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"This arrangement provides an opportunity to invest in St Helena's future"





SHG agrees to extend BIOT Migrant Arrangement MOU with UK Government to April 2028, with up to £9.05m of investment being committed to St Helena



St Helena Day 2026



Photos Inside

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

What a past few days it has been with all of the events and celebrations taking place across the Island? It all started with the celebrations of our National Day, St Helena Day 2026, down at the Sea Front. There was quite a bit of chatter beforehand that because of a perceived lack of information around this year's celebrations and with other events also happening, the turnout was going to be small, or at least not as many as previous events – that couldn't have been more wrong! The turnout on the day right from the morning parade was fantastic and it is a huge credit to all involved for making sure that the vibe was right and there was plenty to do. A big well done to those involved from the St Helena Football Association and, of course, the St Helena National Trust for all of the planning leading up to the day, but also their hard work on the day itself to make sure everything went smoothly. Also, a big shoutout to the float-makers, they were amazing! I used the term 'quality over quantity' for this year's parade as though there wasn't many floats, the effort that went into them was clear and the floats were spectacular. An incredible job!

The following night and there was another great event taking place, for the first time ever, down at the Jamestown Community Centre; The Man Cave, organized by Cllr Dennis Leo and helpers. I was so disappointed not to make it to the event, but the feedback I have heard was that it was a great night for the guys to get together and just enjoy each other's company, with some friendly competition of course. Great job to Denny and the team and I look forward to the next.

Finally, what an amazing day and night it was at Rosemary Plain for the family fun day on Sunday. Brilliant turnout, so many fun things to do and get involved in, brilliant 'live' performances, and all for a great cause. A massive well done to Anthony George and his team for putting on such a spectacular event. Days like that makes me proud to be Saint and I hope there will be more to come in the near future!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the letter from Russell James aka Lucky Thomson in response to mine, and I am glad that he responded; many years ago, I criticised the then Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, in a letter to the Gibraltar Chronicle, describing an idea of his as ridiculous, to which he responded, though using more straw man arguments than ad hominem ones, unlike another letter writer, who accused me of appealing to the lunatic fringe. Consequently, I am old enough to be able to take what I dish out, as well as ugly enough; yes, on the front page of 'the other paper' dated 27 January 2023, you will see a picture of me, warts and all, but I think its readers will have recovered from the shock!

However, I stand by what I say about the need to put your head above the parapet and put your name to what you write, particularly as this relates to an issue that isn't that emotive, as well as one that relates to the UK as well as St Helena. While I concede that I was overly dismissive of what Mr James was proposing, the reality is that I have seen no shortage of constitutional proposals put forward over the decades, and those are just the ones in my lifetime; and what's more, many of these innovations are not that new. More to the point, many of those putting them forward tend to be timewasters, and those are just those who say who they are, like Gibraltar's Representation In Westminster Movement, so I am sorry if I seem so cynical and pessimistic.

Do I like the present constitutional arrangements or the way St Helena's interests are currently represented in Parliament? No, I think they are not fit for purpose. Do I wish they could be changed, instead of the can being constantly kicked down the road over decades and centuries? Yes, very much so. But unfortunately, neither the St Helena Government nor the elected members of the Legislative Council have expressed an opinion on this, despite them having ample opportunity to do so in the last Parliament, when the House of Commons had not one but two Select Committee inquiries on the Overseas Territories, in which the Falkland Islands Government and Tristan da Cunha Council made their position on Westminster representation quite clear: not wanted; not needed, no advantage.

As it happens, I was told something similar by someone in SHG ('St Helena does not support having an MP in the UK Parliament') so perhaps Mr James might like to take the issue up with them. What I found disappointing about that wasn't that it was something that SHG officials had repeatedly and publicly said in the past, but that it was simply echoing if not parroting what their counterparts in other Overseas Territories had said, not least those in the Falklands and Tristan. Unlike the fable of the boy crying wolf, in which no one believed him when he was telling the truth because he'd lied so many times before, the longer you remain silent when others are expressing their opinions, even if you agree with them, the less seriously you will be taken when you express opinions of your own.

Please rest assured, Mr James, I have never claimed to be 'pre-eminent' on this topic, and would be absolutely delighted if there were more people either in St Helena or connected with it expressing their opinions on it, and exchanging them in a public forum, just as there are in Gibraltar, if you google the names Wilfred Stagnetto and Robert Vasquez; the former, a self-confessed layman, favours Westminster representation, the latter, a King's Counsel, emphatically doesn't, though the two remain friends despite their disagreement on this. And while I am touched at your concern for my well-being, Mr James, I feel far more pity than anger towards those who have to hide behind a shroud of anonymity, indeed in this case, I feel sorrow, as you are clearly a well read individual. However, referring to Wikipedia is bad practice; it is far better to refer to authoritative sources, for example, the UN General Assembly or UK Parliament, given that Wikipedia can be edited by anyone.

Yours,

Ken Westmoreland

YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Another Little Tale of Medical Woes: Part 2

Following on from my St Patrick's Day article in March I wish to thank the various readers who have approached me with genuinely heartbreaking accounts of their own and loved one's experiences in our medical lottery. The current focus is on the worldwide reaction to the Hantavirus outbreak and the genuine, no expense spared, steps being taken to safeguard peoples' health in multiple countries. With this being the case, perhaps now is an appropriate time to highlight the medical needs of St Helena residents and shame the hidden bean counters who abuse patient's rights. I can only speak from my own experiences but would urge those who feel medically marginalised to stand up and speak out for your rights in any way open to you.

Following my last printed article, I checked in at the outpatient reception window for a routine appoint with Dr Gilbert on the 8th April. Imagine my surprise when a figure lurking in the background stepped forward and introduced himself as Dr David Hume. He asked me to accompany him to a consulting room where he commenced to treat me to a brief potted history of his recent medical accomplishments as an anaesthetist and healthcare professional. Immediately thereafter he launched into the most animated and flowery sales pitch that would have done credit to Del Boy on a good day in Peckham market. Referring frequently to the on-screen report from some South African hand specialist, that he neglected to name, I was informed that the relevant SA hand surgeons available to St Helena wanted nothing to do with my "*crumbling old bones*" and my best bet was an NHS referral to the UK. Any suggestion of a second opinion was pooh-poohed on the basis that the "*word was out*" and none of these clannish SA surgeons would contradict one another. The little matter of some seventeen hours plus in cramped airline seats while enduring discomfort and pain was also swept aside by the words "*nothing stopping you from getting up and walking about*". The only light I could see at the end of this man's particular tunnel was the possibility of a UK surgeon's second opinion being forthcoming. That hope was utterly dashed on my next meeting with Dr Hume which rapidly ended any desire to see him again. The immortal words of a true and worthy Scotsman filtered through the years "*Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive*". The amateur theatricals were indeed entertaining Del Boy but sorry, no sale.

It is with sadness that my faith in the integrity and honesty of our St Helena medical practitioners has been severely degraded. After 50+ adult years of absolute trust in doctors and surgeons from Belfast to Baghdad it saddens me that the bean counters here have managed to co-opt our contract doctors into their own hidden agenda. Is all this a figment of my imagination I hear you ask? Well actually no; my next step was to look for access to my medical records and January hand x-rays to have the ability to seek out an independent diagnosis and report. This proved far from easy as on providing clear written details of what I wanted and a brand new, sealed, USB stick I was charged £26.65 and handed the USB stick back some days later without the essential x-rays or SA hand surgeon's report downloaded. On kicking up something of a stink I was asked to provide yet another new USB stick and thanks to the tireless intervention of Gavin 'Jack' Thomas I finally obtained the requested personal medical records without the need to pay another extortionate £26.65 as demanded. I did however request to view the content of this second USB stick on a hospital computer before accepting it. Imagine my surprise to see the same alleged SA hand surgeon's report apparently in full but his name removed from the email header and base of the report. Maybe Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck had some hand in its composition but zero ability to verify the author's professional credentials or standing in the surgical community leaves me severely unimpressed.

My next decision was prompted by a concerned lady in the pharmacy staff who warned me that prolonged use of strong anti-inflammatories was detrimental to healthy liver function. Initial online research revealed a maximum of one to two weeks approved usage followed by a mandatory gap. So after over four months of continual pill popping this son of Ulster made the personal decision to come off all drugs. Please note that I in no way recommend or promote this drastic course of action for anyone else. The following five days and nights would be difficult to describe, my experienced pain levels and immediate swelling of hands and wrists with severe transmitted pain to shoulders and neck are thankfully now something of a distant memory although I still endure constant but more moderate pain in all those areas. A visit from my favourite neighbour during this period with a nice bit of fish took all my persuasion to prevent him from forcing me into his car and conveying me to hospital. We reached an understanding and he recounted to me the full story of his recent medical referral to a specialist spinal surgeon in the MediClinic hospital in Stellenbosch, Cape Town after over a year in dire need of surgical attention and a drug routine in excess of twenty tablets a day. His lottery number finally came up but he was possibly one step away from a wheelchair before surgery was organised in SA. On arrival, the operation had to be postponed as prolonged drug use had left him with a dangerously high heart rate. Post-surgery and follow up therapy his rapid recovery is testament to the cutting edge and advanced surgical skills available today in SA. His account prompted me to seek out details of reputable hand surgeons in the Cape Town area also working out of MediClinic hospitals. My story ends, for now, with my own research and the receipt of an independent diagnosis and report, based on my x-rays, from Professor Duncan McGuire. Prof McGuire is widely recognised as a leading hand surgeon with over twenty years of experience in South Africa and Australia. Compare and contrast his report with the other shameful and anonymous document which reeks of a pre-agreed agenda and was used blatantly in an attempt to misdirect and influence my thinking.

