THE South Atlantic Media Services, Ltd.

www.sams.sh

SENTINEL

Vol. 15, Issue 25 - Price: £1 *"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"* Thursday 17 September 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Lewis





Follow-up from Damien Thomas, and Chief Minister responds to Breaking Silence Community Group, in the 'Your Letters' section inside



A Rescue on Rugged Terrain

A Sector at a Crossroads

SHG to unveil Fishing Policy Options paper tomorrow



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Saturday, Deon and I attended the inauguration ceremony of the new Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha.

During this ceremony, I was once again reminded of the huge responsibility that leadership roles carry. Of course, there are not many positions on St Helena with more responsibility than that of Governor, but almost everyone has a leadership role they have to fulfil somewhere in our island community.

Whether you are responsible as a Head of Department, Line Manager, Team Leader, Teacher or simply as a parent, we ultimately all have some form of responsibility.

This makes me think about the importance of learning how to be a good leader and the many ways children gain this very important skill. As we interact with others (especially the younger generation) we always need to be cognisant of the example we set.

Leadership is also not only about leading, but it is just as much about our ability to be good followers. Part of being a good leader is knowing when to follow someone else's lead and how to support that person to work towards a successful outcome.

I know that we sometimes tend to shy away from taking on leadership roles, but to contribute to a successful community we all need to play our part. We need to step up and get the job done in spite of our reluctance to do so.

I think that it is also imperative that we remember it is not only the person with the most important leadership role that contributes to successes, but every single person that underpins each project.

Think about the many hats you wear as an individual and where you lead. This week I would like to encourage everyone to make an effort to set an example by performing each task you do with excellence and making a difference in everything you do.

Have an amazing and successful week!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Following up on my previous letter issued to The Sentinel (3 September).

So, before mistaken identity, there was stolen identity.

What followed by the Police, AG, PSO, Probation and Courts is, and still, can only be described as a living nightmare that should have NEVER happened. Ten years on, it's still unresolved and Councillors and Government are refusing to deal or resolve the matter that involves serious crimes (law breaking) by SHG authorities; by persons in high positions of trust.

What is disturbing and is a concern for all Saints is the fact that the new AG, Andrew Duncan, has said their information is true, accurate and a finding of fact and our Chief Minister, Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, says no matters requiring further action were identified. Who did she seek advice from? If it was Andrew Duncan, then she has been misled. Evidence was sent to her about my cases involving crimes by Police, AG, PSO, Probation and Courts. As Councillors, they all should know and understand breaches of human and constitutional rights and also understand the basic meaning of miscarriage of justice; the Councillors need their own legal advisor.

The AG has full access to every document and email from 2011 to present. Illegally removed court transcripts of me being tried as Damian Phillips and me identifying myself as Damien Thomas should have triggered an immediate investigation of my case/cases. Not doing all they can to bury them.

It's also concerning and disturbing that outgoing Governor, Nigel Phillips, knew about the missing court transcripts from the 02.12.16 that clearly states I have been convicted on that day on the conviction certificate, signed by judge Ekins, yet there's nothing on file at the judiciary office - I have been shown that there is nothing on their system. This is the altered document from my last write up on 3 September 2026.

This should have triggered his appointed duty of organising an independent investigation into Courts, Police, AG, PSO and Probation. Instead, he chose to give me the silent treatment, hoping that the matter would see itself out.

For any case to go to court it must first go to the AG. The AG Office will see if the threshold is reached for moving forward in court; a yes or a no. How did AG Office push the case through court and how did they miss the false fabricated documents? Or was it all part of their plan; to convict Saints whether they are innocent or guilty?

It's not going unnoticed, the high turnover that the St Helena AG's Office and Police Department have in AG's and Police Chiefs. This clearly shows that our system is flawed. If we can't check if a Doctor has a medical licence to practise, how are we checking if these AG's and Police Chiefs are who they say they are and are qualified for the positions SHG are giving them? Given the crimes they are committing, and the disregard to upholding the law. Is the SHG hiring process relaxed, flawed, or do they simply not have the necessary means or resources?

Kylie Hercules (PSO) says (quote), "there was no confusion, regrettably, this office therefore has no evidence to support your contention that you were tried in court under the wrong name of Damian Phillips." She and Clint Beard were the first Councillors to hold the court document in their hands physically, in the name Damian Phillips.

How can you hold the physical evidence in hand and then say it doesn't exist? This should have again triggered an investigation into my case as they don't have these registered on file; or was it destroyed from my file at PSO or not logged in? Again, a pattern of not logging in evidence/documents and or removal or destruction; same as our Police Department.

