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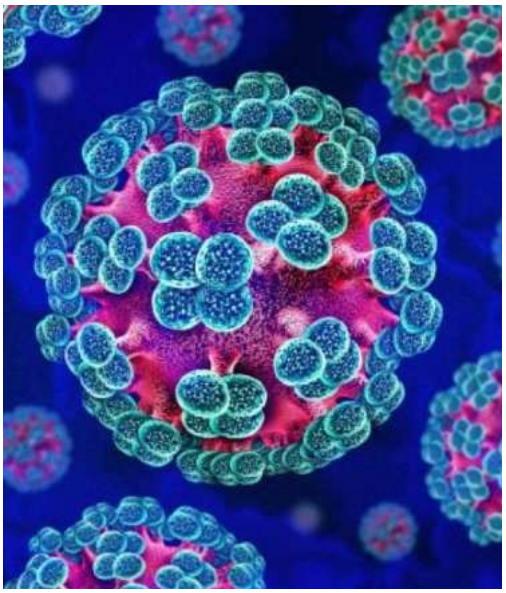
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SENTINEL

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"There is no significant cause for concern"

St Helena Government managing situation regarding MV Hondius hantavirus outbreak, with the current threat to St Helena "low" even after Andes Virus strain is confirmed







Who's Got the Power





OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

So much action going on concerning the football at the moment.

As for the Premier league, being an Arsenal fan from the late 90s can be a bit stressful in 2026. The glory days for my era would be late 90s, early 2000s, then from 2007 we were still having hopes off winning the league, but always falling short. Then it went on to being content to be in the UEFA Champions League and then we were fighting just to get in the Champions League and often playing in the Europa League. In recent years we have had exciting times, making it back in the Champions League, battling for the title, but again falling short; but progress none the less.

It's a heart-breaking thing at times, but for me, it's all about the moments; football can give you moments to keep forever. For instance, Man Utd beating Liverpool on the weekend, surely a special moment for United fans, but then you had Liverpool smashing seven pass them the other day, so Liverpool have that moment. Leicester City winning the league was a special moment for everyone I think, and that Aguero goal was spectacular. Then you got Liverpool winning in Istanbul, South Africa scoring the first goal in the World Cup 2010, and, of course, the opening ceremony of that World Cup also; so yeah, there's so many moments in football and they can give you the ups, and also the downs!

Will Arsenal win the league? I don't know, I hope so, but the teams in the Premier League are so good that you just can't predict anything.

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ST HELENA NEWS

Get by with a Little Help

St Helena Medical Support Fund expands their support



Donna Crowie, SAMS

Local charity, St Helena Medical Support Fund, have now been in operation for the past 16 months and, since the charity started their fundraising initiatives in January 2025, they have been able to successfully provide financial support to a total of 29 carers accompanying medical referral patients from St Helena.

This is a success story for SHMSF, as the charity was set up with the aim of providing support to families of medical referral patients who face financial difficulties when required to support those who need to receive medical treatment off island.

As is well known, in order to raise valuable funds to allow SHMSF to provide this necessary support, the charity holds a popular monthly sweepstake, where those who buy tickets not only contribute to a worthy cause, but also has the chance to win some mouth-watering cash prizes.

16 months in, and the charity is not just overwhelmed with the response of those who take part in the sweepstake each month, but also with the figures shown in the charity's bank account.

"As a result of people's generosity for taking part in the sweepstake, we would like to announce that we are now able to offer some financial support to patients themselves," announced Charity founder and Chairperson, Susan Knipe, just before the April sweepstake draw last Friday. "Again, because of the monies that we have managed to raise, we feel now that we are able to offer a small contribution to the patients themselves; so, there are patients who go away and don't have a career, but we are now able to give a small contribution to them."

This new SHMSF patient support scheme began on 1 May, with patients now able to apply. "We will have a form, because we don't just give out money; we are using public money, so we need to account for every penny that we donate or contribute, so there will be a form from any of the members that the patient would need signed by a medical referral officer or, you know, the signatory," explained Susan on the process for receiving SHMSF's support. "We don't want to know the reason, the medical history or anything else," she continued. "It is just that this person has been referred for medical treatment and it's signed by the relevant officer within the public health directorate and they will give us their bank account and we will transfer the funds as our contribution."

This is a positive development for the charity and for current and future medical referrals and their families on the Island. The SHMSF members extend their thanks to all those who have contributed to the charity thus far and look forward to continued support going forward. The next sweepstake for May will go 'live' on Friday.

"There is no significant cause for concern"

St Helena Government managing the situation regarding suspected MV Hondius hantavirus outbreak, with the current threat to St Helena "low"



MV Hondius during a former visit to St Helena

Liam Yon, SAMS

No doubt, the big talk of the town on St Helena at the moment, and in the headlines globally, is the situation regarding a severe illness affecting several passengers on expedition vessel, MV Hondius, which recently visited St Helena between 22-24 April.

The severe illness, suspected to be caused by a strain of hantavirus, have sadly already resulted in three deaths, with a further three people having been hospitalised with severe symptoms.

St Helena Government's Chief Secretary, Ian Todd, speaking in an interview on SAMS Radio 1, gave some background on the situation regarding the MV Hondius and the suspected outbreak of hantavirus onboard, along with the involvement of both St Helena and Ascension.

"So we know that the ship came here between 22-24 April and, at that point in time, we were made aware in advance that a passenger had unfortunately died onboard the vessel and that we were going to take the deceased into our custody so that they could be repatriated to their home country," Ian recalled. "We now believe that to be the index patient (the first), although they haven't been tested positively for hantavirus."

Ian continued, where he informed how "a relative of that index patient spent some time on the island and subsequently flew out on an airlink flight; they arrived in Johannesburg where they developed severe symptoms and sadly also passed away."

"At that point, the ship had already left St Helena and was on its way to Cape Verde, but diverted to Ascension when another passenger became ill," he continued. "That passenger was treated on Ascension Island in the hospital there and had to be medevaced off of Ascension to Johannesburg where they remain in a critical condition in hospital."

Following this, "the ship then sailed from Ascension and continued on its journey towards Cape Verde and other patients have subsequently become unwell," explained Ian on Monday. "An elderly patient unfortunately has passed away and two others have become significantly unwell. So, at this stage, we have six patients who we believe have hantavirus, although only two of those are confirmed; of those six, three have sadly passed away, one is in a critical condition and the other two remain unwell at this stage."

According to an SHG Press Release on Monday morning, they explained how hantaviruses are "usually spread through contact with infected rodents, but may eventually pass from person-to-person." They detailed how symptoms can include fever, extreme fatigue, muscle aches, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea or shortness of breath, with some people potentially developing severe breathing difficulties requiring hospital care.

Dr Jake from St Helena's Health Portfolio spoke about this group of viruses during the same interview on SAMS Radio 1, where he noted how only one strain, namely the Andes Virus from South America, has ever been known to be transmissible from one person to another, though the likelihood of this happening is still low.

"Hantavirus is actually a group of hantaviruses, so there is no one single hantavirus; it's almost like a family of different viruses and that list is actually quite large," he explained. "Usually this is a rodent-borne virus, so what we would call the reservoir of the virus - where the virus is normally found and how it survives in the wild - is being passed around rodents.

Dr Jake informed how "most, if not all, but one of hantaviruses are not

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considered transmissible between people," adding that "the only one in that family that has any academic or documented evidence that it can pass between people is the Andes Virus."

"So that is really the crux of why we have this level of concern at the moment," he continued, referencing the Andes Virus and the measures being taken on the Island. "But like I say, the risk of actually having that passed around, person to person, in absolute terms, is still quite low."

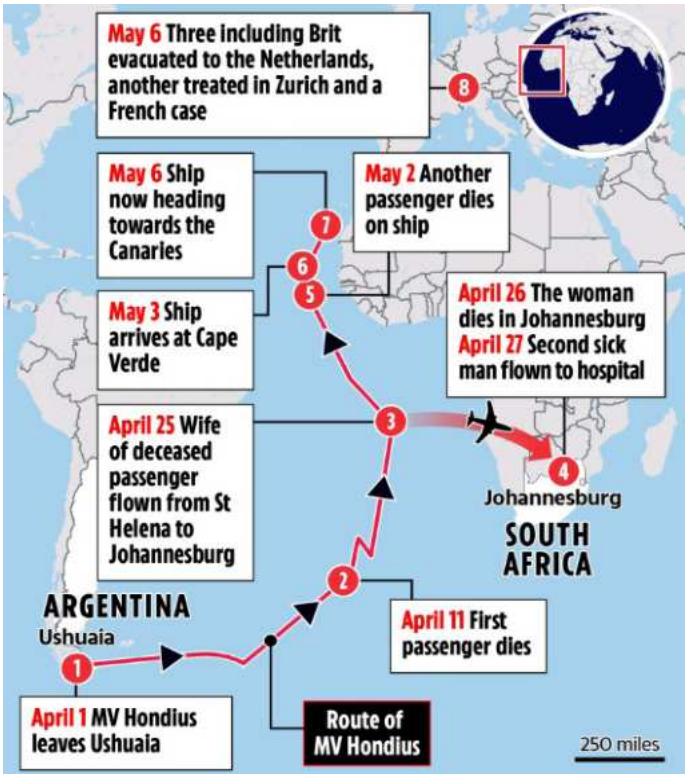
At the time, it had not been confirmed which strain of hantavirus caused the deaths and severe illnesses among people having travelled onboard the MV Hondius – though this has since been confirmed, as expected, as the Andes Virus *(see article on page 7)*.