One has to wonder what happened to the £6.65 million from the BIOT migrant windfall that was earmarked to clear our medical referral backlog and what are the current plans for the next imminent tranche of similar windfall funds.

---- To be continued

Complicit doctors should be aware of the wider definition of Clinical Negligence which includes "*denying necessary treatment, provided that this denial falls below acceptable medical standards and directly causes the patient to suffer an injury or a worsening of their condition.*" Heads up guys and girls, any perceived carte blanche from the bean counters or even the AG may be worthless when the litigation solicitors file multiple clinical negligence suits with the court.

A. H. Nicolls

"This arrangement provides an opportunity to invest in St Helena's future"

SHG agrees to extend BIOT Migrant Arrangement MOU with UK Government to April 2028, with up to £9.05m of investment being committed to St Helena



Chief Minister Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks

Liam Yon, SAMS

Following a "formal request" by the UK Government to extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between St Helena Government and HMG regarding the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Migrant Agreement, which reached it's natural conclusion on 15 April this year, extensive discussions and negotiations have taken place between all parties, with SHG, on Tuesday, announcing "the successful conclusion of negotiations."

As such, they inform that an agreement has been made between the UKG and SHG "for an extension to the existing MOU relating to the British Indian Ocean Territory for a period up to April 2028." In positive news for St Helena and its ongoing development, SHG also announced that "as part of this agreement, the UKG has committed to a total investment of up to £9.05 million to St Helena."

This £9.05 million was broken down as "a one-off payment of £8 million" which SHG say "will be used to support the Government's strategic priorities and reflects UKG's continued commitment to the island's long-term sustainable development." This money will be used, according to SHG, to invest in key areas of the public service, including "improvements in health and education outcomes, as well as investment in telecommunications and renewable energy infrastructure."

Alongside this £8 million, the UKG have also agreed to "a one-off unrestricted ex-gratia payment to SHG of £250,000," which is essentially a sum of money given as a gesture of goodwill, without legal obligation or admission of liability. The term "unrestricted" means the recipient, in this case SHG, can use the funds however they choose, without any conditions on how the money is spent. SHG described this as the UKG "recognising St Helena's valued place within the British family."

Finally, included in the £9.05 million, "is up to £800,000 to strengthen preparedness for any potential future migrant arrivals," which SHG say "includes provision of appropriate accommodation, upgrades to IT systems and data protection processes, capability training for immigration officials and funding for a dedicated project manager."

One of the key requests by SHG during the initial BIOT negotiations in October 2024, by the former Ministerial Team, related to the thawing of the UK State Pension uplift for eligible residents on St Helena. Throughout the 18-month duration of the original agreement, no progress was made by the UKG on this SHG request and, as such, this also formed part of discussions when negotiating the extension of the agreement between the two Governments.

Unfortunately, SHG have informed, when announcing this MOU extension, that "the UKG has confirmed there has been no change to their policy on uplifting State pensions," essentially meaning that the request to thaw pensions for eligible residents on St Helena has been denied. This will be frustrating to those who have been waiting for nearly two years for progress on this request, with one resident commenting to The Sentinel that the lack of intention from the UKG to action this request contradicts SHG's statement

that St Helena has a "valued place within the British family."

Moving onto the newly agreed extension to the BIOT MOU, SHG confirmed that "this extension represents a continuation of the current MOU," which is available to view on the SHG website. This MOU, which was signed by the then Chief Minister, Julie Thomas, on behalf of SHG, reads that the MOU stands "for the provision of an arrangement to support the UKG's interest in the welfare of persons who may arrive in future in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) who may claim to be unable to return to their country of nationality." This essentially means, while the agreement is active, SHG have committed to accepting the transfer of any migrants arriving to BIOT who may claim asylum – with these potential migrants then being transferred to St Helena, where SHG will resume responsibility of their welfare.

During the initial 18-months of this agreement, no migrants arrived to BIOT – also referred to as Diego Garcia or the Chagos Islands – and therefore there was no need for SHG to accept any individuals to the Island under the terms of the MOU.

When announcing the extension of the agreement, SHG sought to advise that "there have been no new migrant arrivals on Diego Garcia since 2022," suggesting that the likelihood of any migrants arriving during this extended agreement remains low.

However, in the event migrants do arrive on BIOT in the future, it was made clear that "UKG and SHG will take reasonable steps to screen migrants prior to transfer to St Helena." They add that "individuals will be free to depart, but will not be permitted to remain on BIOT."

As such, "with funding from the UKG, St Helena will take responsibility for processing asylum claims in line with established procedures, providing accommodation and further support where appropriate." As detailed, SHG confirmed how "this is an extension of an existing arrangement" which they say "gives recognition to the financial and resource constraints on St Helena and ensures there will be no additional financial burden on the island."

SHG add that they remain "committed to ensuring that all arrangements are managed responsibly, with the focus on maintaining the wellbeing of the community while respecting our humanitarian obligations."

Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks MBE, who would have led on negotiations for SHG, along with her Ministerial Team, said that she was pleased with the agreement and the additional investment set to be received because of it. She did however express disappointment with regard to the denial of SHG's request in relation to the thawing of the UK State pension uplift for eligible persons on the Island.

"I am pleased that we have reached agreement with the UK Government to extend the BIOT Memorandum of Understanding; this arrangement secures up to an additional £9.05 million investment in St Helena which will help us progress important priorities that will benefit our community over the long term," commented Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks. "It is disappointing that UKG's position on pension uplift for eligible pensioners on St Helena has not changed."

The Chief Minister went on "to acknowledge the considerable work undertaken by both St Helena Government and UK Government officials in reaching this agreement," adding that she also wants "to thank our community for its patience and understanding while these complex discussions have been taking place."

To conclude, Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks stated that "above all, this arrangement provides an opportunity to invest in St Helena's future, strengthening our infrastructure, supporting the community, and helping to build a more resilient, sustainable and confident island for the years ahead."

According to SHG, details of the extension to the MOU will be published shortly. They also add that "while UKG does not anticipate that the full duration of the extension will be required, both governments have agreed that establishing a maximum timeframe provides clarity and avoids the need for further extensions," hence the agreement being made to last until April 2028, an extension to the original MOU of two years.



YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

It's tuna again
St Helena`s isn't the first tuna problem, you know.
Foreign vessels fished the Marshall Islands without permission, payment or monitoring for many years. The government asserted its territorial waters, charged for access, invested the fees in buying fishing vessels and air freight for exporting catches, began co-operation with neighbouring fished countries - and failed, for various reasons, e. g. inexperience, lack of information, lack of attention to detail (e.g., buying a vessel with a cracked hull), lack of the entrepreneurial attitude.
So, the government shifted policy, to treat foreign fishing companies as "valued and regular customers, not as targets for opportunistic plunder": sold them more flexible "vessel-fishing days", collected information, developed its fisheries management agency, strengthened co-operation with other fished countries, insisted on transhipment of catches in ports (boosting local economies), collected information and used the income and information for pilot schemes to participate in other parts of the tuna value chain and to obtain certification as a Competent Authority for EU certification and food safety.
All this is in a book called Our Oceans Promise, by Giff Johnson, a local newspaper editor there; I've offered SHG a copy for private study.
"So", I tasked the Wife, "Could St Helena pull that off?" When cornered, she turns inscrutable and quotes some ambiguous maxim of her ancestors: When we are young, we are dependent on others; as we grow, we become independent; when we acquire wisdom, we become interdependent". Also tends towards the jargon-rich in vocabulary.