During the 2016 Damian Phillips trial, new evidence came to light. Nick Aldridge refused to address the matter. After taking this information to EHRC. This is not representing a client. I was begged to plead guilty by him, saying I would only get community service and that if this was in the UK, I would have gotten away with it (getting away with what? That is the question). He was spending hours with Dave Honan and the AG. First time, a young family member was used as leverage to get me to plead guilty to a Police fabricated crime. It worked well the first time, so the Police repeated it 16 days later on the 29.12.16.

This is not the workings of democracy or any form of law under the British flag that we fly. This is illegal and comes across as dictatorship.

I fired Nick as my Solicitor but he refused to accept, saying it's too late as the case is about to start. He continued to represent me, against my

wishes, as he did not had any of my best interests in mind and was not there to help me or assist me. Nor was he interested with the truth or a client being innocent.

SHG saw fit to make this Solicitor a Chief Magistrate, which is a breach and they knew that beforehand, but we don't have a Judiciary Conduct Investigations Office (JCIO).

Judge Ekins even admitted the new evidence in court that came to light. This has also been removed from court transcripts; again, we don't have a JCIO.

Those patterns again are keep repeating itself. I can see them very clearly.

Probation Officer Victoria Kellet's pre-sentence report is different to what I said – even this holds false information. The only good thing that came out of the Damian Phillips trial was the fact that Nick Aldridge and Judge Ekins had enough of her pre-sentence reports and it was not used - there is a clear pattern to all her reports. I was told to report it to the Governor as there's some complaints in already regarding more of her pre-sentence reports. I did exactly that and, as a result of these complaints combined, her contract for Probation Officer was not renewed. But, SHG saw fit to give her a job in Safeguarding.

A short while later, she caused breaches of my probation by not seeing me; going off to the creche, moving office without telling me. EHRC couldn't even get a hold of her when she moved. Writing letters by post if she has to see me the next day. This is unacceptable and unprofessional behaviour from a Probation Officer.

In court, Judge Ekins believed every word of the two Probation Officers, Fiona and Victoria. The judge couldn't even look at the camera as to look at who I was while punishing me for something that, again, I never did. But what I did learn from that hearing was, and still is, something that you all should know. When these two Probation Officers took to the stand and said if they did anything illegal, they would lose their jobs, what I saw was, in my opinion, these expats looking afraid, scared and small on the stand compared to how they act outside the courtroom. However, fortunately for them, the judge was on their side.

Also, the AG at the time, Angelo Berbotto, called them professionals. Let me show you these so-called professionals and how they treated me while I was doing all I could to engage with them (this ties back to the St FM article in 2019) and who I reported, at every chance I got, about Police tampering, corruption and destroying evidence in the Damian Phillips trial when I had to visit them.

This will either raise the roof or bring it down.

Victoria Kellet: 08/02/17 0830 hrs (Quote)

"Maintains his innocence and once again stated evidence was not presented in trial etc. Today could not take any responsibility for any of his actions and or offending."

"Damien then went off onto a rant about the police and how he perceives that they are corrupt over the way in which they dealt with his case - advised him that if he felt he had a genuine complaint that he should put this in writing to COP however he did not wish to do this for fear of causing another Sasha Wass enquiry - presents as very immature with grandiose sense of self."

If you find that disturbing and or shocking, there's more.

I'm not Damian Phillips, so I don't have to take any responsibility for the actions of someone else's offending.

I'm afraid of another Sasha Wass type enquiry? LMAO, you really don't know Damien Titchy do you? But you're starting to now.

I care about my identity and getting my life back that was taken by the Royal St Helena Police Service deliberately and on purpose. So, whatever comes, comes – I'm hoping it will be a UK/UN (or both) independent investigation into the authorities on St Helena.

Damien Thomas Titchy

Dear Editor,

Please see below my response to correspondence received from the Breaking Silence Community Group.

Dear Breaking the Silence Community Group,

Thank you for your email of the 14th of September, setting out the outcome of your recent discussion and your proposed public meeting on the 28th of September.

I note, and share, your view that matters of public interest should be discussed openly and in a way that allows the wider community to hear both the questions and the answers.

We welcome the fact that residents are taking an active interest in the issues affecting St Helena, particularly the pressures arising from fuel prices and the wider cost of living. As I said in my previous correspondence, these are legitimate matters of public concern, and Government has a responsibility both to explain the decisions it makes and to listen carefully to the experiences and concerns of the community.

Government remains committed to open engagement with residents and to ensuring that matters of public interest are discussed through arrangements that are accessible to the wider community.

Since my previous response, all twelve Elected Members have agreed to undertake a further round of constituency meetings which will be attended by Ministers. These meetings, which will take place over three weeks from the week beginning 19th October, will provide an opportunity for residents across the Island to engage directly with their elected representatives on the issues that matter to them. They will be open to the wider community and will complement the existing opportunities for engagement through district representatives, Legislative Council, Ministers' Question Time, Select Committees, consultations and other public forums.

