THE South Atlantic Media Services, Ltd.

www.sams.sh

SENTINEL

Vol. 15, Issue 19 - Price: £1 *"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"* Thursday 06 August 2026

"St Helena is still a Community that Cares"

Large attendance at Cost of Living public meeting as Councillor Thomas praises "powerful demonstration"



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New Child Benefit approved as SHG tackles Taxes, Signage, and Accounts during meeting of Executive Council





Celebrating the Achievements of Saint Graduates

Kelly Yon

Bachelor of Laws



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

Time is really flying by in 2026 isn't it? Although I feel like we say that every year, but seriously, we are a week into August already. Hope you have already started thinking about the Christmas shopping!

Here at SAMS, time seems to fly even quicker with the busy days of preparing a daily news bulletin of at least three news stories, plus the preparation and recording of radio shows and interviews, all while making sure we have plenty of interesting and exciting content for The Sentinel – it is not easy, trust me, especially when it is never-ending; today's news done, now we have think about tomorrow and the next day, then with the paper, before we can celebrate publishing a full paper on a Thursday, we are already chasing articles for the next one. There is always a deadline.

However, I wouldn't change it for the world, I love what I do and I have an amazing team that makes the days enjoyable, even though it's always so busy. What makes it worth it is knowing that we are playing a vital part in keeping all of you informed and up to date, as well as entertained with our radio shows – the feedback we get always gives that motivation to keep going. It was great to get to chat with renowned The Times London journalist, Michael Binyon, last Friday during his visit to the Island. He had big praise for SAMS and The Sentinel and reserved special admiration for yours truly, which was a really nice moment for me personally, considering the caliber of the journalist I was speaking with – again, it just gives that impetus to keep doing what we do!

To end of today, I want to give a special shoutout to our boys that represented Team St Helena at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow – they did an amazing job and should be immensely proud, as we all are here on St Helena. Well done boys!

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ST HELENA NEWS

"Council restored to full strength"

Legislative Council back to full complement following recent returns, as they now prepare for two-week recess period



The Legislative Council is back to full strength following the returns of Minister Brooks and Councillor Beard

Donna Crowie, SAMS

The Legislative Council is back at full strength following the return of Minister Gillian Brooks and Councillor Clint Beard from personal leave overseas.

During the opening of Tuesday morning's Ministers Question Time—the tenth sitting of its kind under the current government—Speaker Maureen Thompson formally welcomed both members back to the Chamber.

Focusing on the topic of 'Economic Growth and Local Production', the session saw the majority of questions directed to Minister Karl Thrower across his Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, and Economic Development portfolios. More on this soon.

Opening proceedings, Speaker Thompson paid tribute to the team for stepping up in their colleagues' absence.

"A warm welcome back to the island to the Honourable Gillian Brooks and the Honourable Clint Beard," she said. "With their return from personal business overseas, we now have the council restored to full strength. I'd like to say thank you to the Honourable Derek Thomas who returned to his regular councillor duties following your successful term as temporary Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs."

The return of both members triggers a ripple effect across several ministerial and district roles.

With Minister Brooks resuming her portfolio, Councillor Derek Thomas steps down as Acting Minister and returns to his regular duties as District Representative for Half Tree Hollow—relieving Councillor Dr Corinda Essex, who covered the district in the interim.

Meanwhile, Councillor Clint Beard resumes his responsibilities as District Representative for Blue Hill and Sandy Bay, relieving Councillor Ronald Coleman.

Looking ahead, elected members are now preparing for a two-week Legislative Council recess, scheduled to run from Monday, 10 August, to Friday, 21 August, returning to normal business on Monday, 24 August, with the official announcement of this recess period having been made on Tuesday afternoon.

Inside ExCo Last Week

New Child Benefit approved as Government tackles Taxes, Signage, and Accounts during meeting of Executive Council



Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks. Ministers met on Tuesday, 28 July, to approve key legislative updates and draft financial statements

Liam Yon, SAMS

Executive Council convened on Tuesday, 28 July, for a comprehensive sitting that delivered significant policy decisions for St Helena residents. Among the key outcomes were the approval of a new tax-free financial benefit for young families, progress on local road traffic safety regulations, a roadmap for long-term tax policy reform, and official sign-off on the government's latest draft financial statements.



Custom island-worded road signs like this steep road warning are set for regulatory updates to align St Helena's signage with modern standards

In what will be welcome news for many households across the island, Ministers agreed to recommendations from the Treasury Advisory Board to introduce a dedicated Child Benefit for children aged zero to five, prior to their enrolment in primary school.

The new scheme is set to commence on 1 November 2026 and will pay £15 per week per eligible child. The benefit is completely tax-exempt and will be made available to all resident families on St Helena, excluding Technical Co-operation officers who currently receive direct salary supplements for dependents.

According to official top lines, the policy aims to directly alleviate financial pressure on families while investing in early childhood development and poverty reduction. Executive Council noted that while public funds remain tightly constrained, targeted transfers of this nature deliver substantial long-term social and economic benefits for both the children and the wider community.

At the meeting, Ministers also considered proposed updates to the Schedule to the Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations 1985. The amendments aim to bring St Helena's official road signs into line with modern international standards while establishing clear legal distinctions where custom island-worded signs remain in use.

Alongside approving the direction of the revised schedule, Council highlighted the need for a formal update to the island's Highway Code and an accompanying public awareness campaign so drivers can familiarise themselves with the updated signage.

The new sign schedule forms part of a broader push toward enhanced road safety, complementing planned fixed penalty notices. The Minister for Safety, Security, and Home Affairs is expected to bring the finalised regulation back to ExCo at its next scheduled meeting.

Looking toward long-term economic planning, ExCo reviewed an "Options for Tax Policy" paper outlining potential tax updates over the coming years.

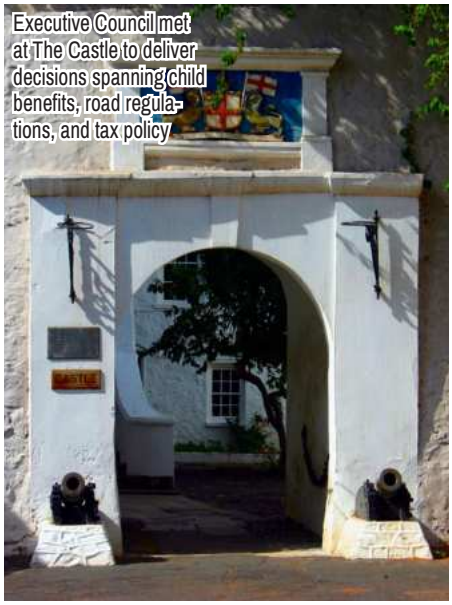
Following detailed preparation by the Treasury Advisory Board and consultation with the Tax and Revenue Working Group, five major policy areas were brought forward for consideration; income tax reform, property taxation, corporation tax, customs duties and services tax.

Recognising administrative capacity constraints within government, Ministers confirmed that up to four tax policy options can realistically be taken forward at one time to ensure thorough preparation. Priority focus will initially remain on income tax and customs duties, fulfilling commitments previously made to the Legislative Council.

Finally, Executive Council accepted the first draft of the St Helena Government Entity Financial Statements for the 2025/26 financial year. The draft accounts have now been formally submitted to the Chief Auditor for independent examination under Section 109 of the Constitution.

Submitting the financial statements within four months of the financial year-end marks a key benchmark for public financial management and accountability.

The Chief Auditor's anticipated completion date for the audit is 31 January 2027. This timeline puts government comfortably within the 12-month reporting requirement stipulated in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) Financial Aid Memorandum of Understanding with St Helena Government.



Executive Council met at The Castle to deliver decisions spanning child benefits, road regulations, and tax policy

YOUR LETTERS / ST HELENA NEWS

Dear Editor,

I had resolved to cease commenting seriously on any topic, or even to care, but I still glance each week at your paper and I hope that being a non-St Helenian will not disqualify me from commenting briefly and seriously on several current issues in the last issue I've seen (23 July):-

Surgeon scandal: Ms Jonas shared her analysis of the origins of the problem: "failure of effective clinical oversight", "institutional arrogance", "remnants of colonial legacy in the constitutional system" (I assembled that one from fragments), "somebody, the UK if we can embarrass them enough, must pay" (I inferred that one from unsubtle hints). Mr Editor, there will doubtless be some public enquiry, many fingers pointed, and so on, but is the underlying reality not that (1) as in so many recent scandals in the UK, the cause is lack of enough funding: in the island's case, enough funding to attract and retain to a location as remote, underfunded, career-unenriching, etc. as the island any medical staff of sufficient calibre (other than those soft-hearted - the "Wilberforces" of this world - who don't do it for the money); and (2) doctors are never found out until years later, if ever, because of the culture that they are to "respect their professional colleagues and protect their profession's independence"? Very interested to read Ms Jonas' solutions to those, if she agrees.

Airport safety: I remember, but I could be wrong, that Private Eye (a UK magazine which parodies politics, including wickedly-funny covers available online, but also feature legitimate investigative journalism, e.g. it reported the Post Office scandal long before the mainstream press) long ago featured, in "Letters from St Helena", brief reports about the airport construction project. The gist, so far as I recall, was that it was built along a line that was (1) cheaper to construct than the locally-proposed alternative; but (2) more dangerous because of wind shear at the cliff edge. Does anyone else wish to comment, please?

Fishing: I read that the discussion is still at a stage or several before the "getting them to stop slagging each other off in the press and sit down to discuss like adults who need each other" phase, despite my attempted pre-emptive strike letter hinting that they should recognise their interdependence and focus on the benefits, as the Marshall Islands does. Meanwhile, just so you know, the local Marshall Islands Journal paper reports that they've reached agreement to ship huge amounts of their catch to the EU. Just thought I'd share that.

Regards,

Lucky Thomson

Grit, Determination, and Teamwork

Team St Helena completes historic campaign at 2026 Commonwealth Games



St Helena made history by fielding a four-strong team in the Men's 4x100m Relay event for the first time ever

Liam Yon, SAMS

The curtain has officially come down on the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow following Sunday night's Closing Ceremony.

Team St Helena rounded off an unforgettable 11 days of competition on Saturday, 1 August, by making island sporting history. For the first time ever, St Helena fielded a team in the Men's 4x100-meter relay at the Games. The four sprinters – Blaze Baldwin, Tyler Anthony, Sean Crowie and Tye Leo-Stroud – delivered a memorable performance, crossing the finish line in an impressive 43.85 seconds.

With all competition events complete, the athletes and officials joined thousands of competitors from around the world to celebrate the formal end of the Games at Glasgow's OVO Hydro arena on Sunday evening.

Following a brilliant showing filled with grit, determination, and teamwork across every event, Team St Helena now begins their journey back home, leaving behind a campaign that has filled the entire island with immense pride. Well done Team St Helena!

"There is not going to be a 60p fuel increase"

Financial Secretary shuts down rumours of a 60p increase to fuel prices – though says actual figures have not yet been confirmed



Solomon's HTH Fuel Station

Liam Yon, SAMS

Drivers on the Island can breathe a small, temporary, sigh of relief this week after St Helena's Financial Secretary has shut down rumours of an impending 60p spike in fuel prices – though he made clear that he was not in a position to confirm what fuel costs will actually be following the recent arrival of fuel tanker, MT Talisker, which brought the island's latest supply.

With current pump prices sitting at £2.02 per litre for petrol and £2.07 for diesel, rumours have been rife across the Island prior to, and since the arrival of new fuel stocks, that motorists could see an immediate 60p increase to prices — with some suggesting fuel could soar past the £3 per litre mark.

Back in May, amid growing global concerns over Middle East conflicts and potential supply disruptions, St Helena Government's Financial Secretary, Dax Richards, reassured the community that secured fuel stocks would keep prices stable through until early August.

With that August consignment now delivered, The Sentinel reached out to the Financial Secretary to get official confirmation on whether retail prices are set to rise in line with the 'word on the street'.