Regards,

Lucky Thomson

Dear Editor,

Recent developments surrounding the extension of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) agreement between the St Helena Government (SHG) and the UK Government warrant careful public reflection - not simply because of the agreement itself, but because they highlight important questions about consistency in political standards before and after the 2025 General Election.
At the outset, I believe it is only fair to acknowledge and congratulate the current administration, officials, and negotiating teams involved in securing an extension to the existing BIOT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) until April 2028.
According to SHG's recent public statement, the agreement secures up to £9.05 million in additional support and investment for St Helena. This includes a one-off £8 million investment towards the Government's strategic priorities, including improvements in health and education outcomes, telecommunications, and renewable energy infrastructure, alongside a further unrestricted ex-gratia payment of £250,000.
The package also includes up to £800,000 towards preparedness measures connected to any potential future migrant arrivals. SHG has confirmed this funding will support accommodation provision, IT and data protection upgrades, immigration capability training, and the appointment of a dedicated project manager. Importantly, SHG has also stated that the arrangement is intended to ensure there will be no additional financial burden placed upon St Helena should future migrant contingencies arise.
At a time of continuing economic and infrastructure pressures, I sincerely hope these resources strengthen essential public services, improve national resilience, and contribute positively towards St Helena's long-term development.
I also welcome SHG's confirmation that details of the updated MOU and associated annexes will be published shortly, providing the public with greater clarity regarding the operational and financial commitments now being undertaken.
Importantly, despite the agreement now having been publicly announced by SHG, the updated MOU itself has not yet been shared with non-ministerial elected members of Legislative Council. I believe it is important that the public understands this distinction, particularly given the previous criticisms levelled regarding openness, consultation, and transparency surrounding such agreements.
As the former Chief Minister of St Helena, and now an elected Member of Legislative Council, I believe the public is entitled to consider whether some of the principles strongly promoted during the last election campaign were always realistic in practice, or whether certain criticisms were easier advanced from positions of scrutiny than sustained within executive government.
In October 2024, my Ministerial team entered a time-limited arrangement with the UK Government concerning contingency support connected to the possible arrival of future migrants associated with BIOT and the wider Chagos situation. This was an exceptionally sensitive geopolitical matter involving ongoing international negotiations, national security considerations, and the future of Diego Garcia.
In return for St Helena's cooperation, the island secured approximately £6.65 million in direct support towards strengthening essential public services, alongside additional preparedness, training, and border-management capability support connected to potential migrant contingencies.

At the time, however, elected members Andrew Turner and Karl Thrower devoted considerable effort towards publicly criticising my administration's handling of the matter. Central to those criticisms were repeated claims that Government had failed to consult adequately, had not communicated openly enough, and was operating without sufficient transparency or accountability.
Indeed, the issue became a significant political flashpoint during my tenure as Chief Minister and ultimately formed part of the broader backdrop against which Andrew Turner and Karl Thrower themselves lodged a Vote of No Confidence against me whilst I was serving in office.
Those criticisms became prominent themes during the 2025 election campaign.
While St Helena does not operate a formal party-political opposition system, many of these criticisms were advanced by elected members operating in scrutiny roles outside Executive Council and without direct ministerial responsibility for the negotiations concerned.
Mr Thrower campaigned explicitly on promises of "Better Communication", "Open Government", "Informed People", and "Stronger Democracy", while Mr Turner repeatedly promoted themes centred around openness, inclusion, accountability, and ensuring govern-

ance reflected "12 people" contributing collectively rather than "5 and 7 each doing their own thing".
Most notably, in a jointly published letter to The Sentinel in September 2025, both Mr Turner and Mr Thrower publicly stated that any future Chief Minister should commit to:
• Opening Executive Council meetings wherever possible;
• Ensuring wider access to information and decisions;
• Restoring public briefings; and
• Preventing collective responsibility from being used to unnecessarily limit scrutiny.
They described these as the "minimum standards of openness and accountability" expected of leadership.
Current Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks - although not a member of Legislative Council during my administration - also campaigned strongly on the importance of improved communication, openness, transparency, and a more publicly engaged style of governance.
Against that political backdrop, the handling of the BIOT issue during my administration was repeatedly portrayed publicly as evidence of secrecy and poor governance.
Fast forward to May 2026.
The current administration has now itself agreed to extend the existing BIOT arrangement. Importantly, SHG's own public statement confirms that this extension represents "**a continuation of the current MOU**" negotiated under my administration.
In practical and procedural terms, the process followed appears materially similar to that previously adopted by my government - namely, sensitive negotiations conducted under necessary confidentiality constraints, with wider political and public disclosure occurring only once agreements had substantially progressed or been concluded.
Indeed, elected members were informed only after agreements had effectively been reached, with wider public disclosure following thereafter.
That reality is politically significant.
The same agreement framework once publicly criticised as evidence of poor governance, insufficient openness, and flawed decision-making has now been retained, extended, and relied upon by the current administration as the basis for securing a further £9.05 million package of support and investment from the UK Government.
The current administration has therefore not dismantled or replaced the arrangement so heavily criticised during scrutiny but instead chosen to continue and expand it until at least April 2028.
That contrast is difficult to ignore.
It also illustrates a broader reality of government: negotiations involving the UK Government, BIOT, international obligations, and sensitive migration contingencies inevitably require a degree of confidentiality while discussions remain ongoing. Responsible governments cannot always conduct delicate negotiations through live political commentary or fully public processes in real time.
That was true in 2024, and it remains true today.
Scrutiny by non-ministerial elected members is both necessary and healthy within St Helena's ministerial system of government. Under the current constitutional arrangement, seven elected members primarily undertake scrutiny, oversight, and representative functions, while the Chief Minister and four Ministers carry executive responsibility through Executive Council.
Those are fundamentally different responsibilities.
It is naturally easier to advocate for absolute openness when not carrying direct ministerial responsibility for sensitive negotiations, national interests, international obligations, and the practical consequences attached to difficult decisions.
Indeed, many of the principles prominently promoted during the election campaign now appear considerably more difficult to operationalise in government than was perhaps suggested at the time.
The public is therefore entitled to ask whether some of the criticisms advanced so forcefully during the election period reflected genuine objections to the arrangement itself, or whether they were criticisms more easily advanced from positions outside Executive Council than sustained once carrying ministerial responsibility.
This letter is not written out of bitterness, nor to inflame political division. Accountability matters. Transparency matters. Scrutiny matters. But those standards must be applied consistently to every administration, not simply when politically convenient.
The people of St Helena deserve consistency in political standards and honesty about the realities of governing - not one standard applied during scrutiny and another once responsibility for government is assumed.
Whether individuals ultimately agreed with the original BIOT arrangement or not, I believe it should now at least be acknowledged that those who criticised the process most strongly have themselves adopted materially similar approaches once confronted with the realities and responsibilities of government.

That deserves fair and honest recognition.
Yours sincerely,

Julie Thomas
Member of Legislative Council
Former Chief Minister of St Helena

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TIP OF THE WEEK
Pre-heat for a maximum of 10 minutes.
When the oven is in use, avoid opening the door unnecessarily. Every time you do, the temperature drops by around 15°c and takes a lot of energy to get back up to full temperature.

Crown Land to be "used more reasonably"



SHG requests members of the public to "remove all materials, spoil and aggregate" stored at the Guns at Ladder Hill by 30 June as they announce a change in approach to the use of Crown Land on the Island

Liam Yon, SAMS

In a recent public notice, St Helena Government's Crown Estates Office advised that they are changing their approach regarding the use of Crown land; particularly the current use of Crown land for storage.

"Historically, some areas of Crown land were used for the temporary storage of excavated soil, gravel and stone and construction materials," they noted. "Going forward, any such use will require prior approval from Crown Estates, along with the necessary planning permission, regardless of whether it is intended to be temporary."

According to SHG, this change in approach "is to ensure that land is properly managed and protected, and to reduce the likelihood of temporary arrangements becoming permanent."

With that said, SHG then turned their attention to a specific piece of Crown Land; the Guns at Ladder Hill, which they described as "an immediate concern." This, they say, is due to the current storage of materials, including gravel, stone and a container, at the site. "Members of the public are therefore requested to remove all materials, spoil and aggregate as soon as possible, and no later than 30th June 2026," they assert.

They continue by adding that the removal of this stored material "is particularly important as improvement works are planned for the site, including upgrades to the tennis court and repainting of the Guns." Due to these works, SHG note how "clearing the surrounding environment is essential to support these works and to enhance the overall appearance of the area."

Additionally, SHG inform that access to the Guns at Ladder Hill will also be reviewed. "Multiple padlocks are currently on the site gates, but future access will be restricted to essential stakeholders only, with controlled key management in place," they said.

To conclude, the Crown Estates Office said that they "appreciate the public's cooperation in ensuring that the area is cleared promptly and that Crown land is used more responsibly."



Wills Aid

Supporting Charity on St Helena



Public Solicitor Office, Contributed

Wills Aid has been running in England and Wales since 1988 and was adopted on St Helena in 2017. Wills Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and charity. The idea is that, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, clients are invited to make a donation to charity for the cost of the will.

The Public Solicitor Office has nominated New Horizons Youth Club over the past 12 months and are pleased to have donated £1,000 to this worthy organisation.

For the current financial year, the Public Solicitor Office has nominated Island Minds Foundation as the charity of the year.

When will we 'meat' again?

Prohibition continues for meat and dairy imports from South Africa



Donna Crowie, SAMS

The ban of meat and dairy products to St Helena from South Africa is still in place following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth (F&M) disease in SA earlier this year.

It was back in March when the St Helena Resilience forum discussed the veterinary risk for St Helena and how to protect the Islands livestock.