With regards to St Helena, despite the Hondius arriving two weeks ago, and with four Tristanians having arrived to the Island from the vessel, SHG made it clear in Monday's press release that "no cases of this illness have been identified in St Helena and there is no significant cause for concern on the island at this time."

With that said, Government did confirm that the two passengers which Ian alluded to that had become "significantly unwell" during the ship's onward voyage to the Cape Verde, did come ashore during the vessel's visit to the Island and they had, at the time, developed minor symptoms.

It was noted how these two individuals "may have had some contact with members of our local community." As such, Dr Jake explained the steps that have been taken, including advising thirteen people, inclusive of the visiting Tristanians, to self-isolate until further notice.

"We've conducted an intensive risk-based contact tracing mechanism and we essentially have two groups of folks on the island who fall into that risk-based approach," he explained. "There are people who are at a higher risk who have had direct or close contact with those two individuals that came ashore; they are our priority at the moment. We believe we have identified all, if not most, of those people, and that number extends to thirteen."



Route of the MV Hondius and dates of key events

Having identified the thirteen people that are at a higher risk, Dr Jake informed how "all of those people have had a conversation with a health professional over the weekend and have been instructed to stay at home and isolate until further notice and when we have further test results available."

In terms of the second "much larger group," these, as explained by Dr Jake, are "the people who may have visited the ship itself, may have spent time on the ship or may have had more casual contact with either the passengers or crew coming ashore who were not unwell; so not the two people who came ashore unwell."

He made clear that this group is considered "at much lower risk," however that it is a non-zero risk, so not completely risk-free. "For those folks, we are going to provide specific and direct individual written information that will give them the signs and symptoms that they need to look out for, but their risk is so low that we are not currently asking them to change their behaviour or to move into an isolation mode," he added. "Simply they will be asked to report the development of any symptoms to the hospital by phone in the first instance on 22500."

Dr Jake then explained that Public Health are asking those in the group that may develop symptoms "not to present to the hospital without prior warning, so that we can arrange the most appropriate assessment and that might even be one of our doctors visiting them in the home to make an assessment and perform some of those tests."

In terms of the four visiting Tristanians who arrived on the MV Hondius to St Helena, Dr Jake confirmed that "they were the first people that we spoke to."

"We believe they spent at least 48 hours or so on board the ship," he said. "Technically speaking, and on advice from the UK Health Security Agency, they would not actually fall under the higher risk group, but we have included those four in our thirteen, through an abundance of precaution. Indeed, they are living together and staying in isolation until further notice."

Dr Jake then confirmed that, "of all those thirteen in self-isolation, there has not been a single person reporting any symptoms that would lead us to believe that they are developing antivirus." He did add though that health "will be following them up daily."

To monitor symptoms, specifically body temperature, Dr Jake noted how the portfolio was "looking at trying to supply all of those people with their own individual thermometer so that they can be monitoring their temperature," adding that "it is temperature, or fever, that will be the key fundamental way that we identify that somebody may be developing this virus."

In the scenario that someone does present with a suspected hantavirus case, the patient would be subject to "rapid medical evacuation to South Africa, so that they are in the place that they need to be to receive the most intensive care," the doctor explained. "Again, that is out of an absolute abundance of precaution."

With that said, Dr Jake was keen to advise that hantavirus symptoms are similar to symptoms of other viruses, such as the flu, and that this would be the most likely cause of symptoms that might develop in the near future. "As you can imagine, the number of people that may have interacted with that ship, somebody, somewhere, over the next week or so may develop some mild symptoms," he exampled. "The absolute highest likelihood is that it is just a common virus, but out of an abundance of precaution we'll be making that individual assessment to decide where these people need to go."

In terms of the length of time that the thirteen "high-

er risk" individuals must self-isolate for, this was unknown at the time. SHG did however advise that "about 1–8 weeks can pass between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms." Dr Jake spoke about this piece of information.

"This is what we call the incubation period," he explained. "Usually for infectious diseases we can hone that down through expert scientific endeavour to a small number of days. Given the rarity and the variety of these hantaviruses, you end up with something where you have to say well between one to eight weeks. But what we do know from the evidence is that most people who develop symptoms will do so within the first half of that, but the maximum time that it has ever been seen is up to eight weeks."

With little known at the time, Dr Jake confirmed that they were "in active discussions with our colleagues and experts in the UK to determine if it does end up being the type of hantavirus that we are concerned about (Andes Virus), to determine exactly what length of time we would have to ask people to isolate for - so that is an ongoing line of enquiry at the moment and we're going to be led by the evidence on how we should approach that."

Above and beyond the two groups which were identified by health through their risk-based contact tracing, there will undoubtably be people who have, since the visit of the Hondius, been in contact with the potential contacts identified by SHG of the two passengers that visited the Island with minor symptoms. This could be, for example, families and friends of potential contacts. Dr Jake was asked if these people, who he described as "contacts of contacts" should we worried, to which he responded with an assertive "no".

"No, this virus will only transmit once symptoms have started in a person," he detailed. "So, the absolute focus of our investigation is those people who have had contact with the two mildly unwell people that came ashore." He then noted how, after time, those two individuals became more severe, but "whilst they were here, they did show symptoms, and that is where the potential risk may be, however small that is."

"I think what you may be alluding to is something we would call contacts of contacts," he continued, turning focus back to the question. "So if you're a contact of a person that is unwell, you know you are within those numbers that I'm speaking of, but if you're a contact of a contact - so your friend may have had passing contact with somebody who's unwell - the risk is almost zero and so they can consider themselves at 'at no risk'."

Looking ahead, SHG reassured that they are "working closely with the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and other international partners to assess and manage the situation." This includes Ascension Island Government, who have also taken steps to protect the community there, following the admission and evacuation of one passenger from the Hondius on Ascension.

For now, SHG have reiterated that "the risk to the wider community is low and no additional precautions are necessary at this time." They do however add that, "out of an abundance of caution," persons experiencing a significant fever at or above 38°C, should contact the hospital on telephone number 22500 for advice, however that they should not attend the hospital in person at the first instance.

Dr Jake also noted how, if and when an individual does develop symptoms associated with a hantavirus, it will very likely be the case that these symptoms are being caused by other, more common, viruses, such as the flu, and that a fever at a temperature of 38°C and above is the key indicator for health authorities of the potential presence of a hantavirus.

Additionally, SHG have created a frequently asked questions document about hantaviruses, which is available via the SHG Website, for those wanting to learn more.

Chief Secretary, Ian Todd, and Dr Jake from Public Health, both concluded the interview by reassuring the public that the threat to St Helena is low at this time and that the public should therefore be vigilant, but not fearful.

"The message is be vigilant, but don't be afraid," stressed the Chief Secretary. "We want to be absolutely sure that this virus does not arrive on St Helena, but as Jake has already said repeatedly, we think the risk is low. We just need to ensure that we manage the consequences if it does arrive; so vigilance, but not fear, I think would be the key message from me."

"I'd just like to reiterate exactly what we've said a number of times, that the overall risk is assessed as low," concluded Dr Jake. "That is our assessment and our colleagues in the UK as well. However, given the potential severity of the illness, this is why we are taking this response in an absolute abundance of precaution. Please, if we are in contact with you, please do follow our advice and guidance."

The full interview from Monday with the Chief Secretary and Dr Jake – covering many questions relating to hantaviruses, the threat to St Helena, various scenarios and the ongoing actions of St Helena Government – is available to listen to via the SAMS Podcast Page and will also be repeated on SAMS Radio One.

Since this interview, and this subsequent article, there have been a number of further developments, including confirmation that the hantavirus strain behind the current outbreak is the Andes Virus *(see further articles on pages 6 and 7).*



How it works.

The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 8th May at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.

Request how many numbers you would like, and a number/s will be allocated to you. DO NOT ask for specific numbers.

If you do not have Facebook then ask a friend or family member to request a number for you.

Zoe George will be taking calls on 23297 from 7pm only on Friday 8th, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.

We politely ask not to call before this time.

All numbers must be paid for at the bank - BOSH Account - St Helena Medical Support Fund 02146002

Payments to be made by 25th May. Draw will be done on the 29th May

Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.