While Dax explained that final figures cannot be confirmed just yet, he firmly dismissed the high-end estimates circulating in the community. "There is not going to be a 60p fuel increase," he said in a concise reply to enquiries. "Until we receive all of the costs, I'm not in a position to confirm the cost of fuel. An announcement will be made as per the normal process in due course."

For now, pump prices remain as they are. Once SHG receives and processes the full cost breakdown for the new shipment, sole retail supplier, Solomon & Company, will update prices at the pumps – and hopefully, if there is an increase, it won't be near the extortionate prices being rumoured and, according to the Financial Secretary, will at least be less than the rumoured 60p increase.

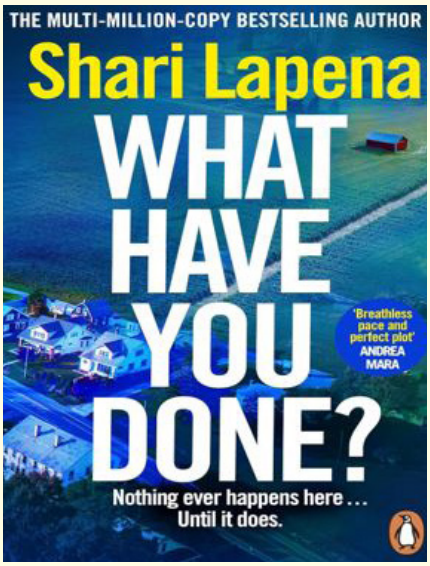
The Sentinel will bring you the official figures as soon as that announcement is made by Solomons.



Last week the MT Talisker brought a new supply of fuel to the Island, prompting rumours of an impending increase to fuel prices

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



What Have You Done by Shari Lapena

Nothing ever happens in sleepy little Fairhill.
The teenagers get their kicks telling ghost stories in the old graveyard. The parents trust their kids will arrive home safe from school. Everyone knows everyone. Curtains rarely twitch. Front doors are left unlocked.
But this morning all of that will change.
Because Diana Brewer isn't lying safely in her bed where she belongs. Instead she lies in a hayfield, circled by vultures, discovered by a local farmer.
How quickly a girl becomes a ghost. How quickly a town of friendly, familiar faces becomes a town of suspects, a place of fear and paranoia.
Someone in Fairhill did this.
Everyone wants answers.
And one innocent question could be deadly.

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

"I warmly welcome Uma Kumaran"

Chief Minister welcomes new UKOT Minister following UK reshuffle



Minister Uma Kumaran has taken over responsibility of the Overseas Territories from Minister Stephen Doughty

Liam Yon, SAMS

Regarding political developments in the UK, there is news that will undoubtedly have a direct impact here on St Helena with the revolving door in Whitehall seeing yet another Ministerial reshuffle under new Prime Minister Andy Burnham.

Not long after The Sentinel reported that Stephen Doughty would continue as the Minister for the Overseas Territories—providing what we hoped would be much-needed continuity—that decision was reversed; with Doughty having since been moved to cover the Middle East and North Africa.

Replacing him is Uma Kumaran, the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office who took up post on 22 July.

Responding to the transition, Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks expressed gratitude for Doughty's tenure while extending a warm welcome to his successor.

"On behalf of St Helena, I would like to place on record our appreciation for the close and constructive relationship we developed with Stephen Doughty during his time as Minister for the Overseas Territories," she said in a statement to The Sentinel. "His accessibility, understanding of the Territories, and commitment to partnership, were greatly valued, and we wish him every success in his new responsibilities."

"I warmly welcome Uma Kumaran's appointment and look forward to working closely with her," the Chief Minister continued. "We are keen to build on the trust, dialogue and momentum established with Minister Doughty, while developing a strong relationship with Minister Kumaran and deepening her understanding of St Helena's particular circumstances, priorities and ambitions."

For many here on the island, this sudden change will be met with a sigh of disappointment. St Helena had already built a relationship with Stephen Doughty over the last two years. Losing a Minister who already understands the unique challenges of the island essentially means starting from scratch.

Adding to the initial reservations, Minister Kumaran posted on social media shortly after her appointment, outlining her new responsibilities, which include the Caribbean, global tech and AI, and tackling violence against women and girls. Notably, her post detailing what she looks forward to working on omitted any mention of the Overseas Territories.

"An honour to be given responsibility for my new Ministerial brief, covering: the Caribbean, the Overseas Territories, global tech and AI, and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)," she posted to X. "I look forward to working with global partners on our shared interests - from action on the climate crisis in the Caribbean, to tackling VAWG, to unlocking the shared opportunities of the AI revolution. It's the honour of my life to be serving my country alongside our fantastic team in @FCDOGovUK."

However, despite this rocky start, there are reasons to be optimistic about Uma Kumaran.

She is regarded as a rising star in the Labour Party, having made history in 2024 as the UK's first Sri Lankan Tamil Member of Parliament. Crucially for St Helena, her background is steeped in public service and international cooperation. Before entering Parliament, she served as the Director of Diplomatic and International Relations at a global climate organisation, working closely with the United Nations and civil society. This means she is no stranger to navigating complex international frameworks and advocating for environmental protection—issues that are, of course, vital to the island.

Furthermore, she has significant experience working within the machinery of government, having served as a senior advisor to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and as Deputy Director of Parliamentary Affairs for former Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer. This suggests she knows how to get things done in Westminster.

So, while the initial lack of a public shout-out to the Overseas Territories might sting, Minister Kumaran's strong track record in climate advocacy and public policy suggests she could be a formidable ally for St Helena.



Minister Doughty has moved on after two years working with St Helena and the UKOTs

Poor Turnout, Lively Discussions

Cost of Living, Agriculture, and District Priorities top Third Round of Councillor-led Constituency Meetings as Police also attend to speak to attendees



Kingshurst Community Centre in St Paul's, where the latest round of councillor-led constituency meetings kicked off

Liam Yon, SAMS

Recently, Island Councillors have been out in the community for their third round of district constituency meetings across the island. While initial attendance figures across the first four districts were low, feedback suggests that the discussions held were frank, constructive, and covered a broad spectrum of local concerns.

The round of meetings began at the Kingshurst Community Centre for the St Paul's district, drawing a small turnout of four constituents. The session opened with an introduction from Locum Chief of Police, Julian Pezzani, who provided an update on neighbourhood policing and local officer development.

Subsequent discussions centred on legislative progress, portfolio budget allocations, and funding priorities under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP). In particular, residents focused on the need to complete works at the Bulk Fuel Installation to reduce tanker deliveries, alongside renewable energy plans aimed at cutting the island's diesel reliance.

Reflecting on the session, meeting chair Councillor Robert Midwinter emphasised the quality of the dialogue. "Whilst we only had four constituents show up last night, we had some good open discussions," he noted. "I would like to thank those who came, and I would hope that more constituents take advantage of the meetings that will be held over the next couple of weeks."

On Monday, 27 July, the constituency meeting for Jamestown took place at the Jamestown Community Centre, chaired by Councillor Dr Corinda Essex. An Acting Sergeant from the Royal St Helena Police Service opened the meeting by outlining ongoing public engagement activities and the work of a dedicated community policing team focusing on multi-agency collaboration.

During the open floor session, discussions ranged from high-level policy concerns to unique historical queries. "An update was provided on key issues raised in the last constituency meeting before those present raised current matters," Councillor Essex reported. "These ranged from whether Jonathan is really the 'original' tortoise brought to St Helena or Jonathan the Second; failure of some candidates to deliver on election pledges; the recent Budget; the legislative timetable; and the rising cost of living and possible ways of reducing its impact."

Constituents also expressed frustration over perceived delays regarding critical long-term plans, including the future provision of telecommunications, detailed implementation of the renewable energy strategy, and a lack of clear timelines for EDIP project prioritisation and commencement. Cllr Essex confirmed she would follow up on all points requiring further action.

Seven residents attended the Levelwood meeting on Wednesday, 29 July, chaired by Councillor Ronald Coleman. Officers from the Royal St Helena Police Service highlighted community policing initiatives, plans for local recruitment, and internet safety. Summarising the police presentation, Councillor Coleman noted that "the police always want to work with the people, particularly young people of the community, in an effort to keep crime down."

Economic pressures dominated the floor, with attendees identifying low wages, escalating fuel prices, and general living expenses as their primary concerns. Residents were informed that protecting living standards is a core priority within the Ministers' Vision, with Cllr Coleman adding that "it is hoped that some issues would be considered by the Ministers to address."

Attendees raised a series of specific requests for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (ANRD) relating to local agricultural production. They called for government support to be distributed fairly across all producers, rather than benefiting only those operating on Crown lands. They also made requests for the reintroduction of imported fruit trees, subsidies on seed potatoes, and the importation of stud animals to refresh breeding stock over heavy reliance on Artificial Insemination (AI).

Additionally, constituents raised concerns over the continued departure of young Saints from the island and highlighted an unfulfilled pledge regarding supervision on Levelwood school buses, noting that this was promised "before the beginning of the re-organisation of the Primary Schools," and had yet to be addressed.

Concurrently to the Levelwood meeting, on Wednesday, 29 July, Councillor Dennis Leo hosted six constituents at the Longwood meeting. Police representatives delivered a 30-minute presentation focusing on neighbourhood policing, informative Q&A sessions, and advice on fraud prevention and banking scams.

When discussions opened to the floor, attendees covered general matters touching on roads, healthcare, and farming. District upkeep was a primary theme, with Councillor Leo reporting that, "another important topic discussed was the overall cleanliness and upkeep of the district."

Infrastructure weakness was also highlighted—specifically the bus shelter near the golf course, which constituents noted continues to offer inadequate shelter during bad weather.

Both Councillor Leo and Councillor Coleman thanked all who gave up their evening to contribute, reassuring residents that their feedback will be submitted to the relevant government portfolios.

The Sentinel will look to follow-up with Councillors on feedback from the meetings held around the Island during this week.

"St Helena is still a Community that Cares"

Large attendance at Cost of Living public meeting as Councillor Thomas praises the "powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when people come together"



Liam Yon, SAMS

Around forty residents gathered at the Godfather's Rock Club in Half Tree Hollow on Wednesday evening of last week for a public meeting aimed at tackling St Helena's mounting cost of living crisis.

The initiative was spearheaded by local resident and former Minister, Jeffrey Ellick, following growing concern across the island over soaring fuel prices and everyday household expenses. Speaking ahead of the meeting, Jeffrey argued that current support schemes do not go far enough to protect vulnerable and low-income earners, cautioning that high costs risk driving even more residents off the island.

To turn community concern into action, a working group was established, including alongside Jeffrey, community members Jason Moyce, Hayley-Jayne Lowry, Earl Henry, and Melvin Benjamin, as well as Councillor Julie Thomas and a representative from the Youth Parliament.

During the interactive session last Wednesday night, attendees broke into focused discussion groups corresponding to the five government portfolios— Health & Social Care; Environment, Natural Resources & Planning & Economic Development; Education, Skills & Employment; Safety, Security & Home Affairs; and Treasury & Central Support Services—where attendees were able to highlight specific pressures and put forward practical ideas.

Reflecting on the evening, working group member Councillor Julie Thomas praised the constructive atmosphere in a post to Facebook the following morning.

"What began as a discussion on the growing Cost of Living crisis became a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose," she reflected. "The quality of feedback received was outstanding. Last night proved that St Helena is still a community that cares—prepared to listen, support one another, and work together when faced with difficult challenges."

The working group will now spend time reviewing all contributions at the meeting to identify common themes and develop concrete proposals aimed at easing financial strains on local families and businesses.

No doubt that there will be more to come on the back of what was described as a "powerful demonstration" of community spirit at a meeting that both provided inspiration and encouragement to the working group to push forward with these very real community concerns.





The Shopping Squeeze: Inflation Hits 2.7%

Higher duty rates, alongside rising energy and food prices, push cost of living



Liam Yon, SAMS

If your shopping basket or utility bills have felt a bit heavier lately, new official estimates prove that you are not imagining it. The St Helena Statistics Office has released its Consumer Price Index update for the second quarter of 2026, showing that annual inflation on the island now stands at 2.7%. That represents a slight rise from the 2.3% recorded in the first three months of the year, with overall average prices going up by half a percent compared to the previous quarter.

