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SENTINEL

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Grilled Over Growth

Minister Thrower pressed on Economic Priorities, Exports, and Fishing at Tenth Ministers Question Time





Con-graduations!



Hanna Hickling

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Design, University of Portsmouth

Trace Asbestos found in School Craft Sand

Parents reassured by Dr Jacob as Health Portfolio confirms no ongoing risk to pupils or staff following recall



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

We have just returned to the island after attending the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow with our youngest, Lukas.

What a privilege to be able to attend this wonderful event, displaying the athletic excellence of sportsmen and women from around the world. Moreover, what a proud moment to see the St Helenian team (as well as our young man) on this international stage, competing against renowned sports stars.

The team did us proud; well done to each and every one of you! I also have to give credit to our officials who co-ordinated and arranged this opportunity in collaboration with the Commonwealth Games Association – you did an awesome job. It was an amazing experience for the team and supporters alike. It was also heart-warming to see so many St Helenians living abroad make the effort to come and support our team, again confirming the community spirit fostered on our little island.

We also had the opportunity to explore a little piece of Scotland and I have to admit we were blown away by this beautiful country. The landscapes were breathtaking and the people friendly and welcoming – definitely a must-visit destination.

Before and after leaving for Scotland we caught up with our girls, their husbands, our family and friends in South Africa. I was again reminded how precious time is spent with people you love – truly a highlight of the holiday for me.

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and time flies by much too quickly. Our time away sadly ended on a bittersweet note as we had to say goodbye to our eldest son, Erik. He has now completed his schooling and will be heading out into the wide world to pursue his dreams. Our hopes and prayers go with him.

This holiday just reiterated the fact that we have to make the best of every opportunity and moment. So, I will leave you with this thought – Dream big and make every minute count!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

With Women's Equality Day coming around again on 26 August, I offered to clear up my wife's confusion over the so-called issue of "gender equality".

Naturally, I had to generalise a bit.

Those of a religious persuasion might discern a divine purpose, or a very pragmatic one: marriage + babies = supportive dads + fewer single mothers needing society's support; girls have to learn "the difference between a proposal and a proposition" (Phyllis Diller).

But, for a free thinker (such as I), historic role-conditioning has much to do with it; a book entitled "Men are from Mars; Women are from Venus" had made a big impression, when my wife had thrown it at me, so I shared some of its insights with her.

Men, he wrote, had originally grouped together to hunt (e.g.) woolly mammoths, so had to hide their fear, not express their feelings, banter with their mates (to test their courage), decide what to do and get on with it. Women had stayed in the cave, looked after it, made themselves attractive for their returning mate (with mud, leaves and bits of twigs), talked about problems without coming to a conclusion (because they didn't have power to act on their conclusions, in that "patriarchal" ("dad-ruled") society) and dealt with babies: bearing them for 9 months, nursing them through infancy and childhood development, loving them forever, that kind of thing.

Hence, even nowadays, men were tight-lipped and manly, would group together (football support being a form of "tribalism"), hunt things (e.g., philately) and wish to decide what the solution to any problem was and get on with it. Whereas women would talk about the problem endlessly (and read magazines about one or more of boys, relationships, babies, clothes, hair, make-up, health, etc.).

The author described a typical conversation: the woman explains a problem; the man offers a solution; she feels that he doesn't understand and explains the problem again; he feels that she hasn't listened and explains the solution again, it spirals into an argument.

There are many and varied exceptions, of course; it really does take all sorts to make a world. But yes, I said to her, the author's theme made a lot of sense to me, although I conceded that his own marriage had broken up: "probably she got fed up with his "empathising" all the time", retorted the wife (whose mother had forever told her that "A girl has to be practical").

The changed nature of work outside the home had contributed too, I continued; modern work required less competition and physical strength, e.g. mammoth hunting, and more co-operating and communication skills, e.g. office jobs, at which women often excel, even at management level; as Brian McClair, a Scottish footballer once said of female football managers: "Anyone who doubts that a woman can impose her view on a team of men has obviously never been married to one".

Hence, women's magazine articles entitled "Have Men Lost their Role?", chirruped my wife, excitedly. True, I conceded, although these days they might be entitled the converse ("Have Roles Lost their Men?"), because more and more men emigrate from their place of origin and/or shun marriage in favour of perpetual bachelordom, applying for as long as they can their survival instinct to spread their genes widely (evolutionarily valid if one won't live long) rather than acquiring the wisdom that men live longer, and more happily, in a stable relationship.

So much came back to the business of babies, I suggested; the woman who said that there would never be true equality of the sexes until men started having babies was more right than she could possibly have known.

Her lapse into silence and studied attention to sharpening her kitchen-knife set satisfied me that my stern, but kindly, insights had comforted her, as I trust that they will do likewise for your readers, male or otherwise.

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Regards,
Lucky Thomson

"Moving forward honestly, together"

Collaborative way forward agreed in School House and Mascot debate following PTA Position Letter as Parent Working Group say they "look forward to being part of this collaborative approach"



The St Helena Secondary School PTA have taken on concerns and agreed on a collaborative stakeholder plan to shape the school's future house system and mascot identity

Liam Yon, SAMS

A contentious debate surrounding the proposed overhaul of the House and Mascot system at St Helena Secondary School (SHSS) has reached a positive turning point, with school leadership, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and parents agreeing to a unified, collaborative path forward.

The controversy began when plans were announced to condense the school's long-standing four-house system—comprising Cavendish, Dutton, Jenkins, and Mundens—down to three houses, accompanied by new corporate mascots. The primary spark for public pushback arose when the school considered adopting mythical creatures as house mascots.

A parent working group, led by Shannon Cornelson, strongly challenged the proposal and the decision-making process. The group argued that mythical figures failed to represent St Helena's unique culture, history, and endemic wildlife, while advocating for broader community-wide consultation rather than relying solely on internal student voting.

The debate quickly gained momentum across the island, featured prominently in open letters and live radio broadcasts. A subsequent survey highlighted the rift, showing a razor-thin split of 53.4% in favour of change and 46.6% against.

To resolve the impasse, a consultative General Meeting was held on 24 July 2026, attended by 25 parent members and six members of school staff. Following a subsequent PTA Committee meeting on 30 July, the Association released an official position letter on 4 August detailing the agreed way forward.

In the letter, the PTA openly addressed past shortcomings in dialogue. "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," wrote PTA Secretary, Sandra George, on behalf of the Committee. "We say this in the spirit of moving forward honestly, together."

As an immediate measure, the school has confirmed that the four existing houses—Cavendish, Dutton, Mundens, and Jenkins—will remain unchanged for the upcoming 2026/27 academic year, providing stability for pupils and staff.

The long-term identity of the school will now be developed through a structured Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Scheduled to be released to parents, guardians, and the wider public by the second week of September 2026, the engagement process will run through Term 1, concluding with a final decision by the end of the term.

"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 PTA stated.

Key priorities raised by parents during the consultative session—including a values-based education, parent voice, fairness, inclusion, and an identity rooted in island heritage—will directly inform the upcoming engagement plan. Additionally, to ensure ongoing transparency, the PTA is establishing dedicated communication groups for each year group.

The collaborative approach has been warmly welcomed by the parent working group, signalling a clear shift from controversy to constructive teamwork.

Speaking on behalf of the working group, Shannon Cornelson expressed optimism for the future. "We appreciate the Committee's willingness to listen to parents' concerns and support a collaborative way forward," she stated. "We look forward to being part of this collaborative approach and working together for the benefit of our children and the wider school community."

With both the PTA and parent representatives aligned, the initiative offers the school and local community an opportunity to shape a refreshed identity with one voice—creating a house system that future generations of island students can take pride in.

Grilled Over Growth

Minister Thrower pressed on Economic Priorities, Exports, and Fishing at Tenth Ministers Question Time



Minister Karl Thrower faced all of the questions during MQT under the topic of 'Economic Growth and Local Production'

Liam Yon, SAMS

Economic growth, local agricultural production, and marine policy dominated the tenth sitting of Ministers' Question Time on Tuesday, 4 August, as Minister for Economic Development, Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, Karl Thrower, faced sustained scrutiny from non-ministers.

With the Legislative Council restored to full strength following the return of Minister Gillian Brooks and Councillor Clint Beard from personal business overseas, non-ministers put forward six major inquiries covering high-value exports, macroeconomic KPIs, agricultural budget allocations, food security, private sector incentives, and offshore exploratory fishing.

Opening the session's substantive questioning, Councillor Ronald Coleman asked Minister Thrower to outline government plans to encourage future growth in high-value industries like honey and coffee and how SHG will assist to maximise financial benefits.

Minister Thrower revealed that the Agriculture Working Group recently met with the Beekeepers Association to move forward with support for purchasing hives and supplying bee plants. He noted that coffee development involves significant funding requirements that tied directly into later budget inquiries.

Councillor Robert Midwinter pressed the Minister on policy measures to protect, brand, and market these products in competitive export markets. Minister Thrower explained that SHG is working with producers to establish quality consistency, drawing a direct parallel to the UK's agricultural standards.

"The Red Tractor in the UK is where farmers in the UK got together and they developed an emblem and a policy... which ensures that if you buy things with that mark on, you are getting a certain level of quality," he stated. "I think that is where we need to go with the honey and the coffee as well."

The exchange turned adversarial when Councillor Dr Corinda Essex pressed for an indicative implementation date for honey assistance. Thrower stated that the Agricultural Working Group was still drafting an options paper. When Cllr Essex repeatedly requested a timeframe, Thrower acknowledged he had not been provided one.