Executive Council thus approved "the prohibition on the importation of live animals and their germplasm and meat products and dairy products from cloven-hoofed animals originating from South Africa," where they add that they "are applying the precautionary principle to protect St Helena." It was however emphasised that "the ban does not include tinned meats which are normally treated and sterilised, and UHT boxed milk."

Since 10 March, there have been no meat or dairy products, which falls under the current prohibition notice, imported to the island by air or sea.

Additionally, since the end of February, the Environment Natural Resources and Planning portfolio have put in place footwear cleaning biosecurity measures for incoming passengers to St Helena at the Airport.

Two months on and the ban on meat and dairy products remains in place, with the Portfolio Director of Environment Natural Resources and Planning, Darren Duncan, informing The Sentinel that discussions with the Island's Senior Veterinary Officer has indicated that the situation in South Africa with respect to F&M disease has not changed and so, at this time, the current prohibitions remain in place.

Darren went on to add that "SHG is currently revisiting the prohibition on dairy products imported from SA to determine if amendment is necessary to permit the import of products that are heated and processed to a point where they are considered low to no risk of carrying and transferring F&M disease."



It's Playtime!

Positive update on Playgrounds Project with Longwood fully complete and Half Tree Hollow progressing well



Liam Yon, SAMS

Significant progress has been made to the ongoing Playgrounds Project in Half Tree Hollow, funded by the UK through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

As informed by St Helena Government last week, most of the newly installed facilities was made ready for use by the public in time for St Helena Day thanks to the work of AC's Multi-skill Contractors, assisted by HM Prison, who SHG said "have been diligently working, in all weather conditions, to timely install the equipment."

As such, there a now a number of new features available at the HTH Playground.

The upper terrace of the playground now features brand-new playground equipment, with a dedicated children's outdoor gym on the middle terrace. "For maximum safety, all



equipment on the upper terrace is fitted with high-quality Grasslok safety surfacing beneath," added SHG.

In addition, inclusive and flat-seat swing frames, alongside a robust climbing frame, have been installed over a synthetic grass soft surface.

The final part to the project at Half Tree Hollow will be to complete the installation of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). In terms of the progress on this, SHG revealed how "court markings have been successfully laid out on the existing hard surface," adding that "to complete the court, specialised MUGA ends, featuring built-in goals, basketball and netball hoops, rebound panels, and gated wheelchair access, will be installed in the coming weeks."

While the main focus of the update related to the Half Tree Hollow Playground, it was also announced that "Longwood Green Playground is now fully complete," and "features a large timber climbing structure with a protective Grasslok soft surface underneath, alongside various other newly installed play equipment."

This Playgrounds Project was welcomed by the community when announced and it is hoped they will become popular and well-used facilities for Island children to use, though SHG says that keeping the renovated playgrounds looked after will be the responsibility of all. "To ensure these facilities stay in top condition for years to come, we kindly ask for your help in looking after them," they concluded. "The continued support and cooperation of the community is appreciated."











ST HELENA DAY PHOTO SPECIAL

See photographs from St Helena Day 2026 taken and kindly provided to The Sentinel by Craig Williams of CKW Photography - The Adventures

















"We're really pleased with the level of engagement"

Over 1500 MMR Vaccinations administered so far, with more clinics to follow



Donna Crowie, SAMS

Vaccination clinics for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) are continuing on the Island with the last clinic for patients to receive their first does of the vaccine taking place this week.

As of Wednesday, 20 May, over 1500 people have been vaccinated since the start of the MMR vaccination clinics in April, as revealed by Dr Jake from the Health Portfolio on SAMS Radio 1.

"The really good news is that, up to now, we've administered 1,542 doses of the MMR vaccine to residents of the island," he said. "That's over a third of the population of the island, so that is an absolutely tremendous effort from everybody involved. I make special mention to two of our nurses, Cheryl Bedwell and Sarah Newman-Leo, who have absolutely spearheaded that programme."

With a large number of vaccines having been administered already, Dr Jake noted how the first phase of that campaign is now nearing its end. "The first phase meaning all of our scheduled clinics to deliver the first dose of this vaccination," he said. "It's a two-dose schedule, which is the important point, and then again there'll be another sort of what we call a mop-up clinic for that first phase."

The last clinic of the first phase is being held today, Thursday 28 May, at the Jamestown Community Centre from 11am to 3pm.

Dr Jake then turned his attention to the second phase of the MMR vaccination programme. "The second phase, which is mostly looking at getting the second dose into people's arms, that schedule will be released via press release and of course we'll share that with you as well in the very near future," he revealed. "Of course, it's just worth saying that if people don't manage to get their first dose within this initial phase, they can of course attend any of the other clinics that are running for their first dose. So we have doses of the vaccine, it's going to be available to people, it's free of charge and it's going to afford the island a brilliant level of protection against any possible introductions of these three viruses."

Individuals who want to receive their second dose are being advised to ensure that at least 28 days have passed since receiving the first vaccination. As stated by Dr Jake, further vaccination clinics will be held soon, mostly aimed at those who require there second dose. As has been the case since the start of MMR vaccination clinic, Health are encouraging individuals "to attend the session most convenient for them" noting how "vaccination is an important step in protecting yourself and helping to safeguard the wider community."

"Thanks to everybody that's been involved in that campaign; we're really pleased with the level of engagement we've had from the community so far and we need people to now come and look out for their clinics for their second dose," concluded Dr Jake.









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 29

- 7am - 9am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 2pm: Sweepstake Draw
- 3-5pm: Happy Days with Olivia
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. May 30

- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 11-1pm: Happy Days with Olivia
- 11pm: Northward Sounds (Repeat)
- 3:30-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 5pm: In the know (Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: OUT! OUT! with Liam (Repeat)

SUN. May 31

- 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: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. June 01

- 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. June 02

- 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 27

- 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 28

- 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





Olivia is back!

This Friday Olivia will once again bring a youthful perspective on music to keep you entertained and your feet tapping.

Let the beat and bright tunes get you in the mood for the weekend as you enjoy her selection of music on 'Happy Days'.

Only on SAMS Radio 1, this Friday at 3pm.

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

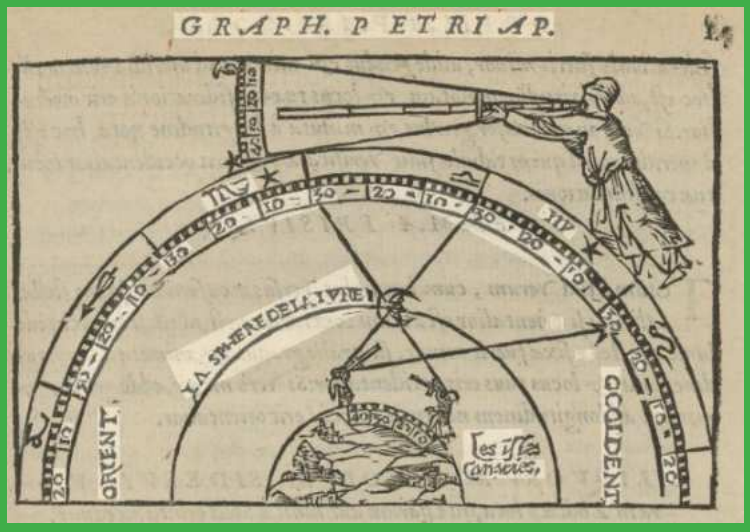
This week's difficulty is 'Easy'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



28th May 1761: Nevil Maskelyne sets up an observatory to observe the Transit of Venus. However, bad weather prevents any useful observations. Instead Maskelyne uses his journey to develop a method of determining longitude using the position of the moon, which becomes known as the 'lunar distance method'. (sainthelenaisland.info)

A few shops have been stocked with a variety of EasiYo Yoghurt mix (ideal now as no yoghurts are being imported to the island). So, why not try out a recipe using EasiYo?

Yogurt Drops



Ingredients

Passionfruit Drops
- ½ cup EasiYo Greek Style Passionfruit Yogurt
- 1 tsp Passionfruit Topping

Banana Flavour Drops
- ½ cup EasiYo Banana Yogurt

Raspberry Drops
- ½ cup EasiYo Raspberry Yogurt
- 6-8 Freeze dried raspberries, crushed

Blueberry Flavour Drops
- ½ cup EasiYo Greek Style Blueberry Yogurt

Method

1. Line a medium tray with baking paper and place in the freezer.
2. Mix the freeze-dried raspberries with the Raspberry yogurt.
3. Spoon the four different flavours into 4 different piping bags fitted with a small nozzle.
4. Pipe small dots into the frozen tray.
5. Add the passionfruit topping to the passionfruit drops. Quickly return to the freezer.
6. Freeze for 2-3 hours.
7. When ready to serve, place the serving bowls in the freezer for 10 mins.
8. Use a small spatula to lift the yogurt drops off the paper into the frozen bowls. Serve immediately.

Note: Mix up the flavours with your favourite EasiYo flavours

All About the Chemistry

Situation "has improved" says Minister Henry after issues with chemical supplies for lab tests and with Radiography services back to full compliment



Donna Crowie, SAMS

St Helena's Health Portfolio continues to face numerous challenges relating to the procurement of medical supplies. However, this does not just relate to medications, but also critical medical and laboratory supplies, including certain chemicals required to perform specific biochemistry tests.