"Worried you may have been exposed?"

New Hantavirus Screening Line setup by SHG for people who may have had close contact with the crew or passengers of the MV Hondius



Liam Yon, SAMS

The Health and Social Care (HSC) Portfolio continues to respond to the hantavirus situation linked to the expedition vessel MV Hondius, which visited St Helena from 22 to 24 April; working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and international partners to assess and manage the situation.

In an update on Tuesday, SHG informed how "globally, there have been three deaths reported, two of which have been confirmed as infected with hantavirus." They add that "there are a further four people with suspected hantavirus infection around the world, all of whom remain in a stable condition."

At the time, "definitive information on the specific type of hantavirus associated with this incident" was awaited, though this has since been received, with the Andes Virus named us the underlying cause (see article).

SHG, in their Tuesday update, confirmed that, on St Helena, "there are currently no people with suspected hantavirus infection." They reaffirmed that "all higher risk contacts identified to date have received daily verbal contact from a doctor, including instruction on the need to self-isolate at home." They add that "people living in the same household as higher risk contacts do not need to self-isolate" and that "all lower risk contacts have been issued with an information letter and actions to take should they develop symptoms."

In terms of those in isolation, SHG state that "further written guidance" is being developed "in partnership with experts at the UKHSA" and these were said to be issued on Wednesday. This guidance, they say, "includes information on the necessary period for isolation," with The Sentinel having received unofficial information that self-isolation will continue until 10 June (see article). SHG say that "additional support for those in isolation is being coordinated by HSC."

In order to reassure the public and quell concerns in the community, SHG again on Tuesday, stated that "the risk to the wider community remains low." They reiterate that "everyday social contact, for example in shops, workplaces, schools or public spaces, is not considered a known risk for spreading hantavirus" and that "in the rare instances of person-to-person spread, the main risk is close and prolonged contact with someone who is unwell."

SHG also in Tuesday's update announced the setup of a dedicated Hantavirus Screening Line.

"If you had close contact with passengers or crew, or boarded the MV Hondius during its visit, please call the new Hantavirus Screening Line on Tele No: 25949 if you develop symptoms or are worried you may have been exposed," they said. "Please do not attend the hospital in person without first being screened by telephone. This helps protect patients, staff and the wider public by ensuring the right clinical advice and infection prevention measures are in place before any face-to-face assessment."

With that said, SHG also noted how "people who have not had any contact with the passengers or crew, and have not boarded the MV Hondius, should seek healthcare in the usual way if required."

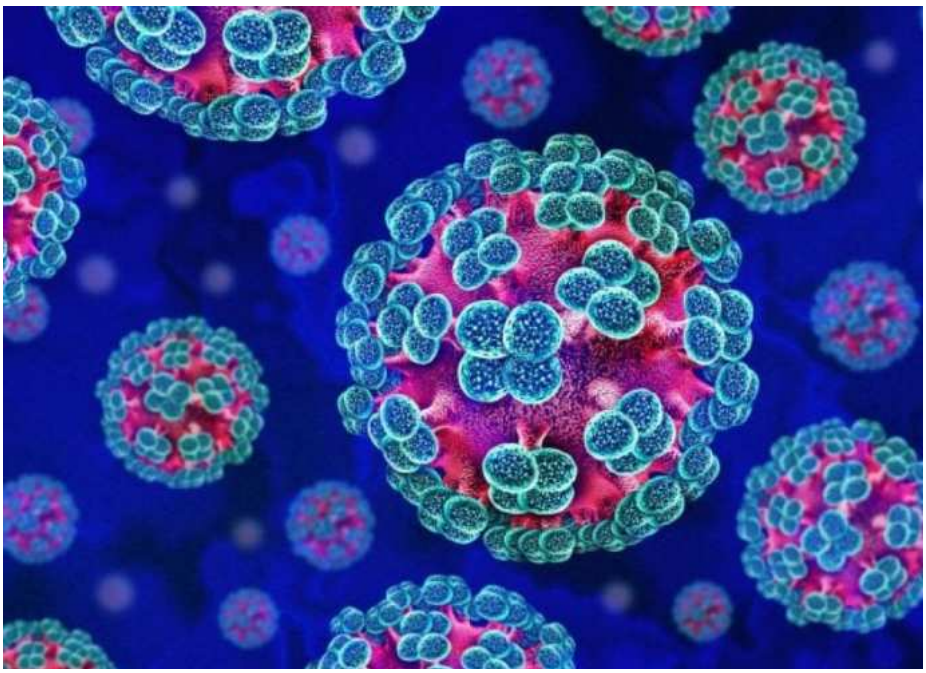
For those who might contact the new screening line call, SHG detailed how the process will work. "Following the screening call, a clinician will review the information provided," they explain. "If a face-to-face assessment is needed, the ambulance service will attend to assess the person safely and arrange further care; this reduces the risk of anyone who may be infectious attending the hospital without the correct precautions in place."

If however, there is a medical emergency, which might include severe breathing difficulty, chest pain, collapse or serious deterioration, persons are urged to "call 999 immediately and tell the call handler that you may have had contact linked to the MV Hondius."

SHG concluded by thanking the public for their continued support and cooperation, before committing to further updates "as more information becomes available."

Andes Virus Confirmed

Hantavirus Strain confirmed as Andes Virus, though risk "remains low"



Liam Yon, SAMS

In an update to this developing story on Wednesday, St Helena Government have now informed that "tests performed by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa have indicated that the Andes Virus is the underlying cause."

As has been reported, Andes Virus is "the only known variant capable of human-to-human spread." With that said, SHG have asserted that, "the risk to the wider population remains low" particularly considering that "transmission requires prolonged close personal contact."

In addition, SHG confirm that the indication of Andes Virus as the underlying cause "does not affect" their current planning and response, "which has been based on this assumption from the outset." They add that "as indicated previously, we are acting from an abundance of caution and will continue to do so."

With the strain of hantavirus now known as the Andes Virus, SHG will have a better idea of how long those currently in self isolation, totalling thirteen, will have to remain isolated. While not yet confirmed officially by SHG, reliable sources have informed The Sentinel that those currently isolating must continue to do so until 10 June.

Additionally, it was reported that the four visiting Tristanians will soon be transferred to the UK to continue their isolation via a potential charter flight. Their visit and work placements would have concluded in June anyhow.

SHG have committed to providing daily updates on the situation as they develop. SAMS Radio 1 will therefore look to share updates over the airways as and when necessary.

An updated interview on SAMS Radio 1 with Minister Henry and Dr Jake was held on Wednesday and is available on the SAMS Podcast Page and will be repeated on SAMS Radio 1.

Andrew takes his Turner

Minister Turner to attend Education Word Forum in London



Donna Crowie, SAMS

Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, will be departing on the weekend flight from St Helena in order to attend the Education World Forum 2026, being held in London for four days from Sunday, 17 May, to Wednesday, 20 May.

According to St Helena Government, "Minister Turner will join education and training Ministers from around the world, alongside key multilateral organisations and industry partners, to explore how education can be reimagined to unlock opportunities for growth."

They add that "throughout the forum's plenary sessions and workshops, he will engage with four interlinked themes: peace, planet, purpose, and pathways."

During the forum, a few topics being touched on are 'Growing futures: How nature-based learning is shaping the next generation' and 'Harnessing education technology to improve quality and access,' among others.

During Minister Turner's visit to the UK he will also be involved with a series of meetings with officials, taking advantage of his time there "to discuss strategic partnerships and explore solutions tailored to the island's specific educational needs."

During the absences of Minster Turner, Minister Brooks will oversee the Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio. Minister Turner is scheduled to return back to the island on Saturday, 23 May.

Who's Got the Power

Power almost fully restored to normal after numerous outages, including lengthy outage in Lower Jamestown, during this week



Connect staff, both technical and administrative, worked extended hours to ensure customers were kept informed and the situation was resolved as quickly as possible

Liam Yon, SAMS

This week has been one of disruptions, particularly in Lower Jamestown, after Connect St Helena experienced issues with power supply to the Island, starting Monday, 4 May, and continuing in the days that followed as they worked to locate and rectify an underground cable fault in Jamestown.

It was mid-morning on Monday when Connect first informed customers "that all areas supplied by Feeder 2" were without electricity. These areas included the Briars, Two Gun Saddle, all of Alarm Forest, Vaughan's, Hutt's Gate, Levelwood, Rock Rose, Sandy Bay, Blue Hill, Thompsons Hill, Southerns, and all of St Paul's; customers in these areas would've experienced an unplanned power outage. Connect confirmed at the time that staff were "working to locate the fault and restore power as soon as possible."

Soon after, and within the hour, Connect further advised that they were "pleased to inform customers that power has been restored to normal, following earlier power issues on Feeder 2."