"Will the Honourable Minister please give an indicative timeline for reception of the options paper?" Cllr Essex quizzed. "I currently don't have it," Thrower replied. "I haven't been given such a date by the Agricultural Working Group for when they will have the options paper ready at this stage."

Cllr Essex then pointed out that agricultural policy discussions were scheduled to conclude by the end of October and asked why the Minister had difficulty answering. "Very simply because of exactly what I said," Thrower responded. "I have not been given a date, either indicative or firm, on when the Agricultural Working Group will have their options paper ready to be given to me."

Councillor Julie Thomas then joined in and questioned whether industry development was being led by the private sector or SHG. Thrower confirmed it is "led by the private sector extremely strongly," noting that SHG's role is supportive. He highlighted that roughly £10,000 of this year's £50,000 agricultural support budget is being allocated to replace a coffee huller housed by ENRP for key producers to use. On biosecurity, Thrower confirmed new legislation is being drafted to tighten border controls at both the seaport and airport to protect local crops from global pests.

Minister Martin Henry then added a point of information emphasising the strict quality requirements for export markets. "The quality makes the difference," he asserted. "It has to be of a set quality, there has to be a set



Local beekeeper Nigel Joshua inspecting a hive; Minister Thrower highlighted ongoing discussions with the Beekeepers Association to support local honey expansion



Packaged St Helena Coffee on display at Rosemary Gate Estate; non-ministers scrutinised funding allocations for the island's high-value coffee sector

humidity, set water content, etc. and it's the difference between selling that cup of coffee for $100 and $5, so… if we have a poor-quality batch that is exported from St Helena with that label, we could lose our position."

Turning to overarching economic strategy, Cllr Julie Thomas asked Minister Thrower to state the government's three highest priorities for 2026/27 to stimulate sustainable economic growth and detail how success will be measured against the SHG Vision and Strategy 2026–2029.

Minister Thrower identified telecoms, renewable energy, and financial services as his top three priorities. To measure success, he cited the updated Economic Development Portfolio Strategy and Delivery Plan (April 2026 – March 2031) and outlined six core Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track progress. These baselines include a working-age population of 2,299 as of December 2024, and 2,039 leisure arrivals recorded over the 2024 calendar year. Financially, the strategy tracks locally generated revenue—which stood at £16.2 million for the 2024/25 financial year—and a median wage of £10,490 from 2023/24. The Ministry is also monitoring the private sector's contribution to GDP, established at 61.2% for 2023/24, while noting that a baseline for export GDP contribution is currently in development.

Cllr Julie Thomas then asked what formal mechanisms exist to pivot strategy if real-time metrics drop. Minister Thrower explained that response mechanisms would depend on specific causes—such as flight disruptions impacting leisure arrivals—and that metrics must be monitored consistently. Minister Henry noted a broader challenge, stating, "the truth is SHG needs to be able to collect its data better, to inform itself much better; we have a serious issue with data collection across the board."

Cllr Midwinter cautioned against over-reliance on a few externally funded mega-projects. Minister Thrower responded that smaller initiatives—including approved investor schemes, small business support, £50,000 in agricultural economic development funds, and £550,000 ring-fenced for tourism development—actively support locally driven growth.

Addressing a follow-up from Cllr Julie Thomas regarding fibre optic connectivity targets, Minister Thrower stated that while satellite ground station interest is being pursued, realising the full potential of the subsea cable depends on completing new telecommunications licensing.

Turning focus to specific budgetary lines, Cllr Midwinter highlighted figures in the Budget Book showing £412,000 earmarked for next financial year and £516,000 for the year after under Head 19, asking how these funds will be deployed in support of agricultural development.

Minister Thrower clarified that these allocations are intended for a comprehensive 10-year Coffee Sector Development Programme estimated to cost up to £4.5 million. He explained that while £315,000 was originally slated for the current year, budget trade-offs reduced this year's agricultural allocation to £50,000. The broader programme stems from the 2025 Strategic Value Chain Optimisation Review, which identified coffee as a potential multi-million-pound export industry if modernised.

Cllr Midwinter requested that the full policy proposal be shared with Council and asked how funds will drive measurable improvements in production and import substitution.

Minister Thrower declined to share the raw document in its entirety due to commercial sensitivity regarding existing local producers, but pledged to provide a sanitised proposal. "As for sharing all of the paperwork looking at the coffee development, I think the answer to that would be no," he asserted. "However… I will undertake to remove the very sensitive information from it… and have a proposal put forward that is ready for all members and share it with you."

The Minister further explained that conversations with local farmers revealed that labour shortages—rather than just equipment or land—represent the single largest obstacle to scaling agricultural output. Cllr Midwinter concluded by asking for an assurance that funds will be allocated transparently toward long-term productivity rather than short-term operational support, to which Minister Thrower affirmed.

Councillor Dennis Leo then raised concerns over food security and the high cost of imported goods, asking what actions government is taking to boost local production, strengthen supply chains, and lower consumer costs.

Minister Thrower outlined several ongoing initiatives, including invasive species clearance and how ring-fenced funding (£40,000 for forestry and £30,000 for agricultural land) is being expanded to assist private landowners alongside government leaseholders; water subsidies, reinstituting and extending water subsidies for agricultural producers under the Water Resource Management Plan; and labour support, utilising recent immigration updates and exploring recruitment support mechanisms to assist farmers struggling with severe on-island labour shortages.

Cllr Leo pushed further on crop variety, pointing out


Telecommunications was named alongside renewable energy and financial services as the top economic priorities for 2026-27

ST HELENA NEWS



An ANRD officer in consultation with a local farmer; agricultural support, water subsidies, and severe labor shortages featured heavily during the session

The UK's Red Tractor quality mark, cited by Minister Thrower as a model for establishing local branding and quality assurance for island exports

seasonal gluts of identical vegetables. "Every winter we see the same crops... you can buy a pumpkin now, you can buy a potato now. What are we doing for crop variety?" he asked.

Minister Thrower responded that part of the £50,000 agricultural fund will support innovation grants and crop trials. However, he emphasised that crop choice is heavily constrained by storage limitations, as farmers currently lack high-capacity, low-cost storage facilities to manage crop yields effectively.

In response to follow-up questions from Councillor Derek Thomas regarding agricultural water supply in lower Longwood and the Ex-ADA fields, Minister Thrower confirmed that work is ongoing under the Water Resource Management Plan, including plans to utilise a concrete water storage tank located behind the bus stop.

In his question, the returning Councillor Clint Beard inquired about three specific key actions the government will undertake this financial year to support local private sector businesses and translate that support into measurable revenue and population growth.

Minister Thrower pointed to three primary tracks. Implementing policy recommendations from the Select Committee's review of the Approved Investor Scheme; increasing commercial and industrial property availability for local private enterprise; and direct financial assistance, including a dedicated £7,000 tourism business development line within the broader £550,000 tourism budget.

Cllr Julie Thomas asked what specific financial or tax incentives are being introduced to encourage Saints living overseas to repatriate capital and start businesses on St Helena.

Minister Thrower clarified that tax policy falls under the remit of the Chief Minister and Treasury. However, he noted that returning Saints are fully eligible to apply for all standard business support schemes, agricultural grants, and investor framework incentives currently available.

The final inquiry, brought by Cllr Essex, sought an update on exploratory fishing progress within St Helena's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) over the past year and planned next steps.

Minister Thrower revealed that progress on offshore tuna fishing had been minimal, confirming that only one exploratory fishing trip had taken place under the current two-year offshore licence, which is set to expire in July 2027.

When Cllr Essex asked for the reasons behind the lack of offshore activity over the past 12+ months, Thrower cited commercial sensitivity. "Obviously, we've all seen in the papers the constant problems within the fishing sector... I am aware of the problems," he said. "However, I don't think it's suitable for me to talk about any of them at this current stage in this open forum."

Minister Thrower then clarified that inshore marine research—such as the three-year grouper study finishing at the end of the calendar year—continues as scheduled under the Marine Management Plan.

Cllr Essex pressed for a timeline on when discussions with Saints Tuna Corporation (STC) regarding the offshore tuna licence would conclude. Minister Thrower acknowledged the shared frustration across the community, but declined to give a firm date, noting that complex commercial talks often become protracted.

Cllr Julie Thomas (declaring an interest as her husband is a commercial fisherman) noted that with the licence expiring in July 2027 and broader reviews ongoing, little time remains to establish Total Allowable Catch (TAC) figures. She asked what steps would be taken beyond July 2027.

Minister Thrower explained that the Fisheries Working Group (which includes Elected Member, Cllr Ronald Coleman) is drafting a comprehensive options paper. He noted that depending on the options presented, SHG could choose to issue a new exploratory licence or adjust sector priorities entirely between export and local market focus. In response to a final query from Cllr Julie Thomas, Minister Thrower stated that whether the options paper is made public will be left to the discretion of the Fisheries Working Group.



STC Vessel in James Bay; Minister Thrower was pressed on offshore fishing progress and the upcoming expiration of the exploratory licence

Fuel Prices up, but not as much as feared

Solomon's confirm increase in fuel prices, though actual figures fall well short of rumoured costs



Drivers often fill up their tanks at the fuel pumps before the new prices go live

Liam Yon, SAMS

As expected, fuel prices at local pumps have now risen following the recent delivery of fuel supplies to the Island, however the final confirmed increases fall well short of the heavy price spikes rumoured across the Island over recent weeks.