Many residents over the past few weeks will have noticed how not all blood results were being received. This prompted The Sentinel to reach out to Minister of Health, Martin Henry, who explained the issues behind the recent challenges at the General Hospital.

"The issue relates to reagents (the chemicals used to perform biochemistry tests)," he explained. "Over the past few weeks, there have been significant delays in receiving essential reagents, largely due to supply chain disruptions and transport challenges, which relate to international pressures on the supply routes and a shipment being delayed in OR Tambo."

With that said, the Minister was pleased to report that "this situation, as it stands, has improved and most reagents have been successfully sourced and delivered," adding that "the laboratory can now restore nearly all of its available services." He did note how "one remaining reagent (sodium) is still not with us, but should be on this (last) weekend's flight."

A few patients shared their frustrations with The Sentinel about not receiving results from their blood works, but there was also concern at the cost that comes with having to retake blood samples once the chemical is then available for the necessary tests to be done.

Another concerning shortage in Health recently has been with regard to personnel, namely a Radiographer. One of St Helena's Radiographers departed the island for overseas leave for a total of seven weeks, and during his absence, ultrasound services had ceased.

"All other imaging services continued during this period, as they can be performed by another radiographer - however a small reduction in service might have also been because of one member on normal annual leave," it was explained.

"Now that our Radiographer has returned from overseas leave, and few, it not all, chemicals are received, it is hoped that the patients affected will receive the results and tests they need," Health concluded.

Thanks!!

The Chapel Warden, Sidespersons and Members of St Peters Church would like to thank all who gave so generously towards the raffle and stall & also those who supported on 21 May 2026 (St Helena's Day).

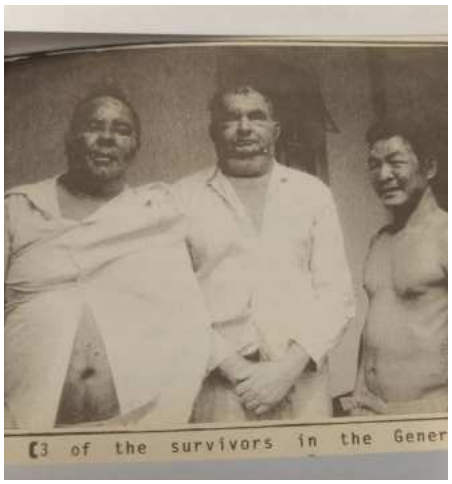
Your generosity is very much appreciated. The total amount raised was £832.00.

Raffles Prize Winners are as follows:

1st - Food hamper – Helen George – Ticket No.277
2nd – Drinks Hamper – Rebecca Cairnswicks–Ticket No 366
3rd – Vegetable Hamper – Garry Henry – Ticket No 448
4th – 1 Burner Hob – Joyce Buckley - Ticket No 416
5th – Electric Kettle – Connor Knipe - Ticket No 341
6th - Toaster – Raymond G Yon - Ticket No 294
7th – Frying Pan – Mark Coleman - Ticket No 230
8th – Bunch Bananas – Freddie Brown - Ticket No 268
9th – 5pc Bowl Set – Joshua Family - Ticket No 337
10th – Curtains – Rosemary Mittens - Ticket No 387
11th – Place Mats & Coasters – Delia Allen -Ticket No 335
12th – Electric Whisk – Helene Williams - Ticket No 241
13th – 4pc Food boxes – Titch Fowler - Ticket No 329
14th – Photo Frame – Dinah Fowler - Ticket No 331
15th – 3pc Bath Set – Helene Williams - Ticket No 31
16th – 2pc Bath Set – Rita John - Ticket No 298

Haven for Distressed Seafarers in the South Atlantic

Loss of ABT Summer, 470 Miles East of St Helena



Cyril Gunnell, Contributed

The arrival of Bulk Carrier, MV Antipaxos on 6 May 2026, seeking medical attention for one of its crew members, was a reminder of the very important and humanitarian role that our island plays supporting seafarers. There are many previous instances of this, but one that always comes to mind is 19 survivors of the ABT Summer, coming ashore at the wharf landing steps following the explosion of this oil tanker, of the coast of Angola in May 1991.

St Helena, isolated in the world's second largest ocean, the South Atlantic, is a welcome sight for distressed seafarers, whether they are torpedoed while travelling from one country to another, their yacht has lost its rudder, they are injured on a fishing vessel and need a fish hook removed, or their oil tanker has exploded and they are forced to abandon ship. Whatever the reason, St Helena willingly assumes its role as the South Atlantic's haven for all those who reach her shores.

On Wednesday, 29 May 1991, the 9,070 gross tonne refrigeration vessel, Amer Himalaya, having taken part in a coordinated rescue response arrived in James Bay with 19 survivors of the oil tanker ABT Summer that exploded approximately 470 miles east of St Helena. Survivors were in the sea for several hours swimming away from burning oil before they were rescued.

ABT Summer was built in South Korea and launched in 1974. The vessel was 344 metres long and almost 82 metres wide. Travelling under a Liberian flag, on Tuesday, 28 May 1991, at around 10am, the Saudi Arabian oil tanker, while en route from the Gulf Terminal at Kharg Island, Iran to Rotterdam, experienced an explosion and a fire, approximately 900 miles of the coast of Angola. Reports say the vessel was fully laden with a cargo of 260,000 of Iranian heavy crude oil.

A large slick, covering an area of 80 square miles spread around the tanker and burned fiercely. An estimated 51 to 81 million gallons of oil sank or burned. The spill was recorded as one of the world's 10 largest. However, as the incident occurred very far off-shore, most of the oil was expected to be broken up by high seas with little or no environmental impact.

There was a coordinated response involving ships, a plane from the South African Air force and two tug boats, which attempted to extinguish the fire but without success. ABT Summer remained ablaze for three days before she sank on 1 June 1991. The reason for the explosion was unexplained and subsequent efforts to locate the wreckage were unsuccessful.

ABT Summer carried 32 crew members, out of which 27 were rescued and five died as a result of the incident. After their lifeboat became unsafe, the men jumped overboard to escape the encroaching flames.

One of the rescue ships, MV Amer Himalaya, was on a northbound passage to the UK. Himalaya delayed her voyage to deliver the 19 men she had rescued 470 miles east of St Helena; St Helena was the nearest port for her. Other ships picked up the remaining survivors.

At the wharf in Jamestown, several policemen, two ambulances, a medical team led by Dr Stephenson, and a crowd of at least 300 curious onlookers, gathered to welcome the survivors who were of mixed nationality. One of the first three to come ashore was carried on a stretcher; they all looked badly burned on their faces and arms.

"They are suffering from first or second degree burns, but nothing too serious; they should heal in a few weeks," said Dr Stephenson to the St Helena News after examining the injured men. "They seemed remarkably calm and relaxed; one of them wanted his photograph taken," he added. The Norwegian, a Briton and a Philippine were taken straight to the General Hospital for treatment.

The Singaporean Captain and the rest of his crew; a Norwegian, a Swede, a Thai and 12 more Philippines showed no sign of injuries but looked weary and bedraggled as they climbed the landing steps and into a police van. Having lost all of their personal possessions and most of their clothes, some were wrapped in sheets and blankets. Others wore clothes provided by their rescuers, and most of them were barefoot. These sailors were taken to the Consulate Hotel and Wellington House for their first night's rest on dry land.

The St Helena Herald later published a letter from the President of Arabian Bulk Trade Limited written to His Excellency the Governor on behalf of the owners of ABT Summer, wishing to express, "our utmost appreciation for the assistance and cooperation you have extended to our crew, and for all you have exerted and provided to their stay and eventual repatriation, who during these periods were still in a state of distress and shock." "Your humanitarian gestures and invaluable assistance made it easier for our crew to cope with their traumatic experience."



The Island Pulse

Unpacking Utility Challenges, Government Frustrations and the Push for Greater Transparency



Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

This week's edition of The Island Pulse delivered one of the programme's most extensive and candid discussions to date, focusing on two major themes currently dominating public discourse on St Helena - the recent electricity disruptions affecting the island and growing frustrations surrounding governance, communication and decision-making within government.

Hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas in her role as Communications Champion for the seven non-ministerial elected members, the programme first welcomed the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Connect St Helena Ltd, Roeland van der Hoeven, before transitioning into a wide-ranging discussion among Councillors about the recent adjournment debate held during the Sixth Meeting of Legislative Council.

Throughout the programme, Councillors repeatedly returned to several recurring themes: the need for stronger communication, improved collaboration between elected members and ministers, clearer strategic direction, and more proactive governance.

The programme opened with Councillor Julie Thomas welcoming listeners and outlining the significance of the discussions ahead. She described the show as a platform for openness and accountability, emphasising that community feedback remained central to understanding public priorities and improving decision-making.