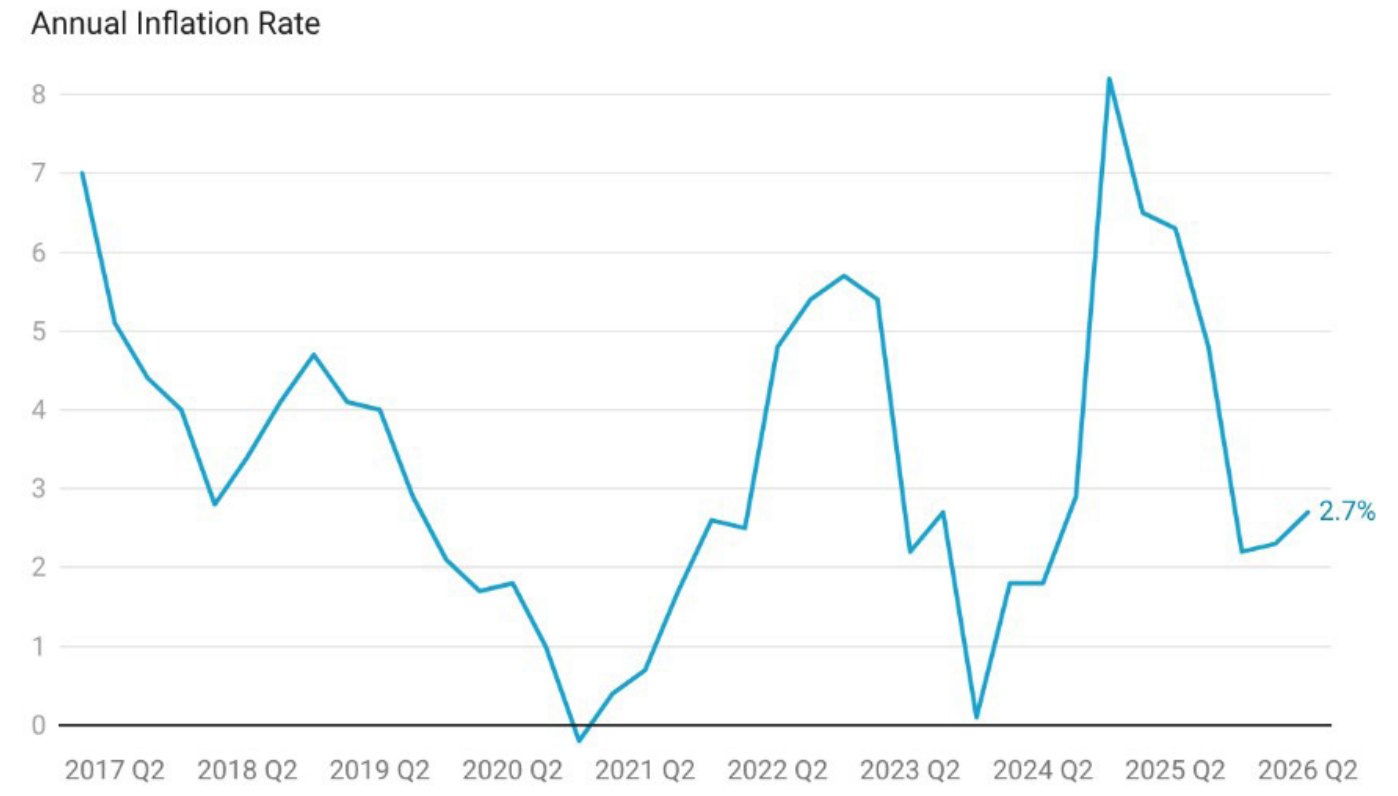
The sharpest price increase came from alcohol and tobacco products, which jumped nearly 10% over the past year and 3.5% in the last quarter alone. Official statistics show that this bump directly reflects the higher customs duty rates that came into effect on 1 April.

Household energy remains another big contributor to living costs, sitting 8.5% higher than this time last year. This rise mostly continues to reflect electricity tariff adjustments introduced last year, alongside higher costs for cooking gas and firewood.

Food prices also picked up during the quarter, with annual food inflation rising to 2.2%—up from under 1% last quarter. That was partly driven by higher prices on popular local staples like tuna fish, as well as imported pork.

Out of the 204 everyday items tracked in the island's shopping basket, 39 went up in price, 25 actually became cheaper, and 140 items stayed completely unchanged. Essential utilities like broadband and phone services were among those holding steady with zero change.

Looking overseas to St Helena's main import partners, annual inflation in the UK remained at 2.8% in May, while South Africa saw a slight rise to 4.5%. The complete statistical bulletin, including detailed tables, is available to view online via the St Helena Government website.



Con-graduations!

Celebrating the Achievements of Saint Graduates in the UK

Starting today and over the coming weeks, The Sentinel will be highlighting the outstanding achievements of St Helenian students graduating from UK universities. Join us each week as we celebrate our Saint graduates, exploring their academic journeys, practical placement experiences, life away from home, and their advice for the next generation as they look ahead to the future!



Kelly Yon

Bachelor of Laws (LLB), *University of Surrey*

Liam Yon, SAMS

Our featured graduate this week is St Helena's Kelly Yon, who has recently graduated from the University of Surrey with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), following four years of dedicated study, professional placement, community involvement, and practical legal experience.

Speaking on her decision to pursue a legal career, Kelly explained that law appealed to her early on because it "combines problem-solving with the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives."

Kelly's degree spanned four years, including a transformative professional placement year working as a Family Law Paralegal. "One of the things I really enjoyed about studying at Surrey was the flexibility to tailor my degree to my interests," Kelly shared. While family law remained her main passion, she deliberately chose several technology-focused modules to stay ahead of industry changes. "As technology continues to transform the legal profession, I wanted to develop an understanding of the legal issues surrounding innovation alongside more traditional areas of law," she explained.

When faced with the choice between writing a traditional dissertation or taking additional modules, Kelly opted for the modules route to broaden her legal knowledge across diverse areas. Some of her favourite subjects included Family and Child Law, Access to Justice, Healthcare, Policy and Practice, and Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence.

Throughout her course, Kelly particularly enjoyed the practical, interactive nature of her studies. In her Family and Child Law module, she took part in a negotiation exercise representing clients in a divorce and financial remedy settlement—drawing directly on her paralegal placement experience. "It was a great opportunity to apply what I had learnt throughout the module, as well as the practical skills I had developed during my placement year," she recalled. "It really helped bridge the gap between studying the law and applying it in practice."

Her academic work also allowed her to engage with complex social and legal topics. She completed a research project exploring post-adoption contact, carefully examining the legal framework and the considerations involved in balancing a child's welfare with maintaining relationships with birth family members. In her Access to Justice module, Kelly and her group partnered with a local school to deliver an interactive presentation on knife crime to Year 12 students. "It was rewarding to use what we had learnt to engage with the local community and see how legal education can make a difference beyond the classroom," she noted.

Kelly spoke warmly of the academic and community support provided by the University of Surrey's School of Law. "What stood out to me most was how approachable the lecturers were. They genuinely took the time to get to know us personally rather than just seeing us as another face in the lecture theatre," she explained. She added that this personal touch created a strong sense of community, making it easy to seek guidance, ask questions, and build lasting relationships alongside taking advantage of university career events and employability support.

Transitioning from St Helena to university life in the UK brought its own set of personal adjustments. Kelly described moving away from home as "both exciting and daunting," with the fast pace of UK life marking her biggest initial shock. "Everything moves much quicker than I was used to and adjusting to that took time. Experiencing my first proper winter was also something I'll never forget!" She noted that learning to balance lectures, coursework, work



commitments, and independent living was a challenge at first, but added that "those experiences helped me become much more independent and resilient."

Building a life away from home came naturally through active engagement on campus. Kelly made lifelong friends through her first-year accommodation, her course, the university's Law Society, and her roles as a Student Ambassador and MySurrey Hive Ambassador.

Her work as a Student Ambassador quickly became a major part of her university journey. During summer breaks, Kelly worked with the university's Summer School to help prospective students experience university life, while also supporting applicants and families during Clearing and Open Days. Throughout the academic year, she worked closely with students from local schools and colleges who were preparing for higher education—running revision sessions, mentoring online, and helping build their confidence for their next steps into university, apprenticeships, or employment.

Kelly actively sought out professional networking opportunities throughout her four years, attending employer insight sessions, careers fairs, and legal events to connect with practicing professionals and explore different career paths.

Beyond campus, Kelly took on remarkable civic leadership roles. She had the privilege of representing St Helena at the Youth Parliament and attending the UKOTA Youth Summit—experiences she noted "strengthened my confidence and communication skills." Furthermore, she volunteered with the Metropolitan Police as both a Community Reference Group member and a Scrutiny Panel member, contributing directly to discussions around policing, community engagement, and accountability.

When downtime permitted, Kelly made the most of her location by traveling and exploring different parts of the UK and Europe with friends and family.

Reflecting on her overall university journey, Kelly expressed pride in how well-rounded her experience had been. "Looking back, I'm proud that my university experience extended far beyond my degree," she reflected. "I gained practical legal experience through my placement year, represented the University of Surrey as a Student Ambassador, volunteered within the community and built experiences that have shaped both my personal and professional development."

She also expressed deep appreciation for those who backed her throughout her studies. "I am incredibly grateful for my family and friends' support and guidance, as well as the lecturers and staff at the University of Surrey, whose guidance, encouragement and genuine investment in their students made such a positive difference throughout my time there."





Her advice for students at St Helena Secondary School dreaming of studying abroad is inspiring. "Believe in yourself and don't be afraid to dream big," she said. "No matter where you come from, your ambitions are valid and you are capable of achieving them. Studying overseas can seem intimidating, but it opens doors to opportunities, experiences and friendships that can change your life. Work hard, embrace every opportunity and never underestimate what you're capable of."

With her undergraduate degree completed, Kelly is already looking ahead to the next stage of her career as she works toward her ultimate goal of qualifying as a solicitor. Starting in January, she plans to begin studying for her master's degree on a part-time basis to prepare for the Solicitors Qualifying Exams (SQE), balancing her studies alongside working to build further practical legal experience.



Everyone at The Sentinel and across St Helena sends a huge congratulations to Kelly on this remarkable milestone. To achieve a Law degree while taking on so many leadership, mentoring, and civic roles in the UK is something to be truly celebrated. She has done herself, her family, and our Island community immensely proud, and we look forward to watching her continue to thrive as she works toward qualifying as a solicitor – the future looks bright, Kelly!





"On Island Time Soon"

First Look at St Helena Airport's New Fire Tender



The new custom-built Oshkosh Striker 6x6 ARFF tender for St Helena Airport

Liam Yon, SAMS

Months after the Major Incident at St Helena Airport highlighted the critical need for resilient firefighting equipment, visual proof has finally emerged that brand-new replacements are officially on their way.

American emergency vehicle manufacturer, Oshkosh ARFF, recently shared the first official images of a custom-built Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) tender bearing the official St Helena Airport crest on its side.

The update brings welcome closure to a procurement process that began under tense circumstances back in February. Following severe mechanical failures across the airport's aging fleet that temporarily grounded commercial flights, St Helena Government (SHG) and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) committed to securing new appliances.

At the time, His Excellency Governor Nigel Phillips broke the news during an awards ceremony, confirming that two new fire tenders had been secured. While the SHG Communications Hub took a more cautious stance while contracts were being finalised, the newly released photos from Oshkosh confirm that manufacturing is complete and shipment is imminent.

"This Striker 6x6 ARFF will soon be on island time," announced Oshkosh ARFF in a recent social media post, showcasing the vehicle. "The unit will provide advanced fire suppression to St Helena Airport Limited with a roof turret and a low attack bumper turret."

