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# SENTINEL

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Ministers face fierce Backbench Scrutiny over BIOT funding





## St Helena makes History with World's Most Remote Parkrun



## OPINION

# SENTINEL COMMENT

**Liam Yon**, SAMS

How this World Cup? It been pretty good ey? I write this as we gear up for a massive semi-final clash tonight between England and Argentina. The history behind these sides speaks for itself, off the pitch of course there is the Falkland's War which comes to mind, on the pitch, you can't not think about the 1986 clash with the great Maradona scoring both the famous 'Hand of God' goal and the equally famous 'Goal of the Century' to knock England out of the World Cup. We have our own maverick in the England side this year however, and his name is Jude Bellingham – what a player! In just his early twenties, he is highly regarded as one of, if not the worlds best midfielder and he is showing why on the biggest stage of them all – dragging England almost single-handedly past Norway in the quarter-finals the other day. 'Hey Jude' keep it up, we want to bring it home!

Last night however (because I'm writing this on Wednesday), Spain looked absolute class, with the European Champions dismantling the favourites of the tournament, France, with ease. Who would've thought we would be saying that? Despite all their almost unfair options in every area of the pitch, including the world's best player, Kylian Mbappe, France just did not show up and never looked like they would beat Spain on the night. Credit has to go to the Spanish however who showed the world why they are known to be some of the best technical ballers on the planet – Rodri was immense – and they will no doubt now be imagining lifting the coveted World Cup trophy. Fun fact, teenager Lamine Yamal has never lost a competitive game for Spain – their lucky charm perhaps?

Anyway, all eyes will be on England tonight as they look to continue their push for their first World Cup in 60 years, though no doubt Messi and co will have something to say about that. It's going to be a cracker – Come on England!

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## YOUR LETTERS

**Dear Editor,**

*See letter below in response to Councillor Julie Thomas's open letter published in The Sentinel on 25 June 2026.*

**Dear Councillor Thomas,**

**Re: Fisheries Review, Situational Analysis and Recent SAMS Radio 1 Interview**

Thank you for your open letter published in The Sentinel regarding the Situational Analysis of the St Helena Fishing Industry and the recent SAMS Radio interview with the Minister for Economic Development & Environment, Natural Resources and Planning and the Head of Strategic Policy.

Your longstanding involvement in the fisheries sector, together with your experience in fisheries management and policy development, is acknowledged and valued. Fishing is an important part of St Helena's economy, heritage and identity, and it is entirely appropriate that the review process is subject to scrutiny and open discussion.

We have considered the matters you raised and our response focuses on the broader concerns about the purpose of the Situational Analysis and the review process. The most important point is that the Situational Analysis is not a policy document and it does not make recommendations. It is a working document that seeks to describe the current situation, the history that has helped shaped it, the available evidence and the issues that need to be considered before policy options are developed. Those options will be developed through further engagement with fishers and other stakeholders.

For that reason, publication of the Situational Analysis should not be interpreted as Government adopting it as a final position. It was published to encourage people to identify factual errors, omissions, additional evidence and different perspectives so that these can be considered as the document develops. That is an intentional part of the process, not a weakness in it.

You express concern about the report considering stakeholder perceptions alongside factual evidence. This is deliberate. Perceptions are not treated as facts, but they must be considered because they influence trust, confidence, behaviour and willingness to engage. In a sector with a long history and strongly held views, understanding those perceptions is important if future policy is to be both practical and capable of commanding confidence.

You refer to the first stakeholder meeting, where attendance was limited. We do not see this simply as a lack of interest but rather as a signal to explore other methods of engagement with a view to securing confidence in the process. You also question the independence of the review. Considerable effort has been made to establish a balanced and objective process. The Situational Analysis has undergone multiple revisions, factual checking, analytical workshops, review by stakeholders with different perspectives and review to test for unintended bias before publication. These safeguards were intended to provide the strongest possible evidence base for future policy discussions.

With regard to the radio interview, Minister Thrower accepts that aspects of his wording during the interview may have unintentionally given the impression that the work of previous Governments, the former St Helena Fisheries Corporation, Argos, fishers and others during earlier periods was being dismissed. That was not his intention. He recognises the significant commitment, investment and achievements over many years, including maintaining local fish supplies, supporting employment and developing export opportunities. His point was that, despite these efforts, successive Governments have continued to face the challenge of establishing a fisheries sector that is financially and operationally sustainable over the longer term. The purpose of the current review is not to defend or preserve the present arrangements, nor to dismiss previous work. It is to establish, through evidence, what has worked, what has not worked, why repeated interventions have not yet produced a durable outcome, and what needs to change. He regrets that this was not expressed more clearly during the interview.

You raise a number of important issues relating to processing arrangements, exports, licensing, infrastructure and market access. It would not be appropriate to reach conclusions on these matters before all the evidence has been gathered and considered as part of the review. We recognise that fisheries management is not static. Scientific understanding of the tuna resource and the fishery continues to develop. The

2020 Fisheries Licensing Policy recognised that further stock assessment and scientific work was still required, and the current exploratory offshore fishing licence requires catch and scientific data to continue to be collected to help inform future Total Allowable Catches and quota management. As the evidence base improves, so too should the policies that support the industry.

Having considered the points raised in your letter, we find no reason to pause the Fisheries Review or to commission an independent assessment of the Situational Analysis. As mentioned above, the latter has been published as a working document that will be updated as necessary during the next steps in the process.

To conclude, we encourage you, and everyone with knowledge and experience of the industry, to continue contributing to the process by providing evidence, corrections, additional information and practical suggestions. No decisions have been taken on fisheries policy. The aim is to develop a fisheries policy that is evidence-based, environmentally sustainable, commercially realistic, capable of commanding confidence across the sector and the best possible outcome for the island's people.

**Yours sincerely,**
**Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, Chief Minister**
**Gillian Francis, Deputy Chief Secretary**

**Dear Editor,**

We write in response to the letter published in last week's The Sentinel from STC Director, Mr Johann Bezuidenhout.

Mr Bezuidenhout begins by offering his opinion that, after seven years on St Helena, "*the local St Helena challenge is systemic and deeply ingrained in the social and moral fibre of the island" and that there exists "an undue local influence against anything foreign.*"

This is a significant assertion. While every individual is entitled to their opinion, such a claim should be supported by evidence. In the context of STC's operations, none is provided. There is no demonstration that opposition to STC has been driven by prejudice against foreign nationals. Rather, the concerns consistently expressed by fishermen, industry representatives and others have centred on lack of policy decisions, business strategy, stakeholder engagement and the long-term sustainability of the commercial fishing industry.

To characterise these concerns as resistance to "*anything foreign*" risks diverting attention from the real issues at a time when honest reflection is most needed.

This has never been about nationality. It has always been about an approach adopted by Government that failed to adequately understand the realities of St Helena's fishery before fundamentally restructuring it. It is about an investor entering a complex and high-risk industry while placing greater reliance on assurances from Government officials than on the practical knowledge and experience (both on and off the water) of the very fishermen he has now come to realise could be his strongest allies.

Mr Bezuidenhout revisits the financial performance of the former St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC), quoting figures which demonstrate the level of subsidy required during its final years. Those figures are not disputed. However, figures without context tell only part of the story, a similar tactic used by SHG some seven years ago too.

Missing from his account is the fact that solutions to reduce Government subsidy had long been identified but were never implemented. Successive recommendations aimed at improving efficiency, increasing throughput and expanding export capability remained largely unaddressed. To present the financial losses without acknowledging the policy decisions that contributed to them creates an incomplete narrative and unfairly attributes responsibility to active sector stakeholders.

It was always within SHG's gift to implement the changes needed to curtail the snowballing subsidy, but they chose not to. We invite Mr Bezuidenhout to investigate this fact because he will find that the SHCFA most certainly did not spend this period lulled into complacency because our "lifestyles were being subsidised by SHG".

Mr Bezuidenhout attributes STC's challenges to the commercial fishermen's refusal to supply fish. Such a conclusion ignores the fundamental question of why that relationship deteriorated in the first place. Sustainable industries are built on trust, mutual respect and commercial confidence. Where these are absent, the reasons deserve examination rather than simplification. Furthermore, an explanation as to why STC has opted not to accept fish for an extended period following repeated expressions of interest from fishermen remains absent also.

Government has now initiated a review of the fisheries sector. The SHCFA welcomed this process because we believe decisions should be informed by objective evidence, independent assessment and meaningful engagement with all stakeholders. Sadly, as the review has gotten underway, there are tell-tale signs that the Public Service are exerting significant influence on outcomes.

If the review is to achieve its purpose, it must move beyond selective narratives and acknowledge both historical context and recent performance. Accountability cannot apply only to the past; it must equally apply to the present. The ugly truth must be revealed for what it is and not sanitised with the aim to create a forced environment for bridges to be built.

St Helena possesses an opportunity to develop an internationally respected, unique tuna fishery with the potential to make a meaningful contribution to food security, employment and economic development. That potential will only be realised through collaboration, transparency and a genuine willingness to learn from **past mistakes**. It will also require SHG to discard its "bad parent complex" – whereby it feels it must subject the fishery to its manipulative control to: "protect its investment". SHG must be encouraged to adopt a mind-set whereby it accepts - it should not be in the business of doing business.

We encourage Mr Bezuidenhout to reconsider the narrative he continues to advance. Rather than attributing legitimate criticism to cultural bias or portraying fishermen as the principal obstacle to success, we invite him to honestly reflect on the content of his letter and ask a simple question: does it serve as a means to build bridges or to sustain the divide?

The commercial fishing industry deserves leadership that builds confidence, strengthens relationships and unites stakeholders around a shared vision. That responsibility rests with all of us, but particularly with those entrusted to lead its development.

**Yours faithfully,**
**St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association**

# Grilled Over the Millions

## Ministers face fierce Backbench Scrutiny over BIOT funding





Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks and her Ministerial Team faced intensive questioning from non-ministerial Elected Members during last Tuesday's MQT

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Last Tuesday's session of Minister's Question Time saw a robust, high-stakes display of political accountability as non-ministerial Elected Members systematically parsed the financial, structural, and social implications of the newly extended British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Programme. Facing all six primary inquiries due to the pre-arranged absence of Cllr Clint Beard, Chief Minister, Dr. Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, and her Ministerial Team were pushed to defend the government's multi-million-pound developmental strategy.

