not have to pay an annual subscription but will be kept informed of annual and special events of the society.

The Chairperson/President, Mrs. J. Patsy Flagg, presented each of them - Miss Pat M. Williams, Mrs. Maureen Young and Mrs. Faith Nicholls - with a special letter of welcome to honorary membership, together with a keepsake mug with the Corona logo.

Executive members, Mrs. Phyllis Coleman and Mrs. Heather Cranfield, greeted them with good wishes for the future. The whole group then formed a circle of raised hands reflecting our motto, "Hands around the world - Hands raised in friendship".

This heart-warming and somewhat emotional session was concluded with tea and refreshments and happy chatter of many Corona memories.

*'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!*

**Recently, some exciting work has been done on how we are able to monitor the long-term health of our precious cloud forest habitat through ecological indicators!**





Leading on this innovative work was a three-strong expert team, comprising Dr Alan Gray from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Dr Silvia Pressel from the Natural History Museum and Dr Laurens Sparrius from the Bryological and Lichenological Work Group.



The team's work centred on the development of long-term monitoring of habitat health and ecosystem integrity through ecological indicators from our endemic plants bryophytes and lichens, which are sensitive all to moisture level changes. Indicators also can show how cloud forest ecological processes change over time as cloud forest restoration proceeds.

**It was great to have this team on-Island to improve our efforts to monitor the health of our cloud forest habitat! Thanks to all involved.**

*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**


SAVE THE DATE
BIG 4 WALK
ST HELENA, UK, ASCENSION ISLAND AND FALKLAND ISLANDS
One Heart. One Mind. Saints Together.
SUNDAY, 19 APRIL 2026
Kingshurst Community Centre
More details coming soon!
A collaborative fundraising event by
Island Minds Foundation
The St. Helena Association UK
Registered Charity 1042040
Supporting St Helena Island and Her People
Supporting community wellbeing for St Helena

# NOTICE BOARD

## Property For Sale

DPS
PROPERTY MADE EASY



### 4 Bedroom Home Alarm Forest £185,000

- ▶Modern finished and well presented 4 Bedroom House
- ▶Internal area 110m2
- ▶Great location with large parking area and facilities which benefits with ocean views
- ▶Property would make a fantastic family home or AirBnB or long-term rental
- ▶An investment property which will provide good Return on Investment

### Building Plot Near the Rock Club £17,500

Potential for a modern 2 or 3 bedroom family home
Minimal excavation as the land is flat
Offers great location and easy building opportunity



Further details available at DPS, The Market, Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ or email derek@dps.co.sh or Telephone 00 290 53222/25836

DPS
PROPERTY MADE EASY

commonwealth sport
KING'S BATON RELAY
GLASGOW 2026

NSASH

## Kings Baton Relay 2026 –Community Events & Social Activities

The public is warmly invited to take part in a series of **community and environmental activities** celebrating the St Helena leg of the **King's Baton Relay for the 2026 Commonwealth Games from** 10th – 13th April 2026.

Led by the National Sports Association of St. Helena (**NSASH) –** the programme aims to highlight community spirit, youth engagement, and a shared commitment to reducing plastic pollution across our island and beyond. Below is a schedule of the activities with times to be confirmed in the coming weeks:

---

**FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2026**
**Schools Presentation & Baton Unveiling @ New Horizons Youth Club**
A special presentation and witness the official unveiling of the King's Baton for invited guest and New Horizons. This will be followed by team sports for the youth.

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**SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026**
**Community Beach Clean-Up Day - Sandy Bay & Ruperts Beach**
Please come along and join efforts to remove as much plastic waste and marine debris from our most popular beaches.

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**SUNDAY 12 APRIL 2026**
**Coastal Clean-Up & Diver Initiative - Lemon Valley & James Bay**
Beach clean-ups will take place alongside a **special diver clean-ups**, removing waste from the seabed and helping protect our marine environment. **(There will be a boat for provided for transport to and from Lemon Valley)Community event Fish fry at the Yacht Club**

The community can **view the Baton** near the Yacht and Dive Clubs from 2–5pm. The Yacht Club bar will be open, with a fish fry. Please note drinks served from the bar will not be issued in plastic cups. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own drinking receptacles.