Drivers across St Helena are now adapting to new prices at the pumps following an official announcement from Solomon and Company on Friday. The revised fuel prices came into effect from 8am on Saturday, 8 August, across both the Jamestown and Half Tree Hollow fuel stations – with the Longwood pump currently closed for renovations as reported.

Under the new rates, petrol has increased by 2p, moving from £2.02 to £2.04 per litre, while diesel has seen a larger rise of 16 pence, moving from £2.07 to £2.23 per litre.

The price changes follow the recent arrival of fuel tanker, MT Talisker, which brought the Island's latest fuel supply. In the days surrounding the delivery, widespread rumours suggested motorists could face an immediate 60 pence per litre surge, potentially pushing prices past £3 per litre.

However, speaking to The Sentinel ahead of the announcement, Financial Secretary, Dax Richards, firmly shut down those high-end figures.

While diesel has taken a 16p jump, petrol has remained virtually flat with just a 2p increase—offering some relief to local drivers compared to the extortionate rates feared. Though, with St Helena's current cost of living crisis, any increases will still be met with frustration.

Solomons confirmed in their announcement on Friday that the adjustments were made following formal notification from the St Helena Government regarding BFI pricing.

While the current fuel increases have pleasingly fallen short of the rumoured costs, with the conflict in the Middle East still ongoing and with global fuel prices volatile, there is still an expectation that fuel prices on the Island will likely continue to rise in the near future once the next supply arrives to the Island.



Prices at the pumps are now £2.04 per litre of petrol, and £2.23 per litre of diesel



The increase in fuel prices follows the recent arrival of new fuel stocks from the MT Talisker

Trace Asbestos found in School Craft Sand

Parents reassured by Dr Jacob as Health Portfolio confirms no ongoing risk to pupils or staff following island-wide product recall



Select brands of coloured craft sand, included those used in local primary schools, were recalled after trace levels of asbestos were detected

Liam Yon, SAMS

Parents and guardians of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils across St Helena have been reassured by the Health and Social Care Portfolio following a product recall on coloured craft sand after trace levels of asbestos were detected.

In an official letter issued to families on Wednesday, 5 August, Public Health Doctor, Dr Jacob Asplin, explained that the Public Health team was notified of the recall on Monday, 3 August. The affected products had been used for arts, crafts, and sensory play at both Key Stage 1 (formerly St Paul's Primary School) and Key Stage 2 (formerly Pilling Primary School).

Asbestos—a group of naturally occurring mineral fibres once widely used for strength and fire resistance—was banned in the UK in the 1980s and 1990s due to potential health risks. When disturbed or damaged, asbestos can release tiny airborne fibres which, if inhaled in large quantities or over prolonged periods, can lead to serious lung conditions and cancer.

However, Dr Asplin emphasised that harmful health effects are predominantly associated with long-term industrial exposure, such as career work in construction or demolition, and that the brief contact time from primary school craft activities does not resemble these dangerous levels.

"Following site visits and a thorough assessment, Public Health has assessed there to be no immediate health risks and only a very low likelihood of any future health risks to the exposed individuals," Dr Asplin stated in the letter.

Outlining the rationale behind the low-risk assessment, Dr Asplin noted that any asbestos content within the sand is likely to be extremely small; it remains uncertain whether playing with the sand leads to inhaling any fibres; and that total exposure time has been very minimal. Additionally, ingesting asbestos is not known to pose any significant health risk.

Despite the minimal risk, prompt precautionary measures were carried out across school premises. All affected coloured sand products have been permanently removed, storage facilities thoroughly cleaned, and all artwork created using the sand disposed of safely. Regrettably, this included Year 6 student submissions created for this year's prestigious Jean Beadon Art Competition.

Public Health officials have confirmed that there is no ongoing risk to pupils, staff, or visitors at either school. Parents and guardians are not required to take any further action, with the initial letter provided strictly for transparency and reassurance.

Parents with additional questions or concerns regarding the recall can contact Dr Jacob Asplin directly via email at jacob.asplin@saintheleena.gov.sh.



Dr Jacob Asplin reassured parents this week that site assessments showed no ongoing health risk to children or staff following the sand recall

Weather Disrupts Weekend Flight Schedule

Low fog and poor visibility force go-arounds and Ascension flight postponement over the weekend



St Helena Airport can often be shrouded in low fog as pictured here in 2023

Donna Crowie, SAMS

St Helena's weekly Airlink service faced a series of weather-related challenges over the weekend, resulting in flight delays, a postponed return leg from Ascension Island, and a second-approach landing at St Helena Airport.

The disruptions began on Saturday when poor visibility forced the incoming Airlink flight into a holding pattern above the island. The pilots were ultimately able to complete a visual approach and land safely. However, persistent low fog across the runway raised immediate doubts over whether the onward flight to Ascension Island would be able to depart. A temporary lift in conditions provided a sufficient window for take-off, allowing the aircraft to arrive on Ascension just before 5pm on Saturday afternoon.

The return leg from Ascension to St Helena was originally scheduled for Sunday. However, at around 10am, St Helena Airport Ltd (SHAL) announced that the flight had been postponed due to unfavourable weather conditions, with the leg rescheduled for Monday morning.

On Monday, Flight 4Z3136 successfully departed Ascension Island bound for St Helena before continuing onward to Johannesburg. Upon reaching St Helena at approximately 12:45pm, the aircraft was unable to land on its initial approach due to local conditions. After executing a go-around and circling for a second approach, the flight landed safely. Following a slight delay on the ground, the aircraft departed St Helena for South Africa at just after 2:30pm.

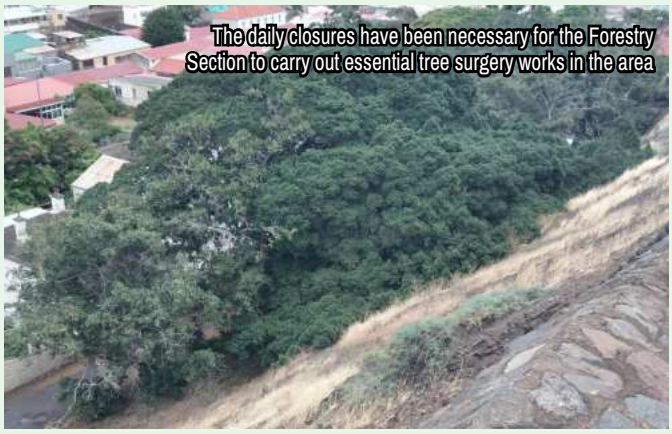
Among the departing passengers on Monday was Councillor Julie Thomas, who is travelling off-island during the current Elected Members' recess period. During her absence, Councillor Ronald Coleman will act as the district representative for Alarm Forest. The Sentinel also understands that Minister Karl Thrower will be off-island during the recess period, though this is yet to be formally confirmed by the St Helena Government.



Despite weather issues and a one-day postponement, the flight arrived from Ascension and departed again for Joburg on Monday

"Essential" Tree Surgery Underway

Drivers advised of temporary daily road closure in Jamestown



The daily closures have been necessary for the Forestry Section to carry out essential tree surgery works in the area

Liam Yon, SAMS

Motorists in Jamestown should be aware of a current temporary road closure in Jamestown.

The section of road in question runs from the Connect Office, along Carnarvon Court, to The Brow and has been closed daily this week, between 9am and 3pm, from Monday, 10 August, and will continue through next week until Friday, 21 August.

This closure has been deemed necessary to allow the Forestry Section to carry out essential tree surgery works in the area.

Residents still have pedestrian access during the works, and emergency vehicles will be granted access at all times. However, vehicle owners are reminded that all parked cars must be removed from the affected stretch before 9am each morning.

The Forestry Section say they apologise for any inconvenience the temporary daily closures have and will cause and thanked the public for their patience and cooperation during what was described as "essential" works in the area.



This area in Jamestown has been subject to a temporary road closure this week

SHG finally confirm MV Karoline voyages

Government points to updated MACS schedule following The Sentinel enquiries as sailing rotation shifts slightly to latest reports

Donna Crowie, SAMS

St Helena Government (SHG) has finally confirmed the future sailing dates for the MV Karoline—though not through an official public announcement, but rather by pointing to the publication of the latest MACS shipping schedule, following inquiries by The Sentinel.

Back in early July, SHG announced that surging global marine fuel costs, driven by the ongoing Middle East conflict, had prompted a temporary reduction in the island's shipping service, cutting annual voyages from 12 down to 10. While government promised in its initial press release that a finalised schedule would be issued once confirmed, no formal press release followed.

However, on Friday of last week, in response to follow-up questions sent by The Sentinel in July, SHG officials provided confirmation regarding the vessel's upcoming arrivals. "MACS published the updated shipping schedule on Monday, 3 August," was the brief response received from SHG.

According to the latest updated schedule, published on 11 August by MACS, the MV Karoline is set to make four further calls to St Helena this year—arriving on Friday, 4 September; Monday, 5 October; Sunday, 1 November; and Sunday, 6 December. Following the end-of-year Christmas voyage, her first call of 2027 will take place on Monday, 8 February.

These latest dates show a slight shift from an earlier draft schedule reported on by The Sentinel at the end of July. Most notably, what was previously pencilled in as a mid-November arrival has now been brought forward to 1 November. Under the reduced 10-voyage annual rotation, there will be no vessel calls to St Helena during August 2026 or January 2027.

Regarding Ascension Island, MACS indicates in its latest schedule that following her planned September shuttle, no further calls to Ascension are currently listed for the remainder of 2026.

