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SENTINEL

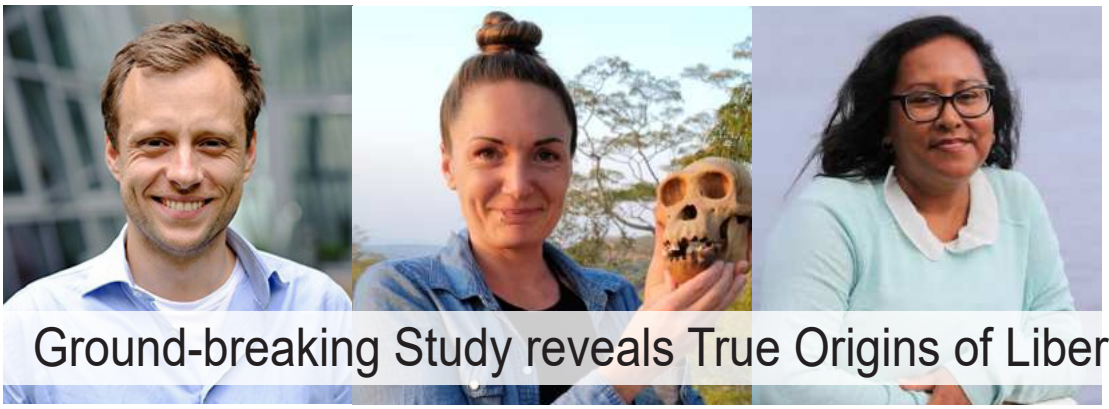
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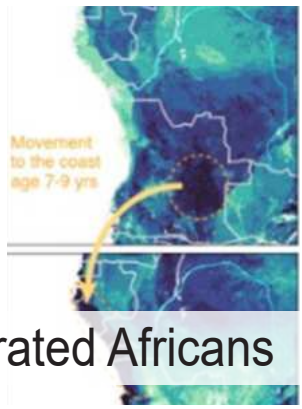
The Unanimous 'Aye'



Legislative Council passes £49m "Foundational Budget"







Ground-breaking Study reveals True Origins of Liberated Africans



St Helena Flight Safety Under Scrutiny

Air Accidents Investigation Branch publishes flight safety report on St Helena commercial flights

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

So, the World Cup is over and Spain are now the World Champions. In my opinion, Spain grew into the tournament and got better and better as they progressed, they wasn't the most convincing starting off the tournament but found their groove on the way. The game that really woke people up was Spain's dismantlement of France, an absolute masterclass and a masterclass from the player of the tournament, Rodri; the Captain that showed up when it mattered. Speaking of showing up, what I loved about the World Cup is that most all of the star players from each country showed up to the party. You could truly see that they were all playing for their country. The first world cup for Norway in over 20 years and their stars really did show up to the party. All eyes were on one of the most prolific strikers in recent times, Erling Haaland, and he did not disappoint, racking up seven goals in the tournament. Then we have the Golden Boot winner, Kylian Mbappe; coming off a somewhat underwhelming season, to his standards, he took on the responsibility and showed up for France, collecting 10 goals in the tournament which made him the World Cup's all-time top scorer with 22 goals. Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane for England also came to the party and would take the game by the scruff of the neck. And there are so many more to mention, but we have to talk about the G.O.A.T, Lionel Messi; at 39 years old, a lot of people were worried that he wouldn't be able to perform at the highest level, but they were proven wrong. He was the driving force behind Argentina's charge to the final, scoring crucial goals and making crucial assists - for me, settling the greatest of all time debate. And, as for all the England criticism, listen I think everyone and their mum knew when those substitutions were made they were doomed, but prior to that they showed heart, gripping all the supporters and making them proud to be England supporters again!

South Atlantic Media Services Ltd.,
The Media Centre, Castle Gardens,
Jamestown, St Helena, South Atlantic
Ocean, STHL 1ZZ. Tel: 22727
E: news@sams.sh, W: www.sams.sh
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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As a Saint living abroad with familial ties on the island, I have found *The Surgeon of St Helena*, produced by Always True Crime, deeply troubling to hear. My thoughts are first and foremost with the claimants and their families, whose experiences deserve justice and accountability.

Equally appalling as the allegations against the surgeon are the serious questions raised about SHG's apparent efforts to conceal, minimise, or obstruct full accountability for what happened.

This scandal brings into sharp focus a broader and longstanding issue that extends beyond the actions of one surgeon, the apparent failure of effective clinical oversight under the Chief Medical Officer, or the decisions of any one Governor. It shines a revealing spotlight on an institutional culture within SHG leadership that appears resistant to scrutiny, ownership, and accountability.

Institutional arrogance is evident when legitimate questions are met with silence and when catastrophic governance failures do not result in a clear public accounting of what went wrong, who was responsible, and what has changed as a result.

Particular scrutiny should also fall on individuals who have held, or currently hold, positions of power and influence and who, when entrusted with the authority to challenge systemic failures relating to this case, may have remained silent or placed institutional loyalty and self-preservation above their responsibility to the people they were appointed to serve.

Those entrusted with leadership have a greater duty to challenge systemic negligence and act with integrity when it matters most. That is especially relevant if St Helena is to successfully attract investment and resolve complex depopulation challenges, because trust in public institutions is fundamental to both.

The realities of life in St Helena's small island community cannot be ignored. SHG is the largest employer, and challenging institutions can carry personal, professional, and social consequences. Nor is St Helena's colonial legacy confined to the past. Its remnants remain visible in a constitutional system where locally elected government coexists with a UK-appointed Governor, and ultimate constitutional authority rests with the UK Government.

The Surgeon of St Helena scandal, and the international attention it is attracting, must not only help forge a less obstructive path to justice for the claimants, but also catalyse meaningful reform to strengthen transparency, oversight, and institutional accountability on St Helena.

Examination must extend beyond The Castle and confront the accountability gap between St Helena and Westminster. Current governance obscures where responsibility lies across SHG, the Governor, and the UK Government. These are three distinct centres of authority with different mandates, priorities, incentives, and measures of success that do not always align.

The result is an accountability gap that weakens the protection of Saints' constitutional rights by obscuring who is responsible and obstructing the pursuit of effective, independent redress when systemic institutional failures lead to catastrophic outcomes for islanders.

Ann-Marie Jonas
United States

Dear Editor,

In response to the SHCFA's letter published last week and the mention of building bridges.

The 7 years of opposition by the SHCFA is undisputedly documented by events such as the island wide petition against the investor's selection and subsequent legal proceedings against SHG. Waylon Thomas himself verbally confirmed to me that he will never support STC, which is his prerogative. I can only assume that that was the view of all its members as we have not received their support. Please provide the context for STC's refusal of fish delivery. For every instance mentioned, the correct context explained the outcome in our email exchange.

I extend therefore the invitation for meaningful and direct engagement to build said bridge. Both SHCFA and individuals in support of SHCFA, like Malcolm Williams, resort to various media platforms instead of attempting to engage with us directly. I hope we can progress to the latter.

Sincerely yours,
Johann Bezuidenhout

Dear Editor,

Please see below my address made in Formal LegCo in response to the budget.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this Budget, and in doing so I want to set out clearly why for the first budget from this government, Health and Social Care is receiving the largest share of recurrent spending, and why it is not only justified, but necessary.

This Budget is about protecting the services people rely on today, whilst preparing St Helena for the pressures of tomorrow. Nowhere is that balance more important than in Health and Social Care. Health and Social Care now accounts for around 29% of recurrent Government expenditure, up from 27% in the previous year, because the needs of our population are changing and intensifying year on year. This is not a sign of weakness in the service. It is the unavoidable consequence of an ageing population, rising chronic disease, the cost of specialist treatment, and the reality of delivering care on a small, remote island.

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by recognising the wider frame in which this Budget has been set. The Chief Minister has presented it as a foundational Budget — one that stabilises the island, strengthens the machinery of government, and creates room for more to be done in the years ahead. I support that approach. It is realistic, it will require discipline, and it understands that if we do not first secure the foundations, we cannot sustainably expand the services our people need. Health and Social Care sits at the heart of that challenge, because a healthy, supported population is not just a social good — it is a prerequisite for everything else we want to achieve as an Island.

The central point is clear: this is a budget responding to structural change, not short-term fluctuation. Our population is declining rapidly, the workforce is shrinking, and the number of older people is increasing. This combination drives demand for hospital care, social care, domiciliary support, chronic disease management, mental health support, pharmaceuticals, and overseas treatment. At the same time, it reduces the number of people available to provide those services, and the number of taxpayers available to fund them. In those conditions, simply standing still would be failure.

I also want to make something else very clear. Health and Social Care should not be viewed as an isolated cost centre. It is part of a wider system that includes education, housing, employment, infrastructure, family support, public health, and economic policy. If we improve only one part of the system and ignore the others, we will not achieve the outcomes we want. This is why I welcome the way this Budget connects health spending to the broader strategic themes of stabilising the population and labour market, protecting living standards and core services, and enabling sustainable growth.

Madam Speaker, there is a real story behind the numbers. This is not a Budget that states health is expensive and therefore inconvenient, a statement I am hearing more frequently. It is a Budget that recognises health as a cornerstone of resilience. It conveys that if we want a stronger St Helena, we must ensure people are well enough to work, to care, to learn, to contribute, and to remain on the island with confidence about their future. In that sense, investment in Health and Social Care is not simply defensive. It is an investment in people, and through people, the future of the island.

In this light I want to acknowledge the progress already being made in the portfolio, because the increase in funding is not being asked for in a vacuum. We are not starting from nothing, there is much work already completed and on the way.

As I set out in my answer in the May formal LegCo, the portfolio has been moving steadily toward prevention-led services that aim to reduce future demand on the health system rather than simply reacting after illness occurs. That includes diabetes remission work, diabetes prevention, updated vaccinations, early intervention and data collection. These are not abstract policy phrases. They are practical measures that reduce avoidable illness, improve quality of life, and builds a more sustainable system. They also reflect a more modern understanding of health policy: that the best intervention is often the one that prevents a person from becoming seriously unwell in the first place.

We cannot afford a system that only responds when people are already in crisis. We need one that supports people earlier, locally, and more effectively.

Specialist visiting services in cardiology, orthopaedics, urology, ophthalmology, ENT, audiology, spinal surgery and colonoscopy in just this calendar year, have and will continue to bring expertise to the island that would otherwise require residents to travel overseas. This year alone we will almost double previous specialist visits; the orthopaedic visiting service has enabled joint replacements to be carried out on-island again at far lower cost than sending patients overseas; and the availability of hearing aid and spectacles services through visiting specialists has improved access while reducing the burden on patients and the system alike.

Madam Speaker, we do not pretend that the costs are small, but want to show that the spending is thoughtful. This is not simply expenditure. It is targeted investment that improves outcomes and reduces pressure elsewhere in the system.

The portfolio strategy and delivery plan give the same message in formal terms. It sets out six clear priorities: ensuring a safe statutory offer for children and adults; primary prevention and management of chronic disease; providing evidence-based primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare; strengthening governance; promoting healthy lifestyles; and delivering core and preventative health services. It is an integrated plan that links service delivery, workforce development, prevention, and governance.

The plan also confirms the direction of travel that I think this House should support. Health and Social Care needs to increasingly work as one system, not a collection of separate functions. Primary healthcare, dentistry, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, mental health care, pharmacy, the lab and public health are all part of the same patient journey. Social care, in turn, is not an optional extra. It is central to dignity, independence, safeguarding, and keeping people in the community for as long as possible.

This is especially important as we look at social care pressures. Our strategy document is honest about the scale of the challenge. Residential and domiciliary care are under huge strain. Delayed discharges affect the hospital. Vacancy levels remain high. The average age of the workforce is rising and Demand is increasing faster than provision. Those are not comfortable facts, but they are necessary facts and because they are acknowledged honestly, they can be addressed honestly.

I therefore welcome the way this Budget protects investment across the whole portfolio: from primary care through to specialist services,

from community support through to mental health, from hospital care through to overseas medical referrals. The allocation is substantial because the need is substantial. There is no responsible way to pretend otherwise.

Madam Speaker, I do not underestimate the scale of the challenge. The cost pressures are real.

But that is precisely why this Budget matters. It does not pretend these pressures do not exist. It meets them. It does so by funding the services we cannot do without, while also investing in the systems that make those services more sustainable in future.

Madam Speaker, while I support this investment fully, I do want to place a note of firm caution on the record. This is likely the last large-scale increase this Government will be able to make in Health and Social Care for some time, and yet the pressures on the system will not stop here. In fact, the need will almost certainly continue to grow. That is why we must be honest with the public now about what lies ahead. We will need greater engagement with families, stronger personal responsibility where people are able to take it, a more deliberate focus on prevention. We will also need to recognise that some, targeted increases in services will be necessary simply to keep the system functioning safely and sustainably for all.