Broadcast live on SAMS Radio 1, the session put on full display a classic legislative tug-of-war; an executive focused on long-term macroeconomic infrastructure, challenged by a backbench deeply anxious over immediate public welfare, local housing availability, and immediate cost-of-living relief.

The session opened with a sharp proposition from the freshly returned Cllr Derek Thomas, who wasted no time confronting the executive over local social support. He asked whether the Chief Minister would consider utilising a portion of the unallocated £250,000 BIOT funding envelope to provide a free weekly return bus pass into Jamestown for residents aged 70 and over.

The Chief Minister urged the House to maintain a sense of perspective regarding the scale of the funding. "While £250,000 might sound like a lot of money to the public, it is not actually very much in the grand scheme of things," she expressed. "The options for this allocation are currently being drawn up in close consultation with all elected officials following our preliminary discussions last week. Our framework must target the most far-reaching support mechanisms possible, balancing immediate help for our pensioners with the long-term needs of the island's young people, such as education maintenance loans."

The Chief Minister noted that funding for elderly bus passes had not been part of the government's initial outline, adding that "obviously, that is a new proposal that the Honourable Member is bringing forward today." However, she assured Council that the Economic Team and Central Support Service were already independently reviewing island transport budgets, ticket pricing, and potential concessions.

This prompted a swift intervention from Cllr Dr. Corinda Essex, who rose on a point of information to firmly back the initiative and challenge any notion that this was a novel request. "What Councillor Thomas is saying today is not a new concept," she asserted. "It is an essential need—one that he and I have both been pushing for consistently since this general election, immediately after the St Helena Government took over public transport operations."

The atmosphere grew noticeably more tense when Cllr Dennis Leo brought forward the session's second major topic. He questioned whether the government remained truly on track to meet its infrastructure and migrant housing commitments outlined in Annex A of the BIOT agreement, which mandates safe-haven accommodation for up to 52 individuals.

The Chief Minister confirmed that the plans centre on converting the former Longwood First School into two separate facilities (Longwood 1 and 2), stressing that while legal obligations remain with SHG, delivery remains subject to ongoing planning applications. To defend the government's timeline, Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, Karl Thrower, took the floor to break down the highly technical schedule.

"For Longwood 1 (the North-facing building), a modification request has been submitted under Section 30 of the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance to allow for a longer-term House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO)," he revealed. "While bed capacity will drop slightly from 19 to roughly 15, this reduction will be offset through additional private sector accommodation. Crucially, this design allows the building to easily transition into four self-contained, one-bedroom domestic units once the BIOT agreement concludes."

The details immediately drew scepticism from non-Ministerial members regarding target deadlines for October and November. Cllr Robert Midwinter cut straight to the core of local public anxiety, demanding a firm guarantee

that this project would not deplete or cannibalise the island's already scarce local social housing options.

Minister Thrower offered an emphatic reassurance. "No... we are trying to keep a very clear division between the works at the Longwood buildings and the provision of the BIOT houses," he stated. "We are not giving government landlord housing over for the BIOT requirements."

Thrower argued that works on local residential flats at Bottom Woods were continuing entirely independently, and revealed that a public advertisement seeking private rental expressions of interest had only been issued in order to build a "standby" capacity list.

The cross-examination continued as Cllr Julie Thomas pressed for financial transparency regarding historical spending. Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks stepped back in, promising that a full, transparent breakdown of all historical maintenance funding spent outside of the primary £6.5million capital works program would be compiled for the community.

Finally, Cllr Essex asked a critical bottom-line question; will St Helena face penal financial claws from the UK if these tight BIOT milestones were missed? The Chief Minister confirmed that no penalty clauses exist within the text of the partnership agreement, which operates strictly on an invoicing and spend-reimbursement basis.

The final block of intensive questioning in this segment belonged to Cllr Essex, who demanded an itemised strategy on how the £2.3million BIOT allocation earmarked for the wider Education Review would actually be spent.

The Chief Minister immediately delegated the operational defence to the Minister for Education, Skills, and Employment, Andrew Turner. Minister Turner sought to manage expectations from the outset, emphasising that this funding goes completely beyond standard physical school building refurbishments, shifting instead to broader operational overhauls. He cautioned the House that the proposal was negotiated based on a preliminary "outline business case," meaning every single pillar will still require independent governance approvals before funds are released.

Turner outlined three primary categories.

IT Infrastructure Replacement; overhauling the island's legacy education network to boost resilience. "A major sub-focus here is deploying robust backup systems to combat power cuts, which have in recent months become particularly disruptive in times of exams," he said.

School Transportation Strategies; enhancing transit planning, safeguarding protocols, and deploying computerised management software. Turner admitted to the House that student transport has proven to be "one of the most challenging elements of the reorganisation project."

Finally, COBIS Frameworks; bankrolling safeguarding, governance, and curriculum upgrades to achieve formal accreditation with the Council of British International Schools ahead of an initial evaluation visit this coming October.

Cllr Essex refused to let the topic close without probing for gaps, launching a sharp supplementary query regarding whether this multi-million-pound pool would provide any direct financial relief to the highly anticipated, locally pending Post-16 Education Review.

Minister Turner admitted that the BIOT education funds contained no direct mandate for the Post-16 policy review, which is being funded locally through standard, tight recurrent departmental budgets.

Cllr Essex pushed back, questioning whether local recurrent funds would actually be deep enough to execute any meaningful policy changes resulting from that review. Turner exercised strict Ministerial caution. "Until you've had said review, you don't know what the recommendations are going to be," he asserted. "So, that will be the point at which we know in much more real terms what the long-term implementation costs look like."

The debate shifted toward St Helena's overarching macroeconomic sovereignty when Cllr Ronald Coleman challenged the government to define its ultimate exit strategy from UK financial dependency. He demanded to know what long-term developmental aspirations Ministers envisioned when signing the BIOT extension, specifically how the associated funding would help phase out the island's reliance on UK Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks insisted that the £8million framework was deliberately negotiated not as a temporary operational band-aid, but as an investment in structural growth.

"The core aspiration behind securing these funds is to transition St Helena away from a cycle of structural operating deficits and move us toward self-generated financial stability," she revealed. "By investing directly in our core infrastructure, we aim to systematically lower the long-term delivery costs of public services and build an environment capable of attracting sustainable private investment. That is the only viable pathway to reducing our ODA dependency."

Cllr Coleman rose on a sharp follow-up, questioning how the government could talk about long-term private investment when the island continues to face immediate population decline and high living costs. "An injection of capital into infrastructure is welcome," Coleman countered, "but how does this directly stop the bleed of our working-age population to the UK, which is the real driver of our ODA reliance?"

The Chief Minister countered that infrastructure is the prerequisite to population retention, arguing that capital investments must run parallel to the island's broader immigration and economic reforms. "We cannot expand the domestic tax base or retain our youth if our hospital, energy grid, and digital networks are failing," she shot back. "This funding provides the baseline stability required to make our broader



The former Longwood First School buildings (previous Basil Read offices) will serve as temporary accommodation for potential migrant arrivals



population growth strategies viable."

Arguably the most politically charged exchange of the morning arrived when Cllr Robert Midwinter pressed the Chief Minister on how the government intends to protect local beneficiaries regarding UK State Pensions, following the UK Government's explicit confirmation that they will not commit to future inflationary uprating for overseas recipients – despite the BIOT agreement.

The Chief Minister acknowledged the deep public anxiety and historical unfairness surrounding the UK's "frozen" pension policy. She outlined a dual diplomatic and domestic strategy, refusing to concede the issue as settled. "We are actively collaborating with fellow UK Overseas Territories facing identical pension freezes," she informed. "We intend to utilise collective advocacy channels through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and raise this issue directly at the upcoming Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council (JMC)."

Cllr Midwinter was openly sceptical of relying on diplomatic channels that have historically yielded little progress from London. "With respect, Chief Minister, London has maintained this frozen stance for decades despite endless lobbying from across the overseas territories," he said. "Our pensioners are feeling the cost-of-living crisis right now. What concrete, domestic safety nets is this government prepared to implement on-island if the UK refuses to budge?"

The Chief Minister administrative team defended their domestic record while acknowledging the limits of the local purse. "While we lobby externally, Central Support Services and the Ministerial team are actively reviewing how our local social security frameworks, benefits systems, and cost-of-living adjustments can be optimised," she responded. "But let us be entirely transparent with the public; St Helena cannot afford to permanently underwrite the structural shortfalls left by the UK pension policy out of our own recurrent budget without severely impacting other public services. We must establish robust domestic contingencies, but the primary pressure must remain on UK policymakers to treat islanders equitably."

The final block of questioning came from Cllr Julie Thomas, who demanded an operational breakdown of how the £5.7million portion of the new BIOT funding—the largest single development component of the package—will be deployed across its three core targets; medical equipment, telecommunications, and renewable energy networks.

The Chief Minister detailed that, matching the strict governance applied to the education funding, these multi-sector allocations are tied to rigid project delivery milestones intended to future-proof the island's essential public utilities and clinical services.

Cllr Thomas pushed for absolute transparency, asking, "Can the Chief Minister assure this House that this £5.7million will be spent strictly on tangible, on-island assets, rather than being swallowed up by external consultants and endless preliminary feasibility studies?"

Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks provided a breakdown of the three capital-intensive pillars to justify the spend.

Medical Equipment & Health Standards; a substantial share will directly fund the modernisation of clinical capabilities at the General Hospital. "The focus is on purchasing advanced diagnostic machinery and localised medical equipment," she said. "The ultimate target is simple; drastically reduce our fiscal reliance on incredibly expensive off-island medical referrals while raising our local health standards."

Telecommunications and Digital Resilience; capital will accelerate the next phase of the SHG Digital Transformation Strategy. "Following the arrival of the subsea fibre-optic network, we are investing in upgrading core local networks and expanding secure e-government public service portals, while installing resilient backup telecom systems to guarantee uninterrupted emergency service communication during technical disruptions," she added.