Later in the day however, further power outages were experienced on the Island, particularly in Lower Jamestown, where residents and businesses were without electricity for a number of hours, starting from around 4pm.

It was at around 8pm that evening when Connect advised "customers in Lower Jamestown that they are currently experiencing a power outage due to an issue on the underground cable." They went on to add that their team had been working to locate the exact fault, however, "due to the nature of the underground infrastructure," they were "not able to identify the faulty point."

With it being late on Monday, Connect made the decision to delay works until the following day. "For health and safety reasons, repair works cannot be carried out safely during the hours of darkness," they explained. "Further investigation and repairs will therefore continue tomorrow in daylight, and power will remain off in the affected area until the issue can be safely resolved."

Due to this, Lower Jamestown remained without power throughout the night and into Tuesday, 5 May, when work continued by Connect to first locate, and then rectify, the issues. Despite hopes that power could be restored quickly, the reality of St Helena's aged infrastructure meant that there could be an extended delay as works continued throughout Tuesday.

As such, the St Helena Resilience Forum convened, together with key stakeholders including Connect and local businesses, on Tuesday morning "to review the situation relating to the power outage affecting residents and businesses in Lower Jamestown, and to confirm contingency arrangements and next steps."

As Connect continued work to locate and solve the issue relating to the power supply in Lower Jamestown, a number of disruptions were being experienced. While many organisations chose to close shop on Tuesday, including staff of The Castle being allowed to go home, phonelines were also found to be down. Connect acknowledged that "SURE lines have been affected" by the power outage and noted how, therefore, their enquiry line at Seales Corner was unavailable. After a few hours, they confirmed that "landline services at

Seales Corner" had been "fully restored."

As Connect made progress with their fault-finding work on Tuesday morning, they announced a planned emergency power outage affecting Ladder Hill for an hour, in order to "safely isolate a suspected faulty section of the electricity network."

This outage, affecting customers between Bleak House and the Community Care Complex in Lower Ladder Hill ended up lasting longer than the scheduled one hour, with Connect apologising to residents for the "extended interruption" though noted how the work being done was "essential" in restoring power in Lower Jamestown.

As such, and after Connect staff, both technical and administrative, worked beyond 4pm on Tuesday, a positive update was issued on Tuesday evening when Connect announced that following Monday's power outage on Feeder 5, which affected Lower Jamestown, "electricity has now been restored in all areas." They detailed how Nosegay Lane and the Post Office would be "reconnected" at around 6pm using a mobile generator, before adding that "repair work on the faulty section" would recommence on Wednesday. They were also pleased to advise that "power issues experienced on Feeder 1" during the day, affecting Jamestown from Market Street to China Lane and Ladder Hill, had "now been resolved."

On Wednesday morning, things returned to normality in Lower Jamestown following the restoration of power to buildings like The Castle and residential properties. With that said, work by Connect continued, with those in Jamestown noticing works taking place near The Standard Bar on Market Street.

Connect issued a further update on Wednesday, when they announced that "following the power outage which affected consumers on Feeder 5, impacting Lower Jamestown, including Nosegay Lane, the Post Office, Museum Car Park, the Terrace, the Wharf, and Lower Shy Road, Connect Saint Helena Ltd can confirm that electricity has now been restored to all affected areas."

They detailed how "as of approximately 01:10" on Wednesday morning, "the Post Office transformer was successfully connected to the network, and some customers on the Nosegay Lane transformer have been connected to temporary generators."

With that said, Connect did however inform that "due to the capacity of the temporary generators currently in use," certain consumers on Napoleon Street remained without power. Due to this, they requested, in order "to help manage demand and prevent overloading the mobile generators currently in use," that "all commercial entities with backup generators" continue running them "for the time being."

They concluded their update by informing that "permanent repair work on the faulty cable section" would resume on Wednesday morning, and that it "is expected to take approximately two days" to complete. In the meantime, they would "replace the smaller generator with a larger unit to increase capacity," adding that the aim of this would be "to help resolve the remaining power issues affecting consumers on Napoleon Street."

While these power outages have caused understandable frustration among members of the community and local businesses, particularly those affected by the lengthy period without electricity in Lower Jamestown, Connect staff should be commended for working quickly and outside of normal hours to resolve the issues.

There were no further updates at the time of writing, however SAMS Radio 1 will air updates as and when they are received – so be sure to listen out.



Works by Connect continued near The Standard on Wednesday

Hands Up for Your Colours

Primary School's to discontinue use of old School Colours



KS1 students with the King's Baton donning their old school colours

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena has entered into a new era of Primary School schooling on the Island with the emotional closing of the traditional Primary Schools of Harford, Pilling and St Paul's in 2025 to allow for the commencement of the new Primary School Structure comprising of two key stage-based schools for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 at the old Harford and St Paul's school buildings respectively – though currently, while works to the Harford site continues, St Paul's acts as the temporary KS1 School, with Pilling catering for KS2 children.

One thing that has been noticed since the start of the restructure is the request for parents/carers of KS1 students (Nursery to Year 2) to dress children in their old traditional school shirts and colours (red, green and yellow) during special school events and class visits.

With much emphasis having been placed on bringing students of the three old schools together as one – through initiatives like the building relationship weeks and events – this request to don the old school colours has been met with criticism by those who feel it is counter-productive and stands to undo the work of the portfolio to bring children together as one, with the request seemingly dividing new year groups into their old allegiances, essentially separating new classes into their old divisions during events and trips. It also brings about uncertainty with regards to new students who would not have been a part of the old school system and therefore would not know which colour to wear.

The Sentinel followed up on this with St Helena Government, where it was revealed how, due the concerns mentioned, the KS2 school (currently based at the old Pilling building) has avoided asking students to wear old school colours, and have instead focused on neutral colours and themes.

"Just for clarification, KS2 school has always decided to wear a 'uniform/colour' that is different from the original colours of the three primary schools," commented Elaine Benjamin, KS2 Head Teacher. "It signifies 'moving on' or a period of 'new beginnings' and avoids resurrecting so many mixed emotions which were so deep when schools closed last year." As an example, Elaine noted how KS2 "therefore chose to wear neutral colours for the King's Baton ceremony - white tops and denim trousers."

SHG's Education Review Programme Manager, Nichole Spence, also responded to The Sentinel acknowledging how "the issue of school colours is particularly symbolic during this period of change," before giving some background on the transition, alongside a brief update as to the current stage of the Primary School Reorganisation.

"Following the primary reorganisation, a great deal of emphasis has rightly been placed on relationship building and on supporting children as they come together from three former school communities into a new Key Stage structure," she said. "While pupils moved physically into the KS1 and KS2 arrangements in January, this was done primarily to manage health and safety during renovation works and to minimise disruption to teaching and learning. More broadly, the transition to the new model is being delivered in stages rather than as a single moment of change."

Nichole went on to explain how "in the months since January, the immediate priority for staff and pupils has been settling into new environments, establishing routines, building friendships and, for older pupils, preparing for assessments," adding that, "alongside these day to day priorities, the schools are continuing work to prepare for the full launch of the new arrangements, focusing on what has been described as the five Ps: People, Platform, Process, Programme and Practice."

This is where Nichole confirmed that "the question of school identity, including school names, colours, uniform and branding, sits within this final area of Practice." She adds that "this work is important because it helps create a sense of place and belonging, but it is also something the schools are keen to get right rather than rush."

She revealed how "staff are currently developing a new shared vision and mission, alongside decisions about long term school colours and uniform, in preparation for the permanent opening of the new school facilities."

Nichole also explained how the portfolio "are very conscious of not placing unnecessary pressure or cost on parents during a period of transition" stating that it is "for that reason, pupils were temporarily permitted to wear their previous school shirts, or other clothing as directed by the school, until a single agreed uniform and colour scheme is formally adopted."

However, with The Sentinel sharing concerns about the use of old school colours, the Education Portfolio have taken these apprehensions onboard and thus, have agreed to discontinue this approach.

"We recognise the concerns you have raised about the visual impact of pupils wearing different colours at joint events and the risk of unintentionally reinforcing former divisions," stated Nichole. "It has therefore been agreed that, for shared events and special oc-

casions, a neutral and inclusive approach should be taken."
Nichole exampled KS2's approach and "the recent use of neutral colours, such as white tops and denim," as a way to "signal new beginnings and avoid recreating former school groupings," adding that "this approach has now been agreed as a sensible compromise and will be adopted consistently by both schools where appropriate."
Continuing on, Nichole noted how "this interim arrangement is designed to balance inclusion, practicality and sensitivity while longer term decisions about a unified school identity are completed," adding how "it also avoids difficulties for new pupils joining the system who were not part of the former three school structure."
While the use of old school colours will now be discontinued, Nichole wanted to reassure the community that "the creation of a single shared school identity remains an important part of the reorganisation," adding that "further updates on uniform and colours will be shared with parents once decisions are finalised."
"In the meantime, the focus remains on supporting pupils' wellbeing, learning and sense of belonging as one school community," she concluded.
Minister for Education, Andrew Turner, also commented, where he thanked "parents and the wider community for the support they have shown during this period of transition."
"When speaking directly with pupils, what stands out is how keen they are to come together and help shape a new identity for their school," the Minister states. "That sense of excitement and ownership from pupils and from the community is exactly what the reorganisation is intended to foster."