I want to link this to the broader story of government, because it is an important one. If we stabilise health services, we stabilise families. If we strengthen social care, we strengthen independence. If we invest in prevention, we reduce future pressure on the budget. If we improve workforce resilience, we improve the resilience of the whole state.

This is why the largest increase in this Budget should not be seen as an indulgence. It should be seen as a response to reality. It is an acknowledgement that the true cost of underfunding health and social care is greater than the cost of investing properly in them. Delayed care, avoidable admissions, unnecessary transfers, workforce burnout, unmet need, and greater dependency all carry their own financial and human cost.

Madam Speaker, there is a mindset trap we can all fall into without realising it: the belief that if we understand every part well enough, the whole will take care of itself. To contextualise this, I will quote a metaphor; imagine a master watchmaker. He can take a watch completely apart. He can describe every gear, every spring, and every screw. He knows exactly how each component is made, how it moves, how it wears. In terms of parts, his knowledge is perfect. But if he never puts the watch back together and winds it, he will never know what time it is.

Madam Speaker, in government we can do the same thing. We can become excellent at analysing departments, budget lines, service pressures, staffing gaps, and individual programmes. We can know every component in detail and scrutinise them. But if we never connect those pieces to each other — and to the lives of the people we serve — then we risk knowing everything about the gears and very little about the time.

Health and Social Care is one of the clearest examples of why that matters. We cannot separate hospital care from social care. We cannot separate prevention from treatment. We cannot separate public health from housing, education, food security, employment, and transport. We cannot separate the wellbeing of our people from the sustainability of our finances. These things move together. They either reinforce one another, or they strain one another.

So, the challenge before us is not simply to fund a service. It is to build a system that helps people stay well, recover well, age well, and live with dignity. That is the real purpose of this Budget and the investment in this portfolio.

Madam Speaker, I do not underestimate the scale of the challenge, and I do not pretend that this level of investment will solve every pressure we face. But it is right that this Budget makes this commitment now, because Health and Social Care is taking the largest share of recurrent spending, and that reflects the reality of our ageing population and disease burden.

This is why I say clearly that this must be seen as a significant and probably final major investment of this kind for some time. We cannot assume that more aid will simply arrive to meet every future pressure. And that is why we must also be clear that if we want to reduce demand over the long term, we have to invest beyond the health service itself — in areas such as local food systems, and opportunities to widen the tax base and increase wealth.

So the task before us is to make this investment count in practice — through care that is consistent, services that earn trust, decisions that are grounded in what we can responsibly sustain, and a clear understanding that lasting progress will depend on public understanding and support. But above all, it must strengthen our commitment to prevention, because that is how we reduce pressure before it becomes crisis, protect the system we have, and give people the best chance of staying well for longer. If we do that, we can protect services today and build something more sustainable for the future of St Helena.

Martin Henry
Minister for Health & Social Care



St Helena Flight Safety Under Scrutiny

Air Accidents Investigation Branch publishes flight safety report on St Helena commercial flights, prompting official response from St Helena Airport and sparking public concern on aviation standards and long-standing infrastructure



The final AAIB report scrutinised pilot procedures and windshear thresholds during the uniquely challenging approach to St Helena's runway

Liam Yon, SAMS

The UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) has, on 16 July, published its final investigation report into commercial flight operations at St Helena Airport. The safety review was prompted by two commercial flights in 2023 that encountered severe weather conditions, resulting in multiple go-arounds. Following the report's publication, St Helena Airport Limited (SHAL) issued a formal press release welcoming the findings, confirming the airport's ongoing compliance with international certification standards, and outlining key safety measures that have already been put in place.

The AAIB investigation analysed flight data from two specific scheduled passenger operations that faced significant atmospheric challenges.

17 June 2023: An Embraer 190AR arriving at St Helena encountered severe wind variations and turbulence on final approach. The flight crew executed two consecutive go-arounds late in the approach directly over the runway before landing successfully on their third attempt.

10 September 2023: A monthly flight originating from Ascension Island experienced wind conditions that continuously re-energised the aircraft over the runway. The flight crew performed four consecutive go-arounds before successfully landing on the fifth attempt. Due to ongoing poor weather, the aircraft's onward flight to Johannesburg had to be delayed for two days.

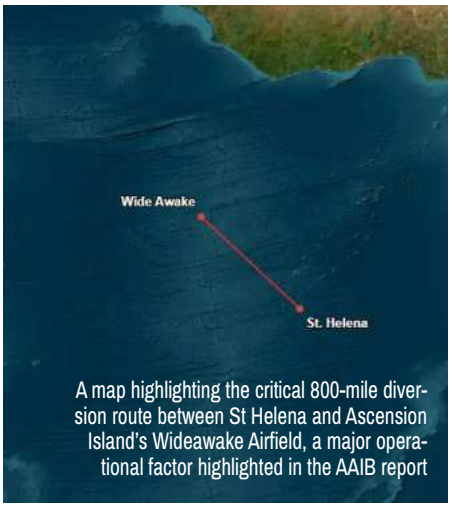
Although the AAIB determined these events did not meet the international criteria for a "serious incident," the branch initiated a full investigation under the St Helena Civil Aviation Regulations 2019 to identify potential long-term safety improvements for the island's primary transport link.

The report underscores the well-



The Airlink Embraer 190 operating on the St Helena runway, where unique environmental factors demand stringent flight safety margins

ST HELENA NEWS



A map highlighting the critical 800-mile diversion route between St Helena and Ascension Island's Wideawake Airfield, a major operational factor highlighted in the AAIB report

known challenges of operating at Prosperous Bay Plain, where local topography and steep coastal cliffs cause substantial wind variations. In particular, the 200-foot rock outcrops known as the King and Queen Rocks generate a large turbulent wake and severe windshear across the final approach to Runway 19 during prevailing easterly and south-easterly winds.

The AAIB highlighted several specific technical areas where safety margins had been compressed.

The investigation found that the airline operator's manual allowed pilots to treat windshear warnings as cautionary if the turbulence was anticipated. This directly contradicted the aircraft manufacturer's Standard Operating Procedures, which state that all windshear warnings must be treated as genuine and result in an immediate go-around manoeuvre.

They also highlighted that, during both landing events, the flight crews selected lower automatic braking levels (Autobrake Low and Medium) than technically required by safety performance calculations for Runway 19. While manual braking successfully slowed the aircraft on both occasions, the AAIB noted that failing to use maximum automatic braking immediately upon touchdown erodes critical safety margins in the event of a subsequent mechanical failure.

Another point made was that the physical layout of the runway features standard touchdown stripes that, due to the short overall length of the runway, leave only 300 meters between the markings for opposite landing directions. This creates an official "hot spot" where pilots risk miscalculating the remaining stopping distance available.

A major focus of the AAIB report involves flight planning and the availability of Wideawake Airfield on Ascension Island as an official diversion airport. Under the revised 2023 Wideawake Agreement, the airfield is designated to accept civilian flights from St Helena if a local landing is impossible or inadvisable.

However, the AAIB revealed that operational policies enforced by the UK Royal Air Force (RAF) Operations Centre actively prevented the commercial carrier from nominating Ascension as a planned diversion, citing a lack of passenger accommodation and limited civilian ground handling resources. The AAIB criticised this practice, noting that treating Ascension purely as an emergency "destination of last resort"—rather than a planned alternative—contributed to pilots making multiple high-risk landing attempts at St Helena while burning through local holding fuel. Formal safety recommendations have been issued to the UK Ministry of Defence to resolve these operational barriers.

In a public statement responding to the investigation, St Helena Airport Limited (SHAL) clarified its position and emphasised its proactive approach to risk mitigation.

SHAL stated that it "welcomes the publication of the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) report into commercial flight operations at St Helena Airport," observing that "the report recognises the airport's unique operating environment, including the challenges presented by the island's terrain, wind conditions and associated turbulence, while confirming that the airport continues to meet all required certification standards".

Reaffirming its mandate, SHAL declared that "safety remains SHAL's highest priority, and the airport is committed to the continuous improvement of aviation safety for all users". They added that the company "accepts the recommendations directed at the airport and has already taken significant steps to address the matters identified in the investigation and further strengthen operational safety".

SHAL thus outlined four specific safety actions that are either fully operational or currently underway.

Completed in December 2025, new physical boards have been installed alongside the runway. SHAL noted this action was taken to "enhance visual cues and improve distance awareness for flight crews during landing operations".

Also, they note how the airport is actively "installing a new LiDAR system to strengthen weather monitoring and observation capabilities". This upgrade includes a dedicated terminal inside the Air Traffic Control Tower so controllers can monitor real-time windflow reversals simultaneously.

SHAL say they are also "updating the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) to provide additional information on the proximity of reciprocal touchdown zone markings," with the official publication amendment scheduled for September this year.

Additionally, the airport is now "routinely monitoring and recording go-around events and associated meteorological conditions to support operational analysis and continuous safety improvement".

Regarding the wider regional challenges involving the Ascension Island diversion route, SHAL took a cooperative stance, acknowledging



St Helena Airport Ltd (SHAL) has faced public backlash and demands for greater operational transparency following the release of the safety findings

the "longstanding and positive relationship with Ascension Island, particularly in supporting aviation and medical evacuation operations". They noted that it "remains content with the current diversion arrangements in place and will continue to work with Ascension Island to ensure they remain effective, proportionate and aligned with operational needs".

SHAL also expressed absolute confidence in the commercial flight crew operations. "SHAL also wishes to acknowledge Airlink and its flight crews for their professionalism and commitment to safe operations," they stated. "Through extensive experience, robust safety management systems, specialist training and strong operational discipline, Airlink continues to deliver safe and reliable air services to St Helena despite the challenging conditions that can occasionally be encountered."

As part of the continuous safety loop, the aircraft operator has independently implemented a mandatory 55-knot maximum runway mid-point wind speed limit for dispatching flights to St Helena, providing definitive guidance to flight planners during adverse weather windows.

As St Helena Airport approaches a decade of civil operations, the AAIB concluded its report by issuing a final recommendation for the UK Department for Transport to oversee a holistic, multi-organisation review of South Atlantic commercial operations to identify ongoing risk factors and long-term mitigations.

SHAL concluded its position by noting that the report "provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to further enhance aviation safety and operational resilience across the South Atlantic," pledging to maintain "the highest standards of safety while supporting dependable air connectivity for the people of St Helena and all who rely on access to the island."

Following the publication of the press release on SHAL's official Facebook page, public reception on the island and beyond was sharply critical. Rather than reassuring the community, the statement sparked immediate debate, with one commenter accusing airport management of adopting a complacent posture that downplays the structural and procedural risks highlighted by the AAIB.

In this prominent critique, detailed by commentator Ian Smyth, he argued that SHAL's response effectively brushed aside critical safety recommendations by declaring it was simply "content" with its operational partners. While acknowledging that Airlink has done a fantastic job navigating the island's unique environment, Smyth pointed out a core systemic issue revealed in the report.

"My reading of the report is that the pilots operated outside documented procedure, based on their extensive experience and that now is the time to translate that experience and the data acquired over the last 10 years into better detailed understanding of the behaviour of the windshear on St Helena," he said.

His critique emphasised that the global aviation industry relies on an ethos of constantly learning from incidents and therefore he questioned why SHAL is not actively using this data to improve the formal guidance available to the operator and integrate these findings into Airlink's Flight Data Monitoring (FDM) programme, rather than relying solely on the "professionalism" of pilots operating outside standard manufacturer procedures.

SHAL's stance on the Ascension Island diversion route also drew heavy scrutiny. While the AAIB recommended formalising a more reliable, planned alternative with the UK Ministry of Defence to prevent high-risk landing attempts, SHAL's public statement noted it "remains content" with current arrangements.

Commenters openly questioned this logic, asking why the airport authority is choosing to pass up a critical opportunity to push the MoD to formally review the AAIB's recommendations; with a sentiment among commenters being confusion over whether SHAL actively disagrees with the AAIB's safety analysis regarding Wideawake Airfield.

Beyond the immediate response to the 2023 incidents and AAIB report, the Facebook thread acted as a catalyst for deeper, historical frustrations regarding the airport's infrastructure. Multiple comments focused on the original design and planning stages of the project.

Commenters questioned why the severe windshear data and the specific geographic challenges of Prosperous Bay Plain—which are driving the current safety concerns—were not fully anticipated or mitigated before construction began.

A common theme among those commenting was whether more rigorous early-stage planning and environmental profiling could have prevented the operational constraints being experienced today.