The final pillar was announced as Expanding the Renewable Energy Grid; funding will be funnelled into green energy infrastructure to shield the island from volatile global fuel prices. "The strategy prioritises the acquisition of advanced battery storage systems to stabilise the island's microgrid, alongside expanding wind and solar generation capacities to significantly reduce our carbon footprint and move us toward lower domestic utility tariffs," she revealed.

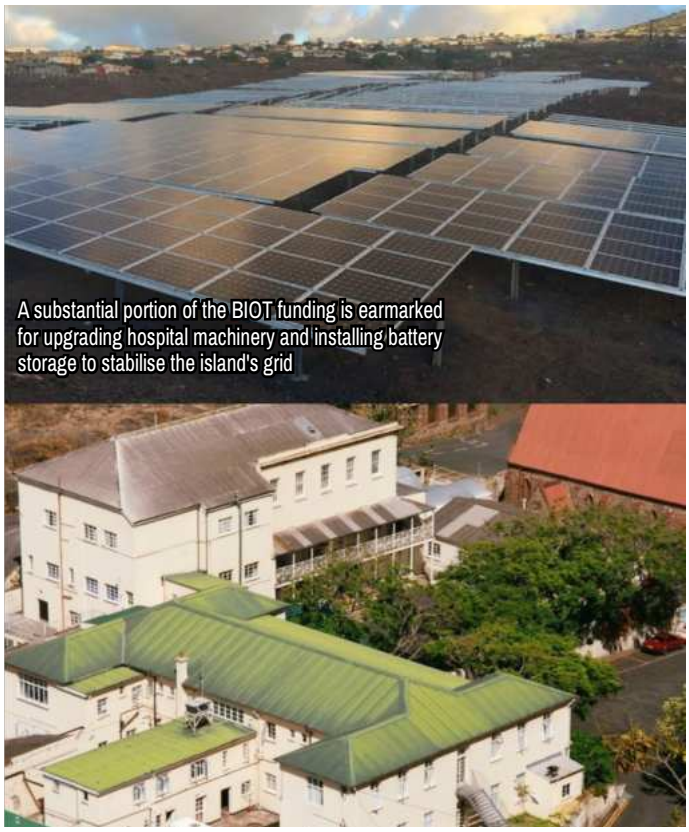
Cllr Essex then joined the fray on a final supplementary query, asking for assurances that the stabilisation of the microgrid would happen quickly enough to prevent the sporadic power outages that have recently plagued local businesses and schools.

The Chief Minister concluded by stating that the deployment of the advanced battery storage systems was being treated as an urgent priority within the utility framework, ensuring that the infrastructure gains from the BIOT agreement provide immediate, everyday relief to the community.

Ultimately, Tuesday's hour-long session underscored that, while the newly secured BIOT funding package offers St Helena an unprecedented financial injection for capital modernisation, the Ministerial team faces an uphill battle in satisfying a cautious non-Ministerial team and a vigilant community.

With virtually every component of the developmental envelope—from the £2.3million education overhaul to the £5.7million utility and healthcare injection—tethered to strict, pending business cases and independent planning approvals, the true test for the Chief Minister's administration now shifts from negotiation to operational delivery.

As the island navigates the immediate crosswinds of population decline, local power grid vulnerabilities, and a rigid UK pension freeze, non-ministerial Elected Members have drawn a clear line in the sand; they will maintain a rigorous, unyielding oversight role to ensure these millions translate into tangible, everyday relief for the people of St Helena.



A substantial portion of the BIOT funding is earmarked for upgrading hospital machinery and installing battery storage to stabilise the island's grid

# Hormuz Ripple Effect

## MACS and SHG adjust Shipping Schedule amid global fuel crisis



The MV Karoline will now make less visits to St Helena than originally planned

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping (MACS), in partnership with the St Helena Government (SHG), have recently confirmed reports by The Sentinel, after announcing a temporary adjustment to the island's shipping service, reducing the number of scheduled sailings for 2026 from 12 down to 10 – or as detailed by Minister Karl Thrower, to a six-weekly schedule.

The decision follows detailed discussions with the St Helena Chamber of Commerce and local cargo receivers, and comes as a direct response to exceptional increases in global marine fuel costs.

Ongoing conflict in the Middle East affecting the Strait of Hormuz has severely disrupted fuel supplies, driving up global bunker prices and creating substantial operational cost pressures across the shipping industry. This move is being made to reduce costs for shipping to St Helena, taking on a 'higher volume, less frequency' shipping schedule.

Both MACS and SHG have emphasised that this adjustment is a proactive and responsible measure intended to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the shipping service for the benefit of St Helena. Both organisations note that they remain fully committed to maintaining reliable cargo services and ensuring the continued availability of essential goods and supplies for the island.




Map showing the Strait of Hormuz

As detailed in a recent SHG press release, a finalised sailing schedule will be circulated to all stakeholders as soon as it is completed. In the meantime, MACS will continue to work closely with SHG, local importers, businesses, and cargo receivers to minimise any disruption and maintain continuity of supply during this period.

MACS and SHG have extended their thanks to all businesses, cargo receivers, and community stakeholders for their cooperation and understanding as this temporary cost-mitigation measure is put into effect. Once more details are shared regarding the new schedule and what that will look like for St Helena, The Sentinel will update on this story accordingly.



# No Crew, No Problem

## Local teams complete Specialist Hydrographic Training using Uncrewed Surface Vessel to map St Helena's waters



Photo with the GIS Staff, Left to Right – Ryan Benjamin, Jamie Phillips, Devlin Yon, Matt King (Hydrographic Surveyor), Joelle Henry and Luke Bargo.

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

St Helena Government (SHG) has taken a significant stride toward complete marine self-reliance after local personnel completed two weeks of intensive, specialist hydrographic survey training.

Facilitated by the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), the program combined classroom theory with rigorous field exercises designed to drastically improve how the island monitors its coastal waters, maps the seabed, and identifies hidden underwater hazards.

The training was highly practical, utilising specialised borrowed equipment alongside an Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) known as the USV Otter.

To deliver the training, two international experts arrived on the island; Nicolay Larsen from Maritime Robotics (the company that originally constructed the USV), and Matt King, a hydrographic surveying expert representing the UKHO. Together, they guided local staff through the entire lifecycle of marine data collection, focusing heavily on how to gather raw seabed information, process it accurately, and manage the resulting complex data sets.

Recognising that maritime data serves multiple vital functions across the public sector, the training brought together a cohort of SHG staff from the Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Marine, and Meteorological sections.

Participants were specifically selected based on their prior surveying experience, deep knowledge of the local marine environment, and the direct application of hydrographic data to their everyday responsibilities.

During the practical sea trials, the team deployed the USV Otter to capture highly detailed schematics and structural data around Rupert's Jetty, proving the immediate operational value of the technology.

Beyond local operations, the training directly strengthens St Helena's compliance with global maritime frameworks. Specifically, the development of these mapping capabilities reflects the rigorous international principles contained within the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), under Chapter V, Regulation 9.

Hydrographic surveying is critical for safe navigation. By producing highly accurate data on seabed characteristics, coastal features, and shallow-water obstructions, the island can better protect visiting cruise liners, local fishing fleets, and cargo vessels. Furthermore, the information collected provides scientists with baseline data for environmental monitoring, allowing for precise habitat mapping and a far deeper under-




Maritime Robotics, USV Otter, is a high-tech piece of equipment that has been left on St Helena in a kind gesture from the company



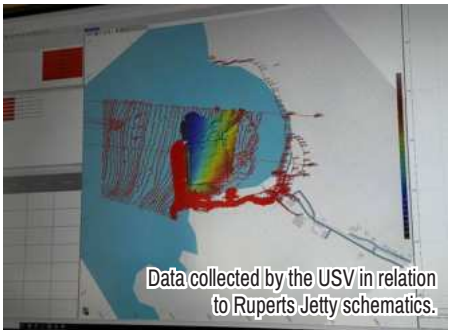
Maritime Robotics USV Otter being lowered into the water with Sea Rescue on standby for assistance.

standing of how St Helena's unique marine ecosystem changes over time. Devlin Yon, Head of Geomatic Services, emphasised the long-term strategic importance of the initiative for the island's future. "This training represents a significant milestone in the development of hydrographic surveying capability on St Helena," he commented. "By bringing together colleagues from across government, and providing hands-on experience with modern survey technology, we are building the foundations for a sustainable, locally managed hydrographic programme."

"We are extremely grateful to UKHO, Maritime Robotics and all those involved in delivering and supporting the training," he continued. "The skills gained will help improve our understanding of the marine environment and support safer navigation around St Helena's waters."

The program's success relied heavily on local inter-agency collaboration. SHG extended its formal thanks to both the Sea Rescue Service—who remained on standby to ensure safety during the live water deployments—and the Port Authority for their operational support.

With the training successfully concluded, Maritime Robotics made the extremely generous gesture of leaving the USV Otter here on St Helena – adding a modern, high-tech and expensive piece of equipment to SHG's resources, ready and available for use on the Island. Local participants now possess a firm operational foundation, allowing them to begin utilising this specialised equipment for regular, locally managed hydrographic surveys moving forward.



Data collected by the USV in relation to Ruperts Jetty schematics.

# Waiting for the Boat

## Technical Fault forces Temporary Postponement of Non-Urgent Surgeries




The necessary specialised equipment is expected to arrive on the next voyage of the MV Karoline later this month

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

A small number of non-urgent surgical procedures at Jamestown Hospital have been postponed over the last two weeks following an unexpected technical issue with essential theatre equipment.

In a recent press release, the St Helena Government (SHG) reassured the public that emergency and urgent operations are completely unaffected and will continue to be provided safely.

They explained how the service disruption is the result of technical faults affecting the hospital's primary anaesthetic machines, adding that despite extensive efforts by local technical staff working remotely with the manufacturer, the faults could not be resolved on-island.