The issues identified by Breaking Silence, including fuel prices, household pressures, the cost of living, energy security and Government expenditure, can all be raised through those meetings.

We believe this is the fairest and most inclusive approach. It ensures that the same opportunity is available to residents throughout St Helena and that engagement is not dependent upon membership of, or attendance at meetings organised by, any particular group.

Members of Breaking Silence are, of course, very welcome to attend the constituency meetings, raise questions and contribute to the discussion in exactly the same way as any other member of the community.

Where questions require detailed information that cannot reasonably be provided at the meeting, these can be followed up and the information placed in the public domain.

We believe the forthcoming constituency meetings provide the most appropriate forum for these discussions and will engage with residents through those arrangements.

YOUR LETTERS

I would also gently clarify one aspect of your letter. While your correspondence states that it is "not intended to be an invitation requiring an acceptance or decline" it subsequently states that "the Government will be there". Attendance by Ministers at an event organised by an external group cannot reasonably be assumed before an invitation has been considered and accepted.

The agreed constituency meetings are intended to provide precisely the open, face-to-face discussion that your letter advocates, but on a basis that is accessible to the whole community and recognises the representative responsibilities of all twelve Elected Members.

We must also remember the important role that councillors play in public and community engagement. Engaging with residents and understanding the issues affecting their communities is a fundamental part of their role as elected representatives. Councillors are often the first point of contact for constituents and provide an essential link between local communities and decision-makers. It would therefore be wrong to bypass them on matters that directly affect the people they represent, as their involvement helps ensure that local concerns and perspectives are properly heard and considered.

I also want to return briefly to the question of accountability and transparency raised in our previous correspondence.

I fully accept that Breaking Silence may wish to operate collectively and that there is no need for Government to know the names of everyone who attends its meetings. Nor are we asking for a membership list.

However, where an organisation submits formal correspondence, publishes statements, conducts public campaigns and represents those statements as the collective position of a wider group of residents, it remains reasonable to know who is authorised to correspond on its behalf, who takes responsibility for its public communications, and the process by which collective positions are agreed.

Our request for that basic information therefore remains outstanding. Government will continue to communicate publicly about the pressures facing the Island, the choices available to us and the work being undertaken to address them. We will not always agree with every proposal put forward, and Government will sometimes have to make difficult decisions, but constructive challenge and public participation are an important part of democratic government.

I therefore hope members of Breaking Silence will participate in the forthcoming constituency meetings and contribute positively to those discussions alongside other members of the community.

In the spirit of open and transparent communications, please note this correspondence will be shared with local media.

With kind regards,
Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, MBE, DPhil.
Chief Minister

NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

"The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, 01st October 2026, at 10 am in the St Helena Community College Main Hall, Jamestown**.

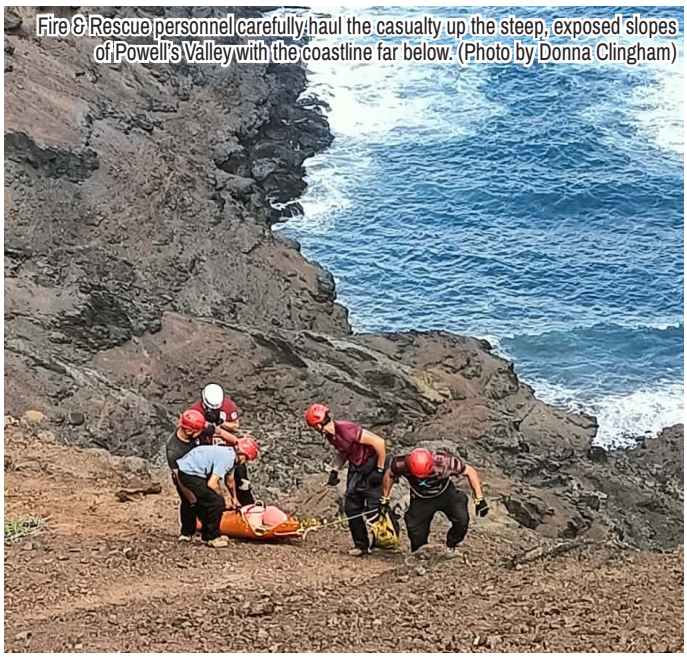
Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted version of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page of the SHG Web Site. Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 24724.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting".