Under the hood, the heavy-duty Striker 6x6 represents a major upgrade in technology, capacity, and terrain capability designed specifically for demanding airport environments. Powering the vehicle is a high-performance Scania DC16 V8 engine delivering 670 horsepower, paired with TAK-4® Independent Suspension to ensure operators can navigate rough off-runway terrain smoothly during a fast emergency response. In terms of firefighting punch, the appliance carries a massive payload—holding 3,000 gallons of water, 420 gallons of foam, and 550 pounds of dry chemical. For direct, targeted suppression, the vehicle comes outfitted with both a high-mounted roof turret and a low-attack bumper turret.

The arrival of the new Oshkosh Striker units will permanently bolster St Helena Airport's firefighting category compliance, ensuring long-term resilience for routine passenger flights and medical evacuations alike.



Inside the driver's cab, featuring modern controls and targeted suppression systems



The St Helena Airport crest displayed on the side of the new tender



Side compartments open to reveal operational bays and equipment access

“This new kit makes a real difference”

Fire and Rescue response and training boosted with new UK-funded equipment



A simulated television fire using new environmentally friendly gas-powered fire simulator

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Fire and Rescue Service has boosted its emergency response readiness and safety training capabilities following the recent arrival of a suite of new equipment.

Funded through the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office’s Essential Equipment Programme, the package includes a purpose-built rope rescue trailer, an eco-friendly training simulator, and replacement ladders.

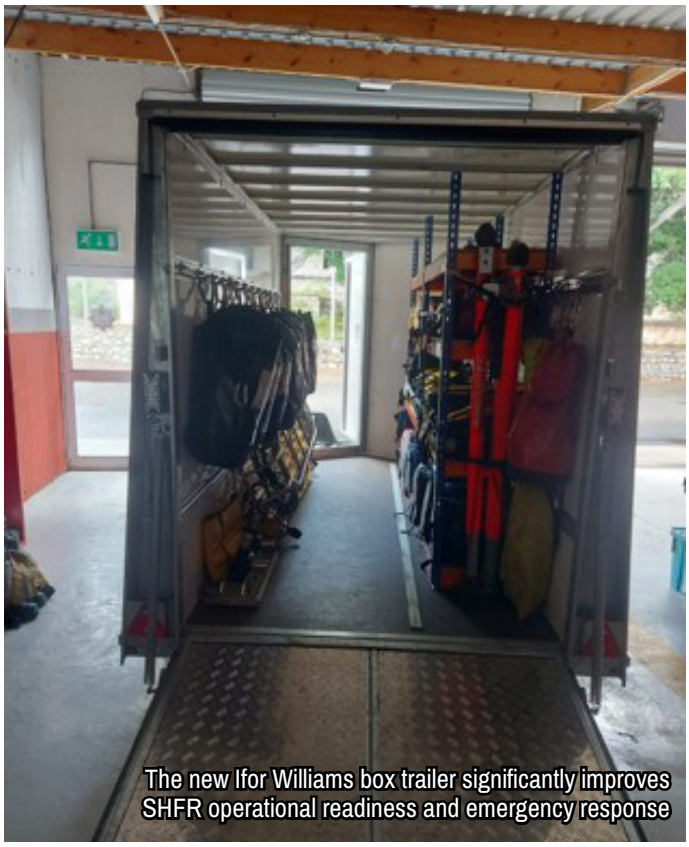
Previously, rope gear was stored at the main station store and had to be gathered before heading out. The new ‘Ifor Williams box trailer’ keeps all specialised gear permanently packed, weather-protected, and ready to hook up instantly—significantly cutting call-out delays during time-critical rescues.

The service has also introduced a gas-powered fire simulator. Replacing the old method of burning petrol and diesel in open pots, the new LPG unit creates safer, cleaner training fires that can be ignited or put out instantly by remote control.

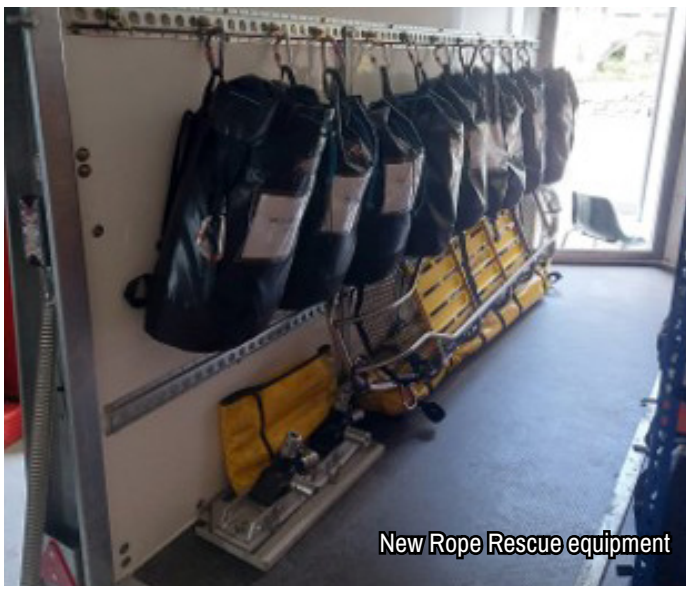
Upgraded 13.5-metre, 10-metre, and 9.5-metre ladders have also been brought in to replace aging equipment and maintain strict safety standards.

SHF&RS Brigade Manager, Jason Lawrence, welcomed the arrival of this new essential equipment. “This new kit makes a real difference to our work on the island,” he said. “Having the rope equipment packed and ready in the trailer means we can get moving much faster when someone needs help. At the same time, the gas simulator lets us run safer, cleaner fire training without polluting our environment. It’s a great step forward for our team and the community.”

The new equipment is now operational and in service across the island.



The new Ifor Williams box trailer significantly improves SHFR operational readiness and emergency response



New Rope Rescue equipment

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. Aug 07
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Aug 08
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 1:00pm: Northward Sounds (Repeat)
- 3pm: Country Chart Show(Repeat)
- 5pm: In the know
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: OUT! OUT! with Liam (Repeat)

SUN. Aug 09
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke
- 12 Noon: MQT/Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse (Repeat)
- 7pm: Seventh Day Adventist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

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

WED. Aug 12
- 7am: Morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett

THU. Aug 13
- 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





Tune in this Sunday where Luke will be entertaining you from 7am to 12 noon. He'll ease you into the morning with some country tunes, then picking up the pace with some reggae, which will lead us into a more upbeat vibe with the 80's then ending the show with some easy listening rock. So, tune in to SAMS Radio 1 for the Sunday Morning Show with Luke this weekend!

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 'Master'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



6th August 1848:
The corvette HMS Daedalus reports sighting a 'Sea Serpent' a few hundred miles south-east of St Helena.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Very soon the KS1 and KS2 students will be on their end of the school year holidays, and I bet parents will be looking for some fun things to get up to. Well, one idea is to bake up some delicious cookies!

Funfetti Cookies



Ingredients

- 300 g plain flour
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 115 g unsalted butter
- 100 g light brown sugar
- 100 g granulated sugar
- 1 medium egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 250 g white chocolate chips
- 75 g Funfetti sprinkles

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°c/160°c fan and line two/three large baking trays with parchment paper, leave to the side.
2. Whisk the plain flour, bicarbonate of soda, salt, and cornflour together in a bowl and leave to the side.
3. Add the butter and two sugars to a new bowl, and whisk the mixture together for two minutes.
4. Add in the vanilla and egg and whisk again until combined.
5. Add in the flour mixture and beat until everything is evenly distributed and a cookie dough is formed.
6. Add in the white chocolate chips and the funfetti sprinkles and beat until distributed well!
7. Scoop the cookie dough using a cookie scoop for even portions, then roll into balls. Bake in the oven for 10-13 minutes.
8. Leave the cookies to cool on the trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack to cool completely! Enjoy!

Notes

- 10 Minutes of baking = soft cookies
- 12 Minutes of baking = crunchy and gooey
- 14 Minutes of baking = crunchy

Sometimes Chocolate Chips can be hard to get on island– an alternative is to chop up some chocolate of your choice.

The Island Pulse

Budget Under the Spotlight as Members Call for Delivery, Detail and Better Communication



Communications Champion Cllr Julie Thomas, Contributed

This week's edition of *The Island Pulse* continued the discussion following the recent sitting of Legislative Council, with District Representatives turning their attention to the Chief Minister's Budget Speech and the 2026/27 Budget - the first year of St Helena's new three-year financial settlement.

Joining Councillor Julie Thomas in the studio were Councillors Ronald Coleman, Dr Corinda Essex, Robert Midwinter and Denis Leo. While each Member focused on different aspects of the Budget, a common message quickly emerged: **securing a three-year settlement is an important step forward, but the real challenge now is turning funding into meaningful outcomes for the people of St Helena.**

Welcoming Stability, But Wanting More

Opening the discussion, Councillor Ronald Coleman welcomed the certainty that comes with a three-year financial settlement, acknowledging that it provides Government with greater scope to plan. However, he questioned whether the Budget had done enough to address what he believes remains the island's greatest challenge - the rising cost of living.

Councillor Coleman noted that previous measures, including minimum wage increases, public service pay awards and support to reduce freight costs on essential goods, had helped households during the previous administration. In contrast, he felt this year's Budget contained few immediate measures to ease the financial pressures facing low-income families, pensioners and those reliant on social benefits.

While welcoming proposals to review the Basic Island Pension and Child Benefits, he stressed that many people need assistance now rather than at some future date. He encouraged Government to continue exploring targeted subsidies, taxation reforms and other measures to support those experiencing the greatest hardship.

He also questioned whether more could be done to reduce outward migration by creating better opportunities and improving living standards for those choosing to remain on the island.

Supporting the Most Vulnerable

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex echoed many of those concerns, describing the lack of immediate support for vulnerable groups as one of the Budget's greatest weaknesses.

She questioned why work had not already begun to review the Basic Island Pension and expressed disappointment that there had been no uplift for those receiving Income Related Benefits who are genuinely unable to work.

Councillor Essex also highlighted the continued absence of the long-awaited Casual Work Scheme and voiced concern that no dedicated funding had been identified to assist Saints wishing to return home under the International Recruitment Strategy.

Although she welcomed proposals for Child Benefits and concessionary bus fares, she said Members received very little information before being asked to approve funding.

Reflecting on her sixteen years in Legislative Council, Councillor Essex described this as the least timely Budget she has debated, saying Members received less supporting information and later than ever before, making effective scrutiny far more difficult.

Protecting Living Standards

Councillor Robert Midwinter welcomed the overall financial settlement but argued that protecting living standards must extend beyond maintaining essential public services.

He said the Government's recently published Vision and Strategy places people at the centre of its ambitions, yet he felt the Budget did not sufficiently support those most in need.

Councillor Midwinter welcomed the direction of travel towards introducing Child Benefits but argued that pensioners should also receive greater protection through annual increases to the Basic Island Pension in line with inflation.

He also supported targeted assistance through schemes such as Better Life Allowance rather than blanket subsidies.

While agreeing that more support was needed for lower-income households, Councillor Midwinter pointed out that investment continues through the Economic Development Investment Programme to complete the Rupert's fuel storage infrastructure, which should improve fuel security and help stabilise costs over the longer term.

Delivery Must Now Be the Priority

Councillor Denis Leo viewed the Budget from the perspective of agriculture, business and service delivery.

He welcomed funding to tackle invasive species, support small and medium-sized businesses and introduce Child Benefits, describing these as positive first steps. However, he suggested future support should also consider families with older children and called for greater clarity around how business support funding will operate.

Councillor Leo also questioned why expenditure on Technical Cooperation posts continues to increase despite succession planning, saying he hopes to see greater progress in developing local capacity.

Throughout his contribution he returned to one central message: **every figure contained within the Budget ultimately represents people, families and businesses**. Securing funding is only part of the process; Government must now demonstrate that it can deliver.

Understanding the Budget Process

Councillor Julie Thomas reminded listeners that many people understandably assume Elected Members can simply amend a Budget by moving money from one area to another. She explained that this is not how the process works.

While Members can vote to reduce individual budget allocations, they cannot redirect those savings into alternative priorities or create new spending commitments. As a result, scrutiny focuses on testing Government's priorities and holding Ministers accountable for how public money is allocated, rather than

rewriting the Budget itself.

Councillor Thomas said this limitation made it even more important that Members receive detailed information well in advance, enabling proper scrutiny before approval.