While the Health and Social Care Portfolio retains the capacity to deliver safe anaesthesia using alternative on-island equipment, officials noted that this workaround is a more complex and time-consuming process. Consequently, the alternative system is being strictly reserved for essential and urgent procedures to manage hospital capacity safely.

As a result, the postponement of routine, non-urgent surgeries will remain in place until replacement hardware arrives. SHG confirmed that new specialist anaesthetic machines have already been purchased and are en-route to the island.

Due to the specialised nature of the medical equipment, the units cannot be transported via air freight. They are currently scheduled to arrive on the island during the next routine call of the MV Karoline, which is expected on Friday, 24 July. Normal surgical services will look to be restored shortly after the arrival and installation of the new machinery.

SHG has extended its thanks to those patients whose scheduled procedures have been impacted by the delay, expressing gratitude for their understanding and patience while normal hospital operations are restored.



The Operating Theatre at the General Hospital

# A Run Worth Shell-ebrating!

## St Helena makes Global History with launch of World's Most Remote Parkrun



**Liam Yon,** SAMS

St Helena officially made global health and tourism history on Saturday, 11 July, with the successful launch of the World's Most Remote Parkrun. Taking place within the scenic, winding trails of Plantation Forest, the inaugural event brought together the local community for a historic milestone in island sport and wellness.

Despite cool conditions and a light drizzle, the weather provided what organisers described as ideal conditions for the island's newest sporting tradition. The inaugural event drew a crowd of more than 100 people, including runners, walkers, volunteers, and spectators.

Reflecting the inclusive ethos of the global parkrun movement, the 5km course welcomed participants of all ages and abilities. Of the 76 official finishers who crossed the line at the Viewing Platform, around half chose to walk the course rather than run.

The launch demonstrated an overwhelming wave of local interest, with an impressive 64 participants completing their first-ever parkrun. The event has also captured international attention, drawing active interest from parkrun enthusiasts across the UK and Southern Africa.

High-profile island figures were among those on the trail, with Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks and Minister for Health & Social Care Martin Henry both taking part. Minister Henry, who officially started the run, highlighted the long-term benefits of the initiative for St Helena:

"This captures a simple community approach to physical and mental well-being for our community," Minister Henry said. "We know that the choices we make for health and well-being have a big impact on our quality of life and that of our families. Making healthier choices is a major step and Parkrun makes it easy."

The Plantation Forest parkrun is officially registered with Parkrun UK and the National Sports Association of St Helena, made possible through vital funding from the Tourism Development Programme.

Following the successful launch, Event Director, Stephen Thwaites, expressed his gratitude to the team who spent more than twelve months turning the vision into reality, while highlighting the unique charm of St Helena's course.

"We are very grateful to the Tourism Development Programme and the volunteer committee who have worked for over a year to make this happen," he noted. "Not only is this the most remote parkrun in the world, it is the only one where you can run under the watchful eye of






Jonathan, the world's oldest living land animal."
True to his word, Jonathan the Tortoise made a guest appearance of sorts, observing the historic proceedings from afar as participants made their way through the forest trails.
The Plantation Forest parkrun will now take place every Saturday morning at 8am, starting from the Viewing Platform. The event is completely free and open to anyone aged four and above.
To get an official recorded time, participants must register online beforehand at the Parkrun UK website and bring along a digital or printed barcode. Community members are also highly encouraged to step forward as weekly volunteers to ensure the event's long-term sustainability.
And for those needing an extra incentive to head out to the forest this coming weekend? Organisers hinted that future events might just feature more community-shared cake!
For more information, registration, or to sign up as a volunteer, visit www.parkrun.org.uk/plantationforest/.
*Photos accompanying this article was kindly supplied by St Helena Tourism.*









# Driving to Extinction?

## National Trust and Police team up to slash Wirebird road casualties



Wirebird fatality found at Pipe Ridge

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

The St Helena National Trust has launched an urgent new campaign to protect the island's iconic Wirebird, following alarming data showing that road accidents are taking a massive toll on the population of St Helena's only endemic bird species.
According to the Trust, approximately sixty Wirebirds have been killed by vehicles along the Airport Access Road over the last three years alone. That figure represents a staggering ten percent of the island's total average Wirebird population, which currently sits between just five and six hundred adult birds; hence its 'Vulnerable' classification on the IUCN Red List.
The Airport Access Road cuts directly through prime Wirebird habitat, which has been formally designated as National Conservation Areas. Because the birds frequently congregate near the tarmac, the Trust - backed by a one-year Darwin Plus Local grant - is aiming to roll out innovative new measures to keep them safe. These include creating artificial pools away from the asphalt to draw the birds away from traffic, alongside new speed reduction initiatives and driver awareness campaigns.
Working in collaboration with the Royal St Helena Police Service, the project's ultimate goal is to slash Wirebird road casualties by fifty percent.
Island drivers, and members of the community in general, are now being asked to do their part with the Trust having launched an online public poll to gather community feedback on driver behaviour, specifically regarding speeding and stopping for the Wirebirds along the airport route.
If you want to have your say and help shape these new conservation measures, visit: https://forms.gle/Gak29ZFVge2xAxcG9 to fill out a quick survey.



Wirebird fatality found at Pipe Ridge

# Work Done, Time to Play

## Official Opening Ceremony marks completion of EDIP Playgrounds Project



**Liam Yon,** SAMS

Community spaces on St Helena received a major boost last week with the official opening of the brand-new playgrounds at Half Tree Hollow and Longwood Green. The formal opening ceremony took place on Wednesday afternoon, 8 July, at the Half Tree Hollow site, drawing a large crowd to celebrate the finalisation of the Playgrounds Project.

Funded by the UK Government through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), the project has successfully transformed both locations into modern, safe, and inclusive recreation areas for local families.

During the ceremony at Half Tree Hollow, speeches were delivered by Economic Development Portfolio Director, Damian Burns, and Minister for Education, Andrew Turner, highlighting the collaborative effort required to bring the project to life.

Attendees also heard words from the project's main contractor, Arnold Crowie of AC's Multi-skill Contractors, who, alongside residents from His Majesty's Prison, worked diligently to install the extensive new facilities.

The final words and the honour of officially opening the new facilities fell to His Excellency Governor Nigel Phillips.

Pleasingly, the ceremony saw a strong turnout from the community, including island schoolchildren representing both the Primary and Secondary sectors, while also in attendance were Elected Members, representatives from the Programme Management Office who oversaw the EDIP delivery, and other invited guests.

Special credit during the event was given to former Minister for Economic Development, Mark Brooks, in attendance, who was recognised as the individual who originally brought the playground concept to the table and kickstarted the initiative during his term of office.

With both sites now officially open, the public is welcomed to enjoy the new spaces—which feature inclusive play equipment, a children's outdoor gym, and a Multi-Use Games Area at Half Tree Hollow, alongside a timber fitness trail and climbing structures at Longwood Green.

Well done to all involved and may the new playgrounds be enjoyed by the children of today and in the years to come on St Helena.









# Council Domino Effect

## Temporary Government reshuffle as Minister Brooks departs St Helena



**Donna Crowie,** SAMS

There is a temporary shuffle in the Government line-up currently, following Sunday's flight to Johannesburg.

Among those departing the island on 12 July was the Minister for Safety, Security, and Home Affairs, Gillian Brooks, who has left for personal reasons as informed by SHG.

During her absence, Councillor Derek Thomas will step up to take on the Ministerial responsibility of the Safety, Security, and Home Affairs portfolio.

This has had a domino effect and, in order to keep things running smoothly, Councillor Dr. Corinda Essex will, in the meantime, look after the Half Tree Hollow district until Councillor Thomas returns to his normal non-Ministerial role.

Interestingly, what this current arrangement does mean however – alongside the absence of Councillor Clint Beard – is that during Friday's important Formal Legislative Council Meeting, a two-day Budget Session, for the first time, there will be an even split between Ministers and non-Ministers at the meeting, with five Elected Members on either side. This could play a key factor when it comes to the all-important voting on the various Government business at the meeting.

# Shining a Light on Service

## St Helena Chevening Scholar honoured with Bronze Award in London



Mansiel volunteering in environmental conservation

**Liam Yon,** SAMS

St Helena's current Chevening Scholar, Mansiel Falqueza, has been officially recognised for his outstanding community contributions after receiving a Bronze Award at the prestigious Chevening Volunteer Awards in London.

The ceremony, which took place on 15 June at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, celebrates Chevening Scholars from around the globe who have made meaningful contributions through volunteering during their studies in the UK.

Since beginning his MSc Nursing degree at Coventry University last September, Mansiel has dedicated 54 hours of his spare time to volunteering.

A significant portion of his time was spent working with "The People's Patch" in Coventry, a Groundwork West Midlands community project dedicated to environmental development and creating sustainable spaces. Committing three to four hours every Sunday, Mansiel rolled up his sleeves to support community walks, gardening, and environmental activities, helping to transform a once-abandoned site into an eco-friendly, highly accessible community space.

Mansiel reflected on the profoundly rewarding nature of the project and how it ties back to his professional background in healthcare. "Seeing a neglected area evolve into a welcoming, inclusive space has been incredibly rewarding," he said. "Volunteering has allowed me not only to develop practical skills in environmental conservation and community development, but also to apply values from my nursing background—compassion, teamwork, inclusivity, and service—which continue to guide my contributions."

In addition to his work with The People's Patch, Mansiel also volunteered during the pre-Christmas period, wrapping gifts for an organisation supporting immigrant families. His efforts helped bring festive joy to local children who would otherwise have limited access to celebrations.

The Chevening Scholarship Programme, funded by the UK Government, offers outstanding mid-career professionals and future leaders the opportunity to complete a one-year master's degree in the UK. Alongside rigorous academic studies, the program offers unique personal and professional development opportunities, including the very volunteering schemes in which Mansiel has excelled.

For local residents inspired by Mansiel's success, applications for the next round of Chevening Scholarships—with studies commencing in September/October 2027—are set to open in August this year.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the application process and requirements is encouraged to visit the official website at www.chevening.org.