Who's Interested?

Board of St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. seeking new Chairperson



Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Hotel Development Ltd have announced that they are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons interested in serving as their new Chairperson of the Board.
St Helena Hotel Development Ltd (SHHDL) is a state-owned entity, meaning it is 100% owned by the St Helena Government, and was established back in June 2014 to build and operate the island's first international-standard hotel, which we now know as Mantis St Helena.
While SHHDL owns the property, it contracts the Mantis Group to manage day-to-day operations and hospitality services at the hotel. Essentially however, SHHDL was designed to support the island's transition to air-access tourism following the opening of St Helena Airport.
As detailed in the groups recent EOI advert, "the Chairperson & the Board of Directors have a collective responsibility for the strategic direction of the business and for monitoring the performance of the Hotel, in line with the Hotel Management Agreement in place with the Operator, Mantis."
For those interested in applying, a copy of the terms of reference for the Board and a form to register an interest can be requested from the Company Secretary, Nicole Plato via email nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh or collected from the Castle, Jamestown.
The Board adds that "Expressions of Interest should be made using the form and should be submitted, along with a current Curriculum Vitae, to the Company Secretary by Friday, 22 May."
To conclude, SHHDL made clear that "registering an interest does not guarantee an appointment to the board as this is subject to applicant's having the required knowledge, skills and experience." They also note how the position "attracts a monthly fee."
SHHDL is encouraging anyone who feel they have the necessary skills to fill this role to register their interest before the deadline in two weeks.

"Celebrating Swimmers and their Progress"

Aqua Tech Swim Club holds successful second Swim Gala on Sunday



All club members participating in the gala

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Sunday, 3 May, the Jamestown Swimming Pool, filled with supporters and participants, came alive with cheers as members of Aqua Tech Swim Club took to the water to show off their progress made over the past year.

The swim club, established in July 2024, have around 60 swimmers who train with the two swim teachers on a weekly basis. Most of the club members took part in the gala on Sunday, making the best of the opportunity to participate in some friendly competition, impress the spectators with their progress and, in general, just enjoy a fun-filled, sundrenched day at the pool with family and friends.

The event was opened by the club's Chairperson, Soné Meij, at just past 11am welcoming supporters and participants, wishing them all well for the day's events. She continued to explain how the aim of Aquatech Swim Club is not only to train club members who want to become competitive swimmers, but to equip all members to be proficient, safe swimmers who can enjoy the sport throughout their lives, contributing to a healthy active lifestyle.

Soné then thanked everyone involved in the preparations for their hard work and support as well as Scott Crowie and his team for providing the food on the day; Yellow fins for the use of their lane ropes and starting blocks; NSASH for attending to act as official time-keepers for the senior swimmers; as well as all the other officials. Lastly, she thanked the pool staff for always being supportive and accommodating as well as the parents for their support and commitment throughout the year and the swimmers for taking part on the day.

Soné continued by congratulating the first swimmer from Aqua Tech Swim Club to qualify for the Commonwealth Games, Lukas Robbertse, encouraging all club members by showing them what could be achieved, while wishing him all the best in doing himself, the club, and the island proud at the Games.

The day's main events started straight after the welcoming speech with the youngest swimmers in the club, the under 7 years, participating in the 15m front crawl with a float. The under 8 girls next swam a 15m front crawl with a 15m backstroke on the return, followed by the same event for the under 10 boys. The more experienced under 10 boys then did a full length (33m) front crawl and then backstroke. 33m & 50m front crawl races were up next for the under 12 boys, under 11 girls, under 13 boys and under 14 boys, with parents cheering on their youngsters throughout. The backstroke and breaststroke events were next on the program with the junior swimmers pulling out all the stops to impress their supporters. Medals were presented to all participants as well as individual reports from swim teachers detailing each club member's progress for the year.

A short break followed where spectators and swimmers alike could enjoy some food, drinks and treats while some chose to take part in a fun race where parents pulled their children on an inflatable float.

After the short break the senior swimmers warmed up for their events which kicked off with the un-



Time keepers getting ready

der 14 girls and boys 50m front crawl events followed by the open front crawl events for the more senior club members. Some swimmers from the Yellow Fins club joined in with some events making for great races to the delight of the club members and the spectators alike. After the front crawl, 50m back and breaststroke races took place for the senior swimmers followed by the 100m front crawl. The last formal events were the 50m butterfly open events for females and males, where the brave Anselmo Pelembe agreed to take on the challenge of Blane Bennett and Joel Peters making for a very entertaining race.

As is the tradition, the day was concluded with a relay between mixed groups of club members. This race ramped up the competition with younger and older swimmers working together to win the bragging rights on the day. The final event for the day saw two parent-relay teams (one with Moms and the other with Dads) and an adult family team of Bennets/Pelembes competing against a junior Bennett team, a mixed Aqua Tech/Yellow Fins team and a senior boys Aqua Tech team. This turned into a surprisingly competitive race with the dads giving the senior boys some cause for worry. In the end however, youth and consistent training prevailed with the Aqua Tech senior boys' team taking the laurels.

Each club member were presented with a club t-shirt to wear whenever they represent the club in the future. At the end of the day, Soné presented four club members with trophies for consistency and improvement. Several club members had a 100% attendance rate for the year and improvement in swim times had to be taken into consideration. The junior consistency trophy went to Isabella Donovan and the senior trophy to Georgia Bennett. The most improved junior swimmer was Seth Lawrence who cut down his swim times with a staggering 10 seconds from last year's gala. In the senior category, Louie Yon made the most improvement cutting down his times on various events with 6 and 8 seconds respectively. Simon Henry was thanked for producing both the t-shirts and trophies for the event.

Soné ended off the day by thanking everyone for their team effort to make the gala a great success and encouraging all to continue training and improving to be the best swimmers they can be.


Back stroke in action


Front crawl- Senior Boys- medals


Senior Swim Squad


Young swimmers with floats- back stroke


Senior boys- front crawl start

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. May 08

- 7am - 9am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 1:30pm: St Helena Secondary School
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. May 09

- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 11pm: Northward Sounds
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Anita (Repeat)
- 5pm: In the know (repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: Out Out (repeat)

SUN. May 10

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita and Deon
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse (repeat)
- 7pm:Seventh day Adventist church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. May 11

- 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. May 12

- 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. May 13

- 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. May 14

- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 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



Let them entertain you?

Yes, thats right, let St Helena Secondary School students entertain you this Friday afternoon at 2pm.

Listen to what the kids have to say and enjoy their selection of music to keep you entertained.

So, be sure to tune in on Friday afternoon to 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 'medium'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



7th May 1945:
Germany unconditionally surrenders, bringing to an end World War 2 in Europe.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

If you are active on the internet, you will no doubt often come across some mouth-watering recipes. Some of these use very low numbers of ingredients and requires very little work – just like this week's four-ingredient treat!

Four-Ingredient Passionfruit Slice



Ingredients

- 14–16 Digestive Biscuits (roughly 250g)
- 2 x 395g cans Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1/2 cup (125ml) Passionfruit Pulp (fresh or canned)
- 3/4 cup (185ml) Fresh Lemon Juice, strained

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/160°C fan-forced. Line a 19x29cm pan with baking paper.
2. Arrange digestive biscuits to cover the base of the pan, breaking them to fit gaps.
3. Whisk together condensed milk, passionfruit pulp, and lemon juice in a bowl.
4. Pour filling over biscuits and bake for 15 minutes.
5. Refrigerate overnight until set, then slice.

For a firmer, more set filling, this can be served straight from the fridge.

THE ISLAND PULSE

The Island Pulse

Under Pressure – Record Questions Signal Rising Public Concern Ahead of Legislative Council



Councillors 1

Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

As St Helena approaches its sixth sitting of Legislative Council, this week's edition of The Island Pulse delivered more than a procedural preview - it revealed a Council increasingly compelled to press for clarity, timelines, and tangible delivery in response to mounting public concern.

Hosted by Cllr. Julie Thomas and joined by fellow elected members, the programme unpacked what lies ahead in Thursday's sitting. Yet beyond outlining the order of business, it became clear that this is not routine scrutiny. With **29 questions tabled - 21 oral and 8 written - this is one of the most extensive and deliberate exercises in accountability in recent years.**

As noted during the broadcast, the intention is to ensure "*proactive, good information is placed in the public domain.*" The scale and tone of questioning, however, signals something deeper: a need to bridge widening gaps between **policy ambition, public expectation, and visible delivery**.

