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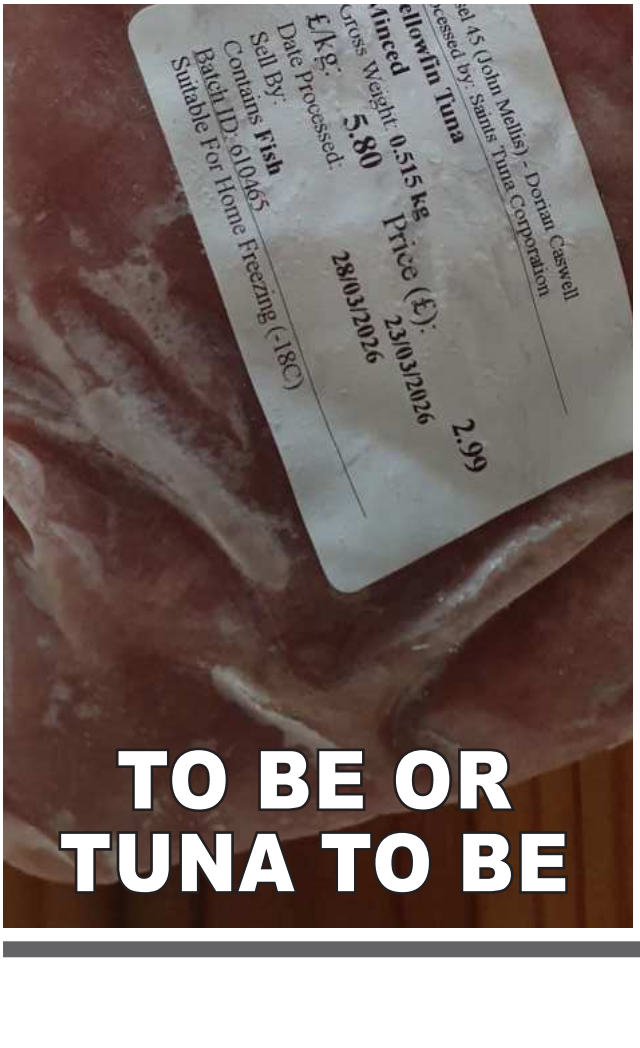
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SENTINEL

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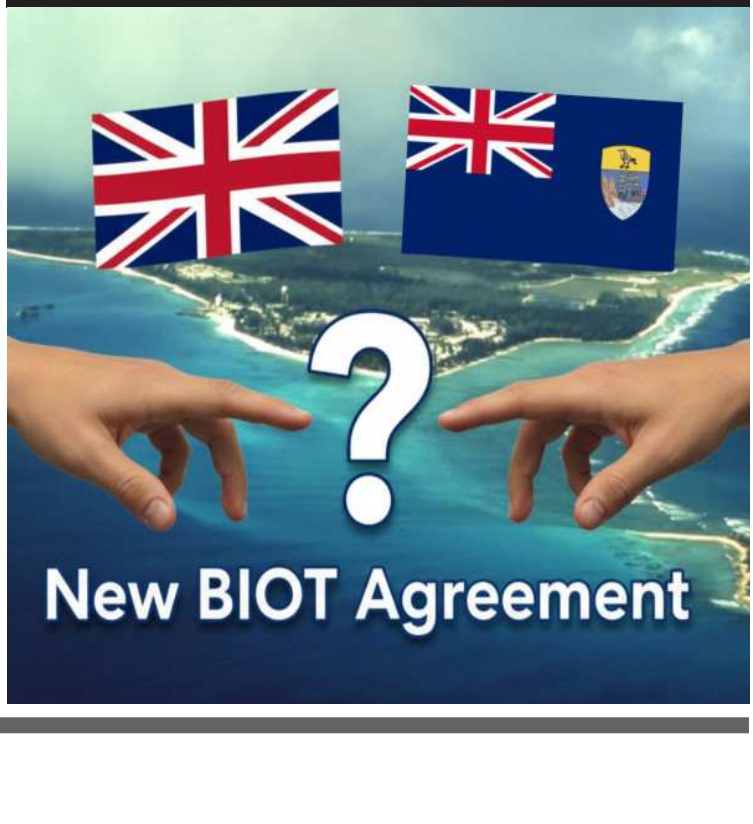


"An Incredible Turnout"



TO BE OR TUNA TO BE

BIOT Agreement to continue?



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Donna Crowie, SAMS

Oh, my word – it's been nearly two months since I wrote my last comment; I bet you didn't even miss reading my waffling!

The saying is true – time flies when you're having fun. I am now "back to the old grindstone" as the older folks would say.

While I was off-island there was a few things I got use to and some not so much, going from a quiet street to zig zagging amongst thousands was not something we were used to nor not greeting people as you pass. As everyone says, St Helena does have its uniqueness.

St Helena is not different to the outside world when it comes to costs. Since I was in the UK, I watched fuel prices go up weekly, the last of which was £1.92 per litre (be interesting to see what our fuel prices be next time the tanker arrives). Travelling was another big expense; the use of bus, taxi and trains, everything you must pay for, sometimes even to use a public toilet came at a cost.

This is not my first time abroad, but knowing our struggle on the island from time to time, and having the convenience to all food – just wish we could have the same.

Also, the use of debit/credit cards – is a big thing - cash is used in some places, but I had been to a few places in UK and France and they only took card. Not the St Helena bank card unfortunately – how easy would that be if we could.

Mobile phone is also a must-have; you can't go anywhere without it. As my boy told me, "as long as you got your phone and your credit card, you be ok". Technology is really moving forward.

Well I bet you are tired with my waffling already! :D Have a great weekend and happy reading your copy of The Sentinel.

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ST HELENA NEWS

"We can each play our part to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place"

HM The King marks late Queen's 100th Birthday with message to the Commonwealth



Queen Elizabeth and King Charles share a laugh while watching the children's sack race during the 2012 Braemar Highland Gathering at the Princess & Royal Duke of Fife Memorial Park in Braemar, Scotland, on Sept. 1, 2012

Liam Yon, SAMS

Tuesday, 21 April, marked what would have been the 100th birthday of the late Queen Elizabeth II, who was born in Mayfair, London, as the Princess of York, and later became the Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from 6 February 1952 until her passing in 2022 - a reign of 70 years and 214 days; the longest of any British monarch.

To mark the occasion of the beloved late Queen's 100th Birthday, her son and the current Monarch, His Majesty King Charles III, gave the following message via Sky News:

"Today, as we mark what would have been my beloved mother's 100th birthday, my family and I pause to reflect on the life and loss of a sovereign who meant so much to us all, and to celebrate anew the many blessings of her memory. Queen Elizabeth's promise with destiny kept, shaped the world around her, and touched the lives of countless people across our nation, the Commonwealth and beyond. Her near century was one of remarkable change, and yet, through each passing decade, through every transformation, she remained constant, steadfast, and wholly devoted to the people she served."

"Millions will remember her for moments of national significance, many others for a fleeting personal encounter, a smile, a kind word that lifted spirits, or for that marvellous twinkle of the eye when sharing a marmalade sandwich with Paddington Bear in the final months of her life. Much about the times we now live in, I suspect, may have troubled her deeply, but I take heart from her belief that goodness will always prevail, and that a brighter dawn is never far from the horizon. For, as a young Princess Elizabeth put it in her first ever public broadcast, aged just 14, we can each play our part to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place."

"It is a belief which I share with all my heart. So, young or old, and whatever our differences, let us therefore seek to follow this example as we make today not the marking of a milestone felt by absence, but the celebration of a life well lived, and a legacy of hope, as we strive together towards a better, happier tomorrow; one rooted in peace, justice, prosperity, and security. In this, I renew my own solemn pledge of duty and service to you all. God bless you, darling Mama. You remain forever in our hearts and prayers."

A Happy Heavenly Birthday to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



Queen Elizabeth presents King Charles with the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour during a visit to the Chelsea Flower Show in London on May 18, 2009

"We had an Incredible Turnout"



Island Minds Foundation holds successful Big 4 Walk for Mental Health

Liam Yon, SAMS

New local charity, Island Minds Foundation, recently held their first ever fundraising event; the Big 4 Walk Family Day, held at the Kingshurst Community Centre on Sunday, 19 April.

According to Shelby Bargo, Chairperson of the Island Minds Foundation, the event "had an incredible turnout," with "over 300 people having joined throughout the day." Out of these, a total of 254 walkers took part in the Big 4 Walk; 110 on the Long Walk, 66 on the Medium and 78 on the Short Walk (not including all the little ones who joined for free).

Despite inclement weather over the weekend leading up to the highly-anticipated event, Shelby described the weather as "perfect," noting how "the rain held off and the sun came out just in time."

The day, and the charity itself, is all about raising awareness and providing support for mental health issues on St Helena – something which has grown in relevance in recent years, particularly with regard to the number of suicides on the Island in recent times. As such, at the event, a safe space was created to coincide with the theme and give attendees a place to be open about mental health.

"The safe space we created for the day was really special," reflected Shelby. "It was wonderful seeing people of all ages using the positive mental health interactive room and taking part in the Mental Health Bingo Quest."

One of the highlights of the day, particularly for the kids, was the painted rock scavenger hunt that formed part of the popular short walking route. "The rock scavenger hunt on the Short Walk was a huge hit," smiled Shelby. "Kids and adults loved it, and everyone went home with some of the 150+ painted rocks hidden along the route."

To ensure everyone felt a part of the event, Shelby confirmed that "every walker received a medal" while those placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each of the routes were also awarded prizes.

Prizes were presented by Dr Cilla McDaniel, a local Psychotherapist and Counsellor who owns 'Dragonfly Psychosocial Support' a local business offering counselling, psychotherapy, advice and advocacy. As such, Cilla also addressed the crowds where she gave an interesting and insightful speech about mental health in small island communities like St Helena.

Away from the happenings at Kingshurst, the Big 4 Walk was also extended to Ascension Island, the Falklands and the UK, with similar walks and activities being held there alongside the St Helena event. Additionally, a St Helenian in France along with her partner also did a walk as part of the day's initiatives. "A big thank you to the St Helena Association UK for bringing forward such a brilliant initiative and getting these locations together to collaborate for this event, and organising the walk in the UK," said Shelby. "Thanks also to Claire Fowler and her team for organising the Falklands walk, Kimberly Peters for leading the walk on Ascension, and Keri Thomas and her partner in France for taking on their own walk for mental health."

Shelby continued by thanking "all the sponsors, volunteers, stall holders, walkers and supporters who enjoyed the safe space that was set up" adding that "these people helped make the event a success." She then reflected on the first event held by Island Minds Foundation.

"This was the first major event or-



ST HELENA NEWS









St Helena







ganised by our Island Minds Foundation team, and it couldn't have gone better," she reports. "The support shown for mental health was overwhelming — a real step forward in showing how our community can come together to break down stigma."

For those who could not attend on the day, the entire event was livestreamed, to bring the event to the people. Shelby is encouraging anyone who missed the live stream to "watch it back on the Saint Vibes Photography page" on Facebook.