	KAROLINE 261706	KAROLINE 261707	KAROLINE 261708	KAROLINE 261709	KAROLINE 261710	KAROLINE 271701
Cape Town	16-Jul	27-Aug	27-Sept	24-Oct	28-Nov	31-Jan
Rupert's Bay	24-Jul	04-Sept	05-Oct	01-Nov	06-Dec	08-Feb
Ascension Island		09-Sept				

Voyage dates of the MV Karoline according to 11 August MACS Schedule



End of the Road for R2 Project

£4.4 million R2 Project reaches final completion after installation of permanent safety netting last week



The recent installation of permenant black safety netting tied up the works on the R2 Project

Liam Yon, SAMS

One of St Helena's largest infrastructure projects in recent years has officially reached full completion, following the installation of permanent safety netting at the Side Path and Field Road junction.

On Monday morning, St Helena Government (SHG) announced the final completion of the multi-million-pound R2 Project, bringing to an end years of major rehabilitation work on both Side Path Road and Field Road.

Funded by the UK Government under the Economic Development Investment Programme, the £4.4 million project officially began in 2020; the goal being to completely rebuild and future-proof the critical road link between Jamestown and Rupert's, where the new cargo handling facility would be built (now complete).

The extensive works involved widening both major highways, removing the old road surfaces, and constructing durable new concrete roads. Additional safety features—including heavy-duty crash barriers and gabions—were also installed along Field Road.

While Side Path originally reopened to traffic in late 2022, and Field Road in November 2024, the final phase of the project required specialised rockfall protection.

As such, local contractor S. Doy Construction began erecting the permanent safety netting above the Side Path and Field Road junction in mid-July, finishing the installation last week on Tuesday, 4 August, to replace the temporary green netting that had been in place.

With the multi-year, multi-million-pound project having now reached final completion, SHG has given special thanks to Isaac's Contractors for undertaking the major roadworks, and S. Doy Construction for completing the final phase of the project; the installation of the safety netting.

Thanks were also extended to all those who helped to deliver the landmark project, including the community of St Helena for their long-term patience and cooperation through the various road closures, diversions, and delays. After many years, the R2 Project is officially complete – well done to all involved.



Before and after shot of Field Road which underwent a major, much-needed transformation as part of the R2 Project



Side Path Road during excavation works



Refurbished Side Path Road with new concrete surface

Con-graduations!

Celebrating the Achievements of Saint Graduates in the UK



Hanna Hickling

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Design, University of Portsmouth

Liam Yon, SAMS

Our featured graduate this week is St Helena's Hanna Hickling, who has successfully completed three years of study at the University of Portsmouth, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Graphic Design.

Over the course of her degree, Hanna immersed herself in a wide variety of design disciplines, with a particular highlight being UX/UI (User Experience and User Interface) design. Through UX/UI projects, she enjoyed researching specific demographics to design apps that bring people together. She also excelled in ethical design, where she chose to focus her research on St Helena's surrounding ocean and environmental laws to create a conceptual app designed to engage users in protecting the marine environment.

Throughout her studies, Hanna made a conscious effort to weave her homeland into her coursework wherever possible. "Within my course of university, wherever possible I used the island as my subject to not only learn more about where I'm from through research, but also to get the word of the island out in a different way," Hanna explained. "Now all of my coursemates and people who view my work will get a different viewpoint of the island."

This passion for showcasing St Helena culminated in her final major project, where she delved deeply into the island's people, history, culture, and location. Identifying tourism as a recurring, central theme, Hanna set out to brainstorm creative concepts that could encourage visitors to travel to the island. Her solution was a unique travel journal with a creative twist—designed specifically through her own eyes.

Titled 'Postcards from St Helena', the journal features her own photographs, custom-created activity stamps, descriptions of the 'Saint way' of doing things, local dishes, island dialect, and a map illustrating key activity locations. The concept incorporates five distinct postcards covering history, local food, activities, postbox walks, and a final postcard marking the completion of the user's journey.

"The premise behind the postcards is for the user to send to themselves so when they arrive home they could look back on the memories they made leading to them revisiting, or, to send to relatives and encourage them to also visit the island, spreading the awareness and beauty of the island," Hanna shared.

Praising the university environment, Hanna found the academic support at Portsmouth to be exceptional. "My tutors were there when I needed them and checked up personally at times as well," she recalled. She also made full use of the campus facilities, frequently working in the screen printing room, letterpress room, and 3D workshop to bring her creative projects to life.

Transitioning from island life to the UK was made







smoother by Hanna's decision to move three months prior to the start of term. Moving early allowed her to settle into the faster pace, secure a part-time job, and establish a routine before lectures began. She noted that the biggest culture shock was the overall convenience, from food availability to shops staying open much later than back home.

Academically, the main adjustment was adapting to the high level of independent study. With only one lecture scheduled three days a week and the rest of the time spent working self-directedly, Hanna noted it required a shift in mindset that A-Levels had provided only a small foretaste of.

Outside of her studies, Hanna built a well-rounded lifestyle in the UK. During first year, she made friends through her course, but in her final year, she decided to push herself out of her comfort zone by joining the university's Women's Rugby Society—a decision that made an immediate impact. "Through rugby I learned new skills from trying a new sport which I had been wanting to try for a while, and made brilliant connections with many friends," she explained, adding that she even competed in a fast-paced 7s rugby sports festival. "It was a lot more on my plate to handle with final year, but it was the best decision I had made."

Her university lifestyle also fostered a passion for fitness, with daily gym sessions providing a great way to stay active, unwind, and build structure. On days off and summer breaks, Hanna enjoyed working, relaxing at the beach, taking a caravan trip across the UK with university friends, and taking a solo holiday to France.

Reflecting on her university journey, Hanna expressed heartfelt thanks to those who encouraged her every step of the way. "I'd like to thank my dad for encouraging me to go to uni and following my dream, even down to helping me choose a suitable course he knew I'd do well at and being there for me when I needed it in my first year," she expressed. "I'd also like to thank my mum who has been there the whole way, supporting me in every way possible and for her and my brother joining me for my graduation, which is one of the biggest days of my life. I'd also like to thank every member of my family who supported me throughout my time in the UK and I appreciate everything they've done for me."

For St Helena Secondary School students considering higher education abroad, Hanna offers simple, encouraging advice. "Go for it," she encouraged. "I was at a stage in secondary school where I thought I'd never want to go to uni, and looking back it was one of the best decisions I've made; there's so many opportunities you shouldn't miss out on!"

The Sentinel extends a warm congratulations to Hanna on her fantastic achievement and for serving as such an inspiring ambassador for St Helena throughout her time at the University of Portsmouth. Balancing a demanding final year of studies with civic involvement, new sports, and creative projects that shine a light on our island home is no small feat. As she steps forward into an exciting new chapter, we wish her every success with whatever the future holds!





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 14

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

SAT. Aug 15

- 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 16

- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita and Deon
- 1pm:Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7pm: Anglican Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Aug 17

- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 11am: Let's Talk Health
- 1pm-3pm: Indie Waves with Sue
- 3-5pm: DNA with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna

TUE. Aug 18

- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Aug 19

- 7am: Morning show with Deon
- 11am: Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30: Let's Talk Health (repeat)

THU. Aug 20

- 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



From Monday, SAMS will be introducing a brand-new fortnightly programme called 'Let's Talk Health' produced by SAMS alongside SHG's Public Health Lead, Selvi Jeyaseelan - the show will cover quick tips, expert advice, as well as news about Health and Social Care services.

'Let's Talk Health' can be heard first on Monday's at 11am and will then be repeated on Wednesday's at 7.30pm.

So, remember to tune in this Monday at 11am for the first show which focuses on the new Diabetes Remission Programme being run by Health.

'Let's Talk Health' - news, services and practical ideas for living well!

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:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



13 Aug 1961 - East Germany began sealing the border to build the Berlin Wall.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Recipes for Kids

Starting today and over the next few weeks, The Sentinel will be sharing some recipes that the kids can try out during their end of year school holidays.

Popcorn Bars



Ingredients

- 3 cups popcorn
- 30 g butter
- 80 ml honey or golden Syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Method

1. If you are not using pre-made popcorn, you will need to pop your popcorn kernels. Follow the packet directions. Line a small square/rectangular cake or loaf tin with baking paper.
2. In a large saucepan heat the honey and butter, this will foam and will begin to darken in colour. As you heat, the butter and honey will form a caramel, you will know it's ready when you can draw a spatula through the mixture and you will be able to briefly form a channel.
3. While the caramel is boiling, use your hand to crush the popcorn into slightly smaller pieces
4. Remove the caramel from the heat, stir through the vanilla.
5. While the popcorn bar mix is still warm, use a spatula to press the mix into the bottom of the baking paper-lined loaf tin or small square cake tin.
6. Allow the popcorn bars to cool in the tin. This you can do on the bench or more quickly in the fridge, remove from the loaf tin and slice into bars.

Kimber Victorious in Ascension By-Election

Karen Kimber fills vacant seat on Ascension Island Council following three-way vote



Liam Yon, SAMS

Karen Kimber has been elected to serve on the Ascension Island Council after securing victory in a three-way by-election held on Thursday, 6 August.

The by-election was called to fill the vacant seat on Council created when former Councillor Thomas Hickling stood down.

Official results released by the Returning Officer under the Island Government (Ascension) Ordinance 2008 confirmed that Kimber topped the poll with 48 votes. Candidate Sally Kaur finished second with 33 votes, followed closely by Tyrel Jose Ellick with 31 votes.