The newly installed LiDAR system at St Helena Airport, a key element of the airfield upgrades aimed at improving real-time windshear detection and flight safety

The Unanimous 'Aye'

Legislative Council passes £49m "Foundational Budget"


Legislative Council voted unanimously in support of the budget for 2026-27

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena's Legislative Council has officially passed the 2026/27 Appropriation Bill, approving a £49.0 million recurrent budget following a unanimous "aye" vote from all Elected Members at the conclusion of a two-day Formal Meeting in the Council Chamber.

The decision marks the end of a detailed sitting held over Friday and Monday, culminating in a recommendation to His Excellency the Governor that the bill be enacted into law.

The sitting commenced on Friday with Chief Minister and Minister for Treasury, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks MBE, presenting her first budget speech under the new administration. Describing the financial plan as a "foundational budget," the Chief Minister explained that the Government's primary priority is strengthening the core public systems that residents rely on every day, thereby building the capacity to invest more in future years.

Opening the debate, Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks emphasised the broader strategic purpose of the financial package, stating that "this is not simply an exercise in approving expenditure for the year ahead. It is a statement of direction for our island—a demonstration of how this Government intends to turn its published Vision and Strategy into practical action."

The budget was prepared against a challenging backdrop of global economic uncertainty, rising living costs, and long-standing local pressures including population decline, workforce shortages, and growing demand for public services. To navigate these headwinds, the plan is underpinned by the recently agreed three-year Financial Aid Settlement with the UK Government, which offers greater planning certainty and allows key reforms and investments to be phased over a multi-year timeframe.

A range of targeted community measures were laid out during the opening address. These include plans to introduce a new Child Benefit for children aged 0–5, measures to limit increases in electricity tariffs, and concessionary public transport fares for residents aged 70 and over. Additionally, the budget allocates targeted support for small businesses, local agriculture, and financial services, alongside ongoing investment in renewable energy, telecommunications, and infrastructure, while maintaining strong funding priorities for healthcare, social care, and education.

Closing her address on Friday, the Chief Minister struck a grounded tone regarding the island's fiscal reality, telling the Chamber, "this is not a budget that promises everything today. It is a budget that aspires to make more possible tomorrow."

When Council resumed on Monday for day two, attention turned to a meticulous line-by-line examination of the Appropriation Bill. Non-Ministerial Members put the proposed figures under close scrutiny, asking detailed questions regarding spending allocations and operational plans across different portfolios and departments. Non-Ministers highlighted the importance of these queries in seeking clarity not only for themselves, but crucially for the listening public they represent. Following extensive debate, all Elected Members unanimously passed the bill without opposition.

Under the approved financial package, total recurrent expenditure for 2026/27 stands at £49.0 million. In addition to this main appropriation, £6.3 million will be provided via standing appropriations for pensions and social security benefits, alongside £190,000 allocated for capital expenditure across core portfolios.

Looking at individual departmental allocations, the largest recurrent share goes to the Central Support Service at £12.3 million, followed closely by Health and Social Care at £11.9 million. Treasury has been allocated £7.6 million, Economic Development receives £6.5 million, and Education, Skills and Employment is set at £4.1 million. Safety, Security and Home Affairs receives £3.4 million, while Environment, Natural Resources and Planning stands at £2 million. The remaining recurrent funds are apportioned to Police Operations at £800,000, with Judicial Services and the Attorney General's Chambers each allocated £150,000 to round out the annual island budget.

A copy of the Chief Minister's full Budget Speech as well as the Budget Book has been made available to view on the SHG website via https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/st-helena/government/treasury/.

We Want to Hear from You

Third Round of Councillor-led Constituency Meetings underway



Legislative Councillors are back out in the community for their third round of Constituency Meetings

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena's Councillors are back out into the community this week as they get underway with their third round of constituency meetings since the September 2025 election.

Held across all districts, the meetings offer a direct chance for residents to discuss local issues and island-wide concerns with their representatives.

This round kicked off last night, Wednesday, 22 July, at the Kingshurst Community Centre with Councillor Robert Midwinter. This is the only meeting scheduled for this week with four further meetings scheduled for next week; Monday at the Jamestown Community Centre with Councillor Dr Corinda Essex, Wednesday at the Harford Community Centre with Cllr Denis Leo and at the Silver Hill Bar with Cllr Ronald Coleman, and Thursday at the Sandy Bay Community Centre with Councillor Clint Beard, though this one is to be confirmed.

As per usual, all sessions will start at 7:30pm. A full schedule for the remaining districts was published in last week's edition of The Sentinel.

Residents in Half Tree Hollow should note that during week three, Councillor Dr Corinda Essex will be chairing the meeting as their stand-in representative with Councillor Derek Thomas currently taking on the ministerial responsibilities of the absent Minister Gillian Brooks.

Elected Members are encouraging as many members of the community as possible to turn out to the meeting in their relevant district to listen, share and participate in discussions.

Taking the Beat in Stride with Pride

Megan Francis and Evelyn Muo Graduate Initial Police Training



The new Police Constables with the Chief of Police and HE The Governor

Liam Yon, SAMS

There are two new official faces on the beat here on St Helena, as the Royal St Helena Police Service celebrates its newest qualified constables; PC's Megan Francis and Evelyn Muo have successfully graduated after passing the island's intensive Initial Police Training programme.

To wear the uniform, both officers had to complete a gruelling multi-week foundation course right here on the island. Designed to turn recruits into highly capable officers, the training covers everything from police ethics and the Theft Act, to human rights and the National Decision Model.

But it's far from just classroom study. Megan and Evelyn had to prove their practical skills across several demanding, real-world scenario assessments designed to test their response to emergencies. To pass, they had to successfully handle tough, simulated island incidents—ranging from dealing with violent domestic disturbances and suspected drunk drivers, to resolving street conflicts and supporting vulnerable members of our community.

Having also completed rigorous personal protection training—including baton and handcuff tactics, first aid, and file preparation—the pair have now officially completed phase one.

While this graduation is a major milestone, their journey continues; over the next year or two, both PC Francis and PC Muo will be out on patrol alongside experienced mentor officers, serving our community day-to-day as they complete their full probationary assessments.

A massive congratulations to PC Megan Francis and PC Evelyn Muo; we wish you both a safe and successful career keeping our island safe.



The graduation was held with colleages from the RSHP in attendance

Let's Go Team St Helena!

Squad Ready for Action at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games



Donna Crowie, SAMS

The final contingent of St Helena's athletes and team officials departed the island on Saturday, 18 July, to commence their journey to Scotland for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Most of the team have arrived (as of Tuesday) ahead of the Opening Ceremony, which is scheduled to begin at 7pm local St Helena time on Thursday, 23 July.

Bringing together thousands of athletes from across the Commonwealth, the Games will see St Helena proudly represented on the international stage in both athletics and swimming events through runners; Blaze Baldwin, Tyler Anthony, Sean Crowie and Ty Stroud-Leo, and swimmers; Lukas Robbertse, Nolan George and William Caswell.

Guiding the squad in Glasgow is Chef de Mission, Ryan Benjamin, alongside Athletics Official, Theo Meij, and Swimming Official, Christine Caswell. Also supporting the team are National Sports Association St Helena (NSASH) Vice Chair and CGA St Helena President, Anne Dillon, NSASH Secretary and CGA St Helena Secretary-General, Michelle Yon, as well as St Helena's UK Representative, Kedell Worboys. During Thursday's Opening Ceremony, Sean Crowie will carry the St Helena flag, while William Caswell will serve as the island's official baton bearer.

On the track, Blaze Baldwin is set to race in the 200m sprint, with Ty Stroud-Leo taking on the 100m. Dual-threat sprinters Sean Crowie and Tyler Anthony will both compete across the 100m and 200m events. To cap off the track program, all four sprinters will join forces to represent St Helena in the exciting 4x100m relay.

In the pool, Lukas Robbertse, Nolan George, and William Caswell will all compete in the 50m and 100m freestyle events. In addition, Lukas will compete in the 50m backstroke as well as both the 50m and 100m breaststroke. Nolan and William will both take on the 200m freestyle and 50m butterfly. Nolan is also set to swim the 50m backstroke and 50m breaststroke, while William rounds out his extensive schedule by tackling the gruelling 400m and 800m freestyle events.

Competition officially kicks off for Team St Helena on Friday, 24 July, when the swimmers take to the pool for their first heats. NSASH has confirmed that regular updates will be posted to their official Facebook page, while SAMS Radio 1 and The Sentinel will be keeping a close eye on all the action in Glasgow to keep the island updated. Best of luck to Team St Helena—the whole island is behind you!


Blaze


Lukas


Nolan


Sean


Tyler



Ty

Team St Helena

Athletics

- **Blaze Baldwin** – 200m Sprint, 4x100m Relay
- **Sean Crowie** – 100m Sprint, 200m Sprint, 4x100m Relay
- **Tyler Anthony** – 100m Sprint, 200m Sprint, 4x100m Relay
- **Ty-Stroud Leo** – 100m Sprint, 4x100m Relay

Swimming

- **Lucas Robertsee** – 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke
- **Nolan George** – 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly
- **William Caswell** – 50m Freestyle, 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle, 800m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly


William

Oh Karoline – It's so nice to 'sea' you

MV Karoline due Friday as Updated Shipping Schedule released by MACS



Donna Crowie, SAMS

The MV Karoline is scheduled to arrive at St Helena on Friday, 24 July, at 2am, with cargo handling operations set to begin following labour take-on at 8am.

While the vessel is docked at Rupert's Jetty, standard port safety protocols will be enforced. Port Management announced that the Rupert's Cargo Management Facility, jetty, beach, and bay area will operate under Security Access Level 3, restricting the zone strictly to authorised personnel until all cargo operations are completed and the ship departs.

Once the vessel leaves port, security will reduce to Level 2. At this point, the beach, jetty, and Rupert's Bay will reopen to the public via the pedestrian walkway at Liberation House or the ferry service, though the Cargo Management Facility will remain restricted during normal working hours. After working hours, security will drop to Level 1, permitting vehicular access through the facility.

This arrival comes shortly after St Helena Government (SHG) and MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping confirmed a temporary adjustment to the island's shipping service, reducing scheduled annual sailings from 12 down to 10 on an approximate six-weekly rotation. The proactive move follows severe disruptions to global bunker fuel supplies and rising marine fuel costs stemming from ongoing conflict in the Middle East around the Strait of Hormuz.

Following up on the announcement, SAMS noted an updated sailing schedule published on the MACS website on Monday, 20 July, outlaying the Karoline's voyage dates to St Helena for the remainder of the year and through to February 2027. This is the first sight that we have had on the adjusted schedule, with SHG's promise to issue a final schedule once confirmed having not yet been followed through.

According to MACS updated schedule however, there are no major changes for St Helena. Following Friday's call, the MV Karoline is scheduled to return to St Helena again on 3 September, 4 October, 12 November and 6 December, with her first voyage of 2027 set for 8 February. This means there will be no arrival of the Karoline in the months of August 2026 and January 2027. It was also noted that, beyond her planned shuttle to Ascension Island in September, no additional calls of the Karoline to Ascension have been confirmed at this time.