With their first event having gone down a success, the charity's focus now turns to some upcoming in-







Falklands

















Ascension









itiatives to follow on from the Big 4 Walk. "As for us at Island Minds Foundation, next month is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we'll be hosting a series of positive well-being activities for the community," hinted Shelby, "we'll share all the details at the start of May."

A big well done to Island Minds Foundation and everyone who came together to make the Big 4 Walk a resounding success. We look forward to the next event as we come together as a community to support and address mental health on St Helena.

France

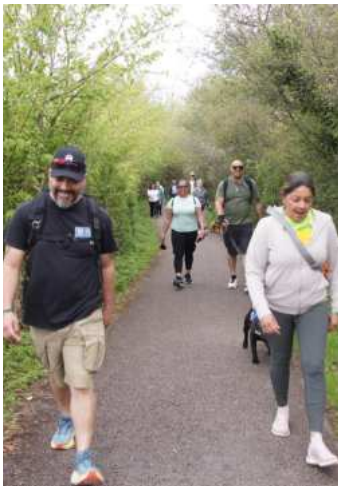






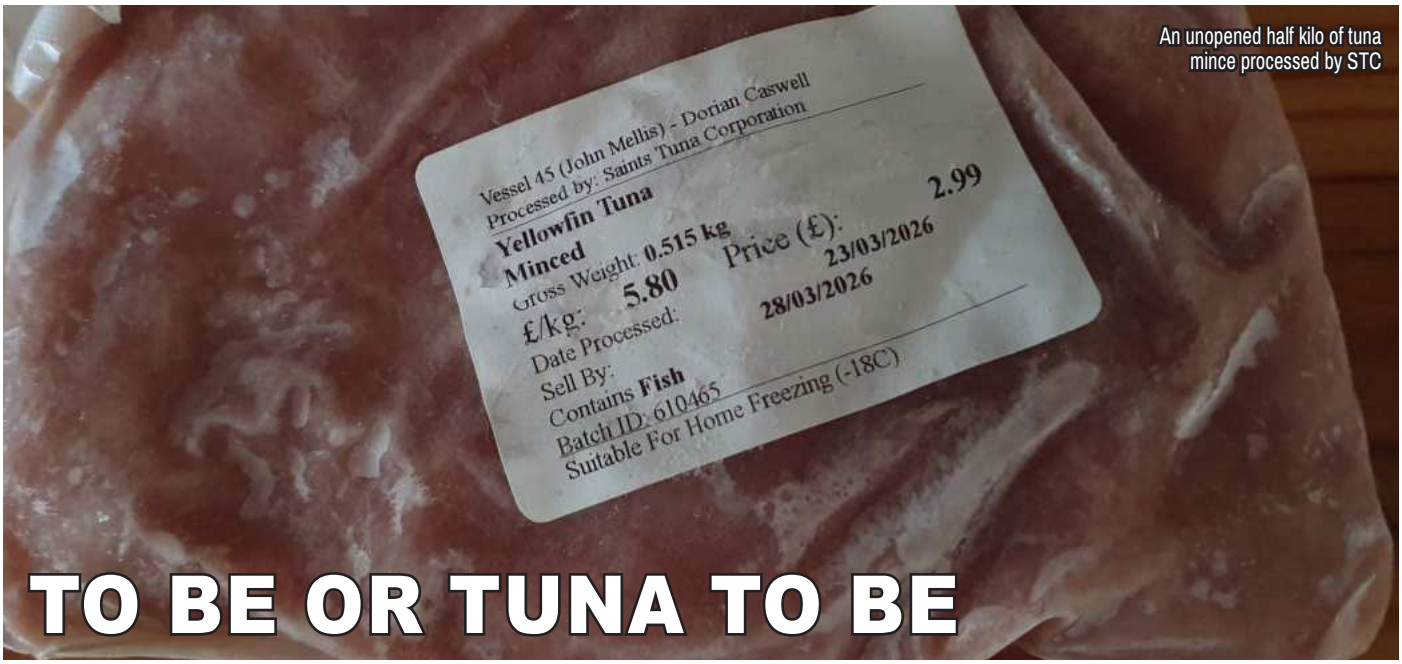
UK











An unopened half kilo of tuna mince processed by STC

TO BE OR TUNA TO BE

Investigations underway by Environmental Health due to sudden spike in cases of histamine fish poisoning on-Island following consumption of bad tuna mince

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government are advising everyone on the Island to "avoid consuming products or meals containing tuna mince until further notice," as they "actively investigate" the reasons and source behind a significant spike in histamine food poisoning on the Island, caused by the consumption of bad tuna mince – with reports of "up to 15 people" having been affected, "as well as one report of affected animals," having been received by Public Health.

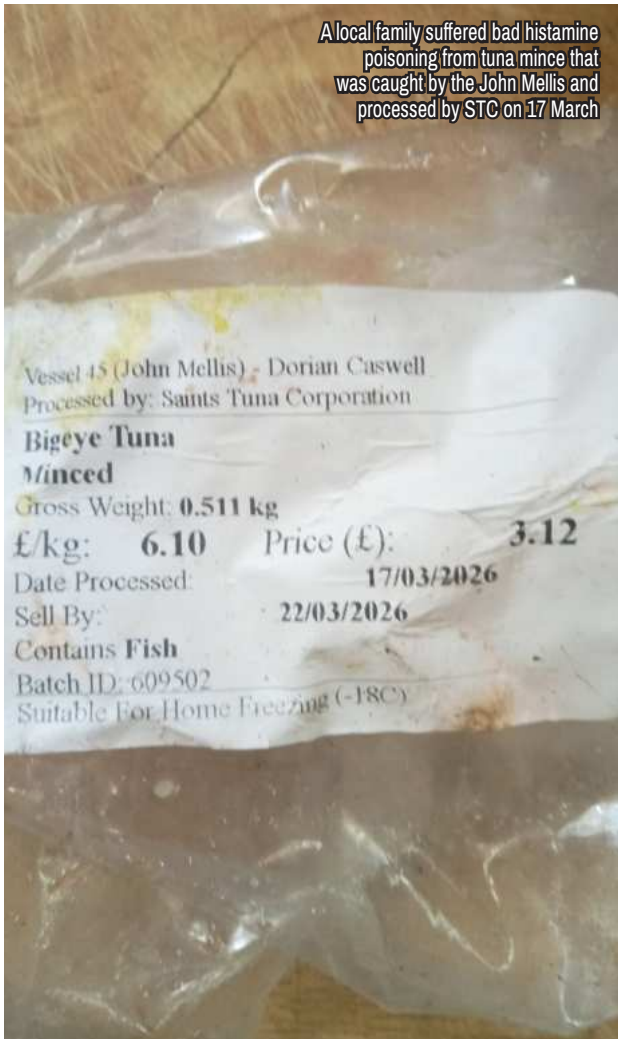
Having made the announcement last week on 'Cases of Scombroid Fish Poisoning Following Consumption of Tuna Mince', SHG advised that "the Health and Social Care Directorate have received several reports of minor health issues following the consumption of fish products."

They detail how "patients have reported facial flushing, headaches and diarrhoea within 10-60 minutes of eating tuna mince." According to Government, "the likely cause is scombroid (histamine) fish poisoning that can result from certain types of fish being incorrectly held at warm temperatures after capture, during subsequent handling, storage, retail or home preparation."

While the effects of histamine fish poisoning are certainly unpleasant, SHG made clear that "this condition is not life-threatening and usually settles on its own within 4-6 hours," adding that "taking oral antihistamines can help to alleviate symptoms."

One account of a family having suffered the effects from histamine poisoning, caused by bad tuna mince, did not coincide with SHG's '4-6 hours' timeframe however. A local resident informed The Sentinel that her partner, having consumed a meal made from tuna mince, "suffered from diarrhoea from the night he consumed the fish until the next day; approximately 12 hours."

Additionally, she recalled how her daughter "had swelling of the eyes and a headache the night she ate it," and while the family assumed these symptoms was a simple case of hay fever, they found that after consuming another fish cake the following



A local family suffered bad histamine poisoning from tuna mince that was caught by the John Mellis and processed by STC on 17 March

day, "her arms, chest and face were covered in a red rash." With this, the daughter was taken to hospital and here "she was given an injection and antihistamine tablets." The lady herself confirmed that, following consumption of the fish, she "suffered from cramps and a headache," but was not near as bad as her partner and daughter.

The resident, who said she is now "reluctant to purchase any fish" due to the fear of further histamine poisoning, confirmed that the tuna mince she used was bought from The Crown Supermarket at Ladder Hill and was caught by the John Mellis fishing vessel and processed by the Saints Tuna Corporation (STC) in Rupert's on 17 March 2026 (see photo).

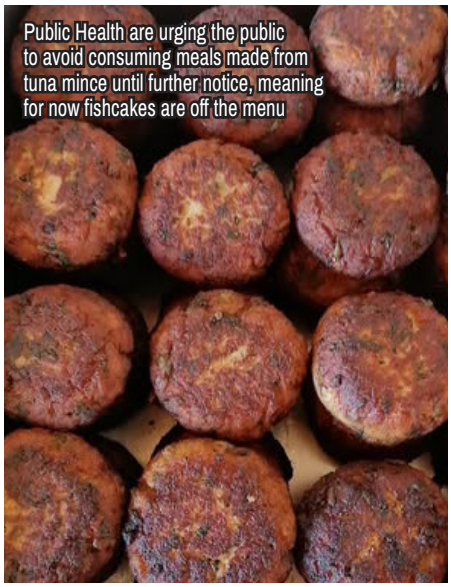
In another, more minor case, The Sentinel was informed of another family who suffered from diarrhoea almost immediately after consuming tuna mince used in fishcakes. While none of those suffering, likely from histamine poisoning, attended hospital, the symptoms were described as "nasty and uncomfortable" and lasted for "a few hours into the night." It was stated how the tuna mince used in this case was bought from AnD's Mini Mart in Half Tree Hollow and was also processed by STC, though the specific fishing vessel or date of processing was not known.

While these are just two examples of cases coming to light since SHG's Press Release last week, and both identify the source of the tuna as STC's processing factory in Rupert's, Public Health are chasing up on many more reports. "So far, we have received reports that up to 15 people have been affected as well as one report of affected animals," they confirmed, before adding that, "there have been four attendances at the emergency department with likely scombroid poisoning."

As such, "Environmental and Public Health professionals are actively investigating this issue and working with the industry to identify the source and prevent further cases."

In further correspondence with The Sentinel, Public Health detail how "the investigation involves identifying past and future cases by reviewing emergency department records, mandatory reporting of any further cases by healthcare professionals, and self-reporting by the public of any adverse reactions following the consumption of tuna mince to the Environmental Health Office."

To help identify the source of the bad tuna mince, Public Health say that their investigation "also involves tracing the affected products back through the retail, processing, and fishing accounts to help identify the specific batch numbers, processing dates, vessels involved and dates of catch."



Public Health are urging the public to avoid consuming meals made from tuna mince until further notice, meaning for now fishcakes are off the menu

SHG were however reluctant to give any information on how the investigation is currently going and whether they have yet nailed down a source of the tuna mince that is causing island-wide histamine poisoning. Instead, they informed how "members of the Environmental Health and Public Health teams are working with the industry early this week and further details will be provided once the investigation is completed."