In her campaign leading up to polling day, Kimber ran under the slogan "Caring and Committed to You and Our Community." Her platform placed strong emphasis on supporting the physical and mental well-being of all islanders, alongside expanding opportunities for the youth community—a commitment backed by her volunteer work helping to run the local Ascension Cubs and Beavers.

Pointing to a track record of successful lobbying with both local and national government, Kimber pledged during her campaign to ensure all residents are represented, promising to do detailed research on issues raised by the community to make informed decisions on Council.

The election followed a public candidate briefing hosted on 30 July at the Saints Club in Georgetown, where residents met all three contenders to review voting procedures and discuss local governance matters ahead of the vote.

The successful election brings closure to a long-standing vacancy on the Council following an earlier attempt to host a by-election on 7 May which was declared void by the Returning Officer due to a lack of competing nominations.

With the election certified, Karen Kimber takes her seat on the Ascension Island Council to represent the community for the remainder of the term. Congratulations and well wishes to Karen Kimber, Ascensions newest Island Councillor.

Celebrating GirlGuiding St Helena at Special Awards Tea

Inaugural Lifetime Awards presented at Plantation House alongside long-service recognition and the introduction of the Phoenix 2027 team



GirlGuiding St Helena, Contributed

On Wednesday, 5 August, GirlGuiding St Helena was honoured with an Awards Tea at Plantation House. Unfortunately, HE The Governor was unable to host us as planned due to an unavoidable late commitment, but Stephen Thwaites from the Governor's Office and his wife Rachael were splendid substitutes. It was a lovely afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Lifetime Awards were granted for the first time and awardees were presented with a beautiful sterling silver Queen Elizabeth II broach, which was made possible due to a generous grant from the Bank of St Helena. Mrs Brenda Bizarre was awarded one for 70+ years of service as a Guide Leader and Trefoil Guild member; Mrs Daphne Francis, who regrettably was unable to attend, was awarded for 65+ years as a Brownie Leader, Commissioner and Trefoil Guild member; Mrs Sylvia Legg was awarded for 62 years as a Guide Leader and Trefoil Guild member; Mrs June Lawrence was awarded for 48 years as a Guide Leader and she continues to serve; Mrs G. Pat Musk was awarded for Brownie Leader both here and in England, Commissioner, President and Trefoil Guild member where she still serves as the secretary which makes her, at 87 years, the oldest serving member of GirlGuiding St Helena.

Other awards were issued to members who continues in post; to Mrs Olive Williams who has served as Treasurer for 40 years and also served as a Guide Leader; Mrs Winifred Thomas who has served as Guide Leader for 16 years; Mrs Mavis O'Bey who has served as Guide and Rainbow Leader for 20 years; Mrs Veronica Augustus who has served as Guide Leader for 20 years; Ms. Rosemary Mittens who has served as Guide Leader for 10 years and also previously as Commissioner; Mrs Eileen Hudson who has served as Brownie Leader for 10 years and also Deputy Commissioner; Mrs Zoe George for 5 years as Brownie Leader; Ms. Lisa Joshua for 5 years as Rainbow Leader; Mrs Carolyn Augustus as Rainbow Helper for 5 years; Mrs Patricia Coyle for 2 years as Guide Leader; and Mrs Pamela Ward-Pearce for 3 years as Commissioner.

The Guide Council was also recognised and thanked for their years of service; Mrs S. Ivy Ellick for her role as President and previously Commissioner; Mrs Rosalie Lawrence for her role as Secretary; and to Council members Mrs Joy George, Ms. Joan Yon, and Mrs Muriel Henry.

Finally, Team St Helena, who will be representing us at the Phoenix 2027 camp, were introduced as Deborah Knipe (Team Leader), Marcella Mittens (Leader), Jilneal George (Young Leader), Qhi Green (Ranger), Daisy Andrews (Guide) and Commissioner Pamela Ward-Pearce who will accompany them.

It was good to see so many being honoured for services to Guiding and we recognise that this was made possible, largely due to the support of their families over the years.

NOTICE BOARD

Part-Time Airport Vacancies

Junior Ramp Handlers & Junior Security Officers

Rate of pay commence at £5.00 per hour

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has an exciting opportunity for young individuals aged **16 – 17 years old** to join our Part Time airport operations teams as **Junior Ramp Handlers** or **Junior Security Officers**.

These roles will give you the opportunity to learn and develop and gain practical experience within airport operations, while working towards a future career as a fully trained Part Time Security Officer or Part Time Ramp Handler.

What does this Junior role involve?
As a Junior Security Officer or Junior Ramp Handler, you will undertake a structured programme of training, learning and on-the-job development. You will gain an understanding of airport operations and develop valuable skills and experience while working alongside experienced members of the team.

Working hours will be according to flight operations and training requirements, including both weekdays and weekends.

Interested Applicants Should:

- Be reliable, responsible, enthusiastic and committed to learning and undertaking the required training
- Be interested in working in an airport environment, keen to develop their skills
- Be able to work effectively as part of a team
- Have a calm approach and the ability to work accurately
- Be adaptable to changing environments and able to multitask effectively
- Enjoy engaging with all types of individuals
- Possess a good standard of English and ICT

Interested in finding out more?
An **Open Day will be held at the Airport in August 2026**, date to be confirmed.
This will be an opportunity to find out more about the Junior roles, meet members of the team & management, and learn more about the training programmes for the above positions.

If you are interested in attending the Open Day please contact the HR Department on 22380, or via email address hradmin@solomons.co.sh

How to Apply:
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 **Friday, 04 September 2026**

Please note applicants must be resident on St Helena at the time of applying.

Vacancy

Human Resources Administrator

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

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

House for Sale





Two Bedroom House.
Secluded area.
Potential for extensions, animal rearing, and gardening.
Location St Paul's, Knollcombes, Nr Bishops Bridge.
Parcel FP0240. Just over two acres (2.11 acres).
Price £120,000.
For further details contact Peter Young via +290 23709 or oursins@helanta.co.sh













NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

PRESS RELEASE

Unpacking Budget 2026/27: Government Spending and Key Priorities

This is the first in a series of public information explaining the 2026-27 budget.

The St Helena Government (SHG) has published its 2026/27 Budget Book, setting out a main budget of just over £55 million. This is the recurrent budget which provides for the public services people rely on day to day, as well as introducing new support, and investment to make services and the economy more sustainable over time.

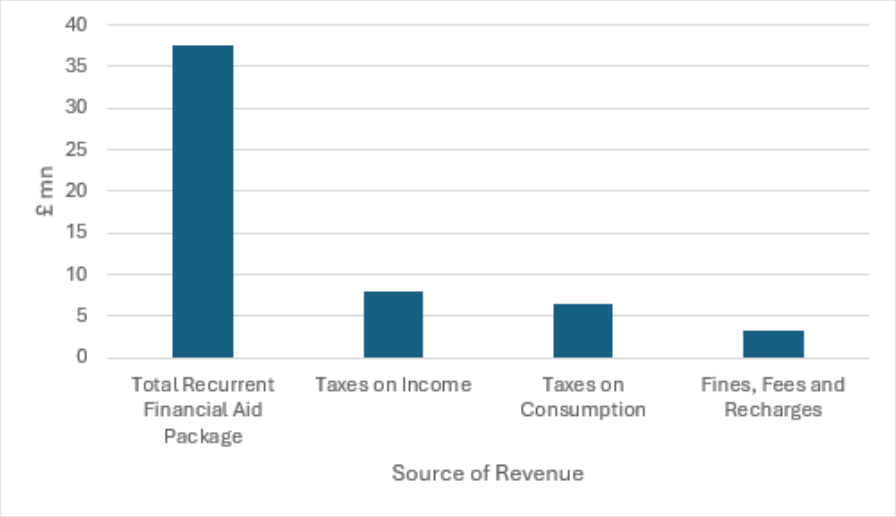
Underpinned by a newly agreed three-year aid settlement with the UK Government, the budget provides long-term financial stability, strengthens economic resilience, and introduces targeted support to help lower everyday living costs for residents.

How much is in the day-to-day budget?

Government expects £55.058 million (55.1 when rounded up) in recurrent revenue in 2026/27. This is the money available mainly to fund day-to-day services and operations.

Approximately 68% of the recurrent budget is supported by UK financial aid, with 32% generated locally through income tax, customs duty, fees and charges. Put simply, for every £3 spent, approximately £2 comes from UK aid and £1 from local revenue.

Source of Government Revenue for Recurrent Budget 2026/27



Recurrent expenditure is forecast to be £55.277 million. The small difference between revenue and expenditure, together with other movements, means £414,000 is expected to be drawn from the General Reserve during the year.

The three-year UK agreement gives St Helena the stability needed to plan ahead. It also offers an additional £1 million in funding for Years Two and Three if key conditions are met, starting with balancing the budget outturn each year.

What new or additional support is included?

The majority of the £55.1 million recurrent budget sustains vital day-to-day public services, with health and social care accounting for nearly one-third of overall spending due to an ageing demographic and rising medical costs. Examples of these services include helping with overseas medical referrals, air access, the Connect utility subsidy, public transport, the ferry service, fishing and farming support, the Basic Island Pension, Income Related Benefit and home care support, and substantially subsidised fees and charges across many other services.