A Rescue on Rugged Terrain

Fire & Rescue Service execute "challenging" extraction at Powell's Valley



Fire & Rescue personnel carefully haul the casualty up the steep, exposed slopes of Powell's Valley with the coastline far below. (Photo by Donna Clingham)

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Fire & Rescue Service (SHF&RS) recently carried out a complex emergency extraction at Powell's Valley, successfully rescuing an injured hiker from one of the island's more remote Post Box Walks late last month. Emergency services were alerted on the afternoon of Sunday, 30 August, after receiving urgent reports of a walker in significant pain and unable to walk along the Powell's Valley trail. The casualty has since been confirmed as local medical practitioner Dr. Annette Delacourt, who has subsequently been medically referred to South Africa for further treatment.

In an official statement detailing the operation, the Fire & Rescue Service outlined how emergency personnel, working directly alongside members of the medical team, made their way down the steep and rugged Post Box Walk while carrying the specialist extraction equipment required for the task.

Describing the initial approach down the valley, the SHF&RS noted that "with the terrain proving challenging to negotiate, crews worked carefully to reach the casualty and provide the necessary assistance".

Once emergency personnel reached Dr. Delacourt, she was assessed on scene and "safely packaged using a longboard and Sked rescue stretcher". The return journey required a rigorous physical effort from the response team as they navigated the steep gradient and rough footpaths.

The Service explained that "a coordinated effort involving members of Fire & Rescue crews then saw the casualty carefully dragged and carried back along the difficult terrain to the start of the Post Box Walk, where they were transferred into an ambulance and handed over to the medical team".

The extraction was further complicated by adverse weather conditions along the exposed coastal route. The SHF&RS highlighted that the operation was carried out in "challenging conditions with high winds," emphasising "the demanding nature of responding to incidents in St Helena's more remote and challenging locations".

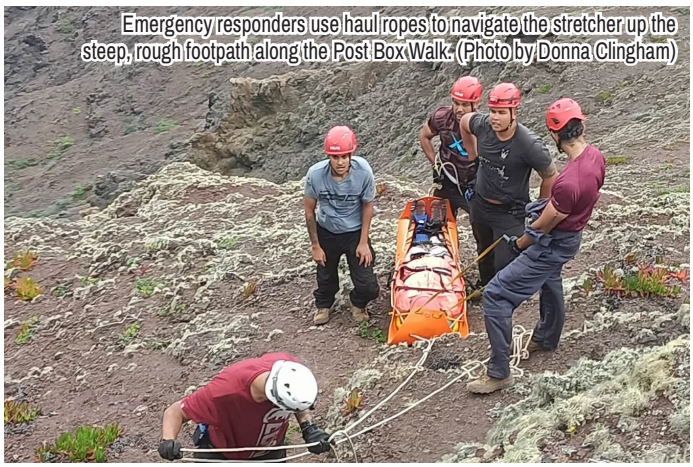
The successful rescue serves as a strong testament to the dedication, endurance, and seamless coordination between our island's emergency services and medical personnel during off-road operations. The Sentinel extends its congratulations to the Fire & Rescue Service and all teams involved for a job exceptionally well done, while sending our warmest wishes to Dr. Annette for a full and speedy recovery.



Crews carefully guide the stretcher past rocky obstacles during the grueling ascent back to the main track. (Photo by Donna Clingham)



Responders package Dr. Annette Delacourt using a longboard and Sked rescue stretcher prior to beginning the climb. (Photo by Donna Clingham)



Emergency responders use haul ropes to navigate the stretcher up the steep, rough footpath along the Post Box Walk. (Photo by Donna Clingham)

Officially Her Excellency

St Helena welcomes Governor Belinda Lewis during official inauguration ceremony



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Saturday, 12 September, at 2pm, Ms. Belinda Lewis officially became St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha's 69th Governor.

Islanders gathered from just past 1pm to attend the inauguration ceremony set to take place on the Courthouse steps at the Grand Parade area in Jamestown. In the week preceding the ceremony, the stage was erected and festively decorated in British flags and colours, creating a patriotic sight to welcome all attending the event. Invited guests arrived to be seated on the stage with the Combined Brass band at the ready to entertain to the right of the stage.

The program commenced with the arrival of the uniformed contingents comprised of the Royal St Helena Police Service, Fire and Rescue Services, Prison Service, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Girl Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, Nurses and Paramedics and Customs Officers. At 2pm the then still Governor-designate, Belinda Lewis, and her husband, Major Anthony Galvin (USMC Retired), arrived at the Grand Parade accompanied by the ever-dependable Debbie Yon. Upon their arrival on stage, the band launched into the first six bars of the National Anthem.

Chief Secretary, Ian Todd, then welcomed Ms. Lewis and read the Royal Commission appointing the Governor-designate as the new Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. Mrs. Ethel Yon, Sheriff of St Helena, then proceeded to administer the Oaths of Office to officially inaugurate Governor Lewis.