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**MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026**
**Schools Baton Tour**
The King's Baton will visit schools across the island, giving students the opportunity to see and interact with this important symbol of the Commonwealth Games.

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**Join us in celebrating sport, strengthening community spirit, and helping create a cleaner, plastic-free St Helena.**

If anyone has any questions or require further information, please feel free to get in touch via email nsash@helanta.co.sh.

# NOTICE BOARD

## BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services, 22nd March
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

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

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*For further information contact: Tel No 22388*



## Hey Kids

Come and join Adventure Kids for some Fun & Games, Arts and Craft, Songs & loads of stories to be told.

WHERE: Baptist School Hall/Jamestown
WHO: Age 4-11yrs old
WHEN: 21/03/26
TIME: 10h00-11h30
Refreshments will be served.

## DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

| The Parish of St Paul's | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sunday 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday in Lent** | | |
| 8.00 a.m. | Eucharist | Cathedral |
| 9.30 a.m. | Eucharist | St Andrew |
| 11.15 a.m. | Eucharist | St Helena & The Cross |
| **5.00 p.m.** | **Mission and Worship** | **Cathedral** |
| | | |
| | **Wednesday 25th March** | |
| **7.00 p.m.** | **Lent Course** | **Cathedral** |
| | | |
| **The Parish of St James** | | |
| **Sunday 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday in Lent** | | |
| 9.30 a.m. | Eucharist | St James |
| | | |
| | **Thursday 26th March** | |
| 7.00 p.m. | Eucharist with Healing | St John |
| | | |
| **The Parish of St Matthew** | | |
| **Sunday 22nd March 2026 – 5th Sunday in Lent** | | |
| 11.15 a.m. | Eucharist | St Matthew |
| | | |
| | **Tuesday 24th March** | |
| **7.00 p.m.** | **Mission and Worship/ Lent Course** | **St Mark** |

## Thanks!!

The Chapel Warden, Sidespersons and Members of St Peters Church would like to thank all who helped, donated towards and attended the End of Summer Tea Dance on 07/03/26.

A special thanks to the team who worked behind the scene and to Cyril (Smilie) Stevens for providing the music.

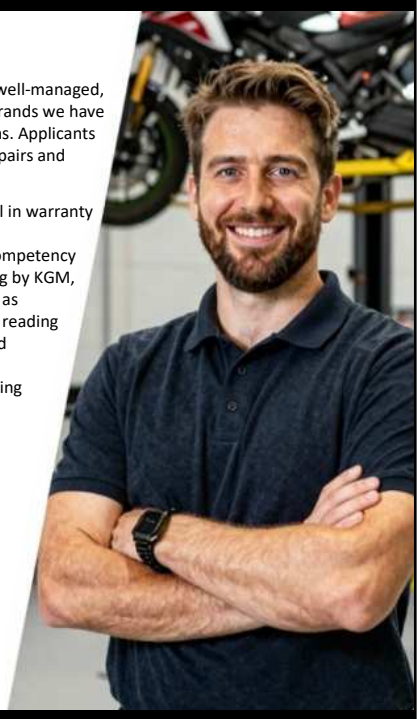
Your support and generosity is very much appreciated. The total amount raised was £455.00.

NOTICE BOARD

# The Showroom

**is a new business that will open at Ladder Hill in October 2026, bringing main dealer Franchise's to the public with full manufacturer warranties from Kawasaki & Vmoto Motorcycle's and KGM SUV's and Pickups.**

## Senior Mechanic and EV Technician, starting August 2026



You will play a critical role in ensuring that our customers receive the best possible service, and that our workshops are efficient, well-managed, and always up to standards. You will be responsible for diagnosing and repairing in warranty and out of warranty repairs on the brands we have sold, recommending and selling appropriate parts and accessories, and maintaining accurate records of all repairs and transactions. Applicants will have the ability to work within given timescales and be able to tackle all aspects of vehicle in warranty and out of warranty repairs and servicing. Main duties and responsibilities include:

- Performing all work assigned in a timely and economical manner and to Company and Manufacturer standards
- Safe removal and refitting of HV batteries from electric and hybrid vehicles prior to sale or repair
- Supporting vehicle preparation, including pre and post sale checks, following strict safety and quality procedures.
- Adhering to all high-voltage safety protocols, isolation procedures, and risk assessments
- Using appropriate lifting, diagnostic, and mechanical equipment safely and accurately
- Maintaining accurate records of all work performed, including inspection checklists and process forms and claim backs online.
- Participating in ongoing technical and HV safety training provided by the company or our brands.
- Mentoring other technicians
- Advising customers if additional work is required on a vehicle and seek manufacturer assistance and authority in all in warranty repairs.
- Maintaining a high level of competency by undergoing on-site training by KGM, Kawasaki and Vmoto, as well as attending online courses and reading technical bulletins as required
- Assisting customers with any questions or concerns regarding their vehicle

**Hours of work are Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, and one-in-four Saturdays 8.30am to 12.30pm.**

**Skills & Experience required:**

- Applicants **must** be a qualified Vehicle Technician with a formal qualification in Automotive City & Guilds/NVQ Level
- 3 Light Vehicle Maintenance (or equivalent), IMI Level 2 or 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Maintenance (or equivalent HV safety qualification), refrigerant handling qualification together with a commitment to achieve KGM Gold Level Certification within 12 months if not already held
- Exceptional communication skills with an aptitude for multi-tasking
- Strong teamwork skills with an eye for detail
- Ability to work under pressure with quality awareness
- Full UK driving licence

**Extremely competitive salary (£18,000 to £25,000) plus bonus structure, 20 days holiday (plus bank holidays) raising to 25 after 5 completed years of service; plus a days holiday on your birthday, Company Pension Scheme and Death in Service Policy**

If you can demonstrate the required skills and enthusiasm for customer service, and share my passion for our brands, please contact me today to discuss this opportunity, call +290 53222. To apply, send a copy of your CV and a covering letter to derek@dps.co.sh

## Festival of Walking
## Casons to Rosemary Plain

St Helena Island

StHelena iRecord

**Date:** Sunday, 22 March 2026
**Start Time:** 09:00
**Meeting Point:** Rosemary Plain for the bus transfer to the start of the walk at Casons, Blue Hil
**Google Map Location:** -15.95663, -5.73007
**Duration:** approx 2 hours

**Walk grade: Easy | 1 - 2**

*A family friendly walk organised by the Health Directorate and New Horizons, the walk will start at Casons and head along the road to Rosemary Plain (approx. 5km).*
*Before the start of the walk the SHG Physiotherapists will be providing stretching exercises to reduce the aches the next day. For the younger walkers there will be the opportunity to win prizes!*
*This walk takes place along the main road to Rosemary Plain. Shuttle buses will be provided to get walkers from Rosemary Plain to the walk start at Casons, Blue Hill.*
*Please make sure you wear suitable shoes for walking, bring water, a hat and sunscreen.*
*Walking guide(s) – Scott Crowie (New Horizons), Ian Hambleton/Selvi Jeyaseelan*

| Date | Upcoming Walks |
|---|---|
| Sunday, 29 March 2026 | Lemon Valley (Pre-booking for bus and boat by 4pm on Thursday, 26 March 2026) |

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

# NOTICE BOARD

## VACANCY

### ST HELENA GROWERS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

***UNIT 13, THE MARKET, JAMESTOWN***

***TEL:+290 22511 Email: growers@helenta.co.sh***

The St Helena Growers is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the role of a Shop Manager/Society Secretary for the St Helena Growers Store.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone passionate about fresh produce; local fruit and vegetable. The ideal candidate will bring strong leadership skills, a commitment to excellent customer service, and a genuine enthusiasm to support the agriculture sector.