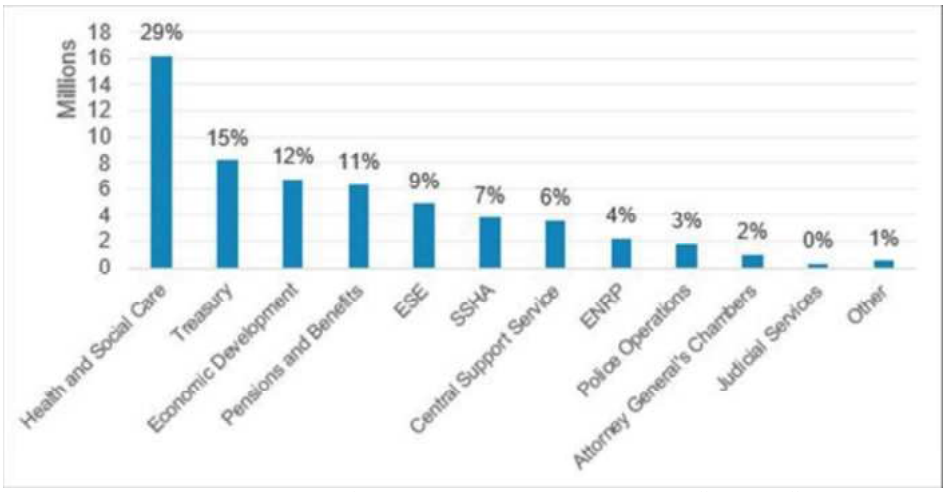
While most of the money is spent on supporting key services that help everyone every day, there are several new policies in this budget:

- **Health and Social Care Support:** An additional £2.2 million allocated to support the ageing population and manage the rising medical costs.
- **Energy Cost Relief:** A £172,000 subsidy to reduce the impact of higher world oil prices on energy bills, capping the expected increase at 1p per kWh rather than 3p.
- **Early Years Child Benefit:** Introduction of a new benefit for children aged 0 to 5, starting at £15 per week and rising to £20 per week in Year Two, Implementation will start from 1 November. Further information on access to child benefit will be published shortly.
- **Senior Mobility:** Introduction of concessionary public transport fares for residents over 70.
- **Pension and Economic Development:** Working towards a sustainable increase in the Basic Island Pension and strengthening economic growth and employment with measures to help agriculture and small to medium enterprises.

Spending in 2026/27 from the Recurrent Budget

The chart below shows how the government budget is divided across key service areas. Health and Social Care accounts for the greatest share of spending. Treasury spending includes payments made on behalf of the crown such as the subsidy to Connect Saint Helena and the contingency budget used mainly to fund the losses on the Air Service.

Public Expenditure from the Recurrent Budget by Different Portfolios and Functions



This has been adjusted to take account of the spending on technical cooperation officers in different areas.

NOTICE BOARD

Beyond the Recurrent Budget: Capital and Development Funding

On top of the recurrent budget, St Helena receives separate funding from two additional sources specifically for investment supporting society and the economy.

1. **Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP):** Provides £45 million (including £5 million carryover) through to 2028/29 for key infrastructure projects, including the new prison facility, the Bulk Fuel Infrastructure, school reorganisation. These take up the bulk of the funding. Other smaller projects include improving water treatment in Half Tree Hollow and Jamestown.
2. **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) Funding:** Delivers £14.65 million across two tranches through to 2030/31 and is allocated or indicatively planned for health, education, digital systems, telecommunications and renewable energy.

These two sources of funding are linked to specific objectives so business cases and approvals will be needed. The government plans to bring forward other projects into the pipeline, including energy renewables to make sure the government is able to use these funds effectively.

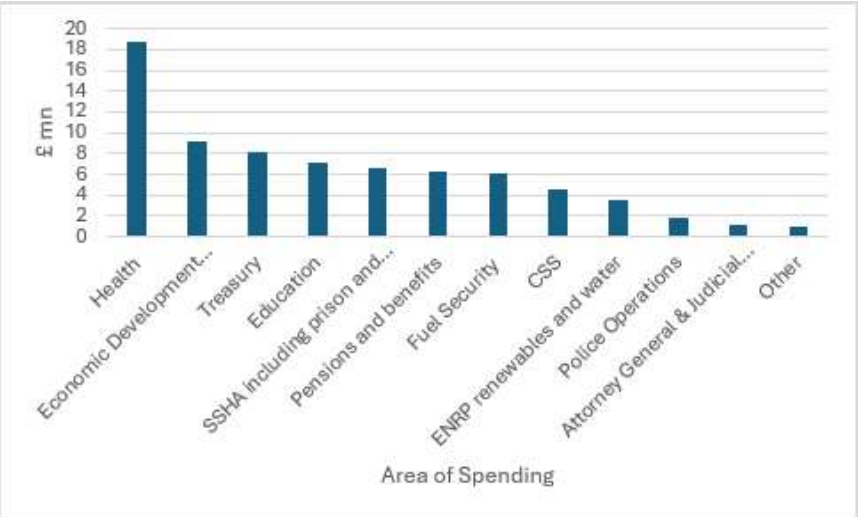
Some of these funds are temporary, so the government needs to be careful about how it is invested. If these funds were used for day-to-day running costs, the government would need to find alternative funding when the temporary funding ends, creating financial pressures or cuts to services in the long run.

All Public Spending Combined (2026/27)

	2026/27
Total Revenue in recurrent budget including local revenue	55.1
EDIP	15.0
BIOT	5.3
Change in reserves	0.4
Combined Total	75.8

When combined with the ring-fenced infrastructure and development funding, total public spending capability reaches £75.8 million in 2026/27, further boosting health, education and infrastructure development. If the EDIP and BIOT funding is taken forward as set out in the indicative projections the budget, spending on different portfolios and their linked infrastructure projects will be as set out below.

Indicative Public Expenditure by Different Portfolios and Functions 2026/27



SHG, 11 August 2026

2026/27 SHG BUDGET

£55.1M
Day-to-Day Recurrent Budget

£75.8M
Total Public Spending

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

- **68%** – UK Financial Aid (£2 of every £3)
- **32%** – Local Revenue (£1 of every £3)

WHAT NEW OR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IS INCLUDED?

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	ENERGY COST RELIEF	EARLY YEARS CHILD BENEFIT	SENIOR MOBILITY	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
£2.2M for ageing population and rising costs	£172,000 subsidy to reduce the impact of world oil prices	£15/wk (0-5 yrs) starting from 01 Nov	Concessionary bus fares for 70 years +	£75,000 Supporting agriculture and SMEs

CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE (MULTI-YEAR RING FENCED FUNDS)

EDIP FUND (£45M)

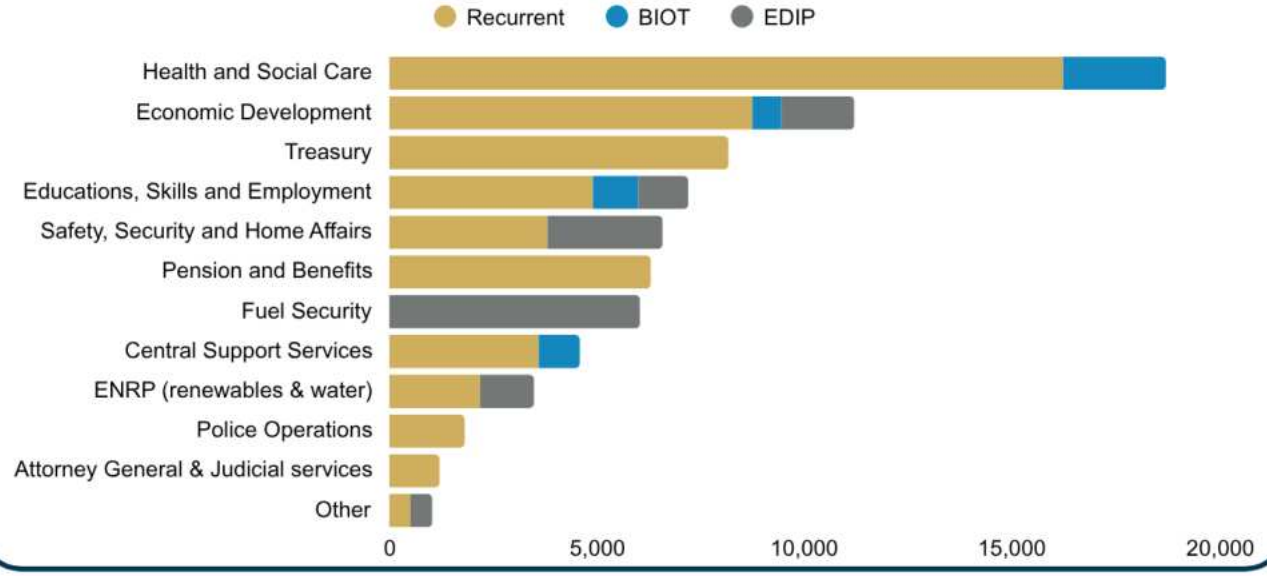
- New Prison Facility
- Bulk Fuel Infrastructure
- School Reorganisation

BIOT FUND (£14.65M)

- Health & Education Upgrades
- Renewable Energy Initiatives
- investment in domestic telecommunications network

COMBINED BUDGET DIVIDED BY PORTFOLIOS AND FUNCTIONS

This has been adjusted to include the spending on technical cooperation officers in different areas



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.