## 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. July 17**

- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 10am: Legco Day 1
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

**SAT. July 18**

- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 1:00pm: 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. July 19**

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Liam
- 1pm: Interview Hour
- 3-4:30pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse (Repeat)
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

**MON. July 20**

- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 10am: Legco Day 2
- 1pm-3pm: Indie Waves with Sue
- 3-5pm: DNA with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm: In the Know with Ministers

**TUE. July 21**

- 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. July 22**

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

**THU.July 23**

- 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



**Are we are bringing it to you once again throught the airwaves of SAMS Radio 1?**

**Yes we are! We will be broadcasting LIVE from the Council Chamber on Friday and Monday during the upcoming two-day Formal Meeting of the Legislative council.**

**Each sitting will start at 10am.**

**So make sure to tune in to SAMS Radio 1 as we bring you this budget session of LegCo LIVE.**

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

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

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

# Sentinel Sudoku Session

***This week's difficulty is 'Medium'***

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

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

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# Throwback Thursday



**16th July 2013:**

**Marksman Simon Henry wins St Helena's first ever gold medal in the history of the Island Games.**

**(sainthelenaisland.info)**

*Who's watching the World Cup Final on Sunday? Are you inviting friends to your place? Need a tasty snack for the game?*

# Crispy Baked Buffalo Wings



## Ingredients

- 2 lbs. chicken wings (party wings, cut into flats and drumettes)
- 1 tbsp. baking powder (make sure it's not baking soda!)
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1-2 pinches cayenne pepper (optional, for a kick)
- 1 tbsp. neutral oil or cooking spray (like avocado oil)

## Buffalo Sauce

- 1/2 cup hot sauce
- 3 tbsp. unsalted butter, melted

## Method

1. Dry the chicken: This is the most critical step for crispiness. Pat the wings completely dry using paper towels.
2. Season: In a large bowl, toss the dried wings with the oil. In a separate small bowl, mix the baking powder, salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika, and cayenne. Sprinkle over the wings and toss until evenly coated.
3. Prep the pan: Line a large rimmed baking sheet with foil or parchment paper and place a wire baking rack on top. Spray the rack lightly with cooking spray.
4. Arrange: Place the wings on the wire rack in a single layer, ensuring they aren't touching so the air can circulate.
5. Bake: Bake at 425˚F for 40 to 50 minutes, flipping halfway through, until the skin is beautifully golden-brown and crispy.
6. Sauce and serve: Whisk together the hot sauce and melted butter. Transfer the hot wings to a large clean bowl, pour the sauce over them, toss well to coat, and serve immediately.

# The Island Pulse

## BIOT Funding, Public Priorities and the Questions That Matter




Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

This week's edition of **The Island Pulse** focused entirely on the recent **Minister's Question Time (MQT),** where the panel examined the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Extended Programme** and the additional funding being made available to St Helena.

The programme featured **Councillor Julie Thomas, Councillor Derek Thomas, Councillor Denis Leo, Councillor Dr Corinda Essex, Councillor Ronald Coleman and Councillor Robert Midwinter. Councillor Clint Beard** remains off-island and was therefore unable to participate in either the recent Minister's Question Time or this week's radio discussion. The panel looked forward to welcoming him back to future broadcasts following his return to St Helena.

Collectively, the six councillors tabled questions covering transport, housing, education, healthcare, telecommunications, renewable energy, economic development and UK State Pensions. Rather than simply repeating the ministerial responses, the discussion explored what those answers revealed about Government's priorities, where progress is being made, and where members believe further detail, transparency and timely delivery are still required.

Throughout the programme, listeners also heard how supplementary questions were used to probe ministerial responses, clarify commitments and provide greater public understanding of how the BIOT funding is expected to benefit the island.

**Supporting Those Who Need It Most**

**Councillor Derek Thomas** opened the discussion by highlighting the financial pressures facing many elderly residents.

His question proposed using part of the BIOT funding to introduce **a free weekly bus pass for residents aged 70 and over**, recognising that transport costs have risen significantly since Government assumed responsibility for public transport.

The Chief Minister confirmed that options are being explored, with discussions taking place amongst elected members and an options paper expected. While free bus passes are not currently included, consideration is being given to wider support for elderly and young people.

**Councillor Derek Thomas** welcomed the fact that discussions are underway but stressed that many pensioners continue to survive on around **£85 per week**, arguing that practical assistance is needed now rather than waiting for longer-term benefit reforms.

**Councillor Dr Corinda Essex** reminded listeners that she had raised this issue over a year ago and expressed hope that the recently completed transport review would finally address support for pensioners and those on low incomes.

**BIOT Housing Programme – Are We On Track?**

**Councillor Denis Leo** sought reassurance that Government remains on schedule to meet the housing commitments contained within the BIOT agreement.

His question centred on the requirement to provide accommodation for migrant workers and whether the agreed milestones were being achieved.

Ministers confirmed that the programme remains on track, with work progressing at the former Longwood First School and a project manager now appointed. Importantly, Government advised that there are **no financial penalties** attached should delivery dates change.

**Councillor Robert Midwinter** followed up by asking whether the housing programme would reduce accommodation opportunities for local residents.

Minister Thrower assured members that it would not and explained that, once no longer required for the BIOT programme, the refurbished properties would become valuable additions to St Helena's social housing stock.

**Councillor Julie Thomas** also questioned how funding previously allocated for preparatory works at the Longwood site had been spent, requesting a detailed breakdown to provide greater transparency. She also noted that planning approvals remain outstanding for elements of the redevelopment, despite earlier investment in preparatory works.

**Education – Building Systems or Building Opportunity?**

Education generated one of the programme's most detailed discussions.

**Councillor Dr Corinda Essex** asked how the **£2.3 million BIOT education** allocation would be invested to support delivery of the Education Review.

The Minister explained that current priorities are improving IT systems and cyber security, enhancing school transport arrangements, and investing in work required to achieve COBIS standards, including safeguarding and infrastructure improvements.

While welcoming these investments, **Councillor Dr Corinda Essex** expressed disappointment that funding is not currently earmarked for wider educational opportunities such as strengthening the Student Scholarship Trust, expanding vocational and post-16 provision, increasing apprenticeship opportunities and supporting partnerships with local businesses to develop practical skills. She argued that while infrastructure is essential, equal attention must be given to improving learning oppor-

tunities and preparing young people for future employment.

**Councillor Dr Corinda Essex** also praised the outstanding achievements of St Helena students graduating overseas this year, noting that several achieved First Class degrees and special awards. She emphasised that these successes demonstrate the strength of the island's education foundations and deserve far greater public recognition.

**Councillor Derek Thomas** echoed concerns regarding apprenticeships, explaining that many experienced tradespeople are willing to train young people but require modest financial support to offset the cost of supervision and lost productivity.

**Councillor Julie Thomas** added further concern that although BIOT funding offers significant flexibility, little currently appears allocated towards implementing recommendations from the long-awaited Post-16 Review. She also highlighted the additional financial burden many families now face purchasing PPE, steel-toe boots and equipment for vocational placements, suggesting that targeted assistance could provide immediate support to students entering skilled trades.

Both councillors also questioned why business cases for several projects were still under development, noting that the Education Review and other strategic work had already identified many of the island's priorities.

**Health, Telecommunications and Renewable Energy**

**Councillor Julie Thomas** questioned Ministers on the largest single allocation within the BIOT package — **£5.7 million** designated for health, telecommunications and renewable energy.

Ministers advised that approximately **£2 million** will support health services, with around **£1 million** expected to assist overseas medical referrals. Investment will also be directed towards replacing essential medical equipment, alongside priorities including dentistry, social care and strengthening mental health services.

However, **Councillor Julie Thomas** noted that Ministers were unable to provide a detailed breakdown between telecommunications and renewable energy investment, making it difficult to understand how funding priorities would be balanced.

Minister Thrower advised that public announcements regarding both sectors are expected within approximately one month.

**Councillor Robert Midwinter** welcomed that commitment, recognising that telecommunications and renewable energy remain among the issues most frequently raised by constituents.

**Councillor Dr Corinda Essex** later explained that she had raised a related matter during a subsequent Health Committee meeting, asking whether BIOT funding could also be used to improve the hospital environment for patients. She referred specifically to the bathroom and toilet facilities in the men's ward, which she believes require improvement, as well as the lack of fans in hospital wards during periods of excessive heat. While disappointed that no improvements are currently planned for the men's ward bathroom facilities, she welcomed the assurance that fans could potentially be purchased through the BIOT equipment allocation.

**Beyond Funding – Delivering Long-Term Growth**

**Councillor Ronald Coleman** shifted the discussion beyond individual projects and asked what Government's longer-term vision is for reducing St Helena's dependence on UK financial aid.

While Ministers reiterated that improving health, education and economic growth remain central priorities, Ronald felt the response lacked detail.

He suggested the island should now be investing strategically in areas such as:

- agriculture and food production;
- fisheries;
- digital transformation;
- tourism;
- renewable energy;
- heritage and cultural industries.

Rather than repeating broad strategic ambitions, he argued that the public now wants to understand exactly how available funding will translate into sustainable economic growth and improved living standards.

Julie Thomas agreed, observing that while Government's Vision and Strategy set an important direction, residents are increasingly seeking measurable delivery plans showing what will actually be achieved over the next three years.

**Frozen UK State Pensions Still Unresolved**

The final question came from **Robert Midwinter**, who sought an update on efforts to secure uprated UK State Pensions for Saints returning home from the United Kingdom.

The Chief Minister explained that despite sustained lobbying by both St Helena Government and the UK Overseas Territories Association, the UK Government remains unwilling to consider St Helena separately from the wider Overseas Territories.

Robert also asked whether Government had assessed the wider economic consequences of frozen pensions.

While no formal assessment has yet been undertaken, Ministers acknowledged that pension arrangements remain an important consideration for many Saints contemplating returning home, potentially affecting both families and the wider economy.

**Overall Reflections**

Throughout the programme there was broad recognition that the BIOT Extended Programme represents a significant opportunity for St Helena. Panel members welcomed investment into healthcare, education, housing, telecommunications and renewable energy, while also acknowledging encouraging commitments such as future social housing from the Longwood redevelopment and forthcoming public announcements on telecoms and green energy.