**About the role:**

The Manager will oversee the daily operations of the store, including:

- Leading and supporting staff
- Providing knowledgeable, friendly customer service
- Maintaining high standards of produce presentation and freshness
- Managing stock rotation, waste reduction, and ordering
- Ensuring pricing accuracy and effective merchandising
- Building relationships with local suppliers where relevant

**What are we looking for:**

We welcome applications from individuals who:

- Have strong financial and administration skills
- Are confident in leading a team and creating a positive working culture
- Have strong organisational and communication skills
- Can work proactively, adapt to seasonal changes and maintain high standard

**How to apply:**

Please submit your application to Mrs Delia Allen at Lower Farm Lodge by 10 April 2026, or by contacting her on telephone number 24440 outlining;

- Why you are interested in the Store Manager role
- Any experience you have with fresh produce or retail management
- Any experience in finance and administration
- The strengths and qualities you would bring to the position

# NOTIFICATION

## MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

"The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, 02nd April 2026, at 10 am in the St Helena Community College Main Hall, Jamestown**.

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted version of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page of the SHG Web Site. Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 24724.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting".

# NOTICE BOARD

commonwealth sport
KING'S BATON RELAY
GLASGOW 2026

## Expressions of Interest – Kings Baton Relay 2026 Photography & Videography

The **National Sports Association of St. Helena (NSASH)** invites **local photographers and videographers** to submit expressions of interest to professionally capture St. Helena's leg of the **Kings Baton Relay 2026.** We are looking to document a weekend of activities, with the theme having a special focus on community action to **reduce plastic pollution in commonwealth oceans**.

Coverage will be required for activities taking place between the **10th–13th April 2026**. NSASH welcomes **quotations** from interested individuals or teams to provide these services.

It is also a requirement for all photos and video material produced to become the exclusive property of NSASH. Prospective tenderers must bare this in mind when producing final content.

Photographers and Videographers should submit quotations and any details by **12 noon** on **Monday 30th March 2026**. For the full brief and further information, please email nsash@helanta.co.sh.

**Be part of documenting this historic moment for St. Helena.**



# NOTICE BOARD

## Vacancy
## Bakery Assistant (Packaging)

Salary for the post will be £8,320 per annum (£160 per week) – 30 hours per week

**Job Outline:**
To perform the daily duties associated with slicing and packaging of bakery products, in accordance to company standards while ensuring the effective cleaning and maintenance of bakery equipment and facilities to meet health, safety, and hygiene requirements.

**Interested Persons Should:**

- Ideally possess knowledge and experience in food production, including Food & Hygiene and Health & Safety Awareness
- Have basic numeracy and literacy understanding
- Be able work efficiently in a fast paced environment
- Be able to stand for extended periods and carry out manual handling and repetitive tasks;
- Have good time management, organisational skills and observational skills
- Be competent with operating production equipment as required
- Be able to undertake cash handling duties as and when required
- Be able to perform cleaning duties in accordance with operational requirements
- Be energetic and able to communicate and work well within a team
- Be committed to work unsocial hours and meet tight deadlines

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

Miss Daryl Legg, General Manager (Production) via 22380 gm-productions@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **02 April 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

## Vacancy
## Internal Auditor

Salary for the post will range between £18,000.00 - £20,386.00 per annum;
depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Internal Audit Department for an Internal Auditor.

As Internal Auditor you will review organisational controls and add value through the systematic, disciplined approach to evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance, and conduct independent appraisal projects in relation to the effectiveness of policies, processes and standards of financial, physical and information asset management.

**Interested Persons Should:**

- Have a minimum of 3-years financial experience, through accounting / auditing and ideally possess an ACCA or similar qualification
- Have experience in a Management role, with strong leadership skills, with the ability to lead and develop a team
- Possess Grades C or above in GCSE Maths and English or equivalent with proficiency in ICT
- Have knowledge of computerised accounting / audit record keeping systems
- Have knowledge of audit procedures including planning, techniques, test and sampling methods involved in conducting audits
- Have knowledge of risk management & compliance
- The ability to gather, analyse and evaluate facts and prepare and present concise oral and written reports
- Have excellent communication, problem solving and analytical skills with a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Be in possession of a clean and valid driver's licence in class A

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

Mr Neil Wilshere, Chief Executive Officer via 22380 neil.wilshere@solomons.co.sh

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

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

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.*

## Customs/Immigration Officer
### (£11,604 per annum)

If you're looking for a challenge, have an inquisitive mind and see yourself working as part of a team why not join the Customs and Immigration team. We need you on the front line where you will be required to help reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena. This is a critical and demanding role where you will interact with the public on a daily basis. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Juliette O'Dean on Tel No. 22287 or Email: Juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh
**Closing date:** 02 April 2026
**Shortlisting date:** 07 April 2026
**Interview date:** 15 April 2026