Before proceedings began, she acknowledged the absence of Councillors Corinda Essex and Derek Thomas, who were attending a family funeral.

New CSH CEO outlines practical vision for utilities

The first half of the programme centred on an in-depth interview with Roeland van der Hoeven, who recently assumed leadership of Connect St Helena (CSH). Originally from the Netherlands, van der Hoeven explained that he has spent more than two decades working internationally in leadership roles across infrastructure, telecommunications, finance and operational services, particularly within island and remote environments where resilience and reliability are critical. Much of his recent experience was gained throughout the Caribbean, where he worked across multiple territories over a 12-year period.

He told listeners that since arriving on St Helena, he had been impressed by both the dedication of Connect staff and the welcoming nature of the wider community.

When discussing his early assessment of CSH, van der Hoeven made it clear that he did not believe the organisation required a complete strategic overhaul. Instead, he argued that the key challenge lay in translating existing ambitions into practical delivery.

According to van der Hoeven, CSH already possesses clear strategic priorities centred around reliability, sustainability, affordability and community service. However, he stated that the organisation now needed to focus more heavily on execution, prioritisation and consistent delivery.

He repeatedly stressed the importance of moving away from broad ambitions toward realistic, deliverable projects supported by sustainable funding arrangements.

Among the key operational priorities he identified were:

·Improving electricity reliability and reducing avoidable outages by investing in better monitoring systems and preventative maintenance;

·Reducing water losses and strengthening preventative maintenance programmes across the island's ageing water infrastructure;

·Improving wastewater performance to better protect public health and the environment;

·Expanding renewable energy generation in phased and manageable stages that can realistically attract funding;

·Introducing smarter systems to improve fault detection and operational response times.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the concept of "smart grids" and modern monitoring systems for electricity infrastructure.

Van der Hoeven explained that one of the major current limitations facing the electricity network is the inability to quickly locate faults when outages occur. In many cases, staff are forced to physically inspect long stretches of network infrastructure, often during the night, to locate damaged cables, transformers or vegetation interference.

He argued that investment in smart monitoring systems would dramatically improve response times by immediately identifying where faults occur and warning operators when equipment is deteriorating before failures happen.

Using the recent transformer failure in Deadwood as an example, van der Hoeven revealed that residents had reportedly noticed warning signs, including unusual noises and sparking, for approximately two weeks prior to the failure. A smarter monitoring system, he suggested, could have identified the developing fault earlier and allowed preventative action to be taken before the transformer failed completely.

Water losses and public perception

Councillor Robert Midwinter raised concerns about public misunderstanding surrounding non-revenue water (NRW), noting that many residents incorrectly assume that all water losses result from leaks in underground pipes.

Van der Hoeven clarified that NRW also includes water used for operational purposes such as firefighting and hydrant testing, where no direct billing occurs. He noted that the Fire Section's testing of hydrants around the island would naturally increase NRW figures despite the water being used for legiti-

mate public safety purposes.
He revealed that current estimates place St Helena's non-revenue water at approximately 48%, though he stressed that this figure must be understood within proper context. He explained that the financial cost associated with NRW largely relates to the cost of treating water rather than the water itself, estimating the variable cost at roughly £150,000 annually.
Importantly, he argued that St Helena's geography and infrastructure create unavoidable challenges. Compared to the UK, where water mains average approximately 15 metres per customer, St Helena averages over 100 metres per customer, increasing the likelihood of leakage across the network.
Van der Hoeven also discussed new leak detection equipment recently purchased by Connect St Helena, which allows staff to identify smaller underground leaks before they become major failures. Additional technologies involving gas detection systems are also reportedly being explored.
Councillor Denis Leo questioned how effective the new detection equipment had proven so far, with van der Hoeven confirming that staff had already begun using the technology in areas known to experience frequent leaks.

Wastewater infrastructure and long-term planning

The programme also examined ongoing wastewater and sewerage challenges.
Councillor Midwinter highlighted frustrations frequently experienced by residents when responsibility for sewerage-related issues becomes disputed between government and Connect St Helena.
Van der Hoeven acknowledged that clearer agreements and responsibilities were needed moving forward, particularly given the complex financial relationship between Connect St Helena and the government.
Discussion then turned to infrastructure at Rupert's Valley and the underutilisation of the sewerage system servicing the area. Midwinter argued that greater investment should have been made earlier to connect more households to the system, potentially avoiding ongoing operational inefficiencies and maintenance costs.
Van der Hoeven stated that the current wastewater situation across the island remains problematic, noting that roughly half of customers rely on cesspits while much of the island's untreated waste ultimately discharges directly into the sea.
He explained that additional treatment facilities would eventually be required to properly modernise the island's wastewater infrastructure and reduce environmental impacts. However, he acknowledged the significant costs involved in connecting private properties to sewerage systems, estimating that connections could range from £2,000 to £6,000 per property depending on location and infrastructure requirements.


Roeland van der Hoeven

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

Staffing pressures and electricity outages

The recent island-wide electricity disruptions formed another major part of the interview.
Councillor Midwinter praised the efforts of Connect St Helena, SURE and the wider Resilience Forum in restoring services during the outages, while also relaying public concerns about how multiple failures appeared to occur simultaneously across different areas of the island.
Van der Hoeven explained that five separate and unrelated incidents occurred over a short period, including underground cable failures, blown transformers, fuse failures and vegetation interference.
He acknowledged shortcomings in communication and response coordination during some of the incidents but emphasised that many of the delays stemmed from limitations in current infrastructure and staffing.
One example he cited involved a fault caused by a tree branch on a power line, where staff spent hours attempting to locate the issue manually at night using flashlights because no automated fault location system currently exists.
He also revealed that approximately 29% of electrical faults recorded since January had been caused by vegetation growing into power lines. Currently, only three individuals are responsible for clearing vegetation across the entire network.
Councillor Clint Beard praised van der Hoeven's openness and proactive approach, noting that more detailed operational information had been shared during the short interview than had sometimes been available previously.
He also supported the CEO's emphasis on smaller, manageable projects rather than attempting to pursue overly ambitious initiatives without realistic funding.
A particularly notable moment came when van der Hoeven compared St Helena's staffing levels with those of Montserrat. He explained that Montserrat, which operates a comparable electricity network across an easier terrain, employs approximately 42 operational electricity staff compared with St Helena's 27. The comparison was used to illustrate the pressures currently placed on the island's smaller operational teams, particularly during emergencies and major outages.
Staffing challenges within the electrical department were also discussed. Van der Hoeven acknowledged that the island effectively has only one core high-voltage response team, limiting resilience during major incidents or staff absences.
However, he confirmed that apprenticeship schemes are already operating within CSH and that expanding local training opportunities remains a priority. He highlighted that two linesmen and one lineswoman currently working within the organisation had all progressed through apprenticeship pathways.

Praise for emergency collaboration

Before concluding the interview, van der Hoeven singled out the island's emergency coordination response for praise.
He described himself as highly impressed by the speed at which the St Helena Resilience Forum had been assembled during the outages, along with the regular communication and collaboration between agencies.
Drawing on his extensive international experience, he remarked that he had rarely witnessed such joined-up leadership and community-focused cooperation.
The interview concluded on a lighter note when Councillor Denis Leo suggested the possibility of expanding untreated "raw water" supplies into Half Tree Hollow to support gardening and food production.
Van der Hoeven acknowledged there may be opportunities involving boreholes and groundwater rejuvenation projects, though he cautioned that more technical assessment would be required to determine whether such solutions would be practical for Half Tree Hollow specifically.

Councillors voice frustrations over governance and communication

The second half of the programme

THE ISLAND PULSE

shifted focus toward the recent Legislative Council adjournment debate, with Councillors reflecting on both their own contributions and the responses they received from Ministers.

A recurring observation from multiple Councillors was the striking similarity between the issues raised independently by each member - despite no prior coordination.

Councillor Midwinter said this demonstrated that elected members were consistently hearing the same concerns from communities across the island.

Among the concerns raised during the discussion were:

- Delays in decision-making and implementation, with Councillors arguing that many important projects remain stuck in discussion phases without visible progress;
- Lack of communication between Ministers and Councillors, resulting in elected members often learning important developments for the first time during public sittings;
- Frustrations surrounding the budget process and uncertainty over government priorities despite the financial year already progressing;
- Rising living costs and fuel prices, particularly concerns about future electricity costs and the wider economic pressures facing households;
- Food security concerns linked to shipping reliability, farming challenges and global supply chain instability;
- Limited progress on infrastructure projects including wastewater systems, housing and renewable energy initiatives;
- Insufficient involvement of Councillors in strategic discussions and resilience planning;
- Concerns over government transparency and whether the public is receiving consistent and complete information.

Midwinter expressed concern that despite budget discussions approaching, Councillors still lacked clarity on overall government strategy and priorities eight months into the current administration.

He argued that government appeared increasingly reactive rather than proactive and questioned why elected Councillors were not more involved in ongoing discussions shaping future policies and budgets. He also criticised what he viewed as avoidable failures surrounding fish histamine issues, vessel regulations and the lack of updates regarding the BIOT negotiations.