Ethel welcomed Governor Lewis and her family to the island affirming our community's loyalty to the Crown. The Sheriff also highlighted some of the current geo-political challenges worldwide while she stated that, in spite of not being immune to these, "we are grateful to live in a stable and save community". This was followed by Chief Minister Rebecca Cairns-Wicks' reading of the Address of Welcome on behalf of the Government of St Helena during which she remarked that this was no ordinary posting, expressing the hope that it will become more than a posting, but a happy home to the family. The Chief Minister emphasised that the island is defined



by its people, their attributes and resilience, but that "Government needs to learn, prepare and strengthen the systems on which" the community depend to rise above challenges like an ageing population and rising cost of living.

Her Excellency The Governor then replied to both addresses by saying, "I am grateful for the remarkable warmth with which I and my family have been received as we have begun to make St Helena our home." She continued to pledge to discharge her duties to the best of her abilities stating, "I will listen carefully, learn with humility and serve you with diligence, integrity and respect."

"St Helena has a long proud history and it also has a promising future," Governor Lewis continued. "I want to celebrate this and I am ready to play my part to help realise the potential of the many opportunities the Chief Minister has noted and to advance the interests of the communities we are all here to serve." Governor Lewis ended by agreeing with the Chief Minister that "progress is best made when people work together with honesty, courtesy and determination," promising that this would be her approach during her term as Governor.

Concluding the official program, the combined brass band played one verse of the National Anthem before the Governor proceeded to inspect the parade with the Aide de Camp and the Parade Commander. Her Excellency took time to meet several of the participants in the parade, especially devoting time to greet some of the younger ones.

Prayers and blessings then took place led by The Right Reverend, the Lord Bishop of St Helena, Dale Bowers.

The parade Commander then approached Her Excellency to request permission to march past at which time the Governor received the salute from the uniformed contingents.

Accompanied by Major Galvin, Governor Lewis then proceeded to the Court House to meet the dignitaries, officials, invited guests and members of the public. During the official meet and greet, light refreshments were also served in the Court House.

The Sentinel welcomes Governor Lewis together with her family and wishes her all the best for her term of office.















"Realism and Openness" marked by rising outages, declining renewables, and unresolved water turbidity

Utilities Regulatory Authority publishes comprehensive review on Connect St Helena's Quality of Services for 2025/26, praising executive transparency while warning of critical grid faults, asset cannibalisation, and long-standing water quality failures



Connect St Helena's main office in Jamestown

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) has published its findings following an extensive review of Connect St Helena's Annual Report on the Quality of Services provided for the 2025/26 reporting year. While the independent regulatory body acknowledged an improved working relationship with utility management, the published report details a sobering picture of public infrastructure across the island, characterised by rising electrical network faults, falling renewable energy output, unresolved water turbidity issues, and severe capital funding bottlenecks.

Opening their published evaluation, the URA confirmed that it had completed its detailed assessment under the statutory framework established by the Utility Services Ordinance 2013, reiterating that the review "is principally concerned with motivating the Utilities Provider to improve the quality of the services they provide" while ensuring that consumers are protected from unreasonably low levels of service.

In a notable shift from previous regulatory reviews, the URA opened its assessment by highlighting positive changes within Connect's executive leadership. The Authority commended outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Roeland van der Hoeven, alongside incoming CEO, Phanual Shangwa, noting that recent formal interactions between regulators and executive management were defined by "realism, openness and an obvious desire to engage".

Expressing optimism for the company's governance going forward, the Authority shared its earnest expectation that a "period of stability in senior management now follows" after several years of organisational flux. Crucially, the URA welcomed Connect's strategic decision to abandon previously "unrealistic timetables" for rapid renewable energy transformation. The regulator noted that past commitments to achieve total green energy generation within compressed timeframes had proven unachievable, praising the utility's new leadership for adopting a structured, phased approach to capital investments under the Public Utilities Development Plan (PUDP).

Despite a more collaborative relationship at the executive level, the URA made it clear that physical service delivery across the island's power distribution system remains under severe strain. The Authority reported a dramatic



New Connect St Helena CEO, Phanual Shangwa. The URA commended new executive management for introducing "realism and openness" to long-term planning

increase in high-voltage distribution failure incidents, noting that "the number of faults on the electricity network have increased over the last two years from 48 to 72 and now 125" distinct network fault events.

Addressing power supply interruptions, the URA highlighted performance against the PUDP metric known as Customer Minutes Lost (CML)—the standard benchmark measuring the average duration customers remain without electrical power over the year. While the reported figure of 547 minutes per customer represented a minor statistical improvement from the 591 minutes recorded in the preceding period, the Authority stressed that this level of outage remains "still far too high" for an island utility.