	KAROLINE	KAROLINE	KAROLINE	KAROLINE	KAROLINE	KAROLINE
	261706	261707	261708	261709	261710	271701
Cape Town	16-Jul	26-Aug	26-Sept	04-Nov	28-Nov	31-Jan
Rupert's Bay	24-Jul	03-Sept	04-Oct	12-Nov	06-Dec	08-Feb
Ascension Island		08-Sept				
	261806	261807	261808	261809	261810	271801
Rupert's Bay		12-Sept				
Walvis Bay **	01-Aug	19-Sept	12-Oct	20-Nov	20-Dec	16-Feb
Luderitz	02-Aug	20-Sept	13-Oct	21-Nov	21-Dec	17-Feb
Cape Town	06-Aug	24-Sept	17-Oct	25-Nov	25-Dec	21-Feb
Stack Dates	Firm	Prov	Prov	Prov	Prov	Prov
Cape Town LCL	06.07. - 07.07.	13.08. - 14.08.	17.09. - 18.09.	tbc	tbc	tbc
Cape Town FCL & BB	09.07. - 13.07.	18.08. - 20.08.	21.09. - 23.09.	tbc	tbc	tbc
LCL Delivery	REEFER (0°C, 8°C & -18°C)		DRY & HAZARDOUS			
LCL Facility	TABLE BAY COLD STORAGE		ZEDCORE PTY Ltd			
Address	6 Auckland Street, Paarden Eiland		Unit B7, Maitland Park, 733 Voortrekker Rd, Kensington			
Operating hours	Monday-Thursday 07H30 – 15H30	Friday 07H30 – 14H00	Monday - Friday 06H00 – 16H00			

Unlocking the Past

Ground-breaking Study Reveals True Origins and Tragic Journeys of St Helena's Liberated Africans

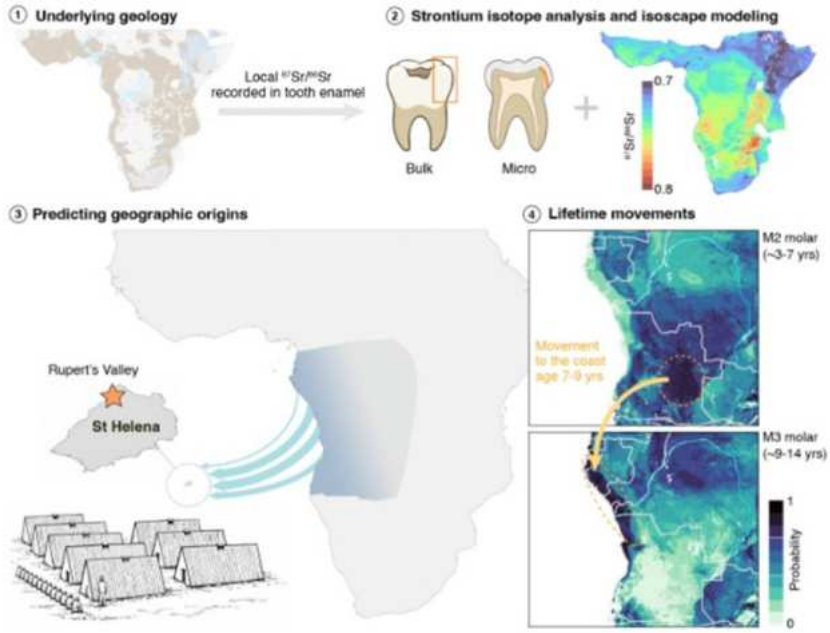


Figure Caption: Diverse homelands and early-life displacement among St Helena's Liberated Africans. Strontium isotope ratios from 152 individuals, interpreted with an African isoscape and constrained by historical and ancient DNA evidence, indicate diverse origins. Most likely came from near-coastal regions in western Central Africa, but a substantial number show signatures pointing to origins far inland, implying forced movement over hundreds of kilometers. High-resolution intra-tooth profiles document displacement during childhood.

Liam Yon, SAMS

A monumental international study has pulled back the curtain of time, offering unprecedented insights into the diverse origins and tragic life histories of the Liberated Africans brought to St Helena during the final decades of the transatlantic slave trade.

Published last week in the prestigious journal *Science*, the ground-breaking research has captured widespread international attention. The publication reveals the extraordinary diversity of the homelands of those buried in Rupert's Valley, proving that many were forcibly displaced hundreds or even thousands of kilometres inland long before ever boarding a slave ship.

The sheer scale of the findings has sparked global interest, marked by an accompanying Science Perspective piece by Professor R. Alexander Bentley and a dedicated international news feature by journalist Andrew Curry, who framed the research as a powerful "surprising window" into the realities of the slave trade.

The study, titled "*Tracing the Origins of St Helena's Liberated Africans*," was conducted by an international team of researchers working in close partnership with the St Helena National Trust and the Liberated African Advisory Committee (LAAC). Scientists meticulously examined the remains of 152 individuals whose graves were originally uncovered during archaeological excavations in Rupert's Valley between 2007 and 2008.

To give some history, it was between 1840 and 1863, when the British Royal Navy intercepted illegal slave ships and landed nearly 27,000 rescued Africans on St Helena. Tragically, about 8,000 died shortly after arrival due to the horrific conditions of the middle passage and were buried on the island; their remains lying undisturbed until airport-related infrastructure construction began in the valley.

To reconstruct the lost life stories of these individuals, the research team combined historical records, ancient DNA, geographic modelling, and a specialised chemical analysis of teeth called strontium isotope signature tracking. Because tooth enamel forms during childhood and remains chemically unchanged throughout life, it retains a permanent environmental and geological record of where a person grew up.

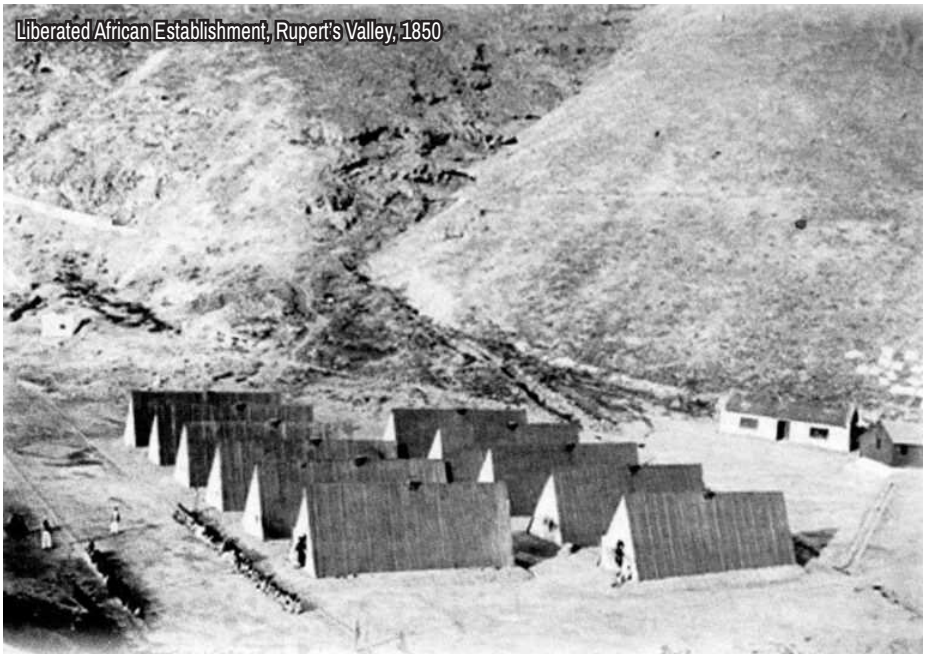
The findings conclusively show that every individual analysed originated outside of St Helena, representing a remarkably wide array of African landscapes and geological regions. While historical data confirms many individuals came from western Central Africa—including areas encompassing modern-day Angola and the Congo—the chemical signatures also pointed to origins far deeper in the African interior.

Crucially, by analysing teeth formed at different stages of youth, the researchers discovered clear evidence of early-life displacement. Several


Vicky Oelze, University of California


Hannes Schroeder, University of Copenhagen


Helena Bennett, SHNT Director and Chair of LAAC


Liberated African Establishment, Rupert's Valley, 1850

individuals moved between distinct geological regions while still young, indicating that their forced relocation began years before they reached coastal slave-trading ports.

Lead researcher, Professor Hannes Schroeder, of the University of Copenhagen, emphasised that while historical records often document the ports where slave ships departed, they rarely speak to the true homelands of the captives. "By combining different lines of evidence and working closely with the community on St Helena, we were able to recover fragments of these life histories, including where people came from and when they were displaced," Professor Schroeder said.

For the St Helena community, the publication marks a deeply emotional milestone in ongoing efforts to honour, remember, and properly commemorate the thousands of people who suffered through the transatlantic slave trade.

In his independent commentary on the study, Professor Alex Bentley commended the project's deep community integration, noting how this high-resolution data provides a vital framework for the island as it navigates complex discussions regarding remembrance and the potential future repatriation of ancestral remains.

Helena Bennett, Director of the St Helena National Trust, Chair of the LAAC, and a co-author of the study, noted that the research successfully shifts the focus away from statistics and back toward human beings. "This project has always been about more than scientific analysis," Helena stated. "It is about restoring dignity and acknowledging the lives of those who suffered."

Co-corresponding author, Vicky Oelze, of the University of California, highlighted the collaborative power of the scientific methods utilised to achieve these results. "The strength of this study lies in bringing together evidence that speaks to different parts of a person's life history," she said. "Isotopes tell us about childhood environment, ancient DNA about deeper ancestry, and historical records about the ships and ports involved. Together, they allow us to narrow uncertainty in ways none could do alone."

Ultimately, while this research has generated waves across the global scientific community, its deepest and most enduring impact belongs right here at home. For St Helena, this study represents a profound new chapter in a long-term effort to better understand and commemorate the thousands of Liberated Africans whose lives, struggles, and memories remain an inseparable part of our shared history.

These scientific breakthroughs build directly upon years of dedicated local community engagement, archaeological care, and historical research. As the island reflects on this new data, it offers a powerful opportunity to look back at St Helena's unique historical role in the final years of the slave trade, ensuring that the individuals who rested in Rupert's Valley are finally recognised, not as anonymous numbers, but as individuals restored with the knowledge, dignity, and respect they deserve.


A number of Liberated African remains were discovered in Rupert's Valley


A poignant double burial uncovered during the 2007–2008 archaeological excavation in Rupert's Valley

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 24
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. July 25
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 11am: Modern Country Chart with Donna (Repeat)
- 1:00pm: Northward Sounds (Repeat)
- 3pm - 20th July Legco Part 1(Repeat)
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: OUT! OUT! with Liam (Repeat)

SUN. July 26
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna
- 12 Noon: Interveiw Hour/ 20th July Legco Part 2
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse (Repeat)
- 7pm: Salvation Army Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. July 27
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 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 28
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Annika
- 2pm: The Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. July 29
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 1-3pm 1548 show with Cyril Gunnell
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett

THU.July 30
- 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



SAMS Radio 1 'LIVE' broadcasted the Legislative Council meeting that took place over two days.

On Monday 20 July, Elected Members discussed the budget which was presented by the Chief Minister on Friday, 17 July.

To hear the debate, make sure you tune into the repeats happening this week!

Part 1 will repeat on Saturday and Part 2 on Sunday.

The proceedings can also be heard via the SAMS podcast page!

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

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

Throwback Thursday



23rd July 1983:

An abandoned baby is found in The Run. Named Nina-Kaye by health professionals, she died later that day. Her mother has neverbeen traced.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Unfortunately, football didn't come home, but I bet most England fans wanted to see Spain lift the World Cup trophy. On Sunday, after more scrappy aggressive tackles and poor sportsmanship from Argentina, Spain stuck to playing the beautiful game the way it is meant to be played and came out as the deserved World Cup Champions 2026!
So, to continue the celebrations, let try this traditional Spanish recipe.

Tortilla de Patatas (Spanish Omelette)



Ingredients

- Potatoes: 500 g (about 3 medium), peeled and thinly sliced
- Onion: 1 large, thinly sliced (optional, but highly traditional)
- Eggs: 6 large, at room temperature
- Olive Oil: 1 cup of extra virgin olive oil (generous, but mostly for frying)
- Salt: To taste

Method

1. Fry the potatoes and onions: Heat the olive oil in a 10-inch non-stick skillet over medium heat. Add the potatoes and onions. Cook them gently for about 15-20 minutes until they are soft and tender, but not browned.

2. Drain and season: Use a slotted spoon to transfer the potatoes and onions to a large bowl, leaving the excess oil behind in the pan. Sprinkle with salt and let it cool for a few minutes.

3. Mix with eggs: In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs with a generous pinch of salt. Add the cooled potato and onion mixture to the eggs, gently stir to combine, and let it rest for 5 minutes so the flavors soak in.

4. Cook the omelette: Pour off almost all of the olive oil from your skillet, leaving just a thin coating. Return the skillet to medium-low heat and pour in the egg-and-potato mixture. Let it cook undisturbed for 3-4 minutes, occasionally shaking the pan gently so it doesn't stick.

5. Flip: Place a large, flat plate over the skillet. Hold the plate tightly against the skillet, quickly invert it to flip the omelette onto the plate, and then slide it back into the skillet to cook the other side. Cook for another 2-3 minutes

6. Serve: Slide onto a serving board. Serve warm, at room temperature, or cut into wedges as tapas.

Seating Area Taking SHAPE

New community bench created by SHAPE Trainees unveiled in Jamestown



— **Liam Yon,** SAMS —

If you've walked past the Jamestown taxi rank opposite the Atlantic Store recently, you might have noticed a very welcome new addition to the area. A brand-new community bench was officially unveiled in a small ceremony on Thursday, 16 July, at 10am—aimed at giving weary shoppers and passengers a comfortable place to rest.

The project is the brainchild of Councillor Derek Thomas, who is currently acting in a Ministerial role.

Speaking at the unveiling, Councillor Thomas explained that the idea came directly from the public while he was campaigning, prior to the last General Election. "There were a number of elderly people sitting on the concrete with their shopping bags, waiting on taxis," he recalled. "They said to me, if you get elected, it would be nice if you can get one or two benches so we can sit on whilst waiting."

After successfully being elected, Councillor Thomas kept true to his word, with St Helena Tourism stepping up to fund the project. The physical creation of the bench however is a completely local triumph, as it was hand-crafted by the talented trainees at SHAPE.