## Receptionist
### (£9,573 per annum)

The Receptionist will be based at Essex House and will be the first point of contact for all visitors, providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Sara-Kay Yon Tel No. 22470 or Email: Sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
**Closing date:** 02 April 2026
**Shortlisting date:** 07 April 2026
**Interview date:** 15 April 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.*

SPORTS ARENA

# Golf Report

## Arnold Flagg Memorial Challenge 2026



Winner AF 2026 150326

**SHGC,** Contributed

The St Helena Golf Club came alive this past Sunday, 15 March, as players turned out in force for the Annual Arnold Flagg Memorial Challenge, proudly sponsored by the Flagg family. This tournament stands as one of the club's marquee events, held in memory of a remarkable man whose influence stretched across both the island and the fairways he loved.

Blessed with cloudy, but warm, conditions, the course offered near-perfect golfing weather and set the stage for a dramatic contest.

**Bagley Brilliant**: Peter Claims Top Honours

Finishing at the top of a competitive leaderboard was Peter Bagley, whose impressive 67 secured him first prize. Adding to his triumph, Peter also scooped up every ball in the Two-Ball Pool, completing a memorable clean sweep.

**Second Place Showdown: Johnson Triumphs in Playoff**

A tense tie for second on 68 between Freddy Thomas and Paddo Johnson led to a sudden-death playoff. Displaying composure under pressure, Paddo Johnson powered through to claim second place, leaving Freddy to settle for a well-earned third.

**A Touching Ceremony & Fun Facts from Mrs Flagg**

Prizegiving was led by Mrs Flagg, accompanied by members of the Flagg family. She expressed heartfelt thanks to all participants and reaffirmed the family's dedication to sustaining this special legacy.

Adding a delightful twist to the ceremony, Mrs Flagg entertained players with surprising golf trivia, including the astonishing Guinness World Record for the longest round of golf; 36 hours nonstop, completed to raise funds for charity. She challenged the club leadership to consider doing something out of the ordinary for a worthy cause.

In celebration of the day, she also presented extra prizes, including exclusive invitations to Harlyn House, which marks its 200-year anniversary this year.

**A Grateful Club**

The St Helena Golf Club extends its sincere appreciation to the Flagg family for their unwavering support, generosity, and commitment to honouring Arnold Flagg's memory through this beloved annual event.

**Up Next: 18-Hole Cross-Country Strokeplay**

Golfers are reminded that on Sunday, 22 March, the club will host an 18-hole Cross-Country Strokeplay Competition. Tee-off at 12 noon. Registration closes Saturday, 21 March, at 3pm.



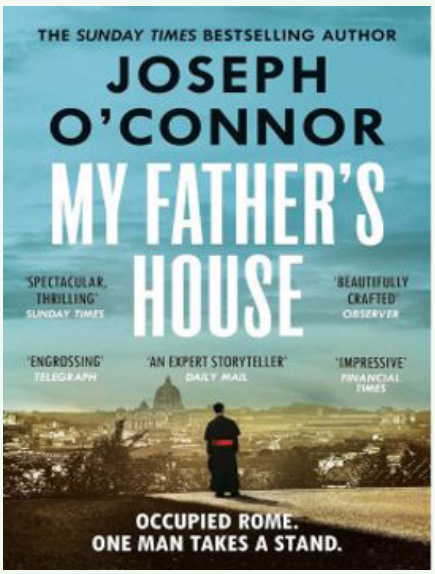
AF 2026 Group Photo 150326



Arnolf Flagg Winners and Family 150326

# Book of the Week

Public Library Service




**My Father's House by Joseph O'Connor**

**When the Nazis take Rome, thousands go into hiding. One priest will risk everything to save them.**

**September 1943: German forces occupy Rome. SS officer Paul Hauptmann rules with terror. An Irish priest, Hugh O'Flaherty, dedicates himself to helping those escaping from the Nazis. His home is Vatican City, a neutral, independent country within Rome where the occupiers hold no sway. He gathers a team to set up an Escape Line.**