However, several recurring themes emerged:

**Strengths**

- Significant new investment across key public services.
- Growing focus on infrastructure and long-term resilience.
- Continued ministerial engagement through MQT.

**Opportunities**

- Accelerating apprenticeship and vocational training.
- Supporting elderly residents with transport costs.
- Expanding post-16 education and workforce development.
- Delivering clearer economic growth initiatives.
- Improving healthcare facilities and mental health services.

**Areas of Concern**

- Limited detail on how some BIOT funding will be allocated.
- Delays in developing business cases.
- Uncertainty around implementation timelines.
- Ongoing concerns over the pace of delivery.

As Dr Corinda Essex concluded during the discussion, St Helena has many opportunities ahead, but the greatest challenge remains ensuring that progress happens quickly enough to avoid losing momentum and to deliver tangible improvements for the island community.

Listeners can hear the full edition of **The Island Pulse** in its repeat broadcasts on **Thursday at 7.30pm and Sunday at 5.00pm on SAMS Radio 1.**

NOTICE BOARD

# Mantis St Helena

## WE ARE HIRING

### Join Our Team

Mantis St Helena is looking for enthusiastic, professional, and service-driven individuals to join our growing team.

### Current Vacancies

- Human Resources Manager
- Operations Manager
- Food & Beverage Manager
- Waiters & Waitresses
- Bar Staff
- Commis Chef I
- Room Attendants & Laundry Attendants
- Receptionists
- Admin Support

If you are passionate about hospitality, enjoy working with a team and are committed to delivering exceptional guest experiences, we would love to hear from you.

### Application Form available from:

shanon.cornelson@mantiscollection.com

**Please email your Application Form, Current Vetting Certificate and CV to:**
yvonne.hamman@mantiscollection.com

**Closing Date for Applications**
Friday, 31 July 2026

| VACANCY ADVERT | St Helena Airport Ltd |
|---|---|

The St Helena Airport has an exciting Vacancy for an **Airport Operations Officer**

Applicants must be in pocession of:

- 5 GCSE grade A*-C (or equivalent), including English, Mathematics and Science (NVQ-2) or demonstrated relevant experience.
- Relevant qualification in Airport Operations, Aviation Management/related field or demonstrated relevant experience
- Aerodrome Operations, Safety Management System, or Airside Safety qualification or demonstrated relevant experience
- Experience in airport operations, aviation operations, emergency services, transportation or other relevant operational environment.
- Knowledge of ICAO airport operations regulations
- Knowledge of Overseas Territories Aviation Regulations
- Knowledge and understanding of the Airport certification and regulatory requirements.
- Experience working in a customer-focused operational environment
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work calmly under pressure and make sound operational decisions.
- Strong attention to detail and ability to produce accurate reports
- Strong IT skills and ability to use Microsoft applications.
- A strong customer focused and ability to provide a high quality of customer service.

The Successful applicant must provide:

- A satisfactory Criminal History Records Check (note: there are a number of disqualifying offences that do not permit the issuance of an unescorted ID permit)
- A satisfactory five-year employment/education/training verification check
- A satisfactory identification verification documentation
- A clean and valid St Helena Drivers licence Category C.

Other essential requirements are listed in the Job Description.

The starting salary for this post is between **£19,626.13 to £21,409.84** per annum, depending on qualifications and experience plus a **12.5%** company pension contribution.

For more information, please contact Gerald Yon, Deputy Aerodrome Manager, on email gerald.yon@sthelenaairport.aero or on Telephone number 25180 Ext 173.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and skills to suit this role, and would like to receive the job description and application form please contact Elaine Hopkins at the St Helena Airport on Telephone number 25180 Ext 0 or email address **recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero**

The closing date for this position is **31 July 2026**.

# NOTICE BOARD

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

## We're Hiring: Marine Project Officer

**Full-time** **£9945 per annum**





Do you have a passion for marine conservation and a desire to make a real difference?

The St Helena National Trust is looking for a Marine Project Officer to support conservation work on whale sharks, seahorses, devil rays and Storm Petrels, while helping deliver long-term marine monitoring across St Helena's waters.

You'll be involved in underwater and coastal field surveys, species monitoring, data collection, equipment care and day-to-day project delivery. Strong organisational and communication skills, attention to detail and a practical, positive attitude are essential. Experience in ecological fieldwork is desirable, and all required snorkel and scuba training will be provided.

This is a fantastic opportunity to build your skills, work with local and international conservation partners, and help protect one of the world's most unique marine environments.

**For more information,**
email: neil.thorp@trust.org.sh Tel:22307

**To request an application form and job description,**
email: amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh Tel:22190

**Closing date:**
**Midnight, Thursday 23rd July 2026**

A PROPHECY SEMINAR

# The Book of Daniel

*When The Past Tells The Future*

Have you ever wanted to know exactly what will happen tomorrow? In today's anxious world, almost everyone wants to know the future so they can be prepared for what's to come. Come and hear amazing truths and promises from God's Word.

**Where:** Longwood Community Center
**When:** Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (July 24 – August 22)
**Hosted by:** St. Helena Seventh-day Adventist Church



### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Beautiful live music
- Nightly Question Box
- Refreshments served on Sundays

*Got questions about Bible prophecy? Drop them in our Question Box for answers during the seminar!*

### ADMISSION

**Completely Free**
No collection/offerings will be taken.

### QUESTIONS? CALL US

Pastor Britz: 65984
Rodney Braaf: 51443
Doreen Gatien: 53133

✦ Everyone welcome — bring your family and friends ✦

Ageways

The Committee and Friends of Ageways charity take this opportunity of thanking everyone who supported their sing-a-long at the Godfather's Rock Club on Saturday 20 June. Special thanks are extended to Melvin and his team, our musicians, the audience, those who assisted before and during the event, and everyone who purchased raffle tickets, participated in the novelty auction, and gave donations.

We are exceptionally grateful to one very generous member of the public who donated five raffle prizes and one other person who donated one prize. Thank you!

The evening was a great success. We sang, laughed and had 'such fun!'

**Lucky winners and proceeds were as follows:**

**Raffle winners:**

1st prize Vacuum Cleaner - Melvin Benjamin, HTH
2nd prize Food Processor - Steve Bowers, HTH
3rd prize George Foreman Grill – Karen Allen, Cleugh's Plain
4th prize Sandwich Maker - Alex Richards, HTH
5th prize Place Mat Set - Ivy Duncan, Alarm Forest
Star Prize JBL Speaker - Linda George, HTH

**Proceeds:**

**Raffle** - £819.00
**Food Hamper** - £50.00 highest bidder, Basil Young
**Collection** - £194.16
**Grand total: £1,063.16**

*Thank you one and all. Your generosity and support will help us to continue fulfilling our mission.*

# Constituency Meetings

Councillors invite all residents to the next series of District Meetings aimed at strengthening communication and collaboration between the Council and the community.

These meetings are your opportunity to share your views on local issues, raise concerns and highlight priorities of your district and our island

All meetings will start at 7.30pm as follows:

| Date | Venue | Chairperson |
|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, 22 Jul 2026 | Kingshurst Community Centre | Cllr Robert Midwinter |
| Monday, 27 Jul 2026 | Jamestown Community Centre | Cllr Dr Corinda Essex |
| Wednesday, 29 Jul 2026 | Harford Community Centre | Cllr Denis Leo |
| Wednesday, 29 Jul 2026 | Silver Hill Bar | Cllr Ronald Coleman |
| Thursday, 30 Jul 2026 | Sandy Bay Community Centre (TBC) | Cllr Clint Beard |
| Monday 3 Aug 2026 | HTH Community Centre | Cllr Dr Corinda Essex |
| Wednesday, 5 Aug 2026 | Alarm Forest at Jamestown Community Centre | Cllr Julie Thomas |
| Wednesday, 5 Aug 2026 | St Michaels's Church, Ruperts | Cllr Dr Corinda Essex |
| Thursday, 6 Aug 2026 | Blue Hill Community Centre | Cllr Clint Beard |

**Legislative Council, 14 July 2026**

# Uniquely Saint Market

Meet artisans & producers

## Stalls & Activities

- G-Unique
- St Helena Art & Crafts
- SHAPE
- St Helena Coffee
- Handmade crafts
- Confectionary
- Fresh produce
- Honey Tasting
- Preserves

## Entertainment

- The Blue Hill Band
- Joshuas Fun (facepainting)

## Demonstrations

- Lace making
- Wool spinning
- Flax weaving

## Food Vendors

- New Horizons
- Get Baked
- Youth Parliament
- Atlantic Store
- SDA Church
- Healthy Foods

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 26 July 2026 | 12pm – 4pm | Jamestown Community Centre |

£1 Adults | 50p Kids (3 yrs to 15 yrs)

# Uniquely Saint Market



| | |
|---|---|
| 12:00 | Gates Open |
| 12:30 | Welcome & Thanks |
| 12:30 | Lace Making demo |
| 13:00 | Stedson and The Blue Hill Band |
| 13:30 | Wool spinning demo |
| 14:30 | Raffle |
| 15:00 | Flax weaving demo |
| 15:00 | Band |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday 26 July 2026 | 12pm – 4pm | Jamestown Community Centre |

£1 Adults | 50p Kids (3 yrs to 15 yrs)

# NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

Development of St Helena's

## DOMESTIC VESSELS LICENSING AND SAFETY STANDARDS POLICY

DOMESTIC VESSELS LICENSING FRAMEWORK




**Are you a boat owner, vessel operator, marine tour operator, fisherman, or member of the maritime community?**

The Maritime Authority invites all boat owners, vessel operators, marine tour operators, and fishermen to attend a public consultation meeting on the **proposed development of a domestic vessel licensing framework** and associated safety asandards for vessels operating within St Helena waters.