She also questioned the level of financial flexibility available during the year, particularly considering the limits on overspending and the growing level of Government reserves, asking whether more could have been done to provide targeted support to those struggling with the continuing cost of living.

Looking more broadly, she said the Government's Vision and Strategy and the Budget clearly shared many of the same ambitions. However, one important question remains unanswered: **how will those ambitions actually be delivered?**

Whether discussing Child Benefits, pension improvements, concessionary transport or wider economic reforms, Members repeatedly returned to the same concern - that without clear implementation plans, measurable targets and effective communication, even well-intentioned policies risk falling short of public expectations.

Adjournment Debate Highlights Wider Community Priorities

While the first half of the programme focused on scrutinising Government's financial plans, the discussion then turned to the Adjournment Debate, where Members reflected more broadly on the issues affecting communities across St Helena. Although Members highlighted different topics, a common thread emerged - the need for stronger delivery, improved communication and better **coordination to achieve meaningful outcomes.**

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex opened by congratulating St Helena students who recently graduated from UK universities with outstanding results, including several First-Class Honours degrees and specialist academic awards. She described their achievements as a credit not only to the students themselves but also to the island's education system that helped prepare them for success.

She renewed her call for the long-discussed Scholarship Trust to be established, saying no young person should miss the opportunity to pursue higher education because of financial hardship.

Councillor Essex also highlighted what she believes is excessive silo working across Government. Using a recent experience while completing an ASYCUDA customs entry, she illustrated how new computer equipment had been installed without being fully configured to scanners and printers, creating unnecessary delays for customers. She said it was a simple example of how poor coordination between departments can undermine otherwise positive initiatives and argued that better communication across Government would reduce delays and improve public services.

People Before Policy

Councillor Denis Leo reflected on the many different people represented within the Budget, reminding listeners that behind every financial allocation are families, pensioners, farmers, business owners and young people planning their futures.

He spoke of the importance of supporting local businesses, strengthening agriculture, encouraging tourism and creating opportunities for entrepreneurs, while emphasising that Government alone cannot generate economic growth.

Councillor Leo reiterated his belief that, now funding has been secured, greater emphasis must be placed on delivery. Political direction, he said, must be matched by effective implementation throughout the Public Service, supported by honest conversations, accountability and a shared commitment to achieving results.

Investing in People

Councillor Ronald Coleman returned to a theme that has consistently shaped both his public service and political career - improving people's quality of life.

Reflecting on his experience with the Investors in People programme within Government, he suggested that strong organisations are built by valuing their staff, communicating openly and ensuring every employee understands the vision they are working towards.

He argued that success depends on investing in people through training, clear expectations and a culture of respect and accountability. Better staff engagement, he said, leads to faster delivery, stronger public services and better outcomes for the community.

Councillor Coleman also spoke movingly about the continued importance of progressing the Mental Health Strategy following recent tragedies within the community, expressing concern that essential initiatives often take far too long to materialise.

Quoting Nelson Mandela, he reminded listeners that our legacy is measured not by how long we live, but by the difference we make in the lives of others.

Delivery, Communication and Accountability

Bringing the discussion together, Councillor Julie Thomas said a clear message had emerged throughout both the Budget debate and the Adjournment contributions.

She argued that even the strongest policies and the largest budgets will achieve little if implementation is weak, communication is inconsistent and public confidence is allowed to decline.

While recognising that many Government officers communicate exceptionally well, she said too many examples remain where information is delayed, unavailable or inconsistent, creating unnecessary frustration for both Elected Members and the public.

Councillor Thomas referred to long-running issues such as the Bunkers Hill Development Project and the continuing challenges facing the fisheries sector as examples where repeated reviews and lengthy delays have left communities waiting for meaningful progress. She also highlighted renewable energy projects, saying delays in implementation can have significant financial and social consequences for the island.

She concluded that St Helena now has an important opportunity. After many years of calling for longer-term funding, the island has secured a three-year financial settlement. The challenge now is to demonstrate that Government can deliver efficiently, allocate resources wisely and turn strategic ambitions into tangible improvements for the people it serves.

Taking a Short Break

As the programme concluded, listeners were reminded that The Island Pulse will take a short two-week break while Legislative Council enters recess from 10–21 August.

District Representatives reassured the community that, although the programme will be off air during this period, their work on behalf of constituents will continue uninterrupted.

The recess will provide an opportunity to reconnect with residents in a less formal setting by attending community events, visiting districts and meeting people where they live and work. The Councillors encouraged everyone to continue raising concerns and sharing ideas, explaining that these conversations play an important role in shaping the issues they bring before Legislative Council.

The Island Pulse will return on Tuesday, 25 August, with further updates from Legislative Council and a continued commitment to keeping the people of St Helena informed, connected and engaged.

Until then, the team thanked listeners for their continued support and encouraged everyone to remain involved as we continue working together to build a stronger future for St Helena.

Mind, Body and Community

Island Minds Foundation launch latest raffle as they continue to support mental health on St Helena through community initiatives



Donna Crowie, SAMS

The Island Minds Foundation has officially launched its new quarterly raffle as part of its ongoing efforts to raise vital funds and promote mental health awareness across St Helena.

Operating on the island since March 2026, the local charity kick-started its public outreach earlier this year with the 'Big 4' walk in April, followed by a popular 'Flyaway' raffle. Unlike the previous draw—which offered flights to the UK, Cape Town, or Ascension—this quarter's raffle focuses on cash rewards.

Launched on Saturday, 1 August, the foundation is offering three main monetary prizes; £2,000 for first place, £1,000 for second place, and £800 for third place. Tickets are available for £10 each and can be bought through the Island Minds Foundation Facebook page, or directly from Charity Secretary Natasha Bargo on 23163.

Reflecting on the impact of their previous fundraising drive, which raised over £1,500, Founder and Chairperson Shelby Bargo highlighted how those funds are already benefiting the island community.

"The proceeds raised from the last raffle—over £1,500—have been invested into purchasing books on mental health topics and awareness for all ages and genders to go into the public library," she explained Shelby. "The remaining proceeds are being used to help support therapy funding for individuals in the local community."

Alongside its fundraising initiatives, the foundation has been actively expanding its community partnerships. Having collaborated with 'Root Bloom Grow Yoga' to provide wellness sessions, and co-hosting a quiz night with the SHG Marine Section at Ann's Place last Friday, the charity is now teaming up with New Horizons.

Over the next three months, starting this August, the partnership will deliver free weekly community fitness sessions covering volleyball, basketball, bootcamp, and football.

As a relatively young organisation on St Helena, the Island Minds Foundation expressed its deep gratitude to the public for their strong encouragement so far, noting that community support remains essential as they continue working to tackle mental health challenges across the island.





GirlGuiding St Helena to attend prestigious GGBOT Phoenix 2027 Camp

GirlGuiding St Helena, Contributed

GirlGuiding St Helena will be attending the Phoenix 2027 camp that is being held by the GirlGuiding British Overseas Territory (GGBOT) for a week in August next year, in the Lake District, North West England. This camp will provide an opportunity to meet up with other GirlGuides for a choice of training sessions, fun sessions, plus a programme of adventure and activity with time to network and chat with leaders from across the GGBOT.

We have now selected the team that will represent St Helena GirlGuiding at the Phoenix 2027 camp and they are Deborah Knipe who will be the team leader, Marcella Mittens, Jilneal George, Qhi Green and Daisy Andrews. The Commissioner, Pamela Ward Pearce, will also accompany the team.

This month will mark the start of a year-long fundraising programme to help raise the money to make this trip a life-affirming experience and a super adventure; which could help to foster good international relationships and also help to build strong future leaders.

GirlGuiding has been happening continuously in St Helena for over 100 years and is an integral part of island life. We are one of the oldest GirlGuiding Associations within the GGBOT. This said, we need to future proof the organisation and continue to provide an exciting programme which has to compete with all the joys of modern technology; this trip would help to provide such impetus and help to continue hopefully for another 100 years and beyond!



NOTICE BOARD

REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The Bank continues to work towards the agreed strategic objectives outlined in the Bank's Strategic Plan for 2024 – 2029. As in previous years, Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) were set in line with these objectives to monitor and review the Bank's performance throughout the year.

The Bank remains committed to achieving results with one of the biggest achievements for the Bank is the ability to remain profitable, whilst maintaining current interest rates and being able to assist customers with an ever-changing economic and financial climate.

A comprehensive review of our savings products was undertaken to ensure we offer competitive value to our customers providing a secure environment for financial growth, which saw the introduction of three new Premier Fixed Savers Accounts. The Bank will continue to review savings products to ensure that all customers have the opportunity to build financial resilience in an ever-changing climate. Our Tourist Card app continues to grow in popularity with over 1,700 registrations to date taking advantage of the bespoke product.

Banking system upgrades continues which has offered a number of service offering improvements to include enhancements to St Helena Pay and within 2026-27 will see the launch of our own Mobile Banking app and enhancements to Online Banking. The Bank remains committed to delivering on an international card service and this project will remain a priority for 2026-27.

The performance of the Bank continues to be influenced by the current economic climate which includes customer deposits, revenue generated and the Lending Portfolio.

The Bank made an operating profit of £963,684 for the year 2025/26 which was an increase of £204,185 from 2024/25; a 26.9% net profit margin and a cost to income ratio of 55.9%.

The Bank's total income, net of interest payable, increased by £391,022 (15.5%). Interest received increased by £361,479 (14.3%) from £2,454,903 to £2,816,382, with interest from investments experiencing the most significant increase of £286,010 (20%) compared to 2024/25 which is the result of the Bank investing in more UK Gilts as opposed to Treasury Bills which are bought at a discounted price rather than pay coupon interest; whilst interest payable increased by a minimal £1,796 (0.4%). Fees and commissions increased by £13,847 (4.2%), with the most significant increase experienced in commissions for Local Debit Card usage and international remittances, increasing by £14,728 and £5,756 respectively. Other income increased by £17,492 (13.1%) from 2024/25; and was largely due to the fluctuation in the amount of foreign currency during the year. The Bank is aware of its exposure to foreign exchange risk and whilst payments will always need to be made, the Bank tries to minimise this exposure by reducing foreign cash holdings whilst still maintaining sufficient funds to service customer requests.

Total expenditures increased by £118,776 (7.9%), with staff costs experiencing the most significant increase of £175,509 (18.3%) due to staff movements throughout the year, including the appointment of the new Managing Director and the inclusion of the internal auditor. Other expenses also increased by £29,394 compared to 2025/26 and included the purchase of equipment and furniture for the new customer service centre which falls below the £1,000 threshold for capital expenditure qualification.

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

EXTRACT FROM DIRECTORS REPORT 2025-26

Investment Amortisation experienced the largest positive variance compared to the prior year, increasing by £157,804 (20.4%), as a result the Bank continuing to invest into Treasury Bills which are purchased at a discounted price and gains on the sale of the remaining financial securities within the portfolio in October 2025.

The Capital Value of the Bank's investments has decreased by £1,430,152 (2.2%) for 2025/26, with the decrease being largely due to the removal of £1,500,000 from the portfolio during the year for placement into an interest bearing account with Lloyds Bank Plc. All funds are invested in fixed income instruments with yields ranging from 0.38% to 4.75%. Investments are initially recorded at cost and subsequently measured at amortised cost with changes recognised in the income statement. The interest income from investments for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £1,714,895. The Bank monitors its cash holdings and operational requirements closely and additional funds will be invested when it is deemed appropriate.

The Lending Portfolio increased by £273,792 (1.8%) and was largely due to the reduction in undrawn loan balances which decreased by £360,994 (34%) compared to the prior year. Overall, housing and personal loans increased by a collective £34,375 (0.3%), whilst commercial loans and overdrafts decreased by £65,284 (1.4%) and £43,281 (20.1%) respectively. Customer monies held by the Bank showed an increase of £4,162,020 (5.2%) at the end of 2025/26, with individual and business current accounts experiencing a collective growth of £2,581,829 (4.7%). The Bank's higher earning interest accounts, Child Bond and New Life also continue to be popular, increasing by £123,872 (9.1%) and £900,175 (25.3%) respectively, whilst the largest decrease was experienced in the current accounts of other organisations, which reduced by £169,716 (4.5%) compared to 2024/25.