Importantly, Midwinter challenged comments made by Minister Karl Thrower during the adjournment debate suggesting Councillors had failed to raise ideas for economic growth and revenue generation.

He pointed out that his own contribution specifically referenced tourism opportunities created through niche events such as open water swimming competitions and Napoleonic tourism, which he argued could help extend St Helena's tourism season and stimulate economic activity.

"We are stuck"

Councillor Denis Leo described feeling deflated during the adjournment debate after learning that the Chief Minister would need to leave early for another meeting.

Although he acknowledged the external meeting may have been important, he questioned the value of an adjournment debate if the Chief Minister could not remain present to hear members' contributions.

Leo also voiced frustration about what he perceived as a lack of inclusion for non-ministerial Councillors, particularly regarding resilience planning and policy development.

"*We are stuck*," he stated plainly during the programme, citing delays affecting fisheries, agriculture and wider development.

Councillor Ronald Coleman echoed many of those frustrations, focusing particularly on the island's vulnerability to global disruptions affecting shipping, aviation fuel and supply chains.

He raised concerns about food shortages, rising fuel costs, renewable energy development, housing challenges and the absence of meaningful updates on several major projects.

Coleman also questioned whether sufficient planning was underway to protect St Helena from worsening international supply chain disruptions and argued that greater urgency was needed in strengthening local food production and resilience measures.

Concerns over collaboration and transparency

Clint Beard focused heavily on communication breakdowns and what he described as a growing perception that different individuals were receiving inconsistent information.

He expressed concern about a lack of substance in some ministerial responses and criticised what he viewed as excessive focus on academic education at the expense of vocational training opportunities that are urgently needed to support local skills development.

Beard also highlighted ongoing concerns regarding hospital infrastructure, particularly delayed remedial works within the male ward, as well as wider issues surrounding government asset management and financial oversight.

Throughout the discussion, Councillors repeatedly stressed that many of the formal questions asked in Legislative Council had already been raised informally numerous times beforehand, often without receiving responses.

Julie Thomas concluded by expressing disappointment over what she viewed as increasing frustration, poor communication and limited teamwork within government structures.

Drawing upon both her current role as a non-ministerial Councillor and her previous experience serving as Chief Minister, she reflected on how challenging she found this particular adjournment intervention to prepare, largely because she felt there had been insufficient visible progress over the past eight months.

She argued that Councillors should not be learning critical information for the first time during formal public sittings, particularly regarding matters such as fuel costs, airport investigations and major procurement developments.

She also voiced concern about Ministers publicly discussing future plans before adequately briefing elected Councillors who would ultimately be expected to scrutinise and approve budgets and policies.

Shared frustrations and common themes

Although each Councillor raised different examples and concerns, several consistent themes emerged clearly throughout the programme.

The strongest shared concern was communication - specifically the belief that Councillors are not being adequately informed, consulted or included in major discussions affecting the island.

Another recurring theme was frustration over the pace of progress. Multiple Councillors argued that too many initiatives remain stuck in discussion phases without visible delivery or implementation.

There was also widespread concern about resilience and long-term planning, particularly in relation to utilities, food security, fuel supplies, infrastructure and economic sustainability.

At the same time, the programme highlighted a strong shared desire among Councillors to see greater collaboration, transparency and practical action rather than continued delays.

Importantly, despite the frustrations expressed, the discussion also reflected a continuing commitment among Councillors to scrutinise government decisions, represent community concerns and push for greater accountability.

The Island Pulse airs every Tuesday at 2pm on SAMS Radio 1, with repeat broadcasts on Thursdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 5pm.

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Dental Nurse

Total package value up to £34,834pa

(comprising salary up to £17,807 pa, plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

This is a hands-on and varied role supporting the delivery of dental services on Ascension Island. Working closely with the Dental Officer, you'll assist with treatments and help manage the day-to-day running of the clinic, ensuring patients receive a high standard of care. It's a role where you'll see the direct impact of your work within a small team and across the wider community.

What you'll do

You'll provide chair-side support across a range of dental procedures and take a lead role in maintaining clinical standards within the surgery, including sterilisation, decontamination and quality assurance processes. Alongside this, you'll manage appointments, maintain accurate patient records, support billing and ordering of supplies, and assist with laboratory work. You'll also contribute to school visits and oral health promotion, with occasional flexibility required to support wider healthcare duties when needed.

What you'll bring

You'll be a qualified Dental Nurse, registered with the GDC, with a commitment to maintaining your professional development. You'll be organised, reliable and confident working both independently and as part of a small team, with the ability to put patients at ease and handle sensitive situations with professionalism. A flexible, proactive approach and strong attention to detail will help you succeed in this varied role.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £17,807 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
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical and Dental Clearance

Closing date: **Friday 19th June 2026** Interviews: **Monday 22 June 2026** (via MS Teams 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

NOTICE BOARD

WILLS AID

MAKE A WILL WEEK IN SUPPORT OF ISLAND MINDS FOUNDATION

THIS WEEK ONLY 15-19 June 2026

MAKING A WILL – WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

It's easy to put off making a will. But if you die without one, all that you own (your assets) may be distributed according to the law rather than your wishes. This could mean that your partner receives less, or that the money goes to family members who may not need it. It is important for you to make a will, whether or not you consider you have many possessions or much money, because: -

- if you die without a will, there are certain rules which set out how money, property or possessions should be allocated. This may not be in accordance with your wishes.
- unmarried partners cannot inherit from each other unless there is a will, so the death of one partner may create serious financial problems for the remaining partner. There is no such thing as a '*common law wife or husband*'.
- if you have children, you will need to make a will so that arrangements for the children can be made if either one or both parents die.
- if your circumstances have changed, it is important that you make a will to ensure that your money and possessions are distributed according to your wishes. For example, if you have separated and your ex-partner now lives with someone else, you may want to change your will. If you are married this may make any previous will you have made invalid.

Wills Aid has been running since 1988. Wills Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and charity. The idea is that, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, clients are invited to make a donation to charity for the cost of the will. **The Public Solicitor Office is supporting Wills Aid and has nominated Island Minds Foundation as our charity for 2026.**

If you would like further information about making a will or updating your existing will please contact the Public Solicitor office. Based on current charges, the donation to the charity will be £20 for a simple and straightforward will. For a more complicated will, charges will be between £20 and £50.

For an appointment please contact: office@publicsolicitor.com or by telephone 23008

Vacancy

Artisan

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £12,252 per annum (£1,021 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Building Works Department for an Artisan.

As the Artisan you will perform a variety of tasks appropriate to the skills of a multi-skilled craftsman, ensuring all work is completed by the specified deadlines and which meets the required quality standards.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be competent in Maths & English
- Ideally have NVQ Level 2 or 3 in either carpentry, painting or construction
- Have at least 2 years experience working in the trade industry
- Have a Safety Awareness Certificate, or have undertaken Health & Safety on the worksite training and have the ability to carry out risk assessments
- Be knowledgeable of tools, equipment and materials common to the trade industry
- Have the necessary skills in the construction, repair and restoration in properties refurbishment or new builds
- Have the ability to operate power & hand tools
- Be able to make assessments of job requirements, estimate material requirements and provide method statements
- Be able to follow technical drawings and plans
- Have a clean & valid Driver's License in classes A & C
- Have a customer focused approach with excellent customer service skills
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently

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

Mr Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) via 22380 gm-services.properties@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 **Thursday, 11 June 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

IT ASSISTANT

Connect Saint Helena Ltd has a vacancy within the Business Support Team for an IT Assistant to carry out daily technical support for the company's IT infrastructure and employees. The role will report to the IT Officer and act as the first point of contact for IT queries, delivering professional end-user support in person and by phone. By consulting with departments to assess and address their specific requirements, the IT Assistant supports operational continuity and system reliability across the organisation.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- Knowledge of Computer Systems, hardware, software, networking, cyber security and cloud technologies
- Current experience working in IT Environment providing computer hardware and software support (1 year).
- Ability to troubleshoot and solve technical problems.
- Driving Licence, Class A.

QUALIFICATIONS

- GCSE in English and Maths at Grade C or above
- GCSE in ICT or Computer Science

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 Saheed Oyewo on +290 22255 or email Saheed.Oyewo@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 Monday, 15 June 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/

Vacancy

Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper

Since 1790

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 **11 June 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Customer Service Officer

Commencing at £11,472 per annum

Bank of St Helena is seeking to recruit a suitable person with the right mix of skills and experience to fill the exciting position of a Customer Services Officer.

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Customer Service Officer will be responsible for providing an efficient and effective delivery of customer services and Banking products to all customers in a professional and timely manner.

You must provide excellent customer service at all times; be able to deal with customers and visitors in a professional manner and have the ability to deal with awkward/irate customers. Be highly organised and have a keen eye for detail, maintain confidentiality, exhibit high accuracy levels and have the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, whilst working well with others as part of the wider Bank team.