**DATE**
Wednesday
22 July 2026

**TIME**
6:00 pm

**VENUE**
Education Learning Centre
Jamestown
*(located below KS2 School, formerly Pilling Primary School)*

**THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Learn about the proposed safety standards and licensing framework
- Discuss the proposed vessel safety checklist and provide feedback on future requirements
- Help shape a practical, proportionate and sustainable framework for our community

**HAVE YOUR SAY**
Your input is important to ensure that any future requirements are practical, proportionate and developed with the support of domestic vessel owners, operators and marine tour operators.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

*Your Voice Matters – Help Shape the Future of Maritime Safety on St Helena*

For more information contact the Maritime Authority on 25970 or email mia.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

## HOUSE FOR SALE

Escape the noise and discover your own private haven in this beautifully presented countryside home, which is nestled in a tranquil rural setting of Alarm Forest.

This property, which resides on three separate parcels of land that equates to 1.0729 acres of land, does have the potential to be developed into two or three separate apartments.

For additional information in respect to the sale of this property, then please extend an email to: joyce.duncan05@outlook.com

SKYLINE
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## YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN PROCUREMENT & FREIGHT SOLUTIONS

Skyline provides competitive and efficient procurement and freight services from **South Africa** and **UK**, catering to both **personal** and **business needs**.



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LET'S MOVE YOUR BUSINESS FORWARD!

# NOTICE BOARD

## Scout Jackpot Draw

The winners of the June
Scout Jackpot were as follows:

**1st Prize - £100 – Mouse**
**Ticket No. 170**

**2nd Prize - £50 – Ted Henry**
**Ticket No. 395**

**3rd Prize - £25 – Gavin and Angie Benjamin**
**Ticket No. 343**

**4th Prize - £25 – Brendan Leo**
**Ticket No. 125**

The July draw will take place on 7 August.

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




## Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

### Prayer Meeting-Online

Saturday 18th July 2026 at 8:30am
Contact Mercy –Prayer Co-Ordinator for details-65880 or 24212

~

### Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 19th July 2026 11.00am,
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

### Cell Meetings

Tuesday 21st July 2026
Jamestown @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Bramwell 62117)
Wednesday 22nd July 2026
Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Mercy 61707)
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 6.30pm
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

### Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

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

## BAPTIST CHURCH

Gospel Outreach Services - Sunday, 19th July

Kingshurst Community Centre 3.00 pm

Bible Studies

Tuesday, 21st July: Baptist School Hall, 7.00 pm
Wednesday, 22nd July: Blue Hill Community, 7.00 pm
Thursday, 23rd July: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old

Saturday, 18th July: Baptist School Hall
10.00 am to 11.30 am

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*For further information contact: Tel No 22388*

## DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **The Parish of St Paul's** | | |
| **Sunday 19th July 2026 - 16th Sunday of the Year** | | |
| 8.00 a.m. | Eucharist | Cathedral |
| 9.30 a.m. | Family Eucharist/Junior Church/Church Parade | Cathedral |
| 3.30 p.m. | Eucharist | St Peter |
| | | |
| **The Parish of St James** | | |
| **Sunday 19th July 2026 – 16th Sunday of the Year** | | |
| 9.30 a.m. | Eucharist | St James |
| | | |
| | | |
| | **Thursday 23rd July** | |
| 7.00 p.m. | Eucharist with Healing | St John |
| | | |
| **The Parish of St Matthew** | | |
| **Sunday 19th July 2026 – 16th Sunday of the Year** | | |
| 11.15 a.m. | Eucharist/Licensing of Fr Josias | St Mark |
| | | |
| | **Tuesday 21st July** | |
| **7.00 p.m.** | **Mission Worship and Praise** | **St Mark** |

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

# JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

## Volunteer Opportunities – Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section

**Volunteer Opportunities – Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section**
The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section is looking for volunteers to help with various conservation and research initiatives scheduled for later this year and extending into 2027.

**Endemic Species Research Project:**
The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section is set to start a project collecting samples of four endemic fish species around the island. The section is looking for skilled SCUBA divers to collect samples using hand lances and hand nets. The Section is also looking for individuals to help with sampling in the Marine Centre laboratory. Training will be provided with researchers in August. Please reach out for further details and to engage in a discussion.

**Five-Year Dive Survey Programme:**
The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section is set to conduct its five-year marine survey program on both the windward and leeward sides of the island in October 2026 and April 2027. The Section is looking for confident SCUBA divers, who can dive in various conditions, have demonstrable experience diving on the windward side of the island, and feel comfortable working from boats while spending extended time at sea, ideally without suffering from seasickness, we encourage you to contact us for additional information and a discussion.

**For further information about the Volunteer Opportunities and to obtain the 'Expression of Interest form, interested persons may contact Adam Riggs on Tel No: 25966 or via e-mail adam.riggs@sainthelena.gov.sh. Completed expression of interest forms should be returned to Adam Riggs by 21 July 2026**

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

# NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

## JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

**BENEFITS**

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

**HOW TO APPLY**

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

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

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

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

### Human Resources Assistant – 6 months fixed term
**(£10,088 per annum) (Local interests only)**

We are looking for a highly motivated individual to undertake a range of HR transactional processes and deliver a high-quality HR service. You will be required to provide administration duties in connection with recruitment and selection, processing of leavers and contractual changes in accordance with employment related policies and procedures. This is a great opportunity to start your career in HR if you are a motivated, self-starter who has a passion for delivering great customer service and administration. Contact us for more information and a discussion

**Enquiries:** Sharnell Benjamin on Tel No.22470 or Email: sharnell.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh
**Closing date:** 21 July 2026
**Shortlisting date:** 23 July 2026
**Interview date:** 29 July 2026

### Senior Care Assistant
**(£11,935 per annum)**

Are you an experienced care professional ready to take the next step in your career? If so, Social Care is seeking to appoint a Senior Care Assistant to join the team at Ebony View. The successful candidate will play a key role in delivering high-quality, person-centred care and promoting the health, well-being, and independence of service users in accordance with individual Care Plans, as well as established policies, procedures, and best practice guidelines. The post holder will demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with proven experience in supporting individuals within a care environment who present with challenging behaviours. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh
**Closing Date:** 24 July 2026
**Shortlisting date:** 29 July 2026
**Interview date:** 06 August 2026

### Senior Support Worker
**(£11,935 per annum)**

Are you an experienced and compassionate care professional looking to take the next step in your career? If so, Social Care is seeking to appoint a dedicated Senior Support Worker to join the team at Piccolo Hill**.** This is an excellent opportunity to support the delivery of high-quality Supported Living and Respite Services, ensuring service users receive safe, person-centred support that promotes independence, choice and well-being. Working with the management team, you will oversee the day-to-day operations of the team and promote high standards of care for people with learning disabilities and non-learning disabilities. You will also share responsibility for maintaining health and safety standards, managing risks, and ensuring safeguarding concerns are addressed promptly and in accordance with organisational policies and best practice. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

**Enquiries:** Kelly Hopkins on Tel No. 23343 or Email: kelly.hopkins@sainthelena.gov.sh
**Closing Date:** 23 July 2026
**Shortlisting date:** 30 July 2026
**Interview date:** 12 August 2026

*The St Helena Public Service welcomes all applications from across our whole community, including our St Helenian diaspora wishing to return to St Helena. If you are a St Helenian currently living and working overseas, please contact us at recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh to discuss how we can support you.*
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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

# JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

**BENEFITS**

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- → **Pension –** 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

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

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

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

## Budget Officer

**(£13,569 per annum)**

Are you experienced in accounting or budgeting? If so, SHG is seeking a Budget Officer to join our Treasury team. In this role, you will provide expert guidance and support to budget holders in preparing, monitoring, and managing their budgets. You will review and analyse budget documentation, scrutinise departmental Budget Execution Reports, and advise Budget Holders and Senior Management on strategies to address variances, providing clear evidence to support your recommendations. If this opportunity excites you, we'd love to hear from you!

**Enquiries:** **Mercy Chiseya on Tel No. 22470 or Email: mercy.chiseya@sainthelena.gov.sh**
**Closing date:** **31 July 2026**
**Shortlisting date:** **05 August 2026**
**Interview date:** **18 August 2026**

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

# NOTICE BOARD

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

has a Vacancy for a

# Financial Services Manager

This is a high profile, leadership position as a member of the Company's Corporate Management Team.

The **Financial Services Manager** will be responsible for the Management of the Finance Department and to oversee the accurate provision of financial services and financial advice to all levels of the company, whilst upholding the Company's Purpose & Values.

**Interested Persons should have:**

- The following knowledge and experience:
    - 5 years professional experience in a financial field
    - 3-5 years' experience in financial management, accounting and budgetary control, including financial planning, and project management experience
    - Practical knowledge of maintenance of accounting systems internal controls and relevant accounting procedures. Experience with Access Dimensions will be an advantage.
    - Direct experience of preparation, analysis and reporting on monthly, quarterly and annual financial information
    - Preparation of Annual Financial Statements in readiness for audit.
- CCAB qualification or recent equivalent level of experience
- Financial Leadership/Management certification/accreditation.
- Strong financial and strategic planning skills including technical budgeting, forecasting and analytical skills
- Comprehensive knowledge of financial regulations and compliance requirements.
- Financial Risk assessment and risk mitigation skills and abilities
- Financial technical skills and abilities and able to train and develop accounting technicians and the wider finance team
- Delegation, planning and organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- A high degree of integrity, maturity and professionalism with the ability to lead effectively in a demanding, fast paced team environment

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Paul Gasteen, Chief Operating Officer, on telephone number 22380, or via email: paul.gasteen@solomons.co.sh

Application forms can be collected from the Main Office Building, Jamestown, or alternatively, an electronic copy can be requested via email address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, or via email address hrm@solomons.co.sh by **1600hrs, Thursday, 23 July 2026.**

# 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 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, 24 July 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

SPORTS ARENA

# Golf Report

## Hopkins shoots clear of the field in entertaining Par 3 contest




**SHGC,** Contributed

Twelve golfers took to the fairways on Sunday, 12 July, for the St Helena Golf Club's Par 3 Strokeplay Competition, enjoying pleasant playing conditions that made for an enjoyable afternoon of golf. Half of the handicap was applied.