To contextualize the island's outage figures, the URA observed in a previous report for 2024/25 that performance targets in the United Kingdom are typically set below 40 minutes per year (even when accounting for severe weather disruptions), while comparable island territories such as Alderney recorded a CML of 24.99 minutes and Jersey achieved 7.7 minutes. The Authority thus concluded in their latest report for 2025/26 that St Helena's power system continues to suffer from frequent outages as a direct result of a distribution grid "sorely in need of investment," where aging overhead infrastructure remains acutely vulnerable to environmental hazards and falling trees.

Renewable energy generation was singled out as another operational sector where results remain deeply concerning. The URA revealed that Connect produced only 9% of the island's total electricity from renewable sources during the 2025/26 reporting year. This figure marks a further drop from the 11% recorded in 2024/25 and stands as a sharp reduction from seven years ago, when 25% of the island's electricity was generated by renewables in 2017/18.

The primary catalyst for this continuing decline is the deteriorating condition of the Deadwood Wind Farm. Out of the original installation of twelve wind turbines, six have now been permanently decommissioned and systematically dismantled to provide spare parts to keep the remaining six operational. Describing this practice of asset cannibalisation, the URA noted that while it has kept limited wind generation functional in the short term, it underlines the urgent necessity for replacement capital.

Addressing future capacity, the URA detailed Connect's proposed multi-million-pound energy transition plan, which centres on constructing a 1.9-megawatt solar photovoltaic array combined with a 2-megawatt / 7-megawatt-hour Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). However, the Authority cautioned that while this project represents a viable long-term solution, actual progress remains constrained by external funding approvals under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

In what proved to be a major technical victory for Connect during the reporting year, power quality metrics met required regulatory thresholds. Following severe non-compliance issues in the previous review—where voltage magnitude fluctuations and supply flicker posed direct risks to consumer appliances—the URA confirmed that power quality standards were fully satisfied during 2025/26. The Authority welcomed this rectification, noting that protecting customer electrical equipment from damaging grid instability is a fundamental obligation of the utility provider.

However, operational continuity across all technical departments continues to be disrupted by high personnel turnover. The URA reported that annual staff turnover remained elevated at 12%. The regulator asserted that for a relatively small public company with limited succession planning, losing over a tenth of its workforce annually is "far too high and directly impacts upon the service to customers". Key technical vacancies—most notably the unfilled positions of Project Manager and Civil Engineer—were cited as primary drivers behind persistent delays in executing essential maintenance programmes and capital projects.

Turning to the island's water supply, the URA reported that while 100% microbiological safety was successfully maintained across all distribution networks, physical water quality indicators presented a dire picture. Water turbidity—the measure of suspended sediment causing cloudiness in drinking water—remains "stubbornly high and have been increasing over time" across almost every catchment zone.

The problem is particularly severe in the Jamestown distribution network, where average turbidity levels worsened to 7.9 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). This figure sits well above the World Health Organisation's


Six of the original 12 wind turbines at Deadwood have been permanently dismantled for spare parts as renewable generation dropped to 9% in 2025/26

maximum aesthetic and safety threshold of 5 NTU. The URA observed that public drinking water in several districts remains "unpleasant to drink and is at times discoloured," leading the regulator to issue a sharp rebuke stating that Connect "has not been taking the issue of high turbidity seriously enough".

Giving historical context to the ongoing water treatment delays, the Authority recalled that capital submissions to address Jamestown's turbidity were identified as Connect's highest priority as far back as 2018. Despite repeated assurances over successive reporting cycles that specialised flocculation and filtration systems would be installed; design and implementation timelines continue to be pushed back. Expressing renewed exasperation at these recurring delays, the URA emphasised that regulatory oversight becomes extremely difficult when the utility provider routinely fails to meet its own project delivery schedules.

Network water loss across Connect's aging distribution pipework remains another major area of friction. Systemic water loss was recorded at 47% during the financial year, representing a negligible change from the 48% loss reported in the previous period.

The URA noted with concern that Connect continues to attribute these excessive losses to the dilapidated state of the pipe network inherited at company inception in 2013. The Authority countered this explanation by pointing out that after 13 years of commercial operation, consumers should not still be enduring massive water losses that have remained virtually unchanged over the past six years.

Concurrently, overdue capital schemes to modernise the island's wastewater infrastructure remain stalled. Essential sewerage main replacements in Half Tree Hollow and comprehensive upgrades to the Jamestown wastewater system have seen little physical progress. The URA cited severe capital funding constraints as "the major obstacle" preventing these essential public health projects from moving forward.