Gonny Hubbard, SHAPE's Assistant Manager of Finance and Business, thanked the community for the opportunity, noting that the bench represents everything that SHAPE stands for as a charity—bringing together nature and a sense of fun.

Now that this first bench has been officially received on behalf of the community, Councillor Thomas says he is already looking to the future—with hopes to secure funding for a second bench at the rank very soon.

A huge well done to the trainees at SHAPE for their excellent work.





Small Island, Big Splash

St Helena represented at 37th annual REG Maritime Conference in Bermuda



The St Helena delegation at the REG Conference in Bermuda

Liam Yon, SAMS

Representatives from St Helena recently joined maritime leaders from across the UK, Crown Dependencies, and British Overseas Territories in Bermuda for the 37th annual Red Ensign Group (REG) maritime conference. Held from June 30 to July 2, 2026, the high-level summit provided a vital platform for the island to address its international obligations and collaborate on shared global challenges.

The St Helena delegation included Head of Maritime, Mia Henry, Maritime Capacity Building Support Officer, Wendy Benjamin, and Samantha Cherrett, representing the Governor's Office. Over the three-day event, the team engaged in a packed agenda covering hydrographic surveys, cyber threats, global geopolitics, and the island's Flag, Port, and Coastal State obligations.

A significant portion of the conference focused on the International Maritime Organisation's Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) audit. St Helena underwent this stringent assessment in February 2025 and is currently executing an action plan to address its findings.

Shared experiences presented by other REG members revealed a comforting reality; compliance challenges are universal. Discussions showed that even much larger territories with vast resource pools face similar themes and administrative hurdles when meeting international standards, reinforcing the value of mutual support frameworks within the registry network.

The conference also allowed the South Atlantic Working Group (SAWG) to meet face-to-face to discuss issues specific to our isolated region. Comprising St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, the Falkland Islands, and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the group tackled critical operational topics. These included mass rescue operations, regional fishing vessel management, cruise ship operations, and local contingency planning—including responses to the recent hantavirus major incident.

The SAWG has consistently proven to be a highly effective mechanism for South Atlantic territories to share information, pool resources, and collectively advance their respective maritime administrations.

One of the standout moments for the local delegation occurred during the capacity building forum, where St Helena's Wendy Benjamin delivered a presentation targeting the widespread issue of maritime staff shortages. She outlined the proactive steps St Helena is taking to bridge its capacity gaps, highlighting ongoing initiatives to actively promote maritime careers on the island, facilitate specialised training through St Helena's dedicated maritime training centre, and establish sustainable, long-term career paths for local young people looking to enter the industry.

In an official statement regarding the summit's outcomes, the St Helena Government emphasised that building international partnerships is essential for the island's long-term maritime strategy. "Having these discussions and making connections with other Overseas Territories and maritime organisations across the REG are vital for gaining the much-needed support that will enable us to progress our maritime agenda and improve adherence to international maritime laws," they stated.

As a member of the REG, St Helena operates its own shipping register under the oversight of the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). This framework ensures all St Helena-flagged vessels maintain rigorous international safety, security, and environmental pollution standards while benefiting from the global protection of the British merchant fleet.



SHG say that making connections with other Overseas Territories at these events is 'vital'

The Falklands are Coming!

St Helena set to host Historic Ladies' Cricket Clash with Falklands in 2027



A St Helena Ladies National Team will be formed to take on the Falklands next year

Donna Crowie, SAMS

St Helena and the Falklands are gearing up for an exciting international sporting showdown, with a historic ladies' cricket tournament officially confirmed to take place on St Helena in January 2027.

The exciting announcement follows the St Helena Cricket Association's representation at this year's International Cricket Council (ICC) Annual General Meeting. Association President Derek Richards attended the prestigious three-day conference, which was held in Scotland from 8-11 July.

The fully-funded trip offers invaluable opportunities for local cricket development, as Derek noted. "It gives us the opportunity to be able to contribute, to speak about cricket in St Helena, and to network with people who are in very similar situations to ourselves," he said.

Prior to his departure, Derek spoke with Northward Sounds producer Tony Leo about the highly anticipated bilateral fixtures with the Falkland Islands. While plans have evolved, Derek confirmed that a major breakthrough has been made. "That has taken a big development, in fact," he shared.

Initially, the itinerary looked quite different. The Falklands' senior men's team was scheduled to arrive this December, followed by their senior ladies' team in January. However, due to player availability, the Falklands were unable to assemble a national men's squad.

In a generous counter-offer, the Falklands invited St Helena's men's team to travel south instead, however, St Helena had to reluctantly decline the offer with Derek explaining the logistical hurdles. "It's a bit unfortunate because the Falklands offered to pay for St Helena Cricket to travel to the Falklands to compete," he said. "But unfortunately for us, we've already taken part in an international tournament this year. Travelling like this costs a lot of money. Even with flights and match-day accommodation covered, because our flights only run once a week, we would still have to cover the remaining living costs during that time. Additionally, it would mean the national team boys being away from home over Christmas."

While the men's fixtures have been put on hold—with hopes that the Falklands' men can visit St Helena at a later date—the spotlight now shifts entirely to the women's game.

With the Falklands ladies' team officially booked to arrive in January 2027, local cricket is set for a monumental boost. Crucially, Derek confirmed that these matches will hold official status. "It will be proper, accredited ICC matches," he revealed. "This will go down incredibly well for ladies' cricket on St Helena, because building the number of women playing the sport is something we really need to focus on."

With January 2027 just six months away, preparations are already heating up. The recently formed St Helena ladies' cricket group has been training hard every Wednesday at Francis Plain. The Cricket Association is actively encouraging any women or girls with an interest in the sport—regardless of experience—to come along and join the sessions. "It's just an hour or so," Derek encouraged. "Just come along and get used to feeling the ball, hitting the ball, and catching the ball." Training takes place every Wednesday at 5pm at Francis Plain.

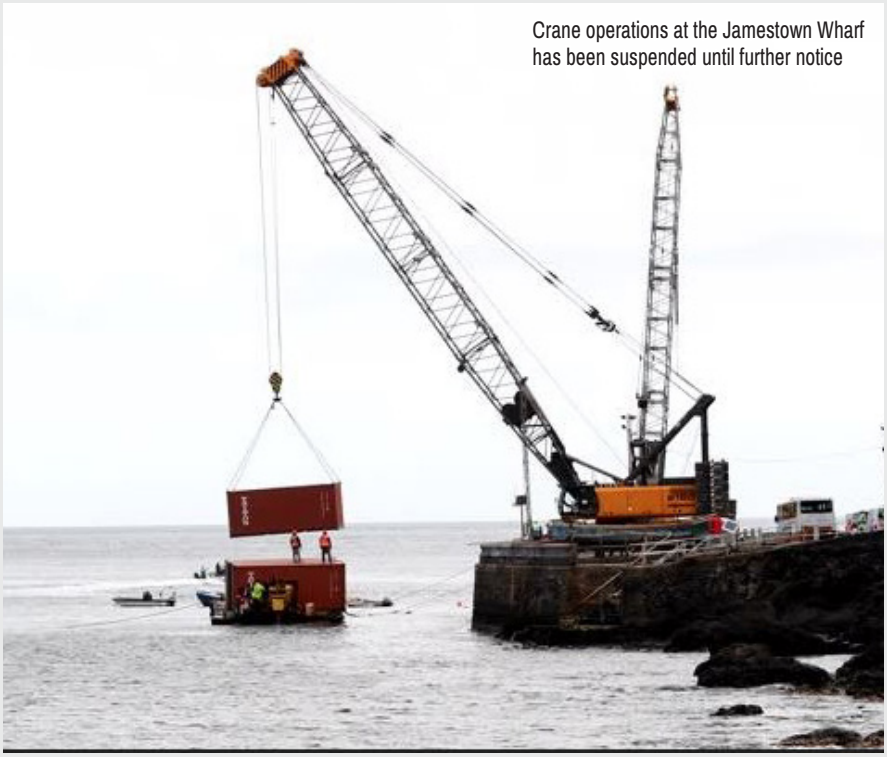
An official team sheet is expected to be published in December, one month ahead of the Falklands' arrival. It promises to be a landmark event for Island sports, and the Cricket Association is calling on the community to turn out in force. "It should be a great event, and we'd love for the public to come out and support everybody," Derek concluded.



Ladies training with Coach Nadeem at Francis Plain

A Total Crane Wreck

Crane Lifting Operations at Jamestown Wharf suspended until further notice



Crane operations at the Jamestown Wharf has been suspended until further notice

Liam Yon, SAMS

Port users have recently been advised of disruptions at the Jamestown Wharf, after both of its cranes were abruptly taken out of service last Thursday.

The St Helena Government says a comprehensive inspection revealed mechanical defects and safety concerns, prompting an immediate shutdown of both cranes to protect workers and the public.

Engineers were said to be investigating the scale of the damage, however, with replacement parts likely needing to be shipped in from overseas, there is currently no timeline for when the Jamestown cranes will be back up and running according to SHG.

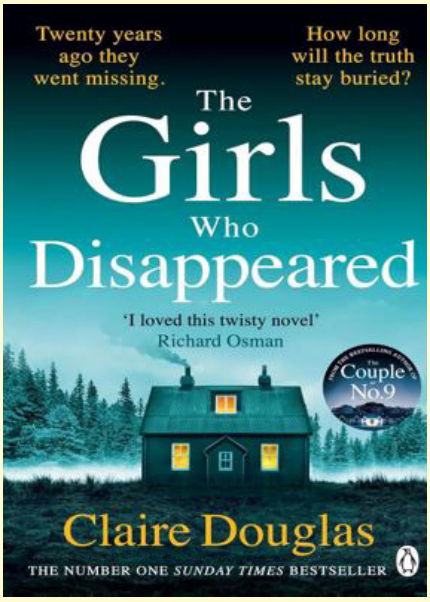
In the meantime, lifting operations will continue at Rupert's Jetty, where that crane remains operational. But there is a catch—the Rupert's crane has limited lifting capability, therefore, to keep things moving safely, the Government is warning that Rupert's Jetty must be kept completely clear of all vessels, equipment, and other items while cargo is being handled.

This suspension of both cranes at the Jamestown Wharf has once again raised concerns in the community about a lack of preventative maintenance with regards to key infrastructure and equipment held by SHG – in a similar vein to when multiple fire tenders went down at St Helena Airport in quick succession earlier this year, prompting a shutdown to commercial air operations. While the consequences for the airport incident was far greater, the current situation regarding the cranes at the Jamestown Wharf have drawn similar critique, with many of the opinion that lessons were not learnt from the airport incident by SHG.

Despite questions remaining around preventative maintenance, SHG will have made the right decision to withdraw the faulty cranes from service in the interest of safety. They have since apologised to the community for the inconvenience this will cause and have committed to further updates when they are available.

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



The Girls Who Disappeared by Claire Douglas

THREE GIRLS MISSING

Twenty years ago, one rainy night, Olivia Rutherfood is driving three friends home when a figure in the road causes her to swerve and crash. Regaining consciousness, she finds herself alone in the car – her friends have vanished.

THEY WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN

Now, journalist Jenna Halliday visits the close-knit community of Stafferbury to persuade Olivia to talk and solve the mystery of the girls' disappearance. But Olivia won't speak.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Is Olivia hiding something? What are the people of Stafferbury so frightened? How many secrets can one small town hide?

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

Water You Doing?

Jamestown Swimming Pool closed for maintenance


The main pool being emptied ahead of refirbishment works

Donna Crowie, SAMS

The Jamestown Swimming Pool closed its iconic black gates on Monday, 13 July, as it enters its regular winter closure for essential maintenance and refurbishment works.

As the island's only operational public swimming pool, the facility has been managed for the past 11 months by the New Horizons Youth Club, who took over operations from Bennett's Ltd on 1 August 2025.

The current closure will allow contractors to carry out much-needed repairs to the pool basin. As announced by New Horizons via social media, "the pool is being emptied so that the contractor can begin the much-needed resealing and painting works, ensuring everything is ready for a successful reopening." Alongside these main works, pool staff are taking advantage of the downtime to freshen up the toilet and shower facilities and give the wooden benches a fresh splash of varnish.


The baby pool will also undergo maintenance work

Since taking over management last year, New Horizons have introduced several popular amenities for visitors, including a giant water slide as well as new tables, benches, and umbrellas. Highlighting the hard work required to keep the facility running smoothly, New Horizons Director, Scott Crowie, expressed his gratitude to the poolside crew. "New Horizons would like to thank our dedicated swimming pool team for their hard work, commitment, and extensive knowledge in maintaining this valued community facility," he said. "Their efforts, both during the season and throughout this closure period, are greatly appreciated."