They go on to add that "the issue will be resolved once all the affected batches and products have been identified and destroyed and when any issues in maintaining the correct temperature controls, from catch to plate, have been rectified."

Until such time however, Public Health are urging the public "to avoid consuming tuna mince, including that which has been frozen, until further notice," and they are asking for anyone who has suffered "any adverse reactions after eating tuna (including in the past 3 months)," to report this to Environmental Health to assist with their investigation.

While Public Health reiterated that, "whilst very unpleasant, scombroid poisoning is not life-threatening and usually resolves within a matter of hours without any long-lasting health concerns," they do urge "anyone experiencing trouble breathing, blurred vision, tongue swelling or fainting after consumption of tuna" to "seek immediate medical care as this may represent an alternative diagnosis, such as a severe allergic reaction."

For now, Public Health are asking anyone that has tuna mince products in their freezer to retain them "and await further advice on how these can be disposed of or returned," with "more specific advice" expected to be "issued in the coming days on how the public will be able to return affected products."

Despite the instruction being not to consume tuna mince "until further notice," The Sentinel have been made aware of deliveries continuing to be made to local supermarkets and shops. In particular, a member of the public informed that they witnessed STC delivering what was presumed to be tuna products to Solomon's The Star and Thorpe's Tinkers in Jamestown on Tuesday afternoon. There is however no advice relating to the consumption of other tuna products, like flesh or other cuts, and therefore it is unsurprising that these deliveries continue to be made.

What is surprising to some however is that, with the knowledge of histamine poisoning being caused by tuna mince processed on the Island, Public Health have not put a stop to tuna processing until they can identify the source of the issues and conclude their investigation.



STC delivering a consigment of tuna products to The Star on Tuesday

"This agreement shows what is possible"

Former Chief Minister, Cllr Julie Thomas, speaks on the benefits brought about through the BIOT Migrant Agreement between SHG and UKG



Councillor Julie Thomas, then the Chief Minister for St Helena, signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the BIOT Agreement on behalf of SHG

Liam Yon, SAMS

In October 2024, St Helena Government entered into an agreement with the UK Government to accept the transfer of any new migrants arriving to the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) - or the Chagos Islands as it is also known - for 18 months, accepting responsibility for these migrants once they arrived to the Island. This became known and referred to as the BIOT Migrant Agreement.

In return for St Helena's acceptance to support the UKG with the potential transfer of migrants, £6.65m of one-off funding was secured in order to fast track priority work within SHG, while support by way of training and access to the UK's Watch List was also secured, to increase St Helena's border control capabilities.

As of last week, the 18-month lifespan of the BIOT Migrant Agreement concluded with no migrants having been transferred to St Helena and many positive outcomes having been achieved due to the funding and technical support provided by the UKG.

Councillor Julie Thomas, who was Chief Minister when the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between SHG and the UKG, took to Social Media on Wednesday evening, 15 April, to announce the conclusion of the MOU and detail the benefits it brought to St Helena.

"As the sun sets on 15 April 2026, we close an important chapter in St Helena's journey," she said. "Today marks the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between the St Helena Government and the UK Government on the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Agreement. Signed on 15 October 2024, this 18-month agreement represented a bold and strategic step forward—positioning St Helena as a trusted partner while always putting our community first."

Turning her focus to what the BIOT Migrant Agreement allowed St Helena to achieve, Councillor Thomas focussed on the securing of a "significant investment" of £6.65m by her Government, which she said has "delivered real, meaningful impact," across a number of areas.

In terms of Health Services, SHG were able to clear the backlog of overseas medical referrals, ensuring, as noted by Cllr Thomas, that "our people received the care they needed, when they needed it." In Education, SHG were able to drive forward key priorities in the sector, including importantly moving forward with the comprehensive education review, "investing in brighter futures for our young people." With regards to IT Infrastructure, the funding secured allowed for the modernisation of government systems, which allowed SHG to build "a stronger, more connected and efficient digital future."

Councillor Thomas concluded by noting how "this agreement shows what is possible when we engage openly, negotiate wisely, and take measured, strategic risks," adding that, "it reflects our ability to protect our island's interests while making real progress towards greater self-sufficiency."

The former Chief Minister then gave "a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for their vision, commitment, and dedication to St Helena. Here's to continued progress—together."

No doubt the signing of this agreement back in October 2024 was met with apprehension by many within the community on-Island, and beyond, however in hindsight it can be seen as a success story for St Helena if based on the benefits it has, and continues, to bring to the Island's development across key sectors.

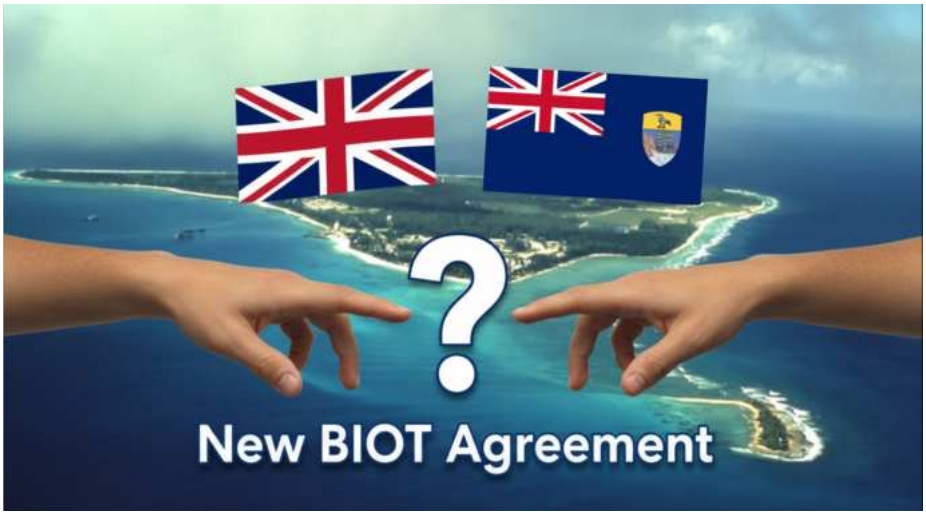
In more recent news, SHG have announced an extension of this BIOT Agreement beyond 15 April – see article 'BIOT Migrant Agreement to continue?' on page 9.



The funding recieved through the BIOT Agreement allowed for the critical Education Review and Primary Reorganisation to progress

BIOT Migrant Agreement to continue?

Ministers agree one-month extension to BIOT Migrant Agreement as they consider UK Government's request to continue the arrangement with SHG beyond the initial conclusion date



Liam Yon, SAMS

Last week, Councillor Julie Thomas, the Island's inaugural Chief Minister, announced what would have been the conclusion of SHG's agreement with the UK Government regarding the transfer of potential migrants to St Helena arriving to the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) – known widely as the BIOT Migrant Agreement.

This agreement was signed back on 15 October 2024 to last for 18 months, and therefore, as reported by Cllr Thomas, would have reached its conclusion on Wednesday, 15 April.

However, SHG have since announced that the BIOT Agreement is not over and has been extended for one month, initially, under the direction of Ministers, following a request from the UK to extend the agreement beyond 15 April.

The current one-month extension agreed by Ministers is to allow them more time to consider the UK's request and discuss any potential new or extended deal with the UK Government.

"A formal request from UKG seeking to extend the agreement was received close to the expiry date," explained SHG via a Press Release issued last Friday. "After careful consideration, Ministers have agreed a one-month extension with the UKG under the existing terms, to provide sufficient time for further engagement and consideration of any future possible agreement."

A reminder that the existing terms of the agreement would see any new migrants arriving to the Chagos Islands, or BIOT, be transferred to St Helena where SHG would resume responsibility for their welfare. While Ministers have agreed to a one-month extension of the agreement under the existing terms, they were clear that, at this time, "no decision has been taken" and "no new commitments have been entered into," while they further assert that "any future agreement must serve the interests of St Helena."

"Ministers recognise that matters relating to BIOT are of significant national interest and that Ministers, Councillors and the public place great importance on transparency and accountability," continued SHG. "While some aspects of the discussions must remain confidential at this stage to protect St Helena's negotiating position, SHG is committed to providing meaningful updates as discussions progress and to ensuring that any substantive proposal is subject to appropriate consideration before a decision is made."

As it stands, the BIOT Agreement will continue as is until 15 May, with SHG committing to providing a further public update, "once Ministers are in a position to outline the way forward."

The BIOT Agreement, specifically the £6.65m one-off funding negotiated by the former Ministerial Team, have provided many benefits to the Island over the past 18 months *(as detailed in the article on page 8)*, while technical support committed as part of the Memorandum of Understanding have also increased on-Island capacity and operational effectiveness with regards to the Island's border security capabilities.

One of the commitments however, which relates to the thawing of UK State Pensions to eligible persons on St Helena, has still not been actioned. It will be hoped that the lack of progress on this commitment by the UKG will be brought up and addressed by SHG in any negotiations regarding an extended, or new, BIOT Agreement.



In October 2021, 89 Sri Lankan Tamil migrants arrived to the British Indian Ocean Territory via a fishing boat and were imprisoned there for over three years before being relocated to the UK in December 2024. Because these migrants arrived prior to the BIOT Agreement between SHG and the UKG, they were not transferred to St Helena, with the agreement allowing for only new migrants arriving to the territory to be transferred to St Helena from the date of the agreement, with SHG then taking responsibility for their care and wellbeing. During the original 18-month agreement, no new migrants arrived to BIOT and therefore there was no need to transfer any migrants to St Helena.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

‘Harlyn’ Celebrates 200th Anniversary

“More celebrations to be planned throughout the year”



Cyril Gunnell, Contributed

Harlyn House, situated in lower Half Tree Hollow, was constructed in 1826 and turned 200 years old in 2026. Its current owners, the Flagg family, decided following consultation that the historic property should be celebrated during its 200th year.

The Flagg couple, Arnold and Patsy, bought Harlyn some 53 years ago and their two daughters loved it as an ‘unusual’ family home.

Mrs J. Patsy Flagg MBE JP, widow of the late Arnold James Flagg, told The Sentinel that the first celebration of this 200 year old house took place on Sunday, 1 February, with a short thanksgiving service on the verandah, followed by fellowship tea and tours to some of the rooms to view therein various historic relics. Mrs Flagg explained this was a very a special day for family and friends, and it is intended that more celebrations will take place throughout the year.

The Flagg family dates back to the late George Alphaeus Flagg, an American Civil War Veteran. Sometime after the end of the war, George travelled to St Helena on a whaling ship. Apparently, he fell in love with the island, jumped ship, and stayed and worked here. Eventually he met a local lady, Elizabeth Joshua. Later they married and were blessed with five sons and a daughter; hence the origin of the Flagg family in St Helena. A large picture of George can be seen in the hallway of Harlyn House.