On the financial front, Connect St Helena achieved a net profit of £402,318 for the 2025/26 financial year, marking a positive turnaround from the £78,330 loss recorded in the previous reporting period. However, the URA pointed out that this net surplus was achieved only after accounting for the substantial operational subsidy provided by the St Helena Government. Prior to subsidy injection, the utility operated at an underlying deficit of £1.512 million.

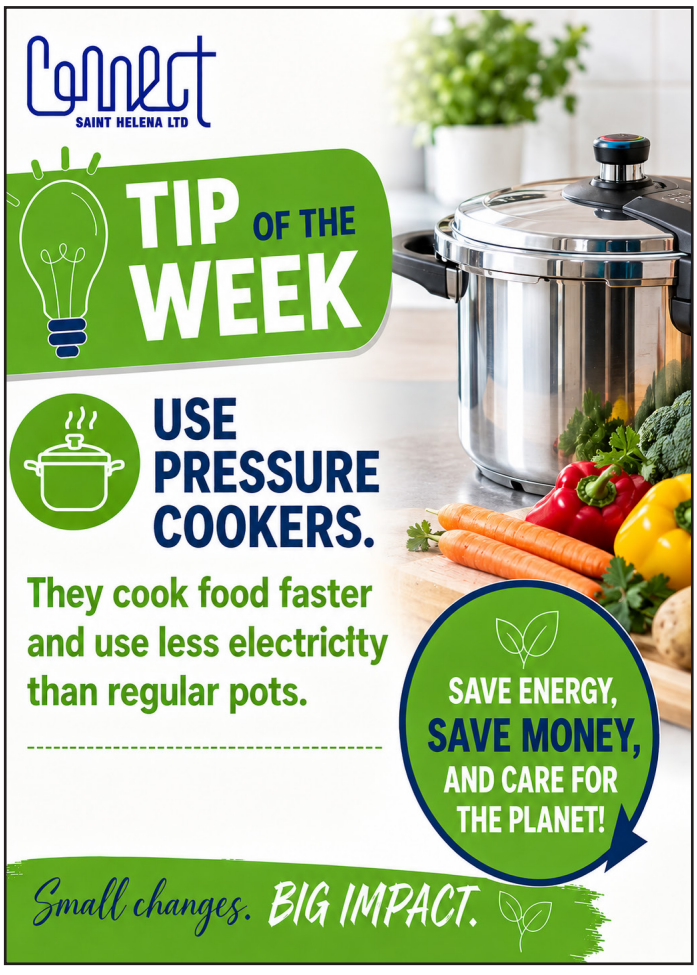
Underlying balance sheet health remains precarious. The company's dedicated Asset Replacement Fund—intended to fund the replacement of worn-out plant and machinery—currently carries a deficit of £500,000. Furthermore, customer debt levels remain elevated, which the regulator linked to recent tariff adjustments that have proven "highly challenging" for household budgets across the island.

In its concluding observations, the URA reiterated that while the improved transparency and realistic outlook demonstrated by Connect's new executive leadership is a welcome development, significant structural work lies ahead to stabilise the island's power and water infrastructure. The Authority stated it will continue to monitor performance closely under the PUDP targets to ensure that promised capital projects are delivered without further delay.

The complete review by the Utilities Regulatory Authority has been published for public inspection. Members of the public wishing to review the full documentation can request a copy by emailing Judicial Services Manager, Yvonne Williams, at yvonne.williams@judicialservices.sh or accessing the public file online via https://drive.proton.me/urls/A7QHAXBW1R#fMgf9OMqYsZg



Tap water in Jamestown, where turbidity averaged 7.9 NTU during 2025-26, exceeding World Health Organisation safety guidelines



Progress and Secrecy

ExCo approves Tourism Strategy and rejects Children's Champion ToRs, but key decisions remain in the dark, with little feedback given



Executive Council's latest session saw key policy approvals, though several high-profile tender and telecommunications items were agreed by email without published outcomes

Liam Yon, SAMS

The Executive Council met on Tuesday, 8 September, approving a long-term tourism roadmap and sending proposed changes for the Children's Champion back to the drawing board. The session also marked the final ExCo meeting under former Governor, Nigel Phillips, with Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks thanking him for his "support, advice, honesty, hard work, and dedicated service" ahead of his retirement.

A primary focus of the meeting was the approval of the Tourism Strategy and Delivery Plan 2026–2032 (ExCo Memo 34/2026). Members endorsed the strategy as the operational framework for the island's Tourism Development Programme, recognising that tourism remains the largest contributor to St Helena's economy outside of financial aid and remittances. Council commended the "evidence-based approach used to inform the Strategy," noting that its key objective is providing industry stability and that successful implementation will require cross-sector collaboration.