A Packed Legislative Agenda

The sitting will begin with the tabling of sessional papers, including financial statements, legislative amendments, and audit strategies - documents that underpin the island's governance framework. This will be followed by an intensive question period, three motions, and an adjournment debate, with the possibility of proceedings extending into a second day.

However, it is the **question segment that will define this session**. The breadth of issues raised cuts across nearly every aspect of public life - from household affordability to national infrastructure - reflecting the lived realities being reported back to Councillors from their constituencies.

Budget Clarity and Economic Direction

A central focus is the **transition to a three-year budget framework**, a significant shift from annual settlements. While this presents an opportunity for longer-term planning, it also raises expectations for greater transparency and strategic clarity.

Cllr Dr Corinda Essex's questions aim to establish where Government stands in finalising this framework and what priorities are being set. Particular attention is given to previously discussed measures such as **child allowances and minimum wage increases**, and whether these remain active commitments.

Her stated objective is clear: "To bring us... up to speed as to precisely what points have been reached in the budget cycle and what still needs to be done."

Why this matters now:

Without a clearly articulated budget roadmap, uncertainty persists - not just for policymakers, but for households and businesses trying to plan ahead. A lack of clarity at this stage risks delaying decisions, weakening confidence, and limiting the effectiveness of any future interventions.

Cost of Living Pressures Intensify

The **rising cost of living** emerges as one of the most immediate and tangible concerns.

Cllr. Derek Thomas highlighted the burden of public transport costs, particularly for those on fixed incomes: "They are having to pay £7 to £8 out of their £85... it is a real struggle."

For individuals reliant on the Basic Island Pension or income-related benefits, this represents a significant proportion of weekly income simply to access essential services.

Proposals such as **means-tested bus passes** are being explored, but the broader issue remains: how to ensure affordability in a system where costs have increased following Government intervention.

Similarly, questions attributed to Cllr Robert Midwinter consider whether **fuel import duties should be frozen** to cushion the island from global price volatility. While current fuel stocks may delay immediate increases, the concern is forward-looking - what happens when those buffers run out?

Cllr. Ronald Coleman reinforced the urgency: "These costs are going up and up... we need to hear what Government intends to do... rather than cut [services]."

Why this matters now:

If unaddressed, rising costs risk reducing disposable income to unsustainable levels, increasing reliance on support systems, and widening inequality. The absence of clear mitigation measures could have compounding social and economic consequences.

Infrastructure, Energy, and Strategic Delivery

Questions around r**enewable energy, telecommunications, and national development projects** point to a broader concern: whether long-term ambitions are being matched by realistic delivery plans.

Cllr Julie Thomas queried whether the island remains on track to achieve its target of 80% renewable energy by 2027/28, particularly as projected costs appear to be escalating significantly: "Can we afford the implementation... and will we get to the target?"

Telecommunications negotiations, described as having "gone very quiet," further highlight concerns about limited public updates on critical infrastructure developments.

Why this matters now:

These projects are not abstract - they underpin economic growth, energy security, and connectivity. Delays or cost overruns without clear communication risk undermining both public confidence and strategic progress.

Delays, Timelines, and Delivery Gaps

A consistent thread across many questions is the absence of **clear timelines and visible progress**.

Key examples include:

- **Conservation area management plans** that were near completion but remain unfinalised
- The **National Agricultural Policy** and **Fisheries Review**, both subject to public deadlines
- **The Post-16 education review**, which has exceeded its initial timeframe

Cllr Julie Thomas emphasised the need for **"detailed roadmaps," milestones, and accountability mechanisms**.

Why this matters now:

Without defined timelines, it becomes difficult to measure progress, identify delays, or hold decision-makers accountable. This creates a perception - and potentially a reality - of stagnation.

Governance, Transparency, and Public Trust

Several Councillors raised concerns about **communication and governance practices**, suggesting that informal engagement has not yielded sufficient clarity.

Cllr Clint Beard noted: "Responses have been... very vague and minimal... without real substance."

This has led to a shift toward formal questioning as a necessary tool for obtaining definitive answers.

Additional concerns include:

- Inconsistent policies on **government property rentals**
- Lack of transparency in **job advertising and recruitment**
- Limited safeguards in **technical cooperation contracts**, potentially leading to financial loss

Why this matters now:

Effective governance relies on clarity, consistency, and openness. Where these are lacking, public trust can erode, and inefficiencies may persist unchecked.

Employment, Skills, and Workforce Stability

Employment-related questions highlight both **immediate and long-term workforce challenges**.

The delayed implementation of a **casual work scheme** - intended to provide opportunities for those on benefits - has drawn criticism, particularly given its previous success.

Cllr Denis Leo's focus on **labour**



market targets and pathways for high-achieving students into employment reflects a broader need for **structured workforce planning**.

Why this matters now:

Without clear strategies to develop, retain, and deploy talent, the island risks ongoing skills shortages and reduced capacity to deliver on key initiatives.

Health and Social Services Under Strain

Healthcare access remains a pressing issue, with reports of **extended waiting times for essential procedures**.

Cllr. Coleman raised concerns about delays of several years for certain treatments, emphasising the need for: "Affordable, essential healthcare services... with effective prevention interventions."

Why this matters now:

Delays in treatment can lead to worsening health outcomes, increased long-term costs, and reduced quality of life - making this both a social and economic priority.

A Pattern Emerges

Across all questions, a consistent pattern is evident:

- **Limited visibility of progress on key policies**
- **Unclear timelines and delivery frameworks**
- **Financial constraints influencing decision-making**
- **A growing reliance on formal mechanisms to obtain answers**

This convergence suggests that the upcoming sitting is not merely about individual issues, but about **testing the Government's ability to articulate a coherent, prioritised, and deliverable strategy**.

What Constitutes a Meaningful Response?

Implicit within the questions is a benchmark for what Councillors - and the public - expect:

- Clear **timelines and milestones**
- Defined **budget allocations**
- Identifiable **accountability and ownership**
- Measurable **outcomes and targets**

Anything less risks reinforcing existing concerns.

What to Watch For

As the session unfolds, key indicators will include:

- Whether Government presents **a clear three-year budget framework with defined priorities**
- The introduction (or absence) of **cost-of-living mitigation measures**
- Progress updates on **major infrastructure and policy reviews**
- Commitments to **improved communication and transparency**

These will shape not only the immediate debate, but public confidence in the months ahead.

Community in Action: A Positive Contrast

The programme concluded on an uplifting note, highlighting the work of the **St Helena Autism Awareness and Support Group**, whose month-long campaign culminated in inclusive forest walks.

Bringing together families and residents, the initiative combined mindful engagement with sensory-friendly activities, creating a space where participants could connect, explore, and participate at their own pace.

Attendance was strong, with around 25 participants in the quieter walk and approximately 50 in the larger event - demonstrating meaningful community engagement.

This effort stands as a powerful example of **what clear purpose, organisation, and delivery can achieve**.

While many of the issues raised during the programme point to systemic challenges, the work of the group illustrates how **focused action and inclusive thinking can produce tangible, positive outcomes**.

A Defining Moment

The forthcoming Legislative Council sitting represents more than a scheduled session - it is a **critical moment of accountability**.

The questions tabled are grounded in real concerns: affordability, access, opportunity, and delivery. The responses will need to do more than inform - they must **demonstrate direction, intent, and capability**.

Because, as reflected during the programme: **people may forget what is said - but they will remember what is done.**



Autism Forest Walk

Annual Inflation measured at 2.3%

Slight rise in rate of inflation as Stats release estimates for Quarter 1 of 2026



Inflation Chart

Liam Yon, SAMS

The latest estimate of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has been released by the St Helena Statistics Office for the first quarter of 2026 where they measure the CPI at 105.9, a small increase of 0.5% on the previous quarter and a 2.3% increase compared to a year ago.

This annual inflation rate of 2.3% was confirmed as an increase in the rate of 0.1 percentage points when compared to the rate measured in Q4 2025, which was 2.2%.

In terms of price changes over the last year, Stats reveal how "almost all groups of representative items saw their average prices rise compared to a year ago, apart from Clothing." They detail how "the highest average annual increase was in Household Energy (10.2%), which is the result of increases to the Electricity tariffs introduced in July 2025." As electricity is the highest weighted individual commodity in the current basket, Stats note how "price changes to this item have a significant impact on the overall annual inflation rate."

Alongside this, Alcohol and Tobacco increased by 4.8% during the year, driven mainly by increases in the price of tobacco and wine products, while duty rates on alcohol and tobacco imports are increased by more than the rate of inflation each year.

Continuing on, Stats reveal how annual inflation in the Food category rose by 0.2 percentage points, from 0.7% in Q4, 2025, to an estimated 0.9% in Q1, 2026. They add that "food constitutes over a third of the basket, and this change is partly due to an increase in the price of some common food items such as imported poultry and fresh fruit."