The Bank has a Strategic Plan for 2024-29 which will guide its activities for the next five years and builds upon the previous plan. The plan encapsulates the expectations articulated through various engagements and includes a comprehensive approach, encompassing various aspects of operations, technology, growth, risk management and customer services.

The Bank is optimistic that over this period much will be achieved with the support of our customers, St Helena Government as shareholder, FSRA and various other stakeholders. The Bank has devised a transformative strategy to modernise banking operations, which includes prioritising adaptability and agility to respond to changes to regulatory requirements, market changes, technology advancement and customer preference whilst fostering a culture of innovation, embracing change and continuously improving processes and offerings. The Bank's priority areas remain securing a continuous service for all who rely on the Bank, providing financial assistance for personal and business customers, safety and security of customer deposits, providing savings products that ensures an environment for financial growth and ensuring that it retains the strength to be able to assist customers in the years to come. Security and compliance are a fundamental priority, with the protection of customer data and compliance with regulatory requirements being paramount.

Automation remains essential to reducing risk, streamlining operations, improving efficiencies and innovating new products and services to reflect modern banking operations whilst supporting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) which measures our impact on our society. It is also hoped that the Bank's investment portfolio will continue to grow and new revenue streams can be identified which will allow the Bank to continue to invest in new products and services which will benefit customers, the stakeholder, shareholders, the Bank and the Island's economy.

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

+290 22390

Market Street, Jamestown

Bank of St Helena Ltd

NOTICE BOARD

DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 31 March 2026.

	2026 £	2025 £
Income		
Interest Receivable	2,816,382	2,454,903
Interest Payable	(397,889)	(396,093)
Net Interest Income	2,418,493	2,058,810
Fees & Commissions	344,583	330,736
Other Income	150,707	133,215
Total Income	**2,913,783**	**2,522,761**
Expenditure		
Employee Costs	1,136,559	961,050
Premises Costs	103,232	91,647
Investment Management Fees	108,631	128,992
Investment Amortisation	(930,957)	(773,152)
Depreciation Tangible Fixed Assets	147,206	148,463
Depreciation Intangible Fixed Assets	27,362	28,911
Bad Debt Provision	18,773	(57,847)
Audit Fees	98,280	96,111
Financial Services Regulatory Authority Fees	47,166	42,695
Other Expenditure	872,619	843,225
Total Expenditure	**1,628,871**	**1,510,095**
Profit on ordinary activities, before taxation	1,284,912	1,012,666
Taxation	(325,877)	(236,635)
Deferred Taxation	4,649	(16,532)
Profit on ordinary activities, after tax	**963,684**	**759,499**

The income statement has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2026.

	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	367,120	419,456
Intangible Fixed Assets	35,232	62,594
	402,352	482,050
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	2,993,923	951,723
Bank Balances	10,698,461	7,256,730
Investments	30,344,574	31,789,318
Other Assets	1,614,636	1,015,728
Lending	1,604,753	477,655
	47,256,347	41,491,154
Non-Current Assets		
Investments	32,809,404	32,794,812
Lending	13,507,486	14,360,792
Other Assets	186,577	181,928
	46,503,467	47,337,532
Total Assets	**94,162,166**	**89,310,736**
Liabilities		
Customer Current & Deposit Accounts	84,046,883	79,884,863
Other Liabilities	616,878	815,202
Total Liabilities	**84,663,761**	**80,700,065**
TOTAL NET ASSETS	**9,498,405**	**8,610,671**
REPRESENTED BY:		
Share Capital	3,219,285	3,219,285
Retained Earnings	6,279,120	5,391,386
Total Equity	**9,498,405**	**8,610,671**

The notes on page 21 to 39 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Leeanne Henry – Managing Director
Date: 30 July 2026

Michael Bird - Chairman
Date: 30 July 2026

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

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

Coxswain/Marine Mechanic

Total package value up to £25,926

(comprising salary of £14,080.00 per annum plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

This is a hands-on role for an experienced marine mechanic who enjoys variety, responsibility and working as part of a close-knit team. You'll help keep Ascension's marine craft safe, reliable and ready for service, while also working as a Coxswain and supporting the island's ship-to-shore and harbour operations. No two days will be quite the same, your workplace could be the workshop, pierhead, a barge or out at sea.

What you'll do

You'll service, maintain and repair our marine engines, outboard motors and sea-rescue craft, using your practical skills to diagnose faults and respond to breakdowns, including, when necessary, at sea. You'll plan routine maintenance, carry out safety checks and help care for our vessels, moorings and marine equipment. As part of the wider Marine Team, you'll also operate craft and equipment, support ship operations, move passengers and cargo safely, and assist with medical evacuations when required. The role includes physical outdoor work, occasional 12-hour and weekend shifts.

What you'll bring

Y You'll have at least three years' practical experience working with marine engines and outboard motors, together with a sound knowledge of diesel and petrol engines. You'll either hold an NVQ Level 3 qualification in mechanics, be willing to work towards one, or be able to demonstrate an equivalent level of competence through your experience. You'll also need experience of marine operations, including operating craft such as a passenger launch, and a clean, valid driving licence covering Classes A to J4. Just as importantly, you'll be safety-conscious, dependable and comfortable working outdoors in a physically demanding environment. You'll communicate well, work positively with others and be ready to lend a hand wherever the team needs you.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of £14,080 per annum (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a single status contract and these benefits:

- Rent free furnished accommodation worth up to £2,400 pa (taxable benefit)
- A single status food allowance of £3,900 pa (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance worth up to £3,625 per year
- A single status water allowance worth £1,921 pa
- Relocation costs for your personal effects, including assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- 30 days annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care & annual travel insurance

This appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory Employment References.
- Basic Criminal Records Check.
- Satisfactory Medical Clearance.

Closing date:	**28 August 2026**
Interviews:	**week commencing 31 August 2026**
Start date:	**November 2026**

For more information, a full job description, and to apply visit: https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/

If you have any queries about the role, please email recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

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.

Community Preventative Healthcare Assistant
1-year fixed term
(£10,088 per annum)

The Community Preventative Healthcare Assistant is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of everyone in our community and fostering the prosperity of the island by proficiently executing preventative and community health tasks for the Health & Social Care Portfolio. This role involves working under the guidance and oversight of qualified personnel to perform a diverse array of responsibilities in preventative and community health, aimed at caring for, supporting, and providing information to patients and their families in either a clinic or home setting. The responsibilities and duties associated with this position are divided between community nursing and public health. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Selvi Jeyaseelan on Tel No.22500 or Email: selvi.jeyaseelan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 18 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 20 August 2026
Interview date: 01 September 2026

Portfolio Assistant
(£11,604 per annum)

We are seeking a portfolio assistant to deliver a high-quality personal administration service to the Portfolio Director and Committee Chairman/Minister, ensuring the seamless operation of Portfolios while providing a high-quality, customer-oriented service. This role involves the ongoing assessment and refinement of all processes and systems to guarantee they are efficient, effective, suitable for their intended purpose. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 19 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 24 August 2026
Interview date: 03 September 2026

Planning Officer – 1 year fixed term
(£13,569 per annum)

We are seeking a Planning Officer to work in the Planning Section to help deliver sustainable land uses needed while protecting/conserving the outstanding natural and built environment on St Helena as part of the land development service. We welcome applications from those with a degree but for this level post, someone with "A" Levels (or at least 5 GCSE's) with a genuine interest in Geography, Economics and/or Technical Drawing may find that this suits them. We would look to provide training for the right candidate. You will have good communication skills, can analyse and summarise information and draft reports for Chief Planning Officer (delegated) or Land Development Control Authority (LDCA) decision. You should be confident in advising members of the public and others of planning law, regulations/orders and processes, be able to negotiate better planning outcomes and present applications at LDCA meetings. You should be able to gather relevant statistics. Again, training if needed, can be provided. You will play a key role, with the Senior Planning Officer and Chief Planning Officer as well as support staff, in meeting targets identified. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Darren Duncan on Tel No. 24724 or Email: darren.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 19 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 25 August 2026
Interview date: 02 September 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.

Private Secretary to Chief Minister
(£19,814 per annum)

The Private Secretary will contribute to the island's prosperity by offering direct, high-quality assistance to the Chief Minister, allowing them to fulfil their demanding responsibilities both efficiently and effectively.

The Private Secretary will serve as a reliable source of advice for the Chief Minister, delivering a high-level administrative and advisory support service. This position necessitates the ability to manage multiple tasks and adhere to strict deadlines while coordinating and prioritizing Ministerial duties. The individual in this role will be adept at navigating the political landscape and will leverage connections throughout St Helena Government (SHG).

They will serve as the initial point of contact for the Chief Minister, addressing inquiries and requests from various sources, while remaining available and accessible to staff who assist Ministers in handling urgent issues that necessitate prompt decisions.

This position is crucial in facilitating the realisation of the Ministers' vision for the island. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Gillian Francis on Tel No.22470 or Email: Gillian.francis@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 12 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 18 August 2026
Interview date: 27 August 2026

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (Key Stage 1)
(£11,604 - £12,101 per annum)

Would you like to make a positive difference in the lives of our future generation by supporting their learning and development? If so, the Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio is looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to join our Key Stage 1 team. As a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, you will play a key role in supporting pupils' learning by planning, preparing, and delivering lessons for up to 25% of the school's teaching timetable. This includes leading small group interventions and providing classroom cover when the Class Teacher is absent. You will also help create a safe, positive, and supportive school environment by supervising pupils during playground duties and encouraging their wellbeing throughout the school day. If you're ready to inspire young learners and make a lasting impact, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us for more information or to discuss this exciting opportunity.

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: Carlean Crowie on Tel No. 24737 or Email: carlean.crowie@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 21 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 26 August 2026
Interview date: 10 September 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 Secondary School Parent Teacher Association

Working together for the pupils of St Helena

4th August, 2026

To all Parents and Guardians of St Helena Secondary School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: The House System – the PTA's position and the way forward

Following the General Meeting of 24 July 2026, which was a consultative session attended by 25 parent members and 6 members of staff, and at which no decisions were taken, the Committee met on 30 July 2026 and determined the Association's position. We write to share it with our parents, and our wider community together, and to set out the way forward that we believe now serves the school and our children best.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the meeting. The Committee also wishes to acknowledge, openly, that communication around the House System could have been better on all sides, including through the PTA, and that opportunities to raise and resolve concerns earlier were not always taken. We say this in the spirit of moving forward honestly, together.

The current position. The school has confirmed that the existing house names, Cavendish, Dutton, Mundens and Jenkins, will remain in place for the 2026/27 academic year. Pupil numbers are currently sufficient to maintain the four existing houses for the year ahead. This gives our pupils and staff certainty, and gives the whole community the time and space to shape the future approach properly.

The way forward. The naming of our houses and mascots will now follow a collaborative approach, supported by a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. That plan is being finalised and will be shared with all parents, guardians and the wider community by the second week of September, with the engagement concluding and a decision taken by the end of Term 1. Our hope is that this process will enable everyone, pupils, families, staff and the community, to reach a shared and considered decision on the House names, colours, Mascot names and slogans that truly reflect St Helena.

The meeting has already surfaced valuable material to guide that process. The priorities parents ranked most highly, a values-based education, parent voice, fairness and inclusion, and St Helena identity, together with the strong interest expressed in an identity rooted in the island's heritage, will be helpful inputs to the engagement to come.

Communication. As a first, practical step toward better two-way communication, the PTA is setting up a communication group for each year group, so that families receive updates and can raise anything early. The PTA will share the details of how to join your child's year group shortly.

Working together. The Committee acknowledges parents' interest in this matter. This provides an opportunity for all of us, parents, the school and the wider community, to work together, so that we

move forward with one voice in shaping a House and Mascot identity, and a slogan, befitting the island. There is far more we can achieve together than apart.