The relics referred to above include photos of George and his family; his special war medal, which has been handed down the generations and is a very precious family heirloom; a heavy brass door stop; a number 5 nut that was blasted off the propeller of SS Papanui, which was destroyed by fire in James Bay in 1911; a special settee (ivory inlaid) from Old Longwood House (early 1950’s); a collection of tea towels from different countries over the past 40 years; an old striking clock (1800’s); a very old dark wood chair that was gifted in the late 1960’s; another sturdy chair that was handed down; four Bentwood chairs also handed down; a very old deep bath with claw feet and brass taps; wall tiles salvaged from the SS Papanui - now used as a splash back in the bathroom; and also in the bathroom, a laundry basket made of local rushes during the 1980’s by the late Mrs Joanna George - this piece of local craft work amazingly is still in daily use.

Note: The rushes grew out on the hillside below High Knoll from a lush green area above the properties now owned by Constantine families.

Looking to the north, the Harlyn property overlooks James Bay enjoying some amazing sunsets and views of passing ships from time to time. The house sprawls across many rooms with 18-inch thick walls, and there is a long veranda at the front. Some of the rooms have been modified for rental accommodation. Much has been done over the years to the house to enhance the ancient setting, while at the same time respecting its heritage and the need to enjoy its culture in the Half Tree Community, Mrs Flagg said.

Previous owners of Harlyn over the last two centuries include, Mr and Mrs Warren, Mrs Cynthia Solomon, Col. Douglas Grant, Mr William Johnson and Mrs Gilles, to name some.

Adding to the history of Harlyn, we should pause here to recall that one of the previous owners, Mrs Cynthia Solomon (nee Saunders) was one of the survivors of the steam passenger ship, SS City of Cairo that was torpedoed and sunk during World War 2, on 6 November 1942 in the South Atlantic, by the German submarine U-68 under command of Capt. Karl-Fredrich Merten. Merten directed the survivors to the nearest land, St Helena, approximately 500 miles away. His parting words were,





"Goodnight, sorry for sinking you."
One boat was found by SS Clan Alpine at 4am on 19 November when sailing from Cape Town with mail and cargo for the island. At 9am she picked up two more boats, 50 miles from St Helena. Due to wonderful navigation by the City of Cairo 2nd Officer, they were in sight of land. That afternoon at 1pm, Clan Alpine landed 150 persons, including Cynthia Saunders. There were 62 European passengers, and 22 European and 64 Asian crew members. Two dead seamen were buried at St Paul's Cemetery. Two European and two Lascars died later and they too were buried at St Paul's. The survivors found accommodation and were well cared for by the islanders. On 19 February 1943, after three months recuperation, they departed St Helena on TSS Nestor after poignant goodbyes to the many friends they had, and arrived safely in Liverpool, England on 5 April.
Cynthia Saunders later wrote, "I am grateful to say that out of the horrors came much happiness for me. I returned to St Helena in 1947 and married Mr Homfray Solomon. We had a very happy life together until he died in 1960. Two years later I married Col. Grant, who has since died. I am now a widow and living alone in the quiet and piece of the Isle of Man."
Many may still remember Col. Grant and his wife living at Signal House, Ladder Hill.
Back to Harlyn, Mrs Flagg told the Sentinel that more celebrations would be planned throughout its 200th birthday; these have started already.



"We DO NOT endorse this meme coin"

SHG informs of "possible new Cryptocurrency Scam exploiting Jonathan"


St Helena's famous resident is being exploited in a crypto scam

Liam Yon, SAMS

Recently, on 1 April, fake news of Jonathan the Tortoise – St Helena's most famous resident and a two-time Guinness World Record holder – having passed away were doing the rounds online following a post on 'X' – formerly Twitter – by an online scammer impersonating St Helena's former Senior Veterinarian, Joe Hollins.
Despite the false news having reached popular news outlets, including the BBC and USA Today, the correct information very quickly caught up, and online articles were corrected to inform that Jonathan was in fact alive and well at his home on St Helena.
Now however, SHG have informed that Jonathan "is being used in a possible new online scam involving cryptocurrency, specifically a type of meme coin scam." They explain how "meme coins are a type of cryptocurrency that typically originate from internet memes as a joke or a political statement" and are "often connected to celebrities or current events." SHG actually go on to add that they "have also learnt of the possibility that persons are travelling to St Helena to promote this meme coin."
According to the Government, "it is assessed that the creation of this meme coin has a high likelihood of being connected to a scam, where persons are encouraged or manipulated into buying these coins as a way to invest their money."
They add that "this is also known as a 'rug pull' scam where developers create a token, promote it to drive up value and then drain the liquidity pool, taking investor funds and leaving the token worthless."
As such, SHG say they are reminding the public, particularly "in light of the recent scam related to Jonathan the Tortoise" that "everyone should be particularly cautious of any persons or organisations attempting to sell any products (particularly but not limited to cryptocurrency), using his name and/or suggesting any link to SHG."
They were clear in adding that "SHG and St Helena Tourism do not endorse this meme coin and have had no involvement in its creation."
To conclude, SHG say that to stay protected from these types of scams, members of the public should conduct their own research and check out any project's website, social media profiles, or any other channels, "for transparency and legitimacy" of any product.
They add that creators of these meme coins, and similar products, should be verified and that people should be "cautious, especially (but not only) if the developers are anonymous or have no track record in crypto."

"The Event was a Great Success"

St Helena Autism Awareness & Support Group holds "lively and engaging" Music Bingo Night



— **St Helena Autism Awareness and Support Group,**Contributed

Our recent Music Bingo Night was a lively and engaging event that brought everyone together through a shared love of music. Instead of traditional numbers, players marked songs on their bingo cards as they recognised tunes spanning a variety of genres and decades.

The atmosphere was energetic, with participants singing along, reminiscing, and competing in a friendly spirit. Many attendees came dressed to impress, with a fun mix of "gangstas" and "grannies" adding a playful and creative touch to the evening.

Between rounds, participants were encouraged to take part in short activities and mini-competitions, including categories such as "fancy hat" and "best dressed," which kept the energy high and everyone involved. One of the highlights of the night was a special guest appearance from Dolly Parton, adding an extra layer of excitement and surprise.

Laughter and enthusiasm filled the room as winners were announced throughout the night, with small prizes adding to the fun. Overall, the event was a great success, encouraging social interaction and creating a memorable experience for everyone involved. Music Bingo proved to be an enjoyable twist on a classic game and is certainly worth repeating in the future.













NOTICE BOARD









Requirements

- Open to all St Helena residents, aged 15 - 25
- A passion for, and existing engagement with the ocean
- Play an active role within the SHDC
- Be an ambassador for diving on St Helena
- Ability to swim.

Contact

For further information or application forms

sheena.benjamin@trust.org.sh | 22307

Closing date: 1st May 2026

You will receive

- PADI Open Water Diver Qualification
- Dive opportunities with St Helena Dive Club (SHDC)
- Mentoring and support from participating partners
- An opportunity to engage with marine conservation work

DIVE Saint Helena

BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

ST. HELENA DIVING CLUB

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. Apr 24
- 7am - 9am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennet
- 3-5pm: Happy Days with Olivia
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Apr 25
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 11-1pm: Happy Days with Olivia
- 1pm: Northward Sounds
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Anita (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. Apr 26
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Apr 27
- 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. Apr 28
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: The Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Apr 29
- 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. Apr 30
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 1pm: In the Know (repeat)
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Anita (repeat)
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna
- 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





On Friday we will be featuring a brand new monthly show by young presenter, Olivia, called 'Happy Days'.

This show is set to brighten your routines with an uplifting mix of music and positivity.

Designed to put a smile on your face, the show features a playlist of songs with lively beats, cheerful lyrics and feel-good energy.

Catch 'Happy Days' with Olivia, only on SAMS Radio 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:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



23rd April 1933:
An attempt is made to start a St Helena lobster industry.
(sainthelenaisland.info)

Tuesday was National Tea Day and we all love a nice hot cuppa now and again, don't we? However, in this warm weather, we often feel like something colder and more refreshing - so why not make your own Iced Tea from the recipe below

Peach Iced Tea



Ingredients

- 200g granulated sugar
- 5 ripe peaches (4 stoned and chopped, 1 sliced to serve)
- 4 teabags

Method

1. Tip the sugar into a pan with 250ml water. Bring to the boil slowly, ensuring the sugar is fully dissolved. Add the chopped peaches and cook until very soft. Remove from the heat, mash the peaches with a fork, and leave to infuse for 1 hr.
2. Sieve the syrup through a fine sieve into a jug, mashing the fruit to release all the liquid. The syrup will keep in the fridge for one week.
3. Put the teabags in a large heat-proof jug and pour over 2 litres boiling water. Leave to steep for 4 mins, then carefully remove the teabags. Leave to cool, then transfer to the fridge until chilled.
4. Stir the peach syrup into the iced tea with some ice, or pour a little of the syrup into tall glasses and add the tea. Top up with more water, sparkling water or ice. Add peach slices to serve.

The Island Pulse

Budget Pressures, Strategic Choices, and a Community at the Centre of Change



Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

A Platform for Transparency and Scrutiny

Each Tuesday, *The Island Pulse* brings St Helena's elected Councillors and District Representatives into direct conversation with the public. Hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas, the programme continues to serve as a vital mechanism for transparency - unpacking government decisions, challenging assumptions, and ensuring that the realities behind official announcements are clearly understood.

This week's discussion focused on three major developments announced on 8 April 2026:

·The **Multi-Year Financial Aid Settlement**

·The **£40 million Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP)**

·The **International Recruitment Strategy**

A further update on the **Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance** highlighted ongoing concerns about governance processes and communication.

What emerged from the discussion was not simply a review of policy, but a deeper examination of **how decisions are made, how resources are prioritised, and how sustainable St Helena's future trajectory really is**.

1. Multi-Year Financial Aid Settlement: Certainty with Constraints

A Shift from Short-Term to Medium-Term Planning

For many years, St Helena has operated under **annual rollover budgets**, limiting the government's ability to plan strategically. The introduction of a **three-year financial settlement** marks a structural shift - offering, in principle, greater predictability for public services and long-term projects.

The figures announced are as follows:

·**2026–27**: £37.51 million (an increase of £1.72 million or 4.8%)

·**2027–28 & 2028–29**: 2% annual increases

While this represents progress in terms of planning stability, Councillors were quick to interrogate what these figures mean in real terms.

Inflation and the Illusion of Growth

A central concern is that the headline increase does not translate into meaningful spending power.

"*A 4.8% increase is effectively a flat line when inflation is taken into account.*"

With global inflationary pressures - particularly on imported goods and services - the real value of the budget is likely to stagnate or even decline. The projected 2% increases in subsequent years may fall **below inflation**, effectively reducing the island's financial capacity over time.

A Funding Gap and Difficult Trade-Offs

The settlement also falls short of earlier projections. A **£2.79 million** increase had been anticipated under more favourable scenarios, leaving a notable shortfall.

This gap introduces immediate pressure:

·Essential services must be maintained

·Overspending must be avoided

·New initiatives may need to be scaled back or deferred

Councillor Ronald Coleman highlighted the breadth of competing demands, from **healthcare and medical supplies** to **education, welfare support, and public transport**.

Conditionality and Uncertainty

Further complicating matters is the **performance-based nature of additional funding**. While there is potential to unlock more resources, the conditions attached remain unclear.