Finally, they note how "prices in the Communications category are the same as they were a year ago with the last price change to any of the representative items in this group being over a year ago, in Q3 of 2024."

In addition to these price changes over the year, Stats also looked at price changes in the UK and South Africa. "Changes in both the UK and South Africa can contribute strongly to the price index on St Helena, since the majority of goods imported are purchased in those two countries," they report. "In February 2026, annual consumer price inflation in the UK was measured at 3.0%, unchanged from January. In South Africa, annual consumer price inflation was also measured at 3.0% in February 2026, down from 3.5% in January."

Stats add that "changes in the value of the Rand compared to the Pound can have a large effect on the change in the price of goods purchased in South Africa," however noted how "during the twelve months between Q1 of 2025 and Q1 of 2026, the Pound averaged 23.2 Rand," which they state was "almost the same as the average value for the previous twelve months."

For more information and to check out the detailed data backing these latest estimates, check out the full Statistics Bulletin and datasets via the Statistics section of the SHG Website.



Food basket

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

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

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

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Preventative Health Evaluation & Impact Manager (£19,814 per annum)

The Preventative Health Evaluation & Impact Manager will contribute to enhancing the well-being of everyone in our community and support the island's prosperity by supporting efforts to strengthen the community prevention and management of chronic diseases. This role aims to enhance the processes and capabilities of the preventative health team. Key responsibilities will include designing, implementing, and assessing health improvement initiatives, along with creating impact case studies. Contact us for more information and a discussion. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Selvi Jeyaseelan on Tel No.22470 or Email: selvi.jeyaseelan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 20 May 2026
Shortlisting date: 25 May 2026
Interview date: 04 June 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

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

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

HOW TO APPLY

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

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

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

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

Senior HR Assistant (£11,604 per annum)

Here is a great opportunity to start your career in HR! Central Human Resources is seeking to recruit a motivated and enthusiastic individual to join our HR Transactional team. In this post, you will be responsible for undertaking a range of HR transactional processes to ensure the delivery of a high-quality HR service. Keys areas include recruitment and selection, processing of leavers, contractual changes and providing advice on employment related policies and procedures.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: **Sharnell Benjamin on Tel No. 22470 or Email: Sharnell.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **13 May 2026**
Shortlisting date: **15 May 2026**
Interview date: **28 May 2026**

Harbour Master & Port Manager (£26,000 per annum including market enhancement)

The Harbour Master/Port Manager role is focused on enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our community and fostering the prosperity of the island by overseeing the management of St Helena's Port, ensuring safety, efficiency and international compliance. The port and cargo management facility is part of the Islands critical national infrastructure handling over 95% of all food, fuel, equipment and general supplies to St Helena. The Harbour Master/Port Manager serves as the authoritative figure for coordinating the daily operations, management, and development of the port of Jamestown, along with any other designated harbours and landing sites, and will undertake any additional responsibilities necessary for the effective management of the position.

You know if you have succeeded if the Port continues to meet its international security obligations, is maintained to a high-standard, and continues to operate efficiently, safely and securely.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Mia Henry on Tel No. 25970 or Email@ mia.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh or Derek Henry on derek.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: **Wk. commencing 13 May 2026**
Shortlisting date: **Wk. commencing 18 May 2026**
Interview date: **Wk. commencing 25 May 2026**

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NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy
Safety & Compliance Officer

Salary for the post will range between £18,513.00 - £20,000.00 per annum; depending on qualifications and experience

Job Outline:

Responsible for planning, implementing and overseeing safety all elements of safety and compliance, through BOU Managers, in accordance with laws, regulations, standards and ethical practices as applicable to the Company in respect of environmental management and workplace health and safety, as applicable to all aspects of the Company's diverse portfolio of business interests.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have IOSH or similar Health & Safety Certification
- Have 3 – 5 years' experience in a Health & Safety / Compliance role
- Have 3 years' experience in a supervisory or management role
- Have grade C or above in English and Maths or equivalent
- Be computer literate in the use of Microsoft Applications
- Have the ability to multi-task, organise workload and meet tight deadlines
- Have excellent organisation, interpersonal & communication skills
- Be analytical and have a high degree of accuracy with attention to detail
- Be able to maintain total confidentiality within the Company
- Be experienced in data collation, analysis and able to create reports
- Ideally be knowledgeable of Food Safety practises.

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

Paul Gasteen, Chief Operating Officer via 22380 paul.gasteen@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 Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **22 May 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy
Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper

Salary for the post will commence at £11,100 per annum (£213 per week)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Bulk Fuel Installation for a Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper.

As the Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper, you will be responsible for the loading and delivery of fuels to clients and accountable for completion of documents. Provide support to the Watchkeepers as and when required, assist with general maintenance duties, fuel transfers between storage tanks and also assist with Ship-to-Shore Tanker operations.

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally be familiar with the safe loading, transportation and dispensing of fuels in bulk via Road Tanker
- Be in possession of a clean & valid drivers' licence in class J4
- Have basic competency in Maths & English
- Be able to work unsocial hours, including shift work
- Be customer focused and able to deliver excellent level of customer service
- Honest, accountable and proactive
- Be safety conscious and have Health & Safety awareness in a fuels environment
- Able to work effectively in a team environment
- Able to work to a high degree of accuracy in a within a highly structured framework and comply with established procedures
- Ideally have experience or be knowledgeable of the safe handling of fuels
- Be comfortable to work in a hazardous environment and deal with hazardous substances
- Ideally have the ability to perform general maintenance duties
- Ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling tasks

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

Mr Rico Yon, BFI Manager via 22332 bfi@helanta.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **22 May 2026.**

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- Pension Contributions
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NOTICE BOARD





Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting-Online

Saturday 09th May 2026 at 8:30am

Contact Mercy –Prayer Co-Ordinator for details-65880 or 24212

~

Praise and Worship Service
Celebrating Nurses Appreciation Day

Sunday 10th May 2026 3.00pm

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 12th May 2026

Jamestown @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Bramwell 62117)

Wednesday 13th May 2026

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

The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 7.00pm

(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

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

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 10th May 2026 - 5th Sunday after Easter		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament	St Martin
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
	Thursday 14th May	
10.00 a.m.	**Ascension Day Service SPPS**	**Cathedral**
9.00 a.m.	**Ascension Day Ser St HSS**	**St HSS**
6.30 p.m.	**Eucharist**	**Cathedral**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 10th May 2026 – 5th Sunday after Easter		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 14th May Ascesion Day	
10.00 a.m.	**Ascension Day Service PPS**	**St James**
6.30 p.m.	**Eucharist**	**St John**
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 10th May 2026 – 5th Sunday after Easter		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Thursday 14th May Ascension Day	
6.30 p.m.	**Eucharist**	**St Mark**

NOTICE BOARD

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

TIP OF THE WEEK

Fridges and freezers work more efficiently when full. Fill space in your freezer with empty boxes.

Place bottles of water in empty fridge space – the cold water will help keep the temperature down and you have the benefit of cold water to drink when you want it.

The Women's Corona Society World Wide (St Helena Branch) will be hold a fundraiser with a difference.

SPONSORED BUSY HANDS

Place "Harlyn" HTH
Date: Saturday 30 May 2026
Time: 2.30-4.30pm (2hrs only)

Keep your hands busy with crafts, sorting items, laptop work, music etc. The choice is yours for your own benefit, but all sponsor money will go to the Corona Charity.

1st 2nd & 3rd prizes will be available for those raising the most sponsor money. All participants must arrive by 2pm sharp with sponsor forms and monies so that these can be checked for eligible prize winners.

Teas/Refreshments and prize giving will take place after the event. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy an interesting afternoon in a 200yr old house.