The Committee has resolved to keep parents and the wider community closely informed on the way forward, honouring the commitment made at the meeting to report back. We look forward to a strong, consultative partnership between parents, the PTA and the school in the months ahead.

Thank you for your patience, and for your voice. Together, we have the chance to shape something our children can be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra George
Secretary, on behalf of the Committee
St. Helena Secondary School PTA

cc:
Director of Education, Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

INVITATION TO TENDER

Rupert's Cargo Handling Facility – Reefer Gantry Design and Installation

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

CS-2060-SHG – Rupert's Cargo Handling Facility – Reefer Gantry Design and Installation

A site visit to view the works will take place on Wednesday, 12 August 2026, at 09:00, meeting at the PCB Yard, Rupert's Cargo Handling Facility.

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

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Friday, 28 August 2026, clearly marked **"Tender CS-2060-SHG"**.

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

SHG, 27 July 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy
Fuel Station Supervisor

Salary for the post will commence at £12,576 per annum (£1,048 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Longwood Fuel Station for a Supervisor.

As the Fuel Stations Supervisor you will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Longwood Fuel Station ensuring maximum performance and quality service is delivered on a consistent and timely basis.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be customer focused and target driven with excellent customer service skills
- Have proven supervisory experience with the ability to lead and motivate a team
- Be competent in Maths, English & IT
- Be familiar with EPOS Cash Tills and have experience in cash management and security
- Have knowledge of stock management
- Possess Health & Safety awareness including handling substances hazardous to health
- Have the ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling duties
- Be self-motivated, flexible with a positive attitude, and able to work well in a team environment
- Be available to work outside of usual hours and on weekends.
- Have the ability to use own initiative, take on responsibility and make routine decisions

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

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 13 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
Fuel Attendant

Salary for the post will commence at £11,028 per annum (£919 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Longwood Fuel Station for a Fuel Attendant.

As the Fuel Attendant you will assist the Supervisor with the day-to-day operations of the Longwood Fuel Station ensuring maximum performance and quality service is delivered on a safe, consistent and timely basis.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be customer focused and target driven with excellent Customer Service skills
- Have basic Maths and English competency
- Ideally be familiar with EPOS Cash Tills and have Cash Handling experience
- Have Health & Safety awareness when handling substances hazardous to health, including LPG Cylinders
- Have the ability to undertake physically demanding and manual handling duties
- Be self-motivated, flexible with a positive attitude, and able to work well in a team environment
- Be available to work outside of usual hours and on weekends.
- Be comfortable to work in a potentially hazardous environment

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

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

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NOTICE BOARD

Tour Guide Training

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

As part of the Tourism Development Programme, St Helena Tourism would like to empower the private sector by providing tour guide training focused on general island tours (including cruise ship days).
If you enjoy sharing your knowledge of the island's rich history and heritage whilst providing a positive visitor experience, this FREE training is for you.

General Tour Guide Training
Friday, **4 September 2026**, at the Museum of St Helena 09:30 to 15:00 & Saturday, **5 September 2026**, Practical tour 09:00 - 12:30
Delivered by a local tour guiding expert, this comprehensive 2-day programme combines interactive classroom learning with practical experience. Learn about the role of a tour guide, essential tour guiding best practice, planning and delivering guided tours featuring key highlights and attractions of St Helena.

St Helena Napoleonic History Training
Tuesday , **8 September 2026**, venue TBC 09:30 - 15:00 & Wednesday, **9 September 2026**, Practical tour - Longwood Boundary walk 09:30 - 13:30.
Join a comprehensive 2-day training programme led by renowned Napoleonic history expert and French Consul, Michel Dancoisne-Martineau.
Through a combination of interactive classroom learning and practical sessions, participants will gain a deeper understanding of Napoleon, his exile, and his unique historical significance in St Helena.
This specialist course is ideal for both existing and aspiring tour guides who wish to enhance their knowledge and confidently deliver niche Napoleonic tours or general guided tours of St Helena.

St Helena History Training
Tuesday, **15 September 2026**, at The Museum of St Helena 9:30 to 15:00.
Join a comprehensive day training programme led by Museum Director, Adam Sizeland.
Through a combination of engaging classroom and practical learning sessions, participants will explore the rich and varied history of St Helena, from its discovery through to the 20th century.
This specialist course is ideal for both existing and aspiring tour guides who wish to enhance their knowledge and confidently deliver niche tours or general guided tours of St Helena.

Interested persons should register with the Tourist Office by 16:00 Friday, 21 August 2026.
T: 22158 E: Sophia.Joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh

sthelenatourism.com

Vacancy

Human Resources Administrator

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £14,076 per annum (£1,173 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc is seeking Human Resources Administrator to join our Human Resources Department.

As the Human Resources Administrator you will act as the first point of contact for HR-related queries to internal and external customers and assist the Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer with the management of the daily administrative operations to the highest possible standard and assist BOU's in resolving HR related issues within their day-to-day operations whilst maintaining an excellent quality of customer service delivery.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess at least 2 years' experience working in an administrative role, ideally within the Human Resources field
- Hold GCSE Maths & English at Grade C/4 or above (or equivalent)
- Be proficient in the use of ICT to include Microsoft Office applications
- Be able to deal with sensitive personal data and maintain strict confidentiality within the Company
- Be people-focused with strong customer service skills with a friendly, professional and empathetic approach
- Demonstrate excellent organisational, communication, and interpersonal skills and the ability to deal with individuals on all levels.
- Be analytical with strong to attention to detail.
- Be able to thrive in a fast-paced environment – able to multitask, prioritise and work under pressure to meet tight deadlines.
- Demonstrate a proactive approach with the ability to work independently and use own initiative

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

Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer via 22380 HRDO@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 20 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

NOTICE BOARD

VOLUNTEER DAY

Saturday 22nd August

10:00am

St Michael's Church, Rupert's Valley

In commemoration of the 4th anniversary of reburial and remembering all Liberated Africans buried in Ruperts Valley, The St Helena National Trust and Liberated Advisory Committee (LAAC) invites the community to join us for a Volunteer Conservation Day at the Rupert's burial sites.

Volunteers will help with light maintenance and conservation work, including clearing weeds and overgrown vegetation, minor landscaping, roadside maintenance, and repainting the "8000" marker and the marker stones at the new burial site.

This is a wonderful opportunity to help preserve these important heritage sites, contribute to their ongoing care, and reflect on the significance of the reburial and remembrance. Whether you can spare an hour or the whole day, your support will make a meaningful difference.

Lunch (Plo) will be provided for all volunteers.

Everyone is welcome - we look forward to seeing you there!

For more information contact Shelley.Magellan-Wade@trust.co.sh / 25531

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air



DPLUS223 Integrated Coastal Monitoring and Habitat Restoration Program 2025-2028

Community Workshop

Thursday 20th August

17:00-18:00

The Museum, Jamestown

Join us to learn about the Coastal Monitoring project, share local knowledge, and shape the future protection of St Helena's sensitive coastal habitats.

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

RSPB

DARWIN PLUS

UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 9th August
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
In recess.

SPECIAL EVENTS

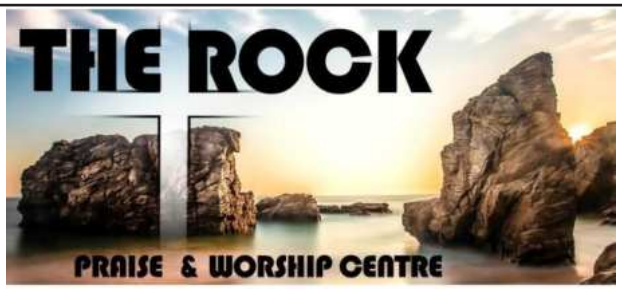
Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old
Saturday, 8th August:
Baptist School Hall, 10am to 11.30am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 9th August 2026 - 19th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral
	Thursday 13th August	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Praise and Worship**	**Blue Hill Community Centre**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 9th August 2026 – 19th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St John
	Thursday 13th August	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 9th August 2026 – 19th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade	St Mark
	Tuesday 11th August	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark



Church Notices

Prayer Meeting -Online

Saturday 08th August 2026 at 8.30am
Contact Mercy for details-65880 or 24212

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 09th August 11.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 11th August 2026
Cape Villa @ 5.00pm, (Contact Priscilla 51919)
Jamestown @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Bramwell 62117)
Wednesday 15th July 2026
Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Mercy 53227)
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 5.30pm
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MISAINT PENSION PLAN

The 2025 Annual Statements have now been received and any member who has not yet received their copy are asked to please contact Barbara Harris, Solomons Pensions Administrator on telephone number 22380 or email pensionadmin@solomons.co.sh to arrange collection of their statement.

Statements will only be printed upon request; therefore, it is important to contact Barbara to advise if you would like to receive your statement by email or printed format.

NOTICE BOARD

An Incredible Return

The Incredibles and Ballzy Ladies win big in Week 2 of WSA Rounders League



WSA, Contributed

As the 2026 WSA Rounders League moved into its second week, The Incredibles made a confident start to their season with an impressive 43½–5 victory over the Catchdashians. From the opening innings, The Incredibles set the tone for the match, showing strength with both the bat and in the field.

Batting first, The Incredibles wasted no time in building a strong lead. They looked settled and confident from the start, with Chloe Thomas producing an excellent individual performance to score 10 in the first innings. Her contribution helped give the team early momentum and earned her the title of Lady of the Match.

When the Catchdashians came in to bat, they faced immediate pressure from The Incredibles' sharp fielding and organised play. The Incredibles made it difficult for their opponents to find scoring opportunities with only Ellie Yon, Hannah Beard and April Peters managing to score halves during the innings.

The second innings saw the Catchdashians return to bat determined to add to their total, but they continued to struggle against The Incredibles' strong defensive display. Barbara Osborne's spin bowling caused problems, while April's quick reactions and Tanisha's pace in the field helped keep the pressure on. Rachel Braaf, Jordana Crowie and Georgia Young were the only players able to get on the scoreboard. The Incredibles then returned to bat for their 30 good balls, continuing to add to their advantage. Although the Catchdashians' triangle of Georgia, April and Hannah worked hard and managed to restrict them slightly more than in the first innings, the Incredibles remained firmly in control.

Overall, it was a strong opening performance from last year's Knockout winners. Even with a few original players missing from the line-up, The Incredibles showed depth, confidence and teamwork throughout the match, proving that they are ready to make their mark once again this season.

The second match of the day featured Thunderbats against Ballzy Ladies, with Ballzy Ladies producing an-







other dominant performance to claim a convincing 41–2½ win. Their fielding and batting both proved too strong, as they controlled the game from the early stages.

Thunderbats batted first and were quickly placed under pressure by Ballzy Ladies' well-organised fielding triangle of Danielle, Kati-Rose and Charlotte. Kati-Rose impressed with catches, while Charlotte's sharp stump work helped limit Thunderbats' scoring chances. Despite the pressure, Anna Saumel managed to get a score on the board for Thunderbats.

Ballzy Ladies then came in to bat and quickly strengthened their position. Kati-Rose continued her standout performance, scoring 9½ and later being named Lady of the Match. She was well supported by Danni Thomas, who added 5½ to the total, helping Ballzy Ladies build a comfortable lead.

In the second innings, Thunderbats returned to bat and showed determination as they looked to close the gap. They added another rounder through the batting skills of mother-daughter duo Shantai Yon and Keeley Yon, while Danni also made an impact in the field with several good catches. Ballzy Ladies then took their turn to bat again, continuing to build on their already strong total. Thunderbats kept working hard in the field, with Kerrylyn, Keeley and Anna combining well in their triangle to stump out several Ballzy players. However, Ballzy Ladies maintained their momentum, with scores coming from Charlotte, Kati-Rose, Danni and Young Lady of the Match, Renae. Their consistent scoring brought the match to a final result of 41–2½, rounding off a strong all-round performance.



Golf Report

Gerald Dominates Modified Stableford as Sunshine Returns to St Helena Golf Club

SHGC, Contributed

Perfect golfing weather greeted 13 enthusiastic players at St Helena Golf Club on Sunday as members enjoyed a Modified Stableford Competition sponsored by the club.