"*Nobody just hands out funding without conditions... and historically we haven't always been able to meet those.*" - Cllr. Clint Beard

Compounding this uncertainty is the fact that the **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** - which formalises the agreement - has not yet been signed. Until this is in place, the full implications of the settlement remain unknown.

Governance and Inclusion

Another significant concern raised was the **limited involvement of Councillors** in shaping the budget.

Despite being responsible for approving the final budget, Councillors indicated they had not yet been engaged in its development, prompting calls for greater collaboration, including proposals for an "Away Day" to align priorities.

A Balanced View

Councillor Julie Thomas summarised the collective position as one of "guided optimism" - welcoming the move toward longer-term planning while recognising the substantial risks and unknowns that remain.

2. EDIP Funding: Competing Priorities in a Constrained Envelope

The Headline Figure - and the Reality Beneath It

Alongside the recurrent budget, an additional **£40 million** has been allocated over three years through the **Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP)**.

This funding is intended to support

critical infrastructure and capital projects, including:
·Bulk Fuel Infrastructure (BFI)
·A new prison facility
·Renewable energy initiatives
However, a closer examination reveals that **demand already exceeds supply**.
Cost Pressures Across Major Projects
Estimated costs for key projects include:
·**BFI**: ~£12 million
·**Prison**: ~£14 million
·**Renewables**: ~£17 million
This totals **£43 million**, exceeding the available funding before accounting for:
·Telecommunications upgrades
·Road maintenance
·Sewage infrastructure
·Micro-projects
"*That's £43 million already... and that's without the other priorities.*" — Cllr. Derek Thomas
Strategic Prioritisation Becomes Critical
Given these constraints, Councillors emphasised the need for **clear, evidence-based prioritisation**.
Renewable energy emerged as a leading priority, with strong consensus that reducing reliance on imported fuels could:
·Lower long-term energy costs
·Improve economic resilience
·Reduce vulnerability to global price shocks
"*If we do nothing, energy prices will continue escalating.*" - Cllr. Derek Thomas
Infrastructure Pressures and Social Impact
Other pressing needs include:
· **Sewage systems in Jamestown and Half Tree Hollow**
· **Road maintenance and drainage**
·**Telecommunications improvements**
There are also broader social considerations. Councillor Clint Beard raised concerns about **elderly care provision**, noting that facilities are already at capacity and not designed for long-term nursing care.
"*We are building a prison, but we have no facilities for our elderly.*"
Structural Limitations in Decision-Making
A notable governance issue is that **Councillors do not directly control EDIP allocations**. Decisions are made by a Steering Committee comprising Ministers, officials, and external representatives (FCDO).
This creates a disconnect between **community insight and final decision-making authority**.
Procurement and Delivery Risks
Councillor Dr. Corinda Essex highlighted operational challenges that could undermine the programme:
·Complex procurement systems
·Limited contractor engagement
·Need for better coordination with the private sector
Without reform, there is a risk that projects could face delays or fail to deliver intended outcomes.
3. **International Recruitment Strategy: Reconnecting with the Diaspora**
A Long-Awaited Policy Shift
The newly announced recruitment strategy introduces greater parity between overseas St Helenians and external recruits.
For the first time, Saints abroad applying for local roles may receive:
·Travel assistance
·Relocation support
·Rental contributions (in certain cases)
·Pension access
Addressing Historical Inequity
Previously, individuals with no connection to St Helena were often offered more favourable packages than returning Saints.
"*That was discriminatory and unfair... this is a major step forward.*" - Cllr. Dr. Corinda Essex
Strategic Importance
The policy is not only about fairness - it is about **population sustainability.**
With a declining and ageing population, attracting people back to the island is essential for:
·Workforce stability
·Economic growth
·Maintaining public services
Challenges to Implementation
Despite the positive direction, Councillors acknowledged several barriers:
·Higher wages and career opportunities overseas
·Family ties and lifestyle preferences
·Perceived limitations in infrastructure and services
·Concerns about education and long-term prospects
"You cannot expect people to leave opportunity-rich environments without addressing these gaps." - Cllr. Clint Beard
Opportunities for Expansion
Suggestions included:
·Increased promotion of opportunities abroad
·Engagement with diaspora communities in the UK and Falkland Islands
·Broadening recruitment beyond frontline roles
There was also recognition that **financial incentives alone are not enough** - they must be accompanied by improvements in local systems and services.
A Step Forward - But Only a Starting Point
While the strategy represents meaningful progress, Councillors agreed that **further development and clarity are needed** to ensure its effectiveness.
4. Governance Matters: Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance
The programme concluded with concerns about the handling of amendments to the Civil Litigation Costs Ordinance.
A previously agreed consultation pathway - moving from Executive Council to Legislative Council engagement and then public consultation - was **not followed as expected**.
Instead, amendments appear to have progressed without full input from Councillors.
This raised broader questions about:
·**Transparency**
·**Adherence to agreed processes**
·**Communication between decision-making bodies**
While details remain limited due to legal sensitivities, the issue underscores the importance of **robust governance frameworks**.
Synopsis: Strengthening Dialogue Between Representatives and the Community
Across all three major topics, a consistent theme emerged: **decisions of significant consequence are being made in an environment of constrained resources, evolving policies, and, at times, incomplete information.**
The discussions on The Island Pulse reflect a Council actively engaging with complex challenges - balancing immediate pressures with long-term sustainability. However, they also highlight the need for **stronger alignment between policy development and lived community experience**.
What is sought moving forward is **constructive, informed feedback from the public**, not simply in reaction to decisions already taken, but as part of an ongoing dialogue that helps shape priorities before they are finalised.
This includes:
·Perspectives on how limited financial resources should be prioritised
·Insight into the real-world impact of rising costs and service pressures
·Views on infrastructure needs and economic development direction
·Consideration of what would make St Helena a more viable and attractive place to live and work
The intent is to foster a more **collaborative relationship between elected representatives and the community**, where information flows both ways - ensuring that policy decisions are grounded in reality and reflect the island's collective aspirations.
As St Helena navigates a period of financial constraint and strategic transition, the effectiveness of its governance will depend not only on the decisions made within formal structures, but on the **quality of engagement that informs them**.

NOTICE BOARD

Culture MONTH 2026

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

GUIDED WALK

with Local Botanist & Herbalist Stedson Stroud

"IDENTIFYING EDIBLE PLANTS OF ST HELENA"

Date: Sunday 10th May

Time: 10am - 1pm

For generations, the plants growing wild across our ridges and valleys were more than just greenery - they were our food & medicine cabinet. In the "before days," when doctors were rare and imported medicine was a luxury, Saints relied on the land to stay healthy.

This guided walk aims to capture this fading wisdom before it's lost. Discover the plants our ancestors used, the remedies they perfected, and the secrets of the Island's natural larder. Let's document this living history together, one step at a time.

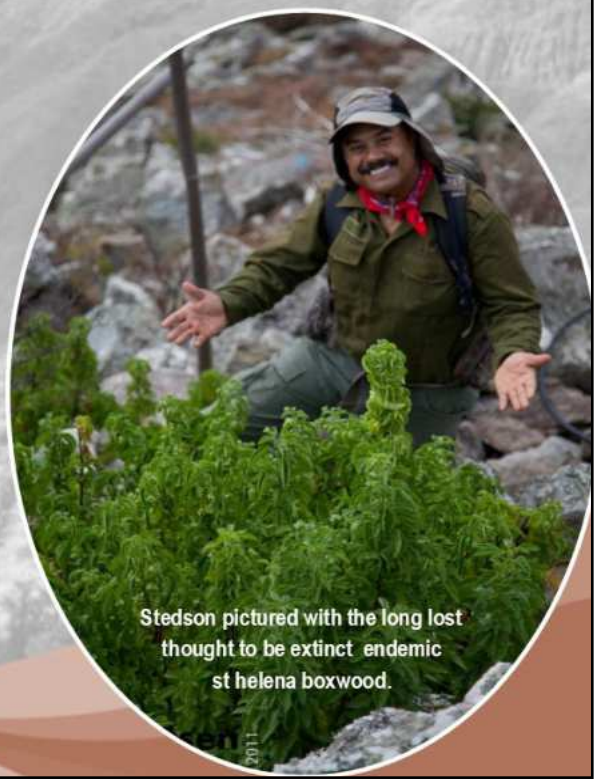
Route: (Blue Hill district) Meet at Casons, walk long the main road to Frenchs' Gut through Fig Tree Gut, returning to Casons

Walk grade: Family friendly

Safety details: Please wear suitable footwear, wear sunscreen and bring drinking water.

Tasting purposes: Do bring along a flask of hot water and a drinking cup.

Please Register with Shelley Magellan-Wade; shelley.magellan-wade@trust.org.sh or **25531**



Stedson pictured with the long lost thought to be extinct endemic st helena boxwood.

MUSEUM of St Helena

St Helena Island — A breath of fresh air

Family Forest Walks

Sunday 26th April

Join us in celebrating the end of **Autism Awareness** Month with a pair of welcoming, inclusive **Family Forest Walks**, designed around our theme of sensory differences.

Forest walks offer a calm, yet stimulating natural setting for everyone.

Walk 1 – Sensory, Mindful Walk
10:00am

Starts at **The Sawmill, Scotland**

This gentle, mindful walk will through **Plantation Forest**, finishing at **White Gate**.

Perfect for those who enjoy a slower pace and time to take in the surroundings.



Walk 2 – Activity-Based Walk
11:30am

Starts at **Model Cottage**

A more interactive walk through **Merriman's Forest**, also finishing at **White Gate**.

Ideal for those who enjoy movement and activity along the way.

After the Walks

From 12:30pm at **Kingshurst**

New Horizons will be selling hot food, with a cash bar available for drinks — a great chance to relax, refuel, and connect with others.



Everyone is welcome, and you're very welcome to join one or both walks.

No booking required — just turn up on the day at the appropriate start time.

Come along, enjoy the fresh air, and celebrate sensory diversity together in nature

ST HELENA AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT GROUP

NOTICE BOARD

THE MARINE AND FISHERIES CONSERVATION SECTION

QUARTERLY CATCH

JANUARY - MARCH 2026 www.sainthelena.gov.sh



The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section (MFCS) team, in line with the vision of the Marine Management Plan 2023-27, aim to conserve, protect and restore the rich biodiversity and unique natural ecosystems of St Helena's Marine Protected Area (MPA) with use of its natural resources managed in accordance with its International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category 6 sustainable use principles now and for future generations.

To kick-start the first quarter of 2026, MFCS has been exceptionally busy:

MFCS Welcomes Our New Apprentice



Lauren Duncan has joined the section as an apprentice through the blended learning route offered by Career Access St Helena (CASH), a local service that provides employment-related support and opportunities on St Helena. This pathway allows her to combine formal studies with practical, on-the-job experience.

Lauren will be with us for one year, during which she will gain hands-on experience in both fieldwork and data processing. We hope she will enjoy her time with the team, develop new skills and knowledge, and bring fresh ideas to the section. We are very pleased to have an additional pair of hands to support our ongoing monitoring and conservation work, and we look forward to working with her during the time she is with us.