The Jamestown Swimming Pool is owned by the St Helena Government, who will soon release the official tender for its next era of management. Following their initial 11-month tenure, New Horizons have confirmed that they intend to bid for the contract. "This is an uncertain time for New Horizons as we go through the bidding process for the continued management of the Jamestown Swimming Pool," they said. "However, we remain fully committed to delivering the very best for the island and the community as a whole."


The New Horizons have enjoyed a successful period of managing the Jamestown Swimming Pool


Under their tenure, the New Horizons introduced a fun water slide to the pool's activities


Additional works, including the varnishing of benches, is also planned



A New Era in Downing Street

What Andy Burnham's Premiership means for St Helena

New UK Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, officially took office on Monday and has made an instant impact

Liam Yon, SAMS

The revolving door at 10 Downing Street has turned once again. Following the resignation of Keir Starmer in June, Andy Burnham officially took office as the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister on Monday, 20 July.

Burnham's path to the premiership was highly unusual. Stepping down from his prominent role as Mayor of Greater Manchester, he secured a return to Parliament via a by-election in Makerfield just weeks ago. Now, as Britain's 59th Prime Minister, the politician often dubbed the "King of the North" is already making sweeping, radical changes that signal a stark departure from traditional Westminster politics.

For residents of St Helena and the wider UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs), leadership shake-ups in the UK often bring uncertainty regarding funding, policy shifts, and diplomatic support. However, Burnham's early moves offer some encouraging signs of stability for the islands.

Perhaps the most significant news for St Helena is the confirmation that Stephen Doughty will continue in his role as Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories. Doughty, who has held the brief since July 2024, brings crucial continuity to the position. Retaining a Minister who already understands the unique challenges faced by the UKOTs—from economic development to environmental protection—means St Helena won't have to start from scratch in building relations with a new representative.

"Huge honour to be re-appointed as Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office by our new PM Andy Burnham," posted Minister Doughty on Facebook. "Look forward to working with our Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband to ensure our work for the UK abroad delivers security and prosperity for people at home."

Furthermore, Burnham's entire political ethos is built on devolution—shifting power away from centralised London bureaucracy and empowering local communities. While his "Manchesterism" agenda is primarily focused on UK regions, this philosophy of decentralised power and local control aligns well with the aspirations of Overseas Territories seeking greater autonomy and tailored support, rather than blanket mandates from Whitehall.

Burnham has wasted no time in implementing his vision. In his first speech outside 10 Downing Street, he promised a "new political model and a new economic model" for Britain.

His immediate actions have been decisive. To combat the ongoing cost of living crisis, the new Prime Minister announced an immediate tax cut on household electricity bills. He also pledged to bring "life's essentials back under stronger public control" to ensure affordability, and declared that his very first internal instruction as Prime Minister was a mandate to end rough sleeping across the country.

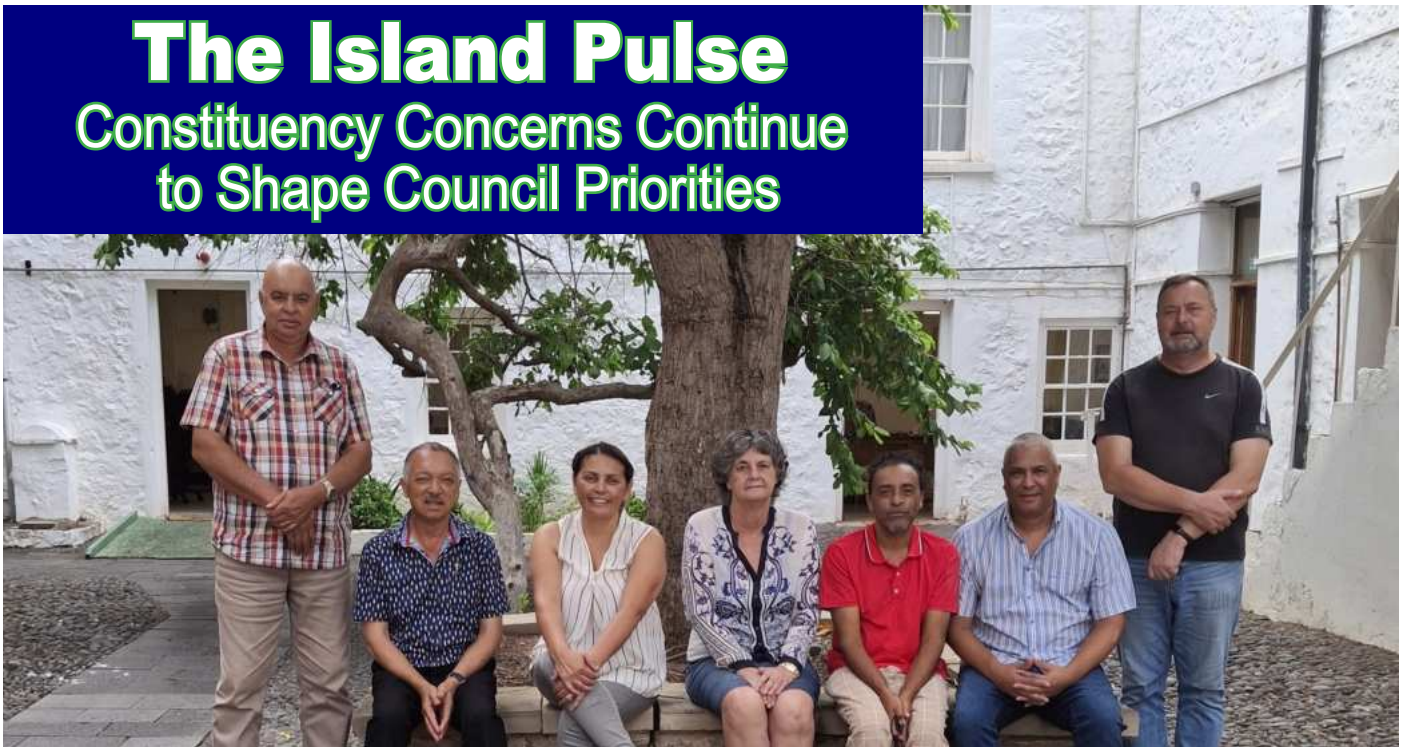
Burnham is expected to outline a comprehensive "10-year plan" for the UK later this year. As his administration begins to flesh out this long-term strategy, St Helena will need to continue to monitor how this dramatic shift in UK leadership will impact our future.



Minister Stephen Doughty will continue in his role as Minister of State for Europe, North America and Overseas Territories under Prime Minister, Andy Burnham

The Island Pulse

Constituency Concerns Continue to Shape Council Priorities



Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

The latest edition of *The Island Pulse*, hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas and joined by Councillors Dr Corinda Essex, Robert Midwinter and Denis Leo, focused entirely on constituency meetings held earlier this year and the progress - or lack of progress - on issues raised by residents across the island.

With the next round of meetings beginning later this month, Councillors used the programme to report back to constituents and encourage residents to continue engaging directly with their elected representatives.

Common themes emerging island-wide

A clear message from the programme was that many concerns are shared regardless of district. Telecommunications, fisheries, public transport, roads, housing, renewable energy, social support, casual work arrangements, healthcare, youth opportunities and the pace of government decision-making were repeatedly raised.

Councillors acknowledged that while progress has been made in some areas, many long-standing issues remain unresolved.

Telecommunications still awaiting clarity

Reporting on Jamestown and Ruperts, **Councillor Dr Corinda Essex** said residents remained frustrated by the lack of substantive updates regarding improvements to island-wide connectivity and telecommunications.

Negotiations with a service provider are reportedly nearing completion and funding options are being explored, potentially through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) and British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) funding streams. However, no firm commitments or timelines have yet been confirmed.

Councillor Julie Thomas noted that Minister Thrower had recently indicated that further updates may be available within a month.

Fisheries remain a major concern

Fisheries featured prominently in nearly every district meeting.

Councillor Essex explained that a Fisheries Review is underway and discussions are continuing, but she cautioned residents that definitive decisions are unlikely in the immediate future.

Councillor Thomas echoed frustrations expressed by constituents and industry stakeholders, stating that concerns had been raised regarding consultation processes and whether stakeholder feedback was being adequately reflected in current work.

She noted that many residents are becoming increasingly frustrated at the length of time it is taking to resolve matters affecting the sector, with fisheries remaining one of the island's most significant unresolved issues after around six years of ongoing discussion, reviews and uncertainty.

While Councillors remain committed to pursuing solutions, she stressed that meaningful progress is now expected by both industry stakeholders and the wider community.

Infrastructure, roads and public services

Road safety, parking enforcement and deteriorating infrastructure were recurring concerns.

Councillor Essex reported that the Highways Authority has now compiled the required signage schedule for the Road Traffic Ordinance. Once approved, it should allow the enforcement of parking restrictions and eventually support the implementation of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs).

Councillor Denis Leo highlighted concerns in Longwood regarding the lack of a mirror at Hutts Gate, lighting along Longwood Avenue pavements and drainage issues affecting graves at the Dungeon cemetery.

Councillor Robert Midwinter reported similar concerns from St Paul's, including requests for mirrors, water losses and public transport reductions affecting elderly residents.

In Sandy Bay, Councillor Midwinter, speaking on behalf of Councillor Clint Beard, said residents raised concerns over deteriorating roads, blocked drains, insufficient street lighting and maintenance issues.

Airport closure inquiry still outstanding

Councillor Essex reminded listeners that February's constituency meetings coincided with the airport emergency closure.

Although repairs were completed quickly and new fire tenders were supplied, she expressed disappointment that the promised independent inquiry into the incident had still not commenced almost six months later.

She described the delay as regrettable given the significant impact the closure had on travel, supply chains and public confidence.

Housing, sewage and community facilities

Residents in several districts raised concerns regarding housing shortages and social housing provision.

Speaking on behalf of Alarm Forest residents, Councillor Thomas highlighted Bunkers Hill as one of the constituency's longest-running concerns. She explained that a tender to improve the access road, expected to have been issued several weeks earlier, had still not been released and would require further follow-up with the responsible Minister. She said she has continued to keep affected residents, including those who have purchased plots of land, informed of developments wherever possible, recognising the significant impact more than six years of delays have had on families, future homeowners and confidence in the development.

Councillor Julie Thomas reported that Levelwood residents questioned delays in delivering social housing despite funding previously being identified. They also highlighted the need for more single-unit accommodation for young people and single parents.

Councillor Essex added that she had received assurances from the relevant Minister that construction of social housing in Bottom Woods should commence shortly.

In Rupert's and Half Tree Hollow, sewage infrastructure remained a key issue, with uncertainty continuing over future funding arrangements.

Meanwhile, Councillor Thomas confirmed that Alarm Forest residents continue to seek a dedicated community centre, with Judges Lodge viewed as a possible future option.

Water, utilities and renewable energy

Water security and utility concerns featured strongly in Blue Hill, Half Tree Hollow, Levelwood and other districts.

Residents questioned drought preparedness, renewable energy plans, utility costs and system losses. Councillor Essex said Councillors intend to seek further information from Connect Saint Helena's new Chief Executive Officer, particularly regarding governance, billing concerns and future renewable energy projects.

She noted that the current focus appears to be on solar energy rather than wind generation.

Young people, training and employment

Post-16 opportunities, apprenticeships, local training and employment opportunities were recurring themes.

Councillor Thomas expressed disappointment that the post-16 review had not been completed ahead of budget discussions, warning that continued delays could undermine efforts to retain young people on the island.

Councillor Essex said Half Tree Hollow residents had called for more advanced training opportunities and stronger support for apprenticeships. She noted that some private sector employers have indicated that they would benefit from financial assistance when providing practical training placements.

The long-discussed casual work or three-day work arrangements were also raised repeatedly, with Councillors confirming that work on the issue remains ongoing.

Public transport, healthcare and social support

Reduced public transport services and affordability concerns were highlighted in several districts.

Healthcare also featured heavily, particularly in Half Tree Hollow, where concerns were raised regarding waiting times and overseas medical referrals. Councillor Essex encouraged residents with concerns to use the formal complaints process and offered support to anyone needing assistance.

Levelwood residents also raised concerns around pensions, financial pressures, taxation and support for low-income households.

Education and safeguarding concerns

Councillor Thomas said concerns continue regarding the implementation of the Education Review and the ongoing delays surrounding Harford School refurbishment.

She also confirmed that recruitment is underway for both a Chair and Manager for the Safeguarding Board, describing safeguarding as a priority for the entire Council.

Councillors encourage public participation

As the programme concluded, Councillors stressed the importance of constituency meetings and public engagement.

Councillor Thomas reminded listeners that Councillors can only effectively represent communities when residents continue to raise concerns and provide feedback.