**But Hauptmann's net begins closing in and the need for a terrifyingly audacious mission grows critical. By Christmas, it's too late to turn back.**

**Based on a true story, My Father's House is a powerful thriller from a master of historical fiction. It is an unforgettable novel of love, sacrifice and what it means to be human in the most extreme circumstances.**

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



St Helena Team at the Kit Ceremony

Nadeem spoke to The Sentinel about the team selection and their upcoming training in Pretoria; the importance of selecting the strongest starting eleven while recognising that each member will have a role to play; and was clear on the team ambitions this time around.

"Cliff Richards remains the Captain, he was an outstanding Captain representing the players well both on and of the field," commented Coach. "Not much has change in regards to the team, apart from some late exits due to for unforeseen circumstances, but everybody will still be playing the same positions; it's a team of all-rounders, so that bodes really well, it's just up to me to get the balance right." While the majority of the team remains the same from the last tournament, representing the Island for the first time will be Stefan Leo and youngster Kirk Lawrence during this tour.

First up for the team in South Africa will be training and preparation ahead of the tournament. "We have arranged some warm up games on turf in Pretoria; that's where I get to find my combinations and see what works best and I can then find my strongest eleven," revealed Coach Nadeem. "Ultimately, we have a squad of 14, but that doesn't mean everyone gets to play. I'm going to win on behalf of St Helena, so I'm going to play my strongest eleven and, if the strongest eleven does well, then that eleven sticks. However, that doesn't mean that the others don't have a part to play; I have roles for everyone to play."

When asked about the expectations of the team, the Coach revealed that there is just one goal that unites every member; qualification. "Qualify! That's all where going to do," he smiled with confidence. "It was always a three-year plan, which started in 2023, and we're into our third year; we've gone from training to compete, then training to win, and now we're playing to qualify. That's our ultimate goal and we hope to make you guys proud."

With the ambition high, the team aims to make history by finishing in a qualifying position after the weeklong round of matches. Best of luck to the team, as always, we are all behind you!


St Helena Team in OR Tambo

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**To:** All Judo Players and Parents
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 April 2026
**Time:** 18:00 *(immediately after Judo class)*
**Location:** Jamestown Community Centre

The St Helena Judo Club will be holding its **Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday evening, 8 April. We invite all our players and their parents to join us briefly as the Wednesday training session concludes. The meeting will be kept **short and to the point**, focusing on essential club updates, plans for the year ahead, and the **election of the Committee**.

Your presence is important to us as we continue to support our judo community. We look forward to seeing you there.

For any enquiries, please contact: **sthelenajudo@gmail.com**

# SPORTS ARENA




## International Cricket Team off to Ghana for World Cup Qualifiers

**Luke Bennett,** SAMS

St Helena's International Cricket Team have left the Island destined for Ghana where they will be competing in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub-regional Qualifiers.

Once they reach Ghana, it will be all go for Team St Helena, who will have just a few days to train and prepare ahead of their first matches of the tournament when they will face Eswatini on Tuesday, 24 March, followed by a match against the Seychelles the following day, 25 March.

Their busy schedule includes meeting up with the titans who visited the island last year, where they will be touring the stadium and possibly using their facilities to get ready for the tournament.

In fact, the team's only rest day after the start of the competition, will be Thursday 26 March, as they will take on the hosts, Ghana, on Friday, 27 March, before taking on Tanzania and then Malawi on the Saturday and Sunday to follow.

The squad selected this time includes, alongside Team Manager, Derek Richards, and Coach Nadeem, Cliff Richards (as Captain), Jordan Yon, Rhys Francis, Stefan Leo, Barry Stroud, Aiden Leo, Brendan Leo, Dane Leo, Andrew Yon, Jamie Essex, Delroy Leo, Jordi Henry, Joey Thomas, and youngster Kirk Lawrence.

Before departing on Monday, Coach



St Helena Cricket Team outside of SuperSport Park



Coach Nadeem and members of the team supporting the Airlink collaboration