2026 Grouper Tagging Expands



We have now commenced our 2026 grouper tagging work, building on previous efforts that focused mainly on shallow waters on the windward side of the island. This year, we are extending surveys to the leeward side and targeting deeper waters, allowing us to compare grouper populations between the two sides of St Helena.

Alongside key data collection on tagging and catch per unit effort (CPUE), part of this work is assessing the effects of barotrauma, something that can occur when fish are brought up from deeper water too quickly. At greater depths, fish experience higher pressure, and gases in their swim bladders expand rapidly if they are brought to the surface too fast. This can cause internal injuries or make it difficult for fish to swim. To reduce this risk, we have developed a device called a grouper descender, essentially a "fish elevator". This tool allows the fish's swim bladder to adjust gradually as they are lowered back to deeper water, rather than forcing the fish to swim down themselves. This method has already proven successful for fish caught in waters of 20m or less.

These surveys will now be conducted two days per month, one day on the leeward side and one on the windward side, doubling the frequency of our monitoring. The expanded effort will strengthen our understanding of grouper populations around the island.

Professor Casey Dunn Visits St Helena to Study Portuguese Man-of-War



Credit: Seahawk Odyssey Ltd

We were pleased to welcome Professor Casey Dunn from Yale University to St Helena, who visited the island to further his research on Physalia (more commonly known as bluebottles or Portuguese man-of-war).

The open ocean covers approximately 75% of the Earth's surface, yet we still know remarkably little about the organisms that inhabit it. Advances in scientific tools that have now enabled scientists to study DNA alongside physical characteristics, are revealing that ocean biodiversity is far richer than previously recognised.

Professor Dunn's laboratory has recently shown that Physalia, long considered a single, globally distributed species, actually comprises at least five distinct species. Three of these occur in the South Atlantic, though their full

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ranges are still being determined. St Helena is pivotal to this research, providing a key location for understanding species range boundaries and advancing knowledge of global ocean biodiversity.

During his visit, Professor Dunn carried out fieldwork to support his research. He collected specimens from Sandy Bay Beach and also went on an inshore trip around the island with our Fisheries Science Programme Coordinator, Jake Letori, to obtain live samples from the surrounding waters.



The visit also included a public talk at the Museum and to GCSE Marine Science students, where Professor Dunn shared insights into his lab's latest discoveries in open-ocean biodiversity and explained how genetic science is reshaping our understanding of species once thought to be globally uniform.

Sea|mester Visit to the Marine Centre



Sea|mester visited St Helena aboard the STV Vela, as part of its at-sea academic programme, which combines higher education studies with practical seamanship, sailing and marine science experience. Students aboard their training vessels earn college credits through the University of South Florida while travelling across oceans and engaging directly with marine environments around the world. As part of this learning model, they also take part in port visits which provide opportunities to gain insight into marine conservation in different regions.

During their time in St Helena's waters, the group visited the Marine Centre to learn more about the island's MPA and the work undertaken to conserve and manage its marine resources.



Our Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer, Adam Riggs, delivered a presentation providing an overview of the conservation and fisheries management work carried out on St Helena. This was followed by a bait fish sampling practical session led by members of our scientific team. Students observed and participated in the collection and recording of biological data, including measuring length and weight, extracting otoliths for age analysis and determining sex and maturity stages by extracting the fishes' gonads (reproductive organs).

The session provided a practical demonstration of how some of the scientific data is gathered on St Helena, while also offering students valuable hands-on experience aligned with their marine studies programme.

Blue Belt Skills Framework: St Helena Visit

As part of the Blue Belt Programme workplan, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has been developing a skills framework across the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) that the Blue Belt Programmes supports. The framework aims to identify skills gaps and explore opportunities for training and knowledge exchange between territories in the field of marine conservation. This approach has already been applied in the Western Indian Ocean, and its implementation across all UKOTs is now being explored.

To support this work, Lawrence Sisitka, an outside contractor, who has worked in the West Indian Ocean region, visited St Helena in January to gain an overview of how the island's MPA is managed, the roles of different teams and team members, and the skills required for each position. Lawrence joined routine activities to observe a typical working week and held brief one-to-one discussions with team members to better understand their responsibilities and how they contribute to the management of the MPA.

Both MFCS and MC&ES had the opportunity to review the skills framework, identifying the skills required for different roles, assessing their relevance, and considering how they apply in the St Helena context.

NOTICE BOARD

THE MARINE AND FISHERIES CONSERVATION SECTION

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The teams also highlighted any gaps that could be addressed through future training or knowledge exchange opportunities.

Marine Awareness Week 2026: Celebrating 10 Years of St Helena's MPA



Marine Awareness Week 2026 marked a significant milestone for marine conservation in St Helena, celebrating ten years since the designation of the island's MPA. Established in 2016, the MPA encompasses St Helena's entire Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles, covering 448,411 km², an area the size of France.



To mark the anniversary, a week of activities brought together schools, community groups, decision-makers and members of the public. A central feature was a marine and fisheries conservation timeline, charting the section's development from its establishment in the 1990s to the present day. The display highlighted the breadth of projects delivered over the years, as well as the ongoing work that continues to safeguard St Helena's marine environment.



Education and engagement were at the heart of the week. A total of 22 school groups attended, including Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes, students from St Helena Secondary School and home-schooled learners. Following a short introduction to the timeline, students were invited to share what they value most about the ocean. Their responses were displayed in the Porteous House window throughout Marine Awareness Week and the following week, serving as a visible reminder of the community's connection to the sea. Younger children also took part in creative activities, colouring local fish species and crafting their own fish and jellyfish, while interactive games and outdoor sessions brought energy and enjoyment to the learning experience.



A range of community-focused events complemented the school activities. An information session brought together Ministers, Councillors and key stakeholders to reflect on progress and future priorities. A fishers' social combined presentations with practical discussion, before continuing informally at the Yacht Club and Dive Club. With food and refreshments provided, the event encouraged open and constructive dialogue within the fishing community.



The week also featured a well-attended Quiz Night, delivered in partnership with the Good Tern Charity at Ann's Place. Twelve teams took part in a lively evening of competition, raising over £350 through entry fees, raffle ticket sales, donations and even an impromptu auction.



Activities continued into the weekend. A disco hosted by New Horizons on Friday evening added to the celebratory atmosphere. On Saturday, attention turned to ocean stewardship, with a wharf clean-up in Jamestown and James Bay. Volunteers from the St Helena Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Scouts, the St Helena Dive Club and the wider community worked both along the shoreline and underwater to remove litter and debris.



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The celebrations concluded with a sponsored swim organised by the Yellow Fins Swimming Club. More than 40 swimmers took part, providing a vibrant and fitting finale to a week that not only celebrated ten years of the Marine Protected Area, but also highlighted the strong community commitment that underpins its continued success.

Interesting sightings

Mystery Marine Mammal at Sandy Bay



In February, a washed-up marine mammal was reported to MFCS at Sandy Bay Beach, prompting a team visit to investigate. The MFCS team documented the scene with photographs, collected relevant samples, and safely removed the animal from the beach.

The specimen has now been positively identified as a Bottlenose dolphin, with confirmation provided through photo identification by Simon Elwen PhD, at Stellenbosch University.

We thank the members of the public who promptly reported the sighting, which enabled the team to respond quickly and carry out necessary investigations.

Rare Sighting During Lobster Dive



During our lobster dives in March, the team encountered not one, but two live specimens of *Tonna pennata*! A type of tun shell, a large marine snail known for its thin, lightweight, balloon-like shell and impressive size.

One individual appeared to be actively hunting, with its mantle fully spread (which is a soft, fleshy layer covering the snail's body that extends beyond the shell, helping it to move, sense its surroundings, and capture prey). This specimen measured approximately 25 cm across.

Deep-Sea Creature at Jamestown Swimming Pool



A very unusual sighting occurred recently at the Jamestown swimming pool when a deep-sea species was found far outside its normal habitat, usually living approximately 200-1000m deep. The specimen had fallen from a seabird's nest, which had been built on the pool wall, before being discovered by one of the pool lifeguards, Donny O'Bey.

While further identification is ongoing, this rare and unexpected event highlights the sometimes-surprising ways marine life can appear on St Helena.

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 26th April 2026 - 3rd Sunday after Easter		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena & The Cross
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 26th April 2026 – 3rd Sunday after Easter		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 30th April	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 26th April 2026 – 3rd Sunday after Easter		
6.00 p.m.	**Patronal Festival**	**St Mark**
	Tuesday 28th April	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Praise and Worship**	**St Mark**

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 26th April
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 28th April: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 29th April:
Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 30th April: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENT

Adventure Kids: Age 6 – 10 yrs old
Saturday, 25th April: Baptist School Hall, 10 to 11.30am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388



ST ANDREWS NEWSPAPER BINGO

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

This week the "Pink" bingo sheet will be used.
Numbers to be read across, from left to right

Claim on earliest number for full house to win. Claims to be made to Karen Henry (23401) by Saturday 25 April at 6pm. *There were no claims last week.*

Prize - £20 per week

4	52	12	49	75	85	22	39	80	60
76	55	40	32	89	9	88	16	20	46
57	82	15	67	26	2	47	30	83	74
10	65	38	59	33	72	50	1	24	86
70	61	6	51	81	48	35	17	29	62
34	27	69	79	43	7	18	37	71	54
90	66	45	77	58	25	5	31	19	8

THANK YOU

The family of the late Reynold Knipe would like to say a special and heartfelt thank you to Bishop Dale, Bobby, Pat Musk, Roy Williams and his team, those that made the beautiful wreaths and gave flowers, the Doctors and nurses for care given to Reynold. To Lisa for her organisation of the funeral and to everyone who played a part whether big or small. To everyone who was there for him during his short illness and untimely passing.

To all who took the time to call and sent cards your love and support is really appreciated.

RIP Reynold -
Forever in our hearts.

Savings Solutions for Every Stage



For Maximum Growth

Premier Fixed Savers
(£1,000 to £70,000)
Rates: Earn **1.75%** *increased rate
2% (2 Year Term)
2.5% (3 Year Term)
One time deposit at opening, no additional deposits or early withdrawals.

For short-term goals

Fixed Saver

Earn **1.25%** *increased rate
Interest Per Annum
Allows unlimited deposits to grow your balance and the flexibility of one withdrawal per year.

NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH

Easy Saver
Rates: **1%** to **1.1% per** month
Open an account with £1
Savings Account with instant access to cash

For the Little Ones (Child Bond)

Rate: **5.5%** Interest Per Annum
Funds are locked until the child's 18th birthday.
Exempt from withholding tax.
Unlimited deposits allowed.

For Your Golden Years (New Life)

Rate: **5%** Interest Per Annum
Funds are locked until age 60 or 65.
Flexible deposits - save any amount at any time.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.
www.sainthelenabank.com

NOTICE BOARD

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

DPLUS190 Grasslands Project Draws to a Close

The conservation work supporting St Helena's endemic Wirebird (St Helena plover) has been delivered through the project DPLUS190: Improve St Helena's grasslands for the benefit of people and wildlife, led by the St Helena National Trust. The project focused on restoring and managing grassland habitats, strengthening monitoring, and working with local land users to support both biodiversity and sustainable land use.