It was Jason Hopkins who stole the show with an outstanding performance, carding a superb net 60 to claim the overall title by four shots. Hopkins also had the satisfaction of taking the Lowest Gross Score of the day, underlining a dominant display from tee to green.

The battle for the runner-up spot proved much tighter. Jeffrey Stevens edged Gerald George on countback after both players finished on net 64, with Keith Joshua just one shot further back on net 65 to complete a closely contested leading group.

Peter Bagley finished fifth with a net 65, followed by Gavin Crowie on 67, while Helena Stevens and Ashton Benjamin both returned net 68s. Freddy Thomas posted a respectable net 69, with Blythe Tainton, Hensil Beard and Rodney Braaf completing the field.

The ever-popular Two Ball Pool once again rewarded accurate golf, with balls collected by:

Jason Hopkins – 17th hole
Peter Bagley – 7th hole
Freddy Thomas – 14th hole
Jeffrey Stevens – 14th hole
Gavin Crowie – 5th hole

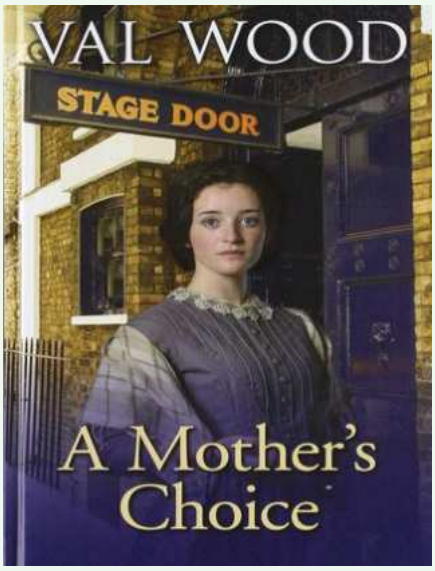
Congratulations to Jason Hopkins on an impressive all-round performance and to all twelve players for another enjoyable afternoon of competitive golf.

Attention now turns to next Sunday's (19 July) Monthly Medal Competition, tee off 12:00 where players will once again battle it out for club honours in what promises to be another exciting day on the St Helena Golf Club calendar. Registration will close on Saturday, 18 July, at 3pm. On 26 July, the club will host the annual Galway Cup competition sponsored by committee members. Other members are also welcome to contribute to the sponsorship kitty. For further information on our events check out our Facebook page and www.sthelenagolf.com

Grip it and rip it!

# Book of the Week

**Public Library Service**




**A Mother's Choice by Val Wood**

**For ten years, Delia has had to fend for herself and her son Jack, and as a young unmarried mother, life has never been easy. Every new coat and pair of shoes was bought with what little money she could scrape together as a singer on the stage.**

**But when the theatre work dries up, Delia faces a dilemma: continue the search for employment or return to the place that should be home where only spite and hatred await them.**

**Desperate now, a chance encounter suddenly presents a lifeline. But Delia is faced with an impossible, heart-wrenching choice. Can she bear to leave Jack behind?**

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



## FOOTBALL RESULTS

*Saturday 11 July 2026*

**Fugees 2**
J Williams, K Minto

**Harts 2**
L George (4) L Williams
*MoM: Shane Stroud*
*YPoM: Ryan Stevens*

*Sunday 12 July 2026*

**Bellboys 21**
J Thomas (12), T Phillips (3)
S Henry (2), T Brady,
J Duncan, W Clingham,
A Duncan
*MoM: Joey Thomas*
*YPoM: Zac Francis*

**STH Young Boys 1**
J Jacobs

**La Verde 0**
*YPoM: Harry Winfield*

**Rovers 9**
R Benjamin (3), T Osborne
S Benjamin (3), R Legg (2)
*MoM: Ronan Legg*

## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

*Saturday 11 July 2026*

*2pm* **Harts vs STH Young Boys**

*Sunday 12 July 2026*

*1.30pm* **Fugees vs La Verde**

*3.30pm* **Bellboys vs Rovers**

**Fixtures subject to weather conditions*

Harts Captain Shane Stroud impressed once again from the centre of midfield, dictating the tempo and earning Man of the Match honours. Harts' young right-back Ryan Stevens also impressed with a stellar shift to take home the Young Player of the Match award.

**Twelve-Goal Joey Thomas Leads Reigning Champions in 21-1 Annihilation -** *Bellboys 21 – 1 STH Young Boys*

It was always going to be an uphill battle for league debutants STH Young Boys as they faced the formidable reigning champions, Bellboys. The tone was set instantly when midfielder Scott Henry found the net early to put his side a goal up. What followed was a ruthless display of attacking superiority that serves as a scary warning to the rest of the league.

An incredible seven Bellboys players got their names on the scoresheet. While Taylan Phillips turned in a stellar performance to bag himself a hat-trick, the spotlight was entirely stolen by last season's Player of the Year, Joey Thomas. In an unprecedented display of clinical finishing, Thomas scored an astonishing 12 goals, comfortably catapulting himself to the top of the league's golden boot charts and earning Man of the Match honours.

Promising midfield maestro Zac Francis earned another Young Player of the Match nod for his orchestrations in the middle of the park, even without getting on the scoresheet.

There was a small ray of light for the STH Young Boys when exciting young forward Jude Jacobs scored his second goal in two weeks, marking an impressive start to his debut season. However, the consolation remained a footnote in a massive 21-1 statement victory for the league leaders, who stay top of the pack on goal difference as they head into a blockbuster clash against fellow title contenders Rovers this coming weekend.

**Clinical Rovers Crush La Verde** - La Verde 0 – 9 Rovers

After dropping frustrating points in a controversial draw last week, a relentless Rovers side returned to the field with a point to prove as serious title contenders. Taking on La Verde, the serial winners made their intentions clear early on through a piece of pure footballing magic.

Executing a perfectly rehearsed corner routine, Ronan Legg took a deft touch to beat his marker before unleashing a venomous, 25-yard left-footed volley. The ball flew like a guided missile into the far top corner—a certified "worldie" that set the standard for the rest of the match. His menacing play, spectacular efforts at goal, and defence-splitting passes throughout the ninety minutes comfortably earned him the Man of the Match award.

The floodgates opened rapidly from there. Captain Rico Benjamin—renowned as a "leave it all on the field" player who enters every duel with maximum intensity—and the electric Shaquille Benjamin tortured the La Verde defence, scoring two goals apiece to establish a commanding 5-0 lead by halftime. Despite the scoreline, Rovers will feel they left even more goals on the pitch, occasionally opting to shoot when a simple square pass might have been the better option.

Credit must go to La Verde, who bravely continued to try and play their possession-based passing game despite the relentlessness of the opposition. They were severely depleted, missing their usual ball-playing centre-backs as well as Captain Jordan Yon, who is usually the heart of their midfield. Their task was made even harder when goalkeeper David Layman picked up a painful knock in an early collision with Rico Benjamin.

In the second half, Toure Osborne got in on the action, Rico completed his hat-trick, Ronan Legg converted a penalty, and Shaquille Benjamin wrapped up his own hat-trick to round off a dominant 9-0 victory. Jordan Yon took over in goal for the injured Layman and made several respectable stops, while young midfielder Harry Winfield stood out as a bright spark for La Verde, earning Young Player of the Match honours for his close control and passing. Rovers keeper Ryan Backhouse was also alert when it mattered, keeping his concentration to deny La Verde during a brief second-half spell of pressure.

Rovers will be highly buoyed by this clinical performance as they look to take on the reigning champions this weekend with the chance to go top of the table.

# SPORTS ARENA

## Harts Determination, Bellboys Domination, Rovers Retaliation







**Liam Yon,** SAMS

**It was a weekend of absolute theatre, statement scorelines, and local bragging rights as Gameweek 4 of the SHFA League delivered goals galore. From a fiercely contested St Paul's derby on Saturday to Sunday's sheer attacking ruthlessness—including an unprecedented twelve-goal individual masterclass and a dazzling twenty-five yard "worldie" volley—the island's title contenders laid down their markers in spectacular fashion. With the net bulging an incredible 38 times across just three fixtures, the stage is now set for a thrilling season ahead.**

**Youth and Resolve Carry Harts Over the Line in Seven-Goal 'Old Firm' Thriller** - *Fugees 2 – 5 Harts*

The historic St Paul's rivalry delivered a modern classic on Saturday afternoon as the Fugees and Harts clashed in what local fans affectionately dubbed the "Old Firm Derby". With both proud clubs originating from the St Paul's district and sharing a passionate local supporter base, the atmosphere was electric from the first whistle.

Fugees welcomed the return of veteran aggressive defender Cristen Yon, whose physical presence promised to stabilise their defensive line. However, it was the Harts who seized early command, dominating possession with slick, rapid passing sequences and impressive technical display from their senior icons and rising stars alike. Despite carving out numerous golden opportunities, the Harts initially struggled with their composure in front of goal. At one point, a rare blunder from Fugees keeper Alonzo Henry left the net gaping, but a miraculous goal-line tackle and desperate clearance from defender Dontae Buckley kept Harts out.

The Fugees' resistance would eventually be broken by young striking sensation Lebron George, who converted two first-half goals in quick succession. Accompanied by an equally brilliant finish from youngster Levi Williams, the Harts went into the break with a commanding 3-0 lead.

The second half, however, saw a completely rejuvenated Fugees side. Pushing Cristen Yon into an unconventional centre-forward role to inject tenacity up front, Fugees mounted a ferocious comeback. Rapid goals from Jason Williams and Korben Minto sent the underdog-loving crowd into a frenzy as Fugees looked to turn the tide. Lars Williams, though not on the scoresheet, was a tireless engine for Fugees, showing incredible speed and hunger as he chased down every lost cause.

The momentum was controversially halted when Harts were awarded a penalty after Fugees Captain Travis Yon saw a clearance ricochet onto his outstretched arm. Lebron George coolly stepped up to slot home his second penalty in consecutive weeks to secure his hat-trick. Moments later, Fugees' appeals for a hand-ball of their own were waved away, allowing the Harts to construct a lightning-fast counter-attack which Lebron George emphatically finished, sealing the game at 5-2 and recording an outstanding four-goal haul.

*Continued inside...*