Skills and experience the candidate should have:

- GCSE's in Mathematics and English at Grade C or above;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- Proficiency in IT skills, including Microsoft Applications and Database;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- At least 2 years' experience of working in an office environment and/or in a customer service environment.

Interested persons can contact the Operations Manager on email operationsmanager@sainthelenabank.com or you can contact them on telephone number + 290 22390 ext. 205 for more information.

An Application form and a job profile is available upon request from the Bank.

Completed application forms should be addressed to Human Resources Manager, Market Street, Jamestown or emailed to hrmanager@sainthelenabank.com.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 12 June 2026.

Choose a career with Bank of St Helena and enjoy competitive benefits.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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

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



Easy Saver

Saving what you can, when you can

Interest earned on savings.
Savings available at any time.

Flexible

Customers can deposit at any time, saving when you can

Monthly Interest

Interest is paid monthly allowing returns to be maximised

Money you earn

Interest commences from 1% to 1.1%

Accounts with instant access to cash will offer variable interest, meaning rates might increase or decrease over time

www.sainthelenabank.com

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

United Service – Sunday, 31st May
Jamestown Chapel, 2pm
No services will be held in the Sandy Bay and Head O'Wain Chapels.

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 2nd June: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 3rd June: Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 4th June: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old
Saturday, 30th May: Baptist School Hall, 10am to 11.30am

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 3rd June: Baptist School Hall, 10.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

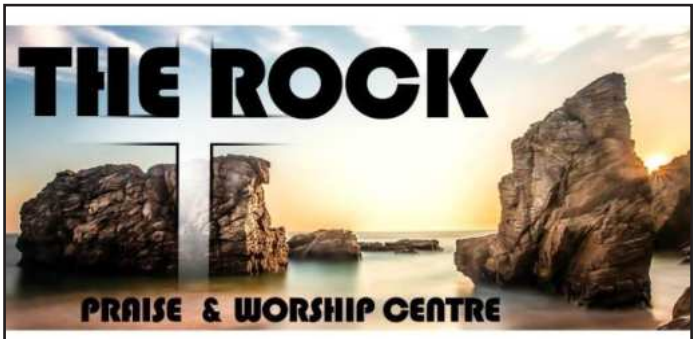
The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Thursday 4th June	
7.00 p.m.	Praise and Worship	St Andrew
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Michael
	Monday 1st June	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	Thursday 4th June	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 31st May 2026 – Trinity Sunday		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 2nd June	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark

THE SALVATION ARMY

Praise and Worship Musical Evening

Join The Salvation Army on
Friday, 29th May, at 7:30 pm
for a Praise and Worship Musical Evening at the
Half Tree Hollow Salvation Army Hall.

Come and enjoy an evening of music, worship, and fellowship.
Bring the whole family.
Everyone is welcome!



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.
Saturday 30 May 2026 at 8:30am
Contact Mercy –Prayer Co-Ordinator for details-65880 or 24212

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Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 31 May 2026 10.00am (Not 11.00)
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 02 June 2026
Jamestown @ 7.00pm (Contact: Bramwell 62117)
Wednesday 03 June 2026
Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm (Contact: Mercy 53227)
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 7.00pm
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

NOTICE BOARD

Scout Jackpot Draw

The winners of the April
Scout Jackpot were as follows:

1st Prize - £100 – Hazel Leo
Ticket No. 313

2nd Prize - £50 – Maggie Peters
Ticket No. 392

3rd Prize - £25 – Tyler Thomas
Ticket No. 523

4th Prize - £25 – Ethel Henry
Ticket No. 128

The May draw will be drawn live
at the Standard Bar on 5 June.

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

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

SAFETY, SECURITY AND HOME AFFAIRS

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT: Routine Fire Hydrant Inspections across the Island

The St Helena Fire and Rescue Service will be conducting routine fire hydrant inspections across the island starting Monday, 1 June 2026. These regular inspections are essential to ensure all hydrants remain fully operational and ready for fire protection and emergency responses, keeping our community safe.

The inspections will take place between **10:00 and 15:00** according to the following schedule:

Dates	Areas
1 June to 5 June	Jamestown
8 June to 12 June	Half Tree Hollow
15 June to 19 June	Longwood, Alarm Forest and Levelwood
22 June to 26 June	St Pauls, Blue Hill and Sandy Bay

During testing, residents in the affected areas may notice temporary water discolouration or a slight drop in water pressure. If your water appears discoloured, simply run your cold tap for a few moments until it clears. All inspection crews will be clearly identified while carrying out their work.

The St Helena Fire and Rescue Service thanks the public in advance for their cooperation and understanding as we maintain this vital safety infrastructure.

For additional information or queries, please contact the St Helena Fire and Rescue Service on **23344**.

SHG, 18 May 2026

Golf Report

Keith Buckley Claims Gwyneth Howell Trophy Challenge 2026



SHGC, Contributed

The St Helena Golf Club hosted the prestigious Gwyneth Howell Trophy Challenge on Sunday, 24 May 2026. A total of 24 players competed in the traditional cross-country stroke play format, a hallmark of this annual event, and one of the standout fixtures on the club's calendar. Playing conditions were cloudy but fair, providing a fitting stage for the seventh edition of this premier competition.

Keith Buckley delivered an exceptional performance to claim the Overall Winner's title, returning an impressive net score of 61 after carding a gross 79 off a handicap of 18. Jeremy Clingham finished in second place with a solid net 65, while Larry Legg secured third place on net 66. Legg also returned the Lowest Gross Score with a fine round of 77.

The competition was tightly contested, with several players closely grouped in the chasing pack. Patrick Johnson, Anthony Green, and Laura Buckley all posted net 67. Peter Bagley followed with a net 68, while Leeroy Caswell and Cyril Arthur Young both returned scores of 69.

Special prizes added further excitement to the day. Jeffrey "Foxy" Stevens claimed the men's Longest Drive, while Laura Buckley took the ladies' Longest Drive honours. In the Nearest to the Pin contests, Peter Bagley emerged victorious in the men's category, with Laura Buckley once again among the winners, securing the ladies' prize.

The Two-Ball Pool competition also featured prominently, with Peter Bagley claiming wins on the 3rd and 8th holes. Jeremy Clingham secured the prize on the 9th hole, while Larry Legg rounded off the winners on the 17th.

The club extends sincere appreciation to Gwyneth Howell for her continued sponsorship of this flagship event since its inception in 2019. Her generosity, particularly in providing excellent prizes, has played a significant role in the growth and success of the tournament. In her remarks at the prize-giving, Gwyneth now retired as CEO of St Helena Airport congratulated all the winners and participants and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the event for years to come.

The day concluded with a well-attended prize-giving, celebrating both the winners and the spirit of friendly competition that defines golf on St Helena.

The next competition will take place on **Sunday, 31 May 2026**. It will be the **Monthly Medal Stroke Play** event sponsored by the club. **Tee-off is at 12 noon**, and registration closes at 3 pm on Saturday, 30 May. Happy swinging!



GH 2026 Champion Keith Buckley

SPORTS ARENA

Challengers take the Gold

Challengers defeat Mustangs to win SHCA RMS T20 Cup 2026



Luke Bennett, SAMS

The 2026 SHCA RMS T20 final took place on Monday, with Challengers facing up against Mustangs in this year's tournament closer. Challengers elected to bat first, however found themselves in some early trouble after losing their top-order batsmen to some excellent bowling, led by Mustangs Barry Stroud who came away with four wickets. A change of bowling order for the Mustangs proved to be a success, with the ever-reliable Gareth Johnson and last week's hero, Tyler Anthony, forming a new opening bowling partnership. With Mustangs' tails up after a good start, taking four wickets for 27 runs, it was the Thomas brothers – Joey, with 32, and Sean-Lee, with 35 – who would settle the innings. The pair completed a steady 50-run partnership to help get Challengers back into the game. At 110 runs, for the loss of five wickets, the innings looked in the balance. However, it was a late cameo from Trystan Thomas with 46, not out, bringing an uncharacteristically selective approach, spotting the good ball and dispatching the bad ones, that would see Challengers finish on a more than respectable score of 159, for the loss of eight wickets.

During the second innings, Challengers took to the field and showed everyone exactly why they have been in numerous finals over recent years, unleashing a vicious bowling attack led by Jordan Yon with three wickets for 12 runs, and Jordi Henry with three wickets for 13 runs. This impressive display of bowling would see Mustangs unable to strike a partnership, with wickets falling at a rapid rate, making it increasingly difficult to push on. In the end, it simply wasn't meant to be for the Mustangs who would be dismissed for just 38 runs, crowning Challengers as the RMS T20 Champions for 2026.

After an outstanding tournament, which saw a surprise package in Mustangs make it to the final, it was the impressive Challengers who would go on to pick up their second title of the season. Congratulations to Challengers!

Knockout Fixtures:
Sunday 31st June
9:30
Challengers v Western A Mustangs
Umpires: Dane Leo Stefan Leo
13:30
Sandy Bay Pirates v Jamestown Heat
Umpires: Delroy Leo Clayton Leo