As the project draws to a close, monitoring between 2023 and 2025 shows a generally stable Wirebird population with encouraging signs of recovery in key areas, alongside ongoing pressures that continue to threaten long-term survival.

Population Trends and Monitoring

Between 2023 and 2025, census work recorded a significant increase in adult Wirebirds to around 639 in 2024, representing an 8% rise and surpassing previous records. While the overall population remains small at roughly 600 adults, this stability is a positive indicator for the species.

However, results vary across the island. Some sites show strong or stable populations, while others indicate declining suitability due to habitat pressures. This variation highlights the importance of continued site-specific management.

Monitoring Techniques and Ecological Data

A key development under DPLUS190 has been the expansion of the colour leg-flagging programme, allowing individual birds to be tracked across breeding sites. This has improved understanding of movement patterns, survival rates, and habitat use.



The Wirebird (St Helena Plover) Charadrius sanctaehelenae

Additional monitoring work includes Wirebird census surveys, nest monitoring during the breeding season (October–March), invertebrate and vegetation surveys, and rabbit population surveys. These datasets have been essential in identifying priority conservation zones and informing targeted habitat management.

Road Collisions and Wirebird Survival

Despite improvements in adult numbers, survival remains a major concern. Between 2023 and early 2026, more than 56 Wirebirds were lost, largely due to road collisions, especially along Airport Road, and accidental trampling in breeding areas linked to off-road driving.

Incidents are particularly frequent after rain, when birds are attracted to puddles along roads for bathing. With the species now classified as Vulnerable, even small losses have a significant impact on the population. Conservation messaging continues to emphasise simple behavioural changes such as reducing speed and increasing awareness in known breeding areas.

Trial Techniques: Restoring Grassland Habitat

A range of habitat restoration trials has been implemented, including rotational grazing systems at Flagstaff and Broad Bottom, use of sheep and pigs to manage vegetation, mowing prior to grazing, and soil and grass improvements supporting species such as kikuyu and wiregrass.

Weed management has also been critical. Techniques such as weed wiping have reduced invasive species and helped maintain short grass essential for nesting and foraging.

Partner Engagement and Community Involvement

Collaboration between the St Helena National Trust and the farming community has been central to the project's success. Farmers have helped maintain key habitats such as Deadwood Plain and Man and Horse, where bird numbers remain relatively strong compared to degraded areas.

Community engagement has also included volunteer participation, school visits, and guided conservation walks.



Farmers played a key role in maintaining habitats, such as Deadwood Plain

Looking Ahead

As DPLUS190 concludes, its outcomes highlight both progress and ongoing challenges. Stable adult numbers and improved monitoring systems provide a strong foundation for future conservation, but continued collaboration will be essential to ensure the Wirebird remains part of St Helena's landscape for generations to come.



NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

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

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

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form.

Mechanic
(£11,604 per annum)

The Transport Division is seeking to recruit a Mechanic to join their team. If you are a motivated individual who has the ability to work independently when required and have a sound knowledge of practical mechanics and diagnostics with good attention to detail this could be a good opportunity for you. The role requires you to be fully conversant in applying health and safety procedures to guarantee the safety of employees and products/services ensuring that the vehicles and heavy plant equipment are maintained in a safe operational condition. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Theodore Fowler on Tel No. 23643 or Email: garage.manager@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 29 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 04 May 2026
Interview date: 11 May 2026

Handyman-Driver (Local interest only)
(£9,573 per annum)

The handyman driver is dedicated to enhancing the lives of everyone in our community and fostering the island's prosperity by assisting with the daily operations of the Central Support Service across various service areas. This includes performing minor maintenance tasks and taking on driving responsibilities as needed. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No.22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 06 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 11 May 2026
Interview date: 27 May 2026

Administrative Assistant
(£10,088 per annum)

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Central Support team? If so, we are looking to recruit an Administration Assistant. The Administration Assistant is responsible for completing straightforward administrative processes that support the smooth running of Portfolios and delivering a high quality, customer focused service. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who works methodically and has a keen eye for detail that can provide administrative support across the Portfolios. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 23643 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 April 2026
Shortlisting date: 04 May 2026
Interview date: 11 May 2026

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

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

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

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

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

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form.

Driver – CCC (Local interest only)

(fixed-term to 31 July 2026)
(£10,088 per annum)

The Health & Social Care Portfolio is currently seeking to recruit a Driver within the CCC who will be responsible for the transporting of service users which includes to and from day care, hospital appointments and social outings. The Driver will support staff in helping service users to safely get in and out of vehicles including those who have mobility needs, sensory impairment, learning disabilities and those with limited or no verbal communication skills. This requires the post holder to be caring, compassionate and flexible. If you are interested, please contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Tinevimbonashe on Tel No 23090 or Email: tinevimbonashe.hove@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 8 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 13 May 2026
Interview date: 20 May 2026

Emergency Planning Officer (Local interest only)

(£11,604 per annum)

As Emergency Planning Officer you will join a very small team to assist with planning and preparing to ensure that St Helena can respond effectively to major emergencies and business disruptions. You will work with a range of partners to plan, prepare and practice our response arrangements.

In the event of an incident occurring you will play a vital role, responding to the event, supporting the management of the response, end enabling the recovery and restoration following on.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and/or demonstrable experience:

- GCSE Math's and English at Grade D or above
- Clean driver's license in Class A
- Proficient in IT skills i.e. Microsoft Office
- Previous experience of working with the Emergency Services
- Ability to remain calm under pressure and in intense emergency situations

Some working out of normal hours, especially during Emergency Incidents this includes being on-call on a rotation basis. If you are interested, please contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Anel O'Bey on Tel No 25052 or Email: anel.obey@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 8 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 14 May 2026
Interview date: 27 May 2026

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

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking Expressions of Interest from persons for the role of Non-Executive Director of their Board to direct the Company's overall vision, mission and values.

Non-Executive Directors act with a degree of independence from the operational activities and have a role in providing strategic vision; monitoring the Company's performance; the financial reporting process; the review of risk and controls and governance.

Interested individuals are invited to submit an Expression of Interest together with a detailed CV. Submissions should be addressed to Callie Leo, Company Secretary, either by email at callie.leo@connectonline.co.sh or delivered in person to Connect Saint Helena Ltd Offices at Seales Corner. The deadline for receipt is **12 noon on Wednesday, 13th May 2026**.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html | connectsainthelenaltd | https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/

Culture MONTH 2026

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

CULTURE MONTH RADIO SHOWS ON SAINT FM

With Sheena & Shelley

Join Sheena & Shelley on the following Fridays' from 2:00pm - 4:.00pm promoting this year's Culture Month.

1st May	With guests, Eddie Duff, Stedson Stroud & Cllr Denis Leo
15th May	Update on St Helena's Day Celebrations
29th May	With surprise guests

This May, we're celebrating the flavours that define us!
Our theme, **"St Helenian Food: A Fusion of Continents – A Taste of Home,"** explores the unique culinary heritage of our island. From traditional roots to global influences, join us all month long as we dive into the stories and spices that make our local cuisine truly one of a kind.



MUSEUM of St. Helena

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

ELECTRICITY GENERATION ENGINEER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced person to join the Electricity Generation team to support the operation and maintenance of the electricity generation sources. The primary focus shall be on operation and maintenance of the Wind Farm and to provide support as required on electricity generation from diesel and solar sources. This is a senior post within the Company that will be required to deputise in the absence of the Electricity Generation Manager

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- 10 years Post Qualification Engineering Experience
- 3 years Management Experience
- Computer Literate (Intermediate)
- Working knowledge of SCADA systems operation
- 2 years' Experience in Renewable Energy (Solar & Wind) Operation and Maintenance, Health & Safety Risk Assessment and Training & Development experience
- Able to work at height and be physically fit
- Driving Licence C
- Proficiency in both written and spoken English

QUALIFICATIONS

- HND in Electrical/Electromechanical Engineering
- Authorised Person (Electrical) HV/LV

BENEFITS

- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 30 days annual leave.

For further information contact Merril Lawrence on +290 22255 or email Merril.Lawrence@connectonline.co.sh Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connectonline.co.sh by **9:00am on Friday, 15 May 2026.** To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html | connectsainthelenaltd | https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/

MAY

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

St Helena Island

MUSEUM of St Helena

Culture MONTH 2026

THEME: ST HELENIAN FOOD:

A fusion of continents - A taste of home!

Culture Month celebrates the enjoyment, awareness, revival and promotion of St Helena's cultural practises (traditions). The St Helena National Trust, with other partners are working hard to document the island's culture and keep its traditions alive.

This year's theme celebrates our unique culinary heritage!

Keep the following dates in mind:

- Friday 1st May - Radio Show
- Sunday 10th May - Guided walk with Stedson Stroud
- Friday 15th May - Radio Show
- Thursday 21st - St Helena's Day Celebrations
- Friday 29th May - Radio Show

More details to follow!

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Cargo Processing Agent

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Cargo Processing Agent to join the team at St Helena Airport.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertaking the required training as well as the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake manual handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Be able to work with accuracy and a high degree of attention to detail
- Have the ability to multitask in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- Be committed to undertaking continuous learning and development.

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **07 May 2026**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

Vacancies

Part-Time Aircraft Cleaner

Rate of pay will commence at £5.60 per hour, increased to £6.50 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Aircraft Cleaner to join the team at St Helena Airport.

The Aircraft Cleaner will be responsible for the cleaning of the Airport Terminal on the days of aircraft operations and also cleaning of aircraft cabins of arriving and departing Aircraft.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be available to undertake the required training including both classroom and online-based training
- Be available to undergo the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake manual handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Be able to work with a high degree of attention to detail
- Have the ability to remain calm under pressure.

For further information contact:

Jason Thomas, General Manager (Agencies) via 22523 gm-agencies@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **07 May 2026**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

INVITATION TO TENDER

Technical Resources to Support EDIP

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

CS-2046-SHG – Technical Resources to support the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP)

Copies of the tender document and further details can be obtained from the Procurement Officer, on telephone no: 25932 or via email tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh .

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Friday, 01 May 2026, clearly marked **"Tender CS-2046-SHG"**.

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

SHG
13 April 2026

St Helena Government

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

MMR Vaccination Clinics Timetable Announced

The public are advised that a series of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination clinics will be held across the island over the coming weeks. The following dates and times have been scheduled for those who have registered with the Health Promotion team and for walk-in appointments:

Week 1		
Thursday 23 April	14:00 – 16:00	Jamestown Community Centre
Friday 24 April	10:00 – 15:00	Jamestown Community Centre
Week 2		
Monday 27 April	11:00 – 15:00	Longwood - Harford Community Centre
Tuesday 28 April	10:30 - 12:30	Levelwood Clinic
Tuesday 28 April	14:00 – 16:00	Sandy Bay Community Centre
Wednesday 29 April	10:00 – 15:00	HTH - Community Care Complex
Thursday 30 April	10:30 – 15:00	Jamestown Community Centre
Week 3		
Monday 4 May	10:00 – 14:00	Kingshurst Community Centre
Tuesday 5 May	10:00 - 12:00	Bluehill Community Centre
Tuesday 5 May	14:00 – 16:00	Guinea Grass Community Centre

Residents are encouraged to attend the clinic most convenient to them. For individuals who are housebound and unable to attend any of the above sessions, arrangements can be made for a home visit by a nurse. Please contact the Health Promotion team on 25949 to register your request.