Councillor Midwinter also reminded the public that **Select Committee 1 is currently seeking evidence on Labour Market Strategy and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Enhancing Natural Capital**, with submissions requested by **Friday, 31 July at 4pm.**

The message from *The Island Pulse* was clear: while progress is being made in some areas, many of the issues raised in February remain unresolved. Councillors say continued public participation will be essential in ensuring those concerns remain firmly on the political agenda.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BLUE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Blue Hill Community Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 26 August 2026 at 7.30 pm at the Blue Hill Community Centre.

The Agenda will include:

- Chairperson's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of new Committee

Residents of the Blue Hill district are encouraged to attend.

NOTICE BOARD

Last Chance at First Dose Today

Final clinics for Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccinations being held today



Liam Yon, SAMS

Time is quickly running out to ensure you are fully protected against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella, as the Health Services Directorate announces its final public MMR clinics taking place today.

This is a direct call back for anyone who received their first dose of the vaccine back in April, May, or June. You are now being invited to get your second dose— though are reminded to ensure that at least 28 days have passed since your first jab.

The clinics are also highly recommended for anyone born before 1989, or those who have never started their MMR course. Crucially, health officials say this will be the final public clinic for anyone wishing to receive their very first MMR dose.

Both clinics are taking place today, Thursday 23 July. The first session is being held at the Jamestown Community Centre this morning, from 10am to 12 noon, with the second session at the Half Tree Hollow Clinic this afternoon, from 2pm until 3pm.

If you want to get your first dose but cannot make it to either clinic today, you are urged to contact your local clinic directly to speak with the designated nurse. Meanwhile, if you are planning to travel off-island during this period, or if you are housebound and need to arrange a home visit from a nurse, you should contact the Health Promotion Team on 25949 to set up an appointment.

St Helena Government

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Application has been received in respect of the followwing proposals:

1. **Application 2026/89:** FULL Planning Application for **Construction of One structural development to accommodate five self-contained 2-bedroom flats on stilts** on Parcel FP0503, **Applicant:** Colby Thomas .

2. **Application 2026/28: Re-advertisement to include revised drawings/ plans** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Jamestown Wastewater Treatment Works** at The Sand Yard, Jamestown on Parcel JT020013 & JT020018. **Applicant:** St. Helena Government.

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 08.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Any person who wishes to make Representations on any of the above Applications should make them in writing to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email planning.mailbox@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 9 August2026

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Newsletter JULY 2026

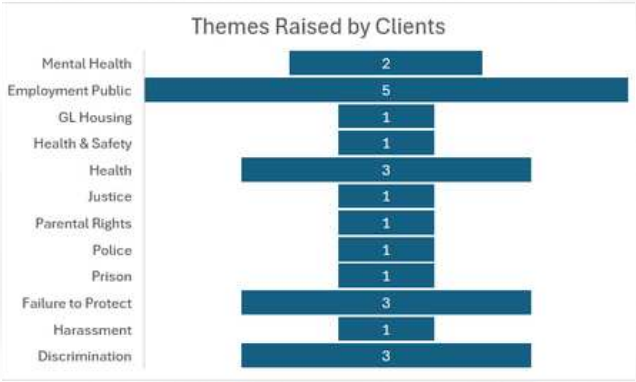
Welcome to our first quarterly update of 2026/27: Over the past few months, we've been busy promoting equality, protecting human rights and supporting people across St Helena. Highlights include securing positive legal change through our use of our Judicial Review, launching our Disability Rights campaign, advancing work on women's rights, housing and poverty, delivering training across the island, and supporting people through our casework service. This newsletter showcases some of the key achievements and progress made between April and June as we continue working towards a fairer and more inclusive St Helena.

DELIVERING HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ACROSS ST HELENA: CASEWORK & SUPPORT

32 Cases supported by Human Rights within the first quarter

14 New enquiries and complaints received

Most common issues raised related to employment, health services, discrimination, failure to protect, and mental health, helping us identify and address key human rights concerns affecting our community.



POLICY & LEGAL PROGRESS

- Successful conclusion of Judicial Review
- Commencement of evidence gathering for St Helena's CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) reporting
- Agreement to develop a Domestic Abuse Action Plan
- Ongoing Advocacy on protections for women and girls

LEGAL VICTORY FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Amendments to **civil litigation (costs)** legislation were approved by Legislative Council.

This saw the successful conclusion of the Judicial Review action in May and supports access to justice for St Helenian residents...

DISABILITY RIGHTS

Disability Rights Awareness Campaign launched in June; engagement with individuals, carers/agencies underway to better understand lived experiences, barriers and challenges

Working towards → Workshop involving members of the public, Parents & Carers, Employers, Education reps, Ministers, SHG officials to help support stronger legal protections for our disabled community members.

TRAINING AND AWARENESS

26 SHG Employees trained

65 St Helena Secondary School staff trained

91 Total number of DEI training delivered by EHRC

EHRC have been delivering Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training through April - June 2026:

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES

We successfully connected with the UK House of Lords Constitution Committee which strengthened our determination to ensure Overseas Territories are heard and not overlooked in human rights discussions.

We also strengthened international partnerships through Commonwealth human rights networks, contributing to working groups focused on health and human rights in sport.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter to find out what we've been up too. If you'd like more information or our support please contact us via telephone +290 22133 or email info@humanrightssthelena.org

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.

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

Research Coordinator
(£16,248 per annum)

Are you passionate about education, research, and creating opportunities that make a lasting impact? If so, St Helena Community College is looking for a dedicated Research Co-ordinator to join its team. In this varied and rewarding role, you will oversee the management of research applications, including organising and facilitating meetings where required. You will be responsible for maintaining and developing the Research Database, ensuring that all research activity is accurately recorded, securely managed, and readily accessible. You will also provide regular reports to the Research Council and Steering Group, highlighting the effectiveness of the St Helena Research Institute, including achievements, areas for development, research secured, and income generated. Working closely with both internal and external partners, you will play a key role in strengthening relationships and supporting the continued development and successful delivery of the St Helena Research Institute. This is an exciting opportunity for an organised, proactive individual who is committed to supporting research, education, and innovation on St Helena.
For more information or to arrange an informal discussion about the role, please contact us.

Education Skills and Employment is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to provide proof of identity and qualifications, and will be subject to reference checks, an enhanced police background check, and any other safeguarding checks relevant to the role. We promote equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Enquiries: Angela Benjamin on Tel No. 22607 or Email: angela.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 07 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 12 August 2026
Interview date: 28 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

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 in the first instance

(£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: 05 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 07 August 2026
Interview date: 14 August 2026

Grounds person

(£9,849 per annum)

Do you enjoy working outdoors and take pride in maintaining attractive, well-kept grounds? If so, St Helena Secondary School is looking to recruit a Groundsman to help maintain a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for everyone who uses Francis Plain and the school grounds. In this role, you will be responsible for carrying out a range of ground maintenance tasks, including mowing grass, trimming hedges, and maintaining the Francis Plain Sports Field, its surrounding areas, and the grounds of St Helena Secondary School. If you're hardworking, enjoy outdoor work, and want to make a positive contribution, we'd love to hear from you!

Education Skills and Employment is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to provide proof of identity and qualifications, and will be subject to reference checks, an enhanced police background check, and any other safeguarding checks relevant to the role. We promote equality of opportunity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Enquiries: Phil Toal on Tel No. 24290 or Email: phil.toal@sainthelena.edu.sh
Closing date: 07 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 12 August 2026
Interview date: 26 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

THE GREEN FISH COMPANY
WITHOUT COMPROMISE

21 July 2026

Open letter.

In 2023, in conjunction with the support of St. Helena's Commercial Fishermen's Association and operating within the parameters of the island's Category VI MPA, The Green Fish Company embarked on a venture to develop what it believes is the world's most sustainably sourced, nutrition-rich, once-cooked yellowfin tuna product.

A programme that concluded with great success and the registering of Purest Catch as an official trademark with the UK's Intellectual Property Office.

Following a year of independent process validation, food scientist Tom Russell of Food Incubator UK commented:

"After 30 years, this Purest Catch tuna is the best, most positive result we have ever had, by a country mile."

After testing and validating nutrition, a senior chemist at Hudson & Hardwick Laboratories stated:

"The Green Fish Company has made a game-changing breakthrough in canned tuna nutrition."

Captain Kieran Kelly of Ocean Integrity Group quoted re our defined catch-to-can process:

"The methods adopted by the artisanal fishermen on St. Helena makes it, quite possibly, one of the most sustainable fisheries in the world. This product is sustainability at its finest."

However, for the last year, since 25 July 2025, The Green Fish Company has repeatedly raised concerns regarding negative events affecting the St. Helena fishery and has sought assurances from the St. Helena Government that any resulting financial and reputational risks would be appropriately addressed and furthermore, that measures would be implemented to prevent similar issues occurring in the future.

To date, those assurances have not been forthcoming.

Additionally, the recent reference to the potential importation of Taiwanese and Japanese caught frozen tuna from South Africa for processing and exporting (as is stated in the Fisheries Review draft) now raises even greater concerns regarding tuna traceability and provenance on St. Helena and the future reputational risks this could bring through fishery association.

The company is disappointed by the lack of courage, conviction and vision displayed by St. Helena Government and the insufficient action taken to protect the reputation of an internationally recognised sustainable fishery — actions that would serve to safeguard both International Regulation and retail partner ESG compliances.

Removing these barriers is significant not only for The Green Fish Company, whose business model was founded on producing a premium tuna product exclusively from, and to showcase, St. Helena, but also for the long-term future of island's fishermen, whose commitment over many decades has helped establish one of the world's most sustainable fisheries.

It is also disappointing that despite five requests on five separate occasions, St. Helena Government has **failed** to provide the necessary invoices relating to lease payments in line with standard accountancy and invoice reconciliation practices — those necessary in order for The Green Fish Company to comply with UK Companies House management account filing and HMRC EIS investment funding and due diligence processes.

Whilst The Green Fish Company remains committed to sustainable tuna production and to demonstrating that its method — designed to preserve premium quality and nutritional value, can deliver long-term economic benefits for small-scale fishing communities — the company and its advisors have concluded that it can no longer continue its original path to operational commencement and production in St. Helena as is, and, that before any consideration for further progression, there is now a need to initiate appropriate actions with professional parties overseas. This situation is regrettable but now considered necessary.

Whilst we await the outcomes, the company will continue to openly support local fishermen in their endeavors to protect both their livelihoods and traditions and to continue providing an essential protein — fresh, sustainable, seafood, at affordable prices.

To those who believe, and have stated, they have more effective solutions and bigger and better ideas to move the fishery forwards — **now is your time to prove it.**

... today, as a Category VI Marine Protected Area, the fishery has a combined available quota of approximately 1,600 metric tons of tuna across three species (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye), with proven market conditions indicating this quota represents a potential UK and EU market wholesale value and a local revenue income ***exceeding £6 million*** *annually if supported by a circular-economy processing model that maximises value from the entire fish across multiple products and market segments.*

With considerable public investment already made including approximately £500,000 in infrastructure and facilities intended to support local fishermen, the resources already exist: **the processing facility, the quota and the opportunity.**

So, it now falls to those responsible for disrupting a solution built around the local inshore fishery to demonstrate and prove, that their promises and pledges can deliver sustainable commercial success, viable and profitable export and positive social and economic impact and crucially, that their strategy will restore fishery integrity and prosperity for the thirty-two locally licensed fishermen.

The Green Fish Company.

NOTICE BOARD

BANK OF ST HELENA LTD

IMPORTANT LENDING TEAM UPDATES AND REMINDERS

As we move past the financial year-end, the Lending Team reminds all personal and commercial customers of the following essential requirements:

Lending appointments are essential

The Bank cannot guarantee that walk in customers will be seen without a scheduled appointment.

To book an appointment:
Call 22390 or email as follows:

- Personal Loans – Email personallending@sainthelenabank.com
- Commercial Loans – Email commerciallending@sainthelenabank.com

Invoice Payments from Loan Funds

To request a payment directly from your Loan Funds, you must:

- Write “approved for payment” directly on the physical invoice
- Support this statement with your authorised signature

Commercial Clients: End of Year Accounts

When submitting your end of year accounts to the Tax Office, you are required to submit a copy to the Bank. This is a mandatory requirement under the Terms and Conditions of your Loan Agreement.

Important Notice: Secured Assets

You cannot sell any asset secured against a loan (such as Land, Property or Vehicles) without prior written permission from the Bank. If a secured asset is sold, you must immediately:

- Settle the outstanding loan balance in full, OR
- Provide alternative security of sufficient value to cover the remaining balance

Thank you for your cooperation and adherence to these procedures.
The Bank of St Helena looks forward to your continued custom.