J Patsy Flagg, Chairperson

BAPTIST CHURCH

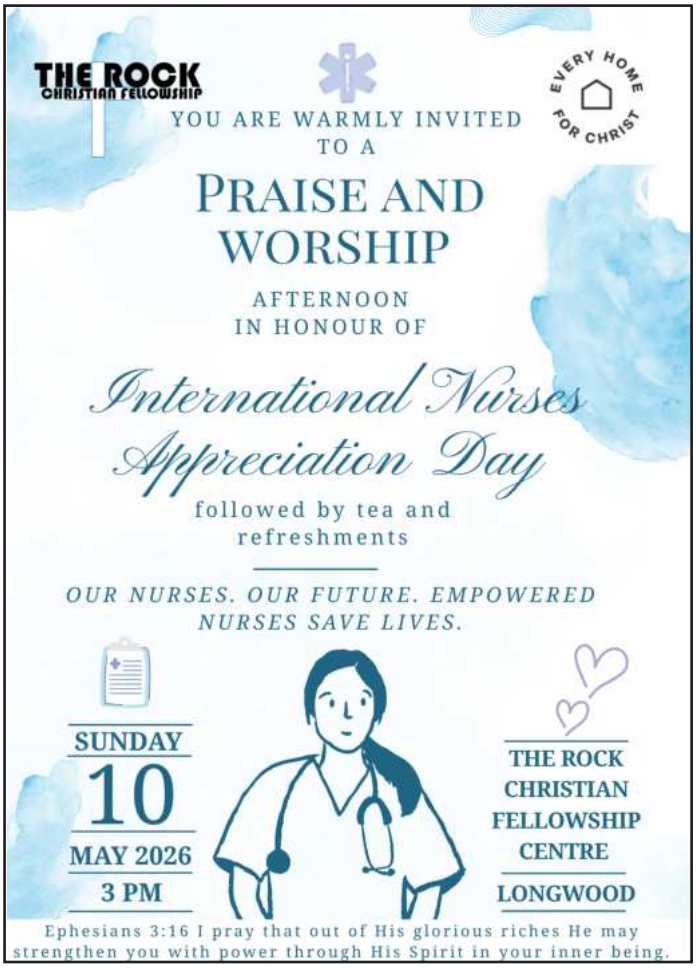
Sunday Services - 10th May
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 12th May: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 13th May:
Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 14th May: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENT
Adventure Kids: **Age 6-10 yrs old**
Saturday, 16th May:
Baptist School Hall, 10am to 11.30am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Plant Operator

Total package value up to £30,186 pa

(comprising salary up of up to £13,159.00 pa, plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

The Ascension Island Government is looking for a reliable and skilled Plant Operator to join our team, delivering essential services that support life on the island. This is a varied and hands-on role where you'll operate a wide range of heavy plant machinery to assist with a variety of tasks, while also contributing to essential stevedore and ship support duties.

What you'll do

As a Plant Operator, you'll operate and maintain a variety of plant machinery including wheeled loader (including JCB backhoe), forklift de-mountable lorry, bulldozer, road roller, cranes, tracked excavators, graders, lifting equipment, Merlo cement mixer and 6 tonne tipper truck. You'll prepare equipment for use, carry out basic servicing and minor repairs, and ensure machinery is used in a safe and effective manner. Your responsibilities will also include supporting construction and maintenance projects across the island, assisting with refuse disposal and burial services, and undertaking stevedore duties on a rotational basis, working 12-hour shifts that may include weekends. You'll be part of a team that plays a crucial role in keeping the island running smoothly.

What you'll bring

You'll have at least three years' experience operating and maintaining heavy plant machinery, with a valid clean driving licence covering classes A, B, C, D, and J. You'll be methodical, safety-conscious, and comfortable following verbal instructions with precision. Good hand-eye coordination, a strong sense of responsibility, and the ability to work well as part of a team are essential. You'll be physically fit, willing to work outdoors in all conditions, and committed to learning and adhering to AIG's health and safety standards. Above all, you'll bring a positive attitude and a willingness to contribute to the essential operations that support the island community.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £13,159.00 pa (depending on experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a two -year **accompanied** status contract and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth £2,400 pa (taxable benefit)
- An Accompanied status food allowance of £7,800 pa accompanied, or Single status £3,900 pa
- An electricity allowance worth up to £3,625 pa
- A water allowance worth £3,202 pa accompanied, or £1,921 single status
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with the shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- 30 days' annual holiday (with an additional 9 days public holidays)
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free schooling for dependant children from 4 to 16 years.
- Free annual travel insurance
- Death in Service insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Basic Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: 02 June 2026 Interviews: from week commencing 08 June 2026 (via video call if off island)
Start date: As soon as possible.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply, visit: www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/. If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

SPORTS ARENA

Golf Report

Buckley Holes the Final Shot as Tombstone Thriller Unfolds



Winner

SHCG, Contributed

Sunday, 3 May, delivered plenty of drama and laughter as 14 players took part in the unique Tombstone Competition, where every golfer quite literally carried a cross and battled on until the very last stroke.

In true Tombstone fashion, the field was gradually whittled down until only one player remained standing. That honour went to Laura Buckley, who claimed first prize in unforgettable style. With pressure at its peak, Laura's very last shot found the bottom of the cup, a perfect ending and the kind of finish golfers dream about.

Hot on her heels was Neil Joshua, who secured second place after firing a superb final shot that came to rest just inches from the pin on the 18th green. Close, but not close enough to escape the Tombstone!

The 2 Ball Pool produced its own moment of brilliance, with Gerald George cleaning up the lot after scoring the only two of the day on the tricky 5th green, proudly grabbing all the balls on offer.

Coming Up

Golfers are reminded that Sunday, 10 May, sees the 18 Hole Stableford Competition take place. Tee off at 12 noon. Registration closes on Saturday, 9 May, at 3pm, and players are urged to help the organisers by registering early.

Great golf, great company, and great stories - just another classic day on the course!

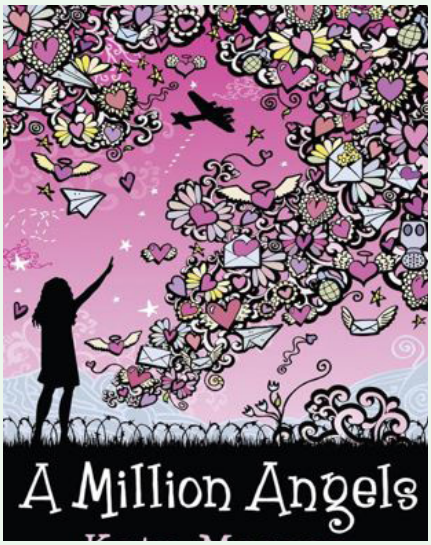
We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing you on the course.



Runner Up

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



A Million Angels by Kate Maryon

We talk about everything, Dad and me.
About all the mysteries inside of us. About all our wonderings of the world.
But tomorrow my dad goes to war. Then what will I do?"
Jemima's dad's in the Army and he's off to Afghanistan again for six whole months.
Her mum's about to have another baby and hasn't got the energy to worry about anything else.
Gran is staying to help out, but her head is filled with her own wartime memories.
So while Mima is sending Dad millions of guardian angels every night to keep him safe, who is looking out for her?

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



who would shine with the bat for Cobras, racking up twenty runs to help his team to a total of 80. A dominate bowling display would accompany a dominate batting display by Challengers with Player of the Match, Andrew Yon, smashing 63 runs to help his team to the total within just six overs, with no wickets lost.

The final match saw league leaders Levelwood Allstars take on the Western A Mustangs. Mustangs won the toss and elected to field; this decision would seem to be a wise one as they were able to dismiss Allstars openers in the first two overs. The wickets would continue to come for Mustangs, led by Gareth Johnson with three wickets for 12 runs after four overs. Amongst the chaos, it was Player of the Match, Weston Clingham, who would stand firm and produce 53 runs to help the Allstars to a respectable total of 140.

Despite Mustangs feeling satisfied with their fielding innings, Allstars took to the field and once again asserted their dominance with the ball, tearing through Mustangs batting line up. Weston was once again central to the action, taking two wickets for seven runs. Barry Stroud would make a stand for Mustangs with a knock of 39 runs, but Allstars bowling was too strong and Mustangs were bowled all out in 19 overs, with Allstars continuing their undefeated run in the tournament.

With the final games approaching next week, Allstars, Pirates and Challengers have secured their play-off spots - the attention now turns to Mustangs, Heat and Cobras to fill the final spot in this year's RMS T20 playoffs!



SPORTS ARENA



One Playoff Spot Remains

RMS T20 action heats up ahead of 2026 Playoffs

Luke Bennett, SAMS

The RMS T20 continued on Saturday with Jamestown Heat taking on the in-form Sandy Bay Pirates. Heat batted first but was hit with an excellent bowling and fielding display from Pirates. Heat would see their opening batsmen dismissed cheaply with the middle order digging deep to help steady the ship. However, Pirates bowling proved too strong and Heat was ultimately dismissed for 100.

In the field, Heat got off to a great start, dismissing the dangerous David Young for a duck. However, it was Player of the Match, Brett Isaac, who would settle the innings and, along with Sanjay Clingham, would guide Pirates to the required total after 13 overs.

The second match saw Challengers defeat Cobras to continue their pursuit of the title. Cobras would bat first but found themselves up against some intense bowling from Challengers, led by Joey Thomas with three wickets for eight runs after four overs. It was James Andrews



FIXTURES
9th May
09:00 Jamestown Heat V Western A Mustangs
13:30 Levelwood Allstars v Challengers
Umpires: Gareth Johnson and Rhys Francis
10th May
09:30 Jamestown Heat V Cobras
Umpires: Gavin Ellick and Andrew Yon
13:30 Western A Mustangs v Sandy Bay Pirates
Umpires: Weston Clingham and Brendan Leo