Waste Management Services Operator
(£10,088 per annum)

Waste Management Services is seeking to employ a highly motivated individual to join their dedicated team. Successful candidates will be responsible for delivering high standards of cleaning in public areas and toilets, waste collection from homes and businesses and other waste management tasks in line with Standard Operating Procedures. Normal working hours are 0600 hrs to 1330 hrs Monday to Friday, with weekends and Public Holidays working on a rota system. If you are physically fit and an effective team player, then we would be interested in hearing from you. Waste Management Services, working towards a cleaner and greener St Helena.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Shane Williams on Tel No. 24724 or Email: shane.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 27 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 01 September 2026
Interview date: 08 September 2026

Cook – Local interests only
5 months fixed term
(£11,604 per annum)

We are seeking a Temporary cook to work at Plantation House, the cook is tasked with reporting to the Plantation House Residence Manager on all matters related to food supply and preparation at Plantation House. They will communicate with the Residence Manager to craft creative and health-conscious menus for all occasions e,g daily & official functions. This post requires cooking, baking & presentation skills. The cook will also suggest alternative menu items to the Residence Manager when particular food items or ingredients are not in stock. The role will also involve hygiene and cleaning of the Kitchen areas and will be working alongside the Assistant cook.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Deborah Yon on Tel No. 24453 or Email: ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh
Closing date: 26 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 31 August 2026
Interview date: 08 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

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.

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

Planning Assistant – 1 year fixed term

(£11,604 per annum)

We are seeking a Planning Assistant 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 at least 5 GCSEs, although A levels would be a benefit, with a genuine interest in Geography, Economics and/or Technical Drawing or those with experience who may find that this suits them. We would look to provide training for the right candidate.

You will have good communication skills and be able to scan, sort and log information, undertake validations and prepare applications consultations with little supervision. You should be able to gather relevant statistics. As you progress you may be asked to prepare draft planning reports for Chief Planning Officer (delegated) decision. Again, training if needed, can be provided.

You will play a key role, with the Planning Officer, Senior Planning Officer and Chief Planning Officer as well as support staff, in meeting targets identified.

You will work in the Essex House office with other officers, business operators and with members of the community. You will support planning officers in Applications, Appeals and Enforcement Work and in bringing forward Planning Policy, including public consultations. Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Darren Duncan on Tel No. 24724 or Email: darren.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 26 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 31 August 2026
Interview date: 08 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.
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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

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BENEFITS

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- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

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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

Electrician x 2
(£11,604 - £12,267 per annum)

We are seeking a skilled and dedicated Electrician to join our Building Maintenance team. The ideal candidate will have a solid background in electrical systems, with experience in installing, maintaining, and repairing electrical wiring and equipment across various settings, to a British Standard (BS7671, the IET Wiring Regulations). This role offers an excellent opportunity for professionals committed to safety, precision, and quality workmanship. The Electrician will be responsible for carrying out wiring and maintenance of electrical installations and associated equipment and assisting with testing and inspections of electrical installation along with ensuring that the generation of uninterrupted power supplies to critical emergency equipment/buildings and special locations such as Community Care Centre, the Hospital, St Helena Secondary School, Rupert's Jetty and the main server hob at Carnarvon Court and fibre optic system. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Anders Bowers on Tel No. 22054 or Email: anders.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 26 August 2026
Shortlisting date: 31 August 2026
Interview date: 08 September 2026

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St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

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- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

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

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

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

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**

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NOTICE BOARD

VACANCY

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Data Protection Officer

Commencing at £15,420 pa

Bank of St Helena is seeking to recruit a motivated and suitably qualified individual for a Data Protection Officer. This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic and motivated individual to play a key role in shaping and strengthening the Bank's approach to data protection, privacy and information governance.

Reporting to the Risk and Compliance Manager, the successful candidate will be responsible for supporting the Bank's compliance with applicable data protection legislation and regulations. The role will lead the development and implementation of data protection policies and procedures, provide advice and guidance across the organisation, and promote best practice in the management of personal information.

The successful candidate will also monitor and assess data protection risks, support the Bank's data protection strategy, investigate actual or potential data breaches, and provide independent advice to ensure the Bank continues to meet its legal and regulatory obligations.

The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, demonstrate excellent attention to detail, maintain the highest standard of confidentiality, and process the ability to work both independently and collaboratively across the Bank.

The successful candidate should be able to demonstrate:

- A recognised qualification in Data Protection or Information Governance, or a willingness to work towards one;
- A good knowledge of data protection legislation and regulatory requirements;
- Practical experience in applying data protection principles and relevant legislation, standards and codes of practice.
- Excellent analytical, communication and reporting writing skills.
- The ability to build effective working relationships and provide advice across all levels of the organisation.

Interested persons can contact Risk and Compliance Manager, on risk.compliancemanager@sainthelenabank.com or (+290) 22390 for more information.

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

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

Closing date for applications is Friday, 28 August 2026.

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

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

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

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

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

has a Vacancy for a

Financial Services Manager

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

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

Interested Persons should have:

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

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

Application forms can be collected from the Main Office Building, Jamestown, or alternatively, an electronic copy can be requested via email address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, or via email address hrm@solomons.co.sh by **1600hrs, Thursday, 27 August 2026.**

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Time Limit for Vaccination Registration

St Helena Government (SHG) advises the public that there is limited time remaining to receive the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination and to register for the influenza (flu) vaccine planned for later this year. Members of the public who are interested and have not yet received their MMR vaccination, or who wish to receive the influenza vaccine, are encouraged to take action before the relevant deadlines.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination
The MMR vaccination stock, donated by the UK Health Security Agency, will expire **30 September 2026.** Notably, the first and second doses must be given at least **28 days apart**. Therefore, anyone yet to receive either their first or second dose of the MMR vaccine are encouraged to attend either a routine community health clinic or enquire at the Hospital Pharmacy on Tel: 25867.

The Health and Social Care Portfolio are pleased to report that over 3,300 doses of the vaccine were administered through the MMR adult catch-up vaccination campaign since April 2026. The portfolio would like to thank those who came forward to receive their vaccines; helping to protect themselves and their communities against dangerous infections.

Register your interest for influenza vaccines
The Health and Social Care Portfolio are now able to purchase influenza (flu) vaccines on behalf of eligible members of the public who are interested in receiving one. As these vaccines come at a considerable cost to SHG, only individuals who register their interest by **20 August 2026** will be guaranteed a dose of the vaccine.

Interested persons can contact the Health Promotion team on Tel: 25949 or via email: healthpromotion@sainthelena.gov.uk

Individuals in the following categories are encouraged to register their interest:

- Over the age of 65 years
- People with an underlying medical condition
- The main carer of an older or disabled person
- Currently living with someone with lowered immunity

Online registration is also available by scanning the QR code or by directly accessing the form at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/shflu

SHG
11 August 2026

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

JOIN US AT

THE MUSEUM OF ST HELENA IN JAMESTOWN

THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST @ 6PM

With ***Associate Professor Carlos E. L. Ferreira from Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF)***

Atlantic oceanic islands as critical sites for long-term monitoring and marine conservation

Carlos E. L. Ferreira
Marine Biology Department
Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF)

PELD ILOC

BLUE BELT PROGRAMME

St Helena Government

KEY TOPICS

- How Oceanic Islands Formed
- The Atlantic Ocean and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge
- Unique Wildlife, Endemic Species, and Island Ecosystems
- The Brazilian Long-Term Ecological Monitoring Program (PELD-ILOC)
- **Current and Future Research on St Helena's Reefs**

IMPORTANCE

Oceanic islands are natural laboratories that help us understand how species evolve, how ecosystems adapt to change, and how climate change affects marine environments. Long-term monitoring through the PELD-ILOC programme supports evidence-based conservation and the management of highly valuable marine ecosystems.



Cunningfish
St Helena butterflyfish

Greenfish
St Helena wrasse

St Helena Gregory

Rockfish
Strigate parrotfish

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 16th August
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45 am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45 am
Jamestown Chapel, 6.00 pm

Bible Studies
In recess.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old
Saturday, 15th August: Baptist School Hall,
10.00 am to 11.30

Ladies Meeting
Wednesday, 19th August: Baptist School Hall, 10.30 am

Gospel Outreach Service
Sunday, 23rd August: Sandy Bay Community Centre, 3.00 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 16th August 2026 - 20th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade/Junior Church	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
	Thursday 20th August	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**Blue Hill Community Centre**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 16th August 2026 – 20th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
6.00 p.m.	**Patronal Festival**	**St Mary**
	Thursday 20th August	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 16th August 2026 – 20th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 18th August	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark



Church Notices

Prayer Meeting -Online

Saturday 15th August 2026 at 8.30am
Contact Mercy for details-65880 or 24212

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 16th August 11.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 18th August 2026
Cape Villa @ 5.00pm, (Contact Priscilla 51919)
Jamestown @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Bramwell 62117)

Wednesday 19th August 2026
Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Mercy 53227)
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue at 5.30pm
(Contact: Mercy for details-65880 or 24212

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Harford Community Centre
will be holding their AGM on
the 17th of August 2026 at 7:30pm

Agenda

1. Chairperson's welcome/Report
2. Confirmation of minutes at our last AGM meeting
3. Treasurer's report
4. Election of new committee

Your support is greatly appreciated if you wish for the community Centre to continue.

NOTICE BOARD

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

As a family, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported us following the passing and burial of our beloved Arthur Timm.

During this very difficult time, your prayers, kind words, visits, messages, flowers, and every act of kindness brought us great comfort and reminded us that we are not alone.

We are truly grateful to our family, friends, neighbours and everyone who came to pay their respects and support us.

A special thank you to Father Ernest for conducting Arthur's funeral service and for his prayers, compassion, and support.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Your kindness will not be forgotten.