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

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Road Tanker Driver/Relief Watchkeeper

Salary for the post will commence at £11,752 per annum (£226 per week)

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

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

Interested Persons Should:

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

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

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **06 August 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

Vacancy

Senior Sales Assistant

Salary for the post will commence at £11,676 per annum (£973 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Silver Hill Shop for a Senior Sales Assistant.

The Senior Sales Assistant will provide support to Management, assisting with the day to day running of the store, whilst ensuring an excellent standard of customer service is always provided.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess knowledge of food safety & hygiene
- Be customer focused and target driven
- Possess experience of working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- Be competent in Maths, English and IT
- Possess experience in Cash Handling, ideally including use of the EPOS till and payment by local debit card
- Be self-motivated and able to work well as part of a team
- Be able to undertake physically demanding and manual handling duties
- Have the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment
- Be reliable and able to take on responsibility in overseeing the day to day operations when the Supervisor is away from the business
- Be available to work weekends.

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

Julie Lawrence, General Manager (Mercantile, Marketing & IT) 22380 julie.h.lawrence@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **06 August 2026.**

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- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

United Service - Sunday, 26th July
Jamestown Chapel, 2pm
No services will be held in the Sandy Bay and Head O'Wain Chapels.

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

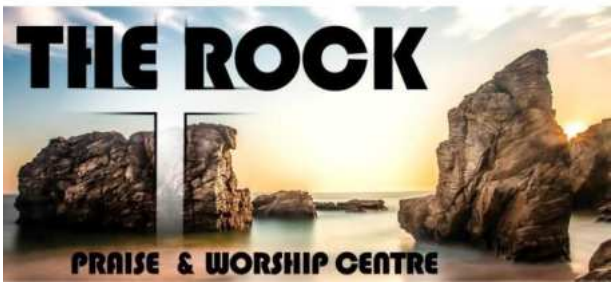
SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6-10 yrs old
Saturday, 25th July:
Baptist School Hall, 10am to 11.30am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 26th July 2026– 17th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m..	Eucharist	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Helena & The Cross
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 26th July 2026 – 17th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
6.00 p.m.	**Patronal Festival**	**St James**
	Thursday 30th July	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 26th July 2026 – 17th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 21st July	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark



Church Notices

We warmly invite you to join us for:

Prayer Meeting
Saturday 25th July 2026 at 9.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.
Contact Mercy for details-65880 or 24212

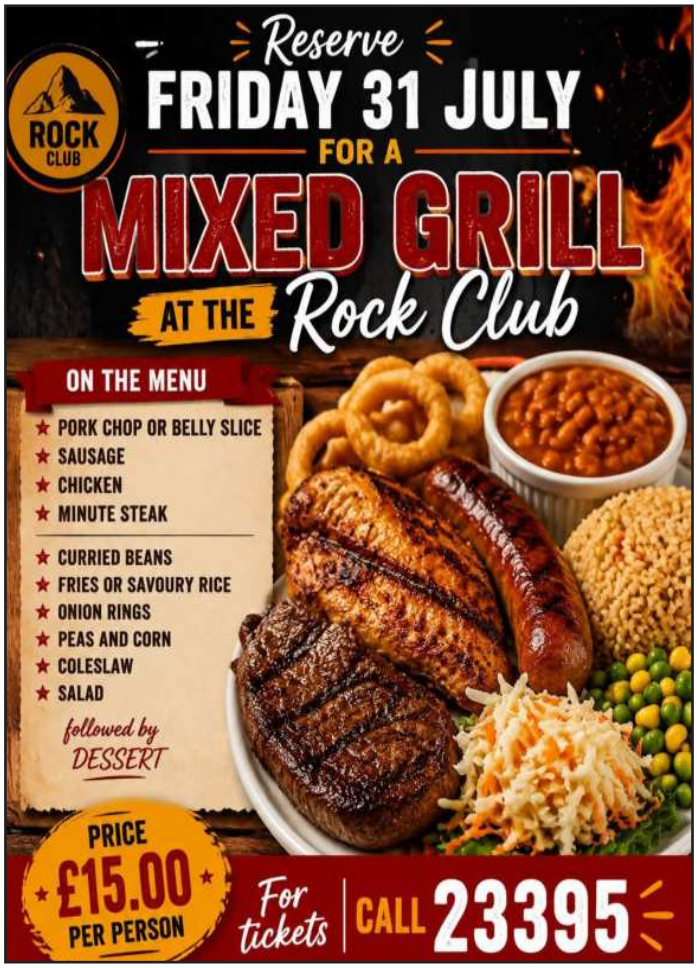
Table Top/Car Boot Sale
Tea/Coffee & Cake will also be on sale
Saturday 25th July 2026 at 12.00 Noon
Contact Anthony for details-51672

Praise and Worship Service
Sunday 26th July 2026 11.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings
Tuesday 28th July 2026
Cape Villa at 5.00pm -contact Priscilla: 51919

Combined Cell
Wednesday 29th July 2026
@The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 7.00pm
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

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



Golf Report

Weather Forces Postponement of Monthly Medal



SHGC, Contributed

Hopes were high as 12 players signed up for last Sunday's Monthly Medal Competition at the St Helena Golf Club, but the weather had other plans.

Persistent fog and intermittent showers dominated most of the morning, making playing conditions unsuitable and forcing the cancellation of the competition. After careful consideration, organisers decided to postpone the event in the interest of player safety and fairness.

The Monthly Medal Competition has now been rescheduled for Sunday, 26 July. Registration will close at 3pm on Saturday, 25 July.

The St Helena Golf Club thanks all players for their understanding and looks forward to welcoming a strong field for the rescheduled competition, with hopes of much-improved weather and an enjoyable afternoon of golf.

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 ✦

SPORTS ARENA



Letori was denied once more before the break when his venomous strike coming in off the left wing drew a top-drawer save from veteran goalkeeper Keith Yon, who leaped high to tip the ball over the crossbar and keep his side in the game.

Bellboys, meanwhile, uncharacteristically adopted a defensive counter-attacking approach, sitting deep and picking their moments to strike—a departure from their usual style of dominating possession. Their defence held resiliently, while their midfield tracked runners doggedly. Up front, Tyler Brady, Joey Thomas, and Taylan Phillips looked dangerous whenever they broke, leaving the impression that a single Rovers mistake or a long ball forward could instantly produce a Bellboys goal. At the halftime whistle, the game hung in the balance.



Early in the second half, the deadlock was broken in a manner many had anticipated given the game's dynamic. Rovers keeper Ryan Backhouse—new to the position after taking over the gloves last season—misplaced a pass out from the back straight to Tyler Brady. Brady took no prisoners, dispatching a brilliant long-range strike to stun Rovers and give the holders the lead against the run of play.

Rovers responded immediately. Barely a minute later, Rico Benjamin surged toward goal at full speed, demonstrating his quality by holding off his defender and finishing ruthlessly to make it 1–1.

With the crowd noise rising, Rovers won a penalty shortly after, following a corner and a chaotic scramble in the box, where the referee spotted a handball. Despite Bellboys' protests, Ronan Legg stepped up to the high-pressure spot-kick and calmly converted to give Rovers a 2–1 lead.

Bellboys responded by turning up the tempo, turning the match into a toe-to-toe battle. Their revival was spearheaded by the midfield duo of Jacob Duncan and young Zac Francis. Duncan provided a commanding physical presence, winning duels and reclaiming possession across the pitch, while Francis provided the creative spark with precise through-balls over the top. The two frequently interchanged roles, with Francis holding his own physically and Duncan spraying passes around. Their efforts earned them the Player and Young Player of the Match awards respectively.

As Rovers looked for a third goal to



FOOTBALL RESULTS

Saturday 18 July 2026

Harts 20
L George (9) R Stevens (3) J Cairns-Wicks (2) S Stroud (2) K Shoesmith, E Harris, OG, L Williams
MoM: Lebron George

STH Young Boys 1
J Jacobs

Sunday 12 July 2026

La Verde 5
A Ncube (2) R Fabian, S Sawangwong, H Winfield
MoM: Ayden Ncube

Fugees 4
L Williams (3) K Minto

Bellboys 2
T Brady, J Thomas
MoM: Jacob Duncan
YPoM: Zac Francis

Rovers 2
R Benjamin, R Legg

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday 26 July 2026

1.30pm **Rovers vs STH Young Boys**
3.30pm **Bellboys vs Fugees**

**Fixtures subject to weather conditions*

seal the win, Bellboys continued to look dangerous on the break. One major opportunity saw Zac play a first-time pass that sent Joey Thomas and Taylan Phillips clear on goal with an overload. However, keeper Ryan Backhouse read the play brilliantly, racing well outside his penalty area to clear the danger using both his feet and his head.

With time running out, Bellboys struck back. A deep free-kick taken from inside their own half was launched into the Rovers box, where Joey Thomas found space. With no defender tight to him and the keeper unable to reach it, Joey guided a free header into the back of the net to level the scores at 2–2.

Rovers launched a late assault for a winner, with centre-back Brett Isaac marauding forward repeatedly and Tyler Benjamin providing strength and skill under pressure in the middle of the park to win back possession and keep the attacks coming. However, Bellboys defended stubbornly to see out the draw. The result keeps Bellboys happy at the top of the table, while giving Rovers plenty of motivation heading into the second half of the season.

Harts Run Riot in 20-Goal Rampage

In Saturday's matchup, Harts put on a masterclass in attack, overpowering STH Young Boys in a 20–1 scoreline. Player of the Match Lebron George put on an extraordinary individual display, scoring nine goals. Ryan Stevens bagged a hat-trick, while James Cairns-Wicks and Shane Stroud scored two each. Single goals from Kyle Shoesmith, Ethan Harris, Levi Williams, and an own goal completed the scoring for Harts. Jude Jacobs, once again, provided the lone consolation goal for STH Young Boys.

La Verde Edge Out Fugees in Nine-Goal Thriller

Fans were treated to a nine-goal thriller in Sunday's first match as La Verde edged past Fugees 5–4. Player of the Match Ayden Ncube led the charge for La Verde with a brace, supported by strikes from Robson Fabian, Sitthipon Sawangwong (Om), and Harry Winfield. Fugees pushed them all the way thanks to a brilliant performance and clinical hat-trick from Lars Williams along with a goal from Korben Minto, but, in the end, La Verde held firm to claim all three points.



SPORTS ARENA



Sharing the Spoils

Bellboys and Rovers take a point each in Four-Goal Thriller

Liam Yon, SAMS

In a dramatic, high-stakes showdown at a cold and rainy Francis Plain, reigning champions Bellboys and last season's runners-up Rovers fought to a thrilling 2–2 draw in the standout clash of Gameweek 5.

This was without a doubt the most highly anticipated match of the weekend—and likely of the entire first round of league action—as last year's champions, Bellboys, faced off against last season's runners-up, Rovers. These two sides have been the benchmark in local football for a number of years. Historically, Rovers are largely considered St Helena's top side with arguably the most league and knockout titles in history; however, Bellboys have lifted their fair share of silverware in recent years and now consider themselves on par in stature as obvious title contenders.

Rovers came into this fixture with a chip on their shoulder after dropping two vital points in a controversial draw against Harts a few weeks back following several debatable refereeing calls. Fired up and knowing a win would send them to the top of the table, Rovers meant business.

Despite the cold and rainy conditions at Francis Plain, excitement was high as kickoff arrived. Rovers took immediate control, showing greater attacking intent and linking well from back to front. Captain Rico Benjamin was his usual menacing self, proving a constant threat to the Bellboys defence with his pace, power, and direct runs into the channels.

Knowing the threat, Bellboys altered their usual defensive shape; normal centre-back Kyle Yon shifted out to right-back, while regular right-back Weston Clingham moved into centre-back—a tactical move likely designed to utilise Clingham's aggression and tackling ability.

Both teams donned their standard black and yellow kits, meaning Rovers wore red bibs to prevent a clash. Despite the constant threat of Rico, Ronan Legg, and Shaquille Benjamin, it was Rovers' energetic left-winger, Jake Letori, who looked like the most likely route to goal.

Letori had the first massive chance of the match when a determined run saw him break into the Bellboys penalty box. Ignoring calls to shoot early, Letori took a touch that completely fooled the onrushing defender and keeper. With a seemingly open net ahead, the heavily left-footed winger opted to strike with his left rather than his right; his effort, which looked destined for the back of the net, instead flew into the side netting.

Determined to make amends, Letori thought he had put Rovers ahead midway through the half. Showcasing tidy feet and relentlessness on the opposite flank, Shaquille Benjamin carved out space on the right side of the box to dink a cross to the far post, where Letori headed it home. However, Rovers' celebrations were cut short by the assistant referee's offside flag. Rovers appealed, arguing that the cross was delivered from a position more advanced than Letori, but onlookers generally felt the officials made the correct call.

Continued inside...