The excellent conditions provided an enjoyable afternoon on the course, although the scoring system proved to be a stern test for most of the field. In fact, only three players managed to finish with positive scores, highlighting just how demanding the format can be.

Claiming third place was Neil Joshua with a respectable +2, while Freddy Thomas produced a solid performance to finish runner-up on +4 and win second prize.

However, the day belonged to Gerald George, who turned back the years with a remarkable display of consistent golf. Gerald stormed to victory with an outstanding +11, finishing a commanding seven points clear of the rest of the field and proving that experience remains a formidable asset on the golf course.

The balls in the Two-Ball pool returned to their owners after no one scored a two.

Attention now turns to Sunday, 8 August, Peter Francis Memorial Challenge, an 18-hole Strokeplay competition generously sponsored by Richard James International. Tee-off is scheduled for 12 noon, and the club looks forward to another excellent turnout while expressing its sincere appreciation to Richard James International for their continued support of golf on St Helena.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, and we look forward to seeing members back on the fairways for another enjoyable afternoon of competitive golf. Happy swinging!



NOTICE BOARD



AUGUST OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday - Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	09:00 - 12:00

Airport Kiosk

Flight days only	10:30 - 14:30

Remote Banking

HTH Supermarket	Tuesday, 25 August 2026	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Wednesday, 26 August 2026	09:30 – 13:00

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St Helena Island Marathon

St Helena Island

Help Make the Marathon a Success!

St Helena Tourism is gearing up for the St Helena Island Marathon on the 28th February 2027!

Be a part of this exciting event by volunteering on the day, supporting and cheering on the courageous runners taking on this rare adventure.

Can you and your friends and family join the team?

Marshalls on Aid Stations and Key Junctions
Pass out water, check on the runners needs and point them in the right direction!

Lead and sweeper bikes to start and follow each route (42k, 21k,10k & 5k)
Be the first to start the route or help runners safely clear the course by following at the back.

Vehicle Marshalls/ Sweeper
Drive the route, making sure runners are safe and hydrated.



Sign Up to VOLUNTEER!

If you are interested please contact the Tourist Office!
T: 22158 E: events@sainthelena.gov.sh

sthelenatourism.com

na by finishing coolly from inside the penalty area. By contrast, Bellboys looked uncharacteristically sluggish, lacking their usual urgency and appetite to get stuck in, echoing their slow start against Fugees the week prior. Nevertheless, trailing by just a single goal, the champions remained a constant threat through the quality of Joey Thomas and Taylan Phillips out wide and Tyler-John Brady up front.

The intensity shifted dramatically in the second half as the match grew increasingly feisty, packed with hard tackles and heated flare-ups in midfield. Harts grew in belief that they could pull off the unthinkable, while Bellboys' frustrations began to boil over. Then came the moment of the weekend. Lining up a direct free-kick from 30 yards out near the centre of the goal, Harts Captain Shane Stroud struck a clean, powerful effort using a CR7-style knuckleball technique. The ball flew over the wall, swerving and dipping dramatically beyond Bellboys goalkeeper Keith Yon and into the top corner to spark wild celebrations among the Harts faithful.

Holding a 2-0 lead, Stroud dropped back into a third centre-back role to lock down the result, but while this added defensive stability, it allowed Bellboys to dominate the midfield and send wave after wave of attack forward. The match descended into all-out war, epitomised by Harts' pantomime villain Louis Barnikel, who spent the half scrapping with opposition players and engaging with officials as the tension peaked. Bellboys' relentless pressure paid off with 20 minutes remaining when Brady showed



great strength to shrug off Stroud and produce an acrobatic karate-kick finish past the keeper to give the champions late hope.

With Bellboys piling on the pressure and Harts hanging on, defender Ethan Harris delivered a hero's shift at the back, making a string of vital blocks and clearances. Then, in strange circumstances, Harts sealed the victory. Following a high boot call, Stroud launched a long free-kick from just inside his own half that bounced near the penalty spot and eluded Keith Yon to nestle into the far corner. While many initially thought Stroud had scored his second direct free-kick of the afternoon, it was revealed that young Ryan Stevens had provided the deftest of touches to guide it home—a fitting reward for Stevens, who put in an outstanding midfield performance alongside Lebron George. The final whistle triggered jubilant scenes for Harts, who earned a 3-1 victory and now look every bit like true title contenders, while Bellboys relinquished top spot for the first time this season.

Earlier on Sunday, Rovers secured a 5-1 victory over Fugees, though the scoreline severely flatters the winners in what was a tightly poised contest until the 70th minute. Rovers took the lead in breathtaking style courtesy of Ronan Legg, who unleashed a right-footed rocket from outside the box into the top corner like a heat-seeking missile, leaving Fugees goalkeeper Anelka Leo completely rooted to the spot. Rovers doubled their lead shortly after from a lightning-fast counter-attack off a Fugees corner, where a long ball found Captain Rico Benjamin, who expertly chipped the stranded outrushing keeper from range.

Fugees hit back almost immediately when a cross was turned into his own net by Brett Isaac under heavy pressure from Fugees' midfield duo of Alistair Buckley and Jason Williams. Building on their impressive display against Bellboys the week prior, Fugees unexpectedly took control of the match for the remainder of the first half and the opening 20 minutes of the second half, pressing high and forcing errors. However, Rovers eventually rediscovered their passing rhythm and struck three late goals to seal the points: Rico Benjamin pounced on a moment of poor handling from the keeper to head home his second of the day, Tyler Benjamin connected with a pinpoint cross to volley home acrobatically, and Marco Fowler coolly dispatched a penalty for his first Rovers goal.

The weekend action had originally kicked off on Saturday afternoon with a goal frenzy, as La Verde put on a dominant, free-scoring display to overpower STH Young Boys 14-0. Harry Winfield captured Young Player of the Match honours with a four-goal performance, while Hameed Ganiyu took home Man of the Match after bagging a clinical hat-trick. Alex Hudson matched Ganiyu with a hat-trick of his own, alongside a brace from Jorden Johnson and individual goals from Robson Fabian and Deaclan Franconi to round out the scoring.

When the dust settled on Gameweek 6, Rovers emerged as the biggest winners of the weekend, sitting proudly at the top of the table on 14 points as the league's only undefeated side. Bellboys hold onto second place on 13 points, staying ahead of third-placed Harts by just a single goal, setting up an unmissable second half of the season!

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Saturday 1 August 2026

STH Young Boys — **La Verde 14**
H Winfield (4), R Fabian
H Ganiyu (3), A Hudson (3)
J Johnson (2), D Franconi
MoM: Hameed Ganiyu
YPoM: Harry Winfield

Sunday 2 August 2026

Rovers 5
R Benjamin (2), R Legg
T Benjamin, M Fowler (Pen)
MoM: Rico Benjamin

Fugees 1
B Isaac (OG)

Bellboys 1
T Brady

Harts 3
J Johnson, S Stroud,
R Stevens
MoM: Shane Stroud
YPoM: Josh Johnson

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday 8 August 2026

2pm **Fugees vs Bellboys**

Sunday 9 August 2026

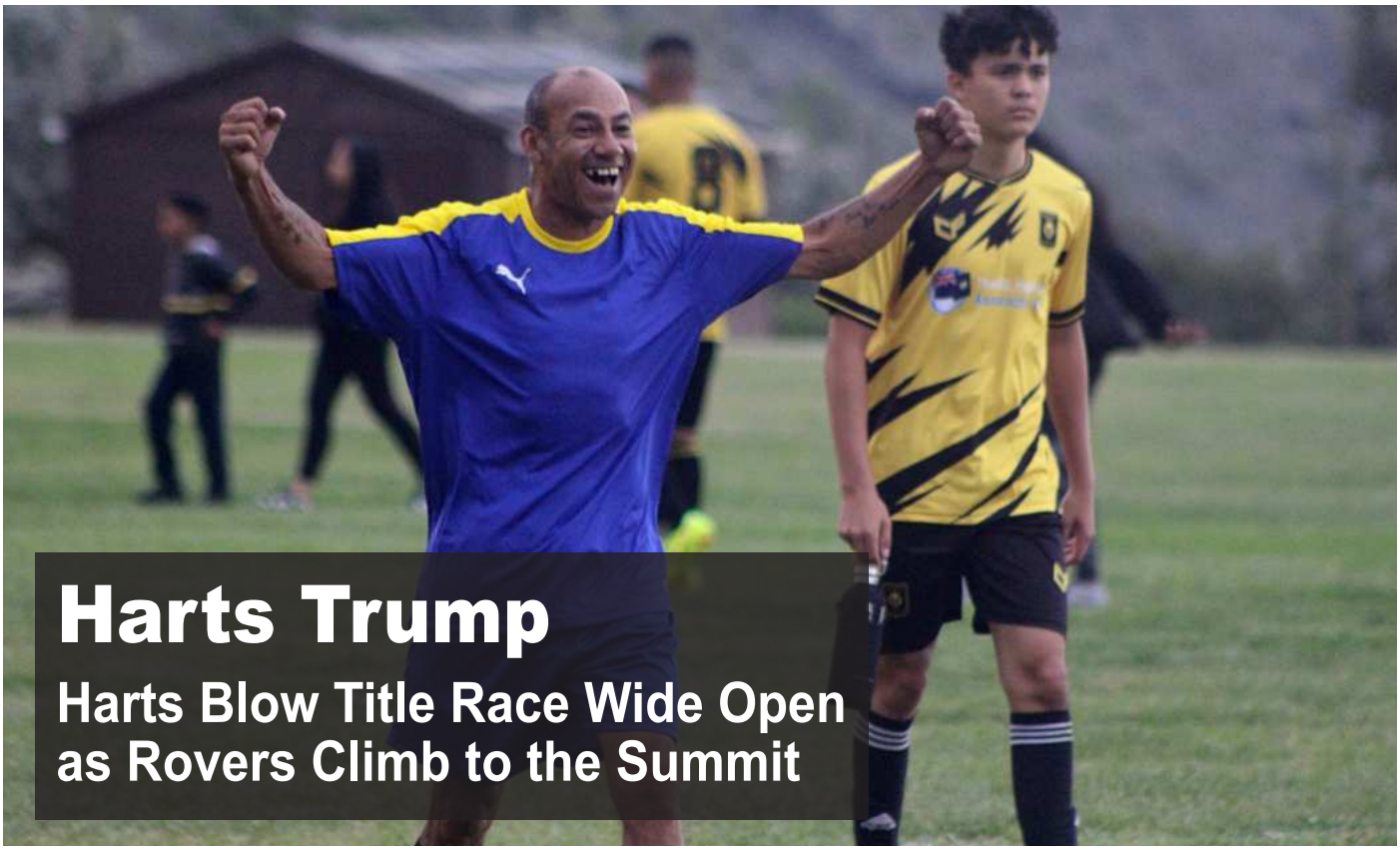
1.30pm **Harts vs La Verde**

3.30pm **Rovers vs STH Young Boys**

**Fixtures subject to weather conditions*



SPORTS ARENA



Harts Trump

Harts Blow Title Race Wide Open as Rovers Climb to the Summit

Liam Yon, SAMS

Gameweek 6 of the St Helena Football Association League kicked off Round 2 over the weekend, delivering goals galore, major upsets, and a brand-new leader at the top of the table. With just a single point and a single goal separating the top three teams following Sunday's drama, this has quickly become the most fiercely contested league campaign St Helena has seen in many years.

The main event of the weekend was undoubtedly the high-stakes clash between Harts and reigning champions Bellboys. The match was heavily anticipated across the island, not only because of the thrilling encounter these two sides produced in the first round, but because of the massive implications for the league standings—where a Harts victory would draw them level on points with the champions and open the door for Rovers to take top spot.

There was a fresh buzz around the pitch before kick-off as Harts stepped out in their brand-new traditional blue kit alongside a newly displayed club banner, and that extra boost paid immediate dividends. Harts started with immense intent, winning their individual battles right across the park with every player putting in a tireless shift. It was not long before they took a deserved lead through young sensation Josh Johnson, who continued his stellar debut season on St Hele-