With love and gratitude,
The Timm Family, Crack Plain





How it works.
The sweepstake will go live on Facebook on Friday 14th August at 7pm on the St Helena Medical Support Sweepstake page.
Request how many numbers you would like, and a number/s will be allocated to you. DO NOT ask for specific numbers.
If you do not have Facebook then ask a friend or family member to request a number for you.
Zoe George will be taking calls on 23297 from 7pm only on Friday 14th, if you don't have someone else to request a number for you on Facebook.
We politely ask not to call before this time.

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

Payments to be made by 25th August. Draw will be done on the 28th August
Please include your name and sweepstake number/s in the reference on the transfer slip or in the credit narrative if doing online banking.

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.



SPORTS ARENA

Rounders Report

WSA, Contributed

Thunderbats and The Incredibles produced an entertaining, hard-fought rounders match that was defined by grit, teamwork, and sharp attacking intent from both sides. Every run was earned through intelligent base running and quick decision-making, keeping the energy high from the first ball to the final play.

Thunderbats got off to a positive start, with their batters constantly pressing for every extra yard around the posts. Alena Scott delivered when it counted with a well-earned half-rounder, while Melissa Fowler provided the standout moment of the opening drive, showing great power to score two full rounders.

The Incredibles were quick to match that intensity with a lively batting display of their own. Barbara Osborne and Laila Clarke led the charge with fantastic scores, while the rest of The Incredibles chipped in to keep the scoreboard moving. Their aggressive running between the posts kept constant pressure on the opposition defence and turned tight chances into crucial points.

Thunderbats continued to fight hard in the second innings, looking for every available gap. Alena Scott found another key scoring window to add to her tally, while Shauntai Yon pitched in with a solid half-rounder. Throughout the innings, the rest of the lineup stayed disciplined at the crease, backing each other up and advancing whenever the opportunity presented itself.

The match remained tightly contested thanks to aggressive fielding on both ends. Quick reactions, accurate throws, and sharp postwork shut down multiple scoring threats before they could develop. For The Thunderbats, the defensive trio of Kerrylyn Leo, Keeley, and Anna Samuel put on another good showing in the field, making crucial outs and keeping the pressure firmly on the batters throughout the contest.

Thunderbats ultimately wrapped up their two innings with a total of 4½ rounders, while The Incredibles dominated with the bat, backed by valuable contributions right down their card, bringing their total to 36½ rounders.

In the end, individual brilliance capped off a fantastic team showcase for The Incredibles; Barbara Osborne was named Lady of the Match for her dominant two-way play, while Laila Clarke took home Young Lady of the Match after delivering an impressive, complete performance both at the plate and in the field.

In the second match, Ballzy Ladies defeated Battitude 20–9 in an intense, physical rounders match that proved to be much closer in effort and spirit than the final scoreline suggests. Both teams fought hard for every single half-point, making each inning a gruelling test on the field.

The match opened with Ballzy Ladies building a substantial lead, putting up 15 points in their first innings thanks to consistent scoring from batters like Danni, Ice, and Kati. Battitude managed 6 points in response, with Whitney Young contributing 2 points and Tiffany Leo adding 1, but their progress was repeatedly slowed by Charlotte, who anchored Ballzy Ladies' defence with four stump-outs in the first round alone.

Refusing to let the game slip away, Battitude mounted a fierce defence in the second innings. They tightened up their play considerably and restricted Ballzy Ladies to just 5 points. Tara spearheaded this second-half resurgence, putting on a brilliant display in the field to record three key stump-outs and earned a well-deserved Lady of the Match award for her effort.

Despite Battitude's relentless push, Ballzy Ladies managed to keep the pressure on in the final half, holding Battitude to 3 points in the last 30 balls to secure the win. Though Ballzy Ladies walked away with the official victory, Battitude's grit and determination made it an intensely competitive contest until the very last ball.







Golf Report

RJI-Sponsored Challenge: The Weather Tried, But the Golf Went On



SHGC, Contributed

The weather may have been doing its best to discourage outdoor activities on Sunday, 9 August, but it certainly wasn't enough to keep the golfers away from St Helena Golf Club for the Peter Francis Memorial Challenge, an 18-hole strokeplay competition generously sponsored by Richard James International (RJI).

With on-and-off showers throughout the game, conditions were far from ideal. The weather was bad enough for the Sunday flight to be cancelled, but it couldn't stop golf balls from flying, as the determined field battled through the showers to complete their rounds.

When the final scores were counted, Ashton Benjamin emerged as the 2026 winner with an excellent net score of 68. Martin Buckley finished just one stroke behind on 69 to take second place, while Anthony Thomas completed the podium in third with a net 70.

Martin Buckley had an especially productive day, adding the Gents' Longest Drive and Gents' Nearest to the Pin prizes to his runner-up finish. Laura Buckley also enjoyed a memorable round, taking both the Ladies' Longest Drive and Ladies' Nearest to the Pin prizes.

There was no winner of the Two-Ball Pool.

The club extends its sincere thanks to Richard James International for sponsoring the competition. RJI has been supporting the South Atlantic Islands for more than 35 years, providing procurement, shipping and logistical solutions to governments, businesses and private individuals across St Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha and the Falkland Islands.

RJI's long-standing connection with St Helena dates back to the days of the RMS and its partnership with the late Peter Francis. That relationship became a cornerstone of RJI's connection with the island and has continued to grow over the years. Today, RJI operates its Catalogue Shop and office from The Basement, Association Hall, Lower Jamestown, under the management of Russell Yon, St Helena Manager and Distributor who was present to hand over the prizes to the winners

The club is grateful to RJI for its generous sponsorship and for helping to honour the memory of Peter Francis through this annual golfing challenge.

The golfers don't get much time to rest, with the next competition scheduled for Sunday, 16 August.

This Gruesome Competition, sponsored by Mr Douglas Augustus, will tee off at 12 noon.

Whatever the weather decides to throw at the golfers next Sunday, judging by this week's performance, there should be plenty of players willing to throw a few golf balls back!

Lastly, members are advised that the Hon. Treasurer, Mr Dave Brown, has resigned from his position due to personal reasons. The club sincerely thanks Dave for his service and appreciates his willingness to continue supporting the Club Committee during the transition.

Happy swinging!



SPORTS ARENA



Rovers Rampage ahead of weekend's Blockbuster Derby

Liam Yon, SAMS

Week 7 of the St Helena Football Association League 2026 brought another action-packed weekend at Francis Plain. With the top three teams continuing to push each other to the limit, the stage is now set for one of the most eagerly anticipated fixtures of the season.

Reigning champions Bellboys entered Saturday's opener eager to put the previous week's defeat to Harts behind them and regain their momentum. They did just that with a commanding, highly controlled performance against Fugees.

Bellboys stamped their authority on the match early in the first half. Aiden Duncan opened the scoring with a composed finish before Taylan Phillips doubled the advantage with a sweet curling effort. Just before the break, Joey Thomas found the back of the net to send Bellboys into half-time with a comfortable 3–0 cushion.

Fugees fought hard to stem the tide after the restart, but Bellboys maintained firm control in midfield, anchored by an outstanding performance from Scott Henry, who took home Man of the Match honours. Taylan Phillips capped off a brilliant afternoon by netting his second goal of the match in the second half, completing a convincing 4–0 victory for the champions to temporarily send them back to the summit.

Fresh off their sensational triumph over Bellboys in Gameweek 6, Harts returned to Francis Plain brimming with confidence as they took on La Verde in Sunday's first game.

Harts surged out of the gates, taking early control of the contest. Gregory Phillips broke the deadlock before captain Shane Stroud doubled the advantage to put Harts 2–0 up. La Verde proved resilient, however, pulling a goal back just before the half-time whistle through Jordan Yon to make it 2–1 at the break.

The second half delivered plenty of action as La Verde pushed to complete a comeback. Lebron George restored Harts' two-goal cushion to make it 3–1, but La Verde struck back once again through Hameed Ganiyu to trim the margin to 3–2 and set up a tense final stretch.

With the match on a knife-edge, defender Ethan Harris stepped up to score Harts' fourth, officially putting the game to bed at 4–2.

Brandon Harris claimed Man of the Match for a tireless display at left-back, while La Verde's Ayden Ncube was awarded Young Player of the Match for an impressive individual effort.

What unfolded in Sunday's late kick-off was nothing short of extraordinary, as undefeated league leaders Rovers delivered an absolute masterclass of relentless attacking football against a struggling STH Young Boys side.

Rovers set a blistering pace from the opening whistle, storming to an incredible first-half lead before putting on an unmerciful display after the break. Ronan Legg led the charge in unstoppable fashion, bagging two goals in the first half before adding an unbelievable six more in the second half to finish with an eight-goal haul.

Captain Rico Benjamin was equally lethal, taking home Man of the Match after scoring seven goals (two in the first half, five in the second). Brett Isaac and Sean-Lee Thomas both netted four goals apiece, while Toure Osborne grabbed a first-half brace. Tyler Benjamin and Marco Fowler also etched their names on the scoresheet, alongside two first-half own goals, completing a staggering 29–0 scoreline.

The result not only kept Rovers' unbeaten record intact but gave their goal difference an astronomical boost at the top of the table.

As the dust settles on Week 7, Rovers remain top on 17 points, closely stalked by Bellboys and Harts, who both sit just one point behind on 16 points.

All eyes now turn to Francis Plain this Sunday at 1.30pm for what promises to be an absolute blockbuster when Rovers take on Harts!