SHG, 16 April 2026

NOTICE BOARD

A "Last Hurrah" for Cavendish



Cavendish wins closely-contested St Helena Secondary School Swim Gala, the final edition with the four original houses

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Friday, 17 April, St Helena Secondary School hosted their annual swim gala at the Jamestown Swimming Pool where the original houses - Cavendish, Dutton, Jenkins and Mundens - would compete for the trophy for one last time.

Starting off the day, Ms Linda Yon welcomed all to this historic event as she reminded all that "today marks the end of an era as we say goodbye to our current houses." She continued to thank everyone for their participation and good sportsmanship over the past years. "Thank you, you have done us proud," she continued as she encouraged everyone attending to enjoy the day, "and let's make this the best gala day ever!"

Two of the school's swimmers that have been selected to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2026, Lukas Robbertse and Nolan George, then gave a collaborative speech sharing a bit about their journey in qualifying for the Games. "We had to learn to push through when things felt tough," Lukas shared as he elaborated, "there have been days when progress felt slow, motivation was hard to find and balancing training with everything else was a real challenge. But those are the moments that shape you. They teach discipline, resilience and to believe in yourself." Nolan continued to thank families, coaches, teammates and friends for their encouragement and support. "Success is not just about standing on a podium it is about showing up, putting in the effort and becoming better than what you were yesterday," Nolan stated as he continued to encourage everyone competing, "your journey matters, every race is part of your story. Whether you are chasing a medal, a personal best or simply swimming for your team." He ended off by calling all to enjoy and make the best of the final moments of Dutton, Cavendish, Mundens and Jenkins houses.

Minister for Education, Andrew Turner, then officially opened the event by wishing all the participants the best of luck for the day's competition and thanking all the parents, carers and family members for showing their support on the day. "I hope it will be a great day of sportsmanship and swimming," he concluded.

All swimmers did their best throughout all the events, with some students even volunteering to take part in races where teams had no swimmers to represent them in an event, showcasing the commitment of everyone to make this a grand finale for the history books. Swimmers and spectators alike gave their all to support their houses throughout the day, displaying a fierce loyalty and desire to achieve a win for their houses one last time.

The competition to win was closely contested till the very last race, the 4x33m mixed freestyle relay. Under the roaring cheers of the supporters, Cavendish's team managed to clinch the win. Six records were broken during the event. The first was by William Caswell in the 33m front crawl, as he also managed to break the record for the 33m skill race. The Cavendish girls team of Georgia Bennett (back stroke), Aimee Joshua (breast stroke) and Erin Wade (front crawl), broke the record for the 3x33m medley, with the Jenkins boys team also breaking the 3x33m Medley relay record with Nolan George (back stroke), William Scott (back stroke) and William Caswell (front crawl) making up their team. In addition, the Jenkins boys team made it a two-for-two by breaking the 4x33m Freestyle relay record with William Caswell, William Scott, Nolan George and Tyler Anthony making up the team. The final new record was set on the last race of the day and went to the Cavendish mixed freestyle relay team with Georgia Bennett, Aimee Joshua, Joel Peters and Lukas Robbertse representing their house in this event.

Ms Kerry Lawrence thanked everyone for their contributions in organising and setting up the day as well as the spectators, supporters and participants to make the day a resounding success. She made a special mention to the support staff, the New Horizons team, the pool staff as well as a word of thanks to Ms. Caswell and the PE staff for preparing the swimmers for the gala. "Can I also take this opportunity to wish the very best of luck to our team who is leaving in July for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow," Ms Lawrence concluded in the acknowledgements, signalling the moment everyone had been awaiting; the announcement of the results and the winners for the day.

In fourth place was Dutton house with 35 points, in third place was Mundens with 58 points and in second place with 79 points was Jenkins house, crowning Cavendish as the winners for the day with 85 points.

With six records being broken on the day and many closely contested races, SAMS wishes to congratulate all the swimmers for doing their best and a big congratulations to Cavendish for winning this final gala for their house.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

ENVIRONMENT NATURAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING PORTFOLIO

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Renewal of ENRP Agriculture Assets

The Environmental Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio wishes to advise Tenants that licences for their agriculture assets for the period 2026-2027 will be available for signing from Monday 27 April to Friday 29 May 2026 from 09:00 to 15:30.

No licences will be sent out, therefore all Tenants must visit the ENRP Office at Scotland to sign their licence.

For further information, please contact the Farmers Support staff on telephone 24724 or email martina.leo@sainthelena.gov.sh or frederick.green@sainthelena.gov.sh

SHG
21 April 2026

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

ENVIRONMENT NATURAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING PORTFOLIO

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

ENRP ASSETS FOR LICENSING

ANRD wishes to advise the public that the following assets are available for licensing from May 2026:

Arable land at Ropery Field	0.30acres	LWN pt of 176
Arable land at Mulberry Gut	0.40acres	LWN pt of 491
Arable land at Willowdene	0.24acres	LWN pt of 491
Arable Land At Piccolo Hill	0.40acres	LWN pt of 365

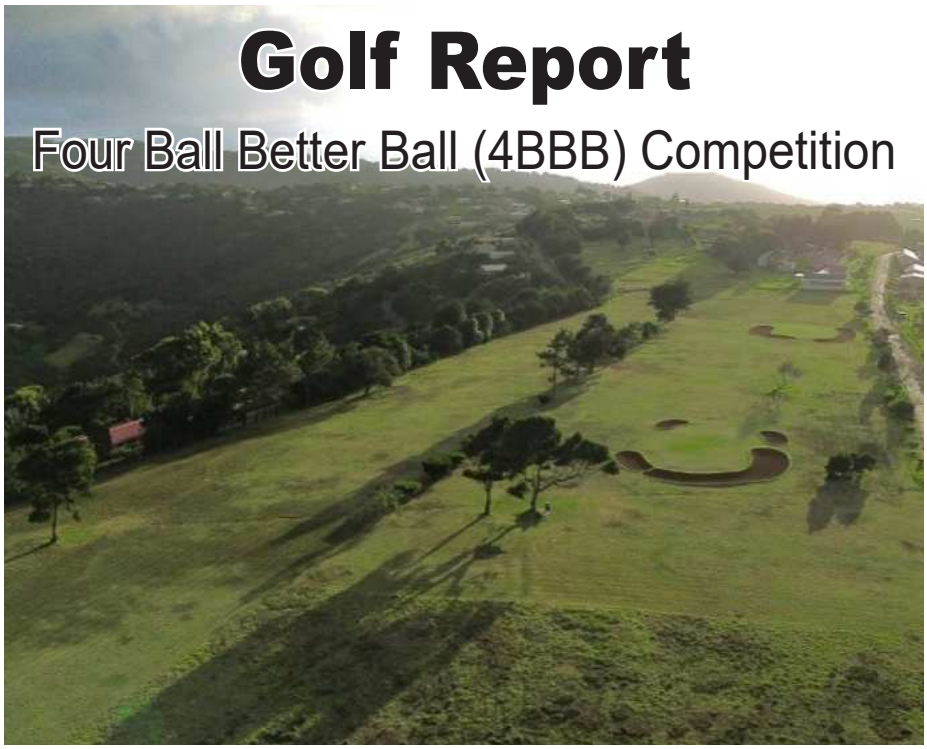
Application forms can be collected from the Reception at ENRP Office or by contacting the Farmers Support Officer, Mr Fred Green on tel: 24724 or via email Frederick.green@sainthelena.gov.sh or the Farmers Support Assistant, Martina Leo on tel: 24724, or via email martina.leo@sainthelena.gov.sh respectively.

Closing date for applications is 16:00 on 08 May 2026

SHG
21 April 2026

Golf Report

Four Ball Better Ball (4BBB) Competition



SHCG, Contributed

A total of 24 players turned out at the St Helena Golf Club on Sunday, 19 April, to contest a Four Ball Better Ball (4BBB) competition.

Unfortunately, during the verification of scorecards, it became apparent that there was a lack of uniformity in the way some teams recorded their scores. This inconsistency compromised the integrity of the competition results. Following discussion, a decision supported by the majority of those present was taken not to issue prizes for the event.

The management and committee of the St Helena Golf Club sincerely apologise to all participants for the inconvenience caused and thank members for their understanding.

This incident has once again highlighted the urgent need for a Games Manager, a position that unfortunately remained unfilled following the last AGM. Any member willing to volunteer for this important role is strongly encouraged to approach any current committee member to express their interest.

Looking ahead, the next competition will take place on **Sunday, 26 April 2026**, and will be the **Monthly Medal**, played in **stroke play format** and sponsored by the club.

- **Tee off**: 12:00
- **Registration closes**: Saturday at 15:00

Members are encouraged to support the event and take part.

Happy Swinging!

SPORTS ARENA



Fire at Will

Pirates beat Challengers as race for RMS T20 title heats up

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The SHCA RMS T20 tournament for 2026 continued on Saturday with early leaders Levelwood Allstars facing up against the Cobras.

Cobras batted first but were overwhelmed by a spectacular bowling performance from the Allstars. Led by David Francis, who came away with two wickets for three runs, Allstars top-tier bowling saw the Cobras batting order collapse. They were eventually bowled out for 74 runs, thanks largely to a knock of 22 by Brian Fas. Levelwood took to the bat and, once again, dominated the innings, with Player of the Match, Clayton Leo, providing the bulk of the runs (36) to help Allstars to the required total in just eight overs.

Unfortunately, the second match between Western A Mustangs and Jamestown Heat was cancelled due to weather causing a waterlogged pitch.

The final match of the weekend did however go ahead as planned and involved a highly anticipated clash between Sandy Bay Pirates and league winners, Challengers.

Challengers batted first and got off to a steady start, reaching 36 runs before losing opener, Captain Cliff Richards, in the fifth over. However, a run-out for star man, Andrew Yon, after knocking just eight runs, allowed Pirates to get a solid grip on the game. A fight back from Jordi Henry, with 39, and Joey Thomas, with 33, would see Challengers get back into the game, only for Henry to be dismissed by Kieran Williams, who walked away with three wickets. In the end, Challengers were able to post a respectable total of 161 runs.

Having to defend their total, Challengers then took to the field, but were met with the explosive batting of Player of the Match David Young who would smash a brutal 60 runs off just 25 balls to power Pirates into a great position, well ahead of the required run rate. Youngs eventual dismissal and a first ball duck for fellow big-hitter, Brooklyn Flower, would however see the game swing back in the balance, though solid batting from Pirates middle order would allow Rhys Francis to complete the chase after 16 overs to pick up a massive win for Pirates over reigning champions, Challengers.

This much-needed win for Pirates allows them to reset their focus on this year's RMS T20 title, though it's the Levelwood Allstars who currently top the table with two wins from two. With plenty of action left to be played, this year's tournament is set to be an interesting battle for the coveted T20 trophy, with more twists and turns likely in the weeks to come.