In contrast, Executive Council declined to approve proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Children's Champion under the Welfare of Children Ordinance, 2010 (ExCo Memo 36/2026). Members raised concerns that expanding the remit to young people up to age 25 risked "extending the Champion's functions outside of the Welfare of Children Ordinance" and blurred "the distinction between strategic oversight and operational" duties. The ToRs were referred back to the Safeguarding of Children Board, with existing terms remaining in place for the time being.

Ministers also considered policy options for a Victims' Code of Practice and a proposal for compensation awarded to offenders to be held in a protected trust account to protect victims' interests (ExCo Memo 35/2026).

Additionally, Council approved a customs duty exemption for Chromebooks for Education.

While the publication of ExCo 'Top Lines' is intended to promote openness and public transparency, the latest release leaves islanders largely in the dark regarding three major agenda items.

Under section 7 of the report, which recorded decisions made by email ExCo, three significant items were listed including '7.1, Invitation to Tender (ITT) for Main Building Works – St Helena New Prison (ExCo Memo 32/2026)', '7.2, SHG and Sure Memorandum of Understanding – Delivery, Operation and Future Development of Electronic Communications and Broadcasting on St Helena (ExCo Memo 33/2026)', and '7.3, Select Committees (Establishment) Order, 2026'.

Despite the substantial public interest in the new prison tender and the island's critical telecommunications and broadcasting framework, the official summary provided no detail on the contents or outcomes of these discussions, stating only that, "Executive Council agreed with the decisions made for 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3."

Although Minister Thrower reportedly outlined "next steps for SHG and Sure SA Ltd following the approval of the MOU," no further context or specifics were disclosed in the summary. While publishing Top Lines remains a welcome initiative, entries that omit substance on high-profile infrastructure and telecom decisions fall short of delivering true clarity to the public.

A Sector at a Crossroads

SHG to unveil Fishing Policy Options paper tomorrow ahead of five-week consultation period, following the June release of Situational Analysis report that drew criticism and calls for a "pause" of the review by Cllr Julie Thomas



Local fishers landing tuna on the wharf. Reliable access to ice, processing infrastructure, and market channels remain central concerns for the fleet

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Government (SHG) will publish its long-awaited discussion document titled 'The Future of the Fishing Industry: Options for Policy' tomorrow, Friday 18 September, launching a pivotal five-week public consultation on the future of the island's fishing industry. The consultation period, running from Monday, 21 September, to Friday, 23 October, seeks to gather widespread feedback from fishers, commercial operators, and the public on potential regulatory and operational pathways, and forms part of the ongoing Fisheries Review.

In its announcement, SHG was careful to clarify that the discussion paper presents non-binding pathways. "It is important to note that no decisions have yet been made regarding which options, if any, will be recommended by Ministers," the government stated, emphasising that the paper is designed strictly to stimulate public debate as opposed to prescribing final policies.

As such, digital copies of the paper will be published on the SHG website tomorrow, with printed copies placed at the Public Library and Post Office. To encourage participation, SHG has scheduled three public meetings at The Museum in Jamestown at 7pm on Thursdays—24 September, 1 October, and 8 October. Drop-in information stalls will also operate outside The Canister every Thursday, from 12noon to 2pm, starting 24 September. In addition, written comments can be submitted to fisheries.consultation@saintheleana.gov.sh, while individual stakeholders can book one-on-one sessions with Head of Strategic Policy, Ann Muir.

This new options paper aims to build directly on the 97-page 'Situational Analysis of St Helena's Fishing Industry' released in June. Authored by Ann Muir and commissioned by Minister Karl Thrower, that report offered an extensive assessment of the sector's historical shifts—including the 2020 closure of the St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC), the £500,000 refurbishment of the processing plant, and the operational handover to Saints Tuna Corporation (STC).

While highlighting progress in marine conservation under the Marine Protected Area (MPA) framework and traditional one-by-one fishing methods, the analysis laid bare systemic vulnerabilities; including high operating costs, market volatility, disputes over local Total Allowable Catches (TACs), and the proliferation of an informal, unregulated fish market.

However, as SHG moves into this consultation phase, the review process faces mounting scrutiny from within Legislative Council. Following the release of the June analysis, Councillor Julie Thomas issued an Open Letter to the Chief Minister and Acting Chief Secretary, challenging the core premises of the government's approach and formally calling for a complete pause to the review.

Councillor Thomas rejected SHG's framing of the island's fisheries crisis as part of "seventy years of unresolved difficulties," arguing instead that current struggles stem directly from post-2021 operational arrangements surrounding the publicly-funded processing facility.

"When government committed public funds to refurbish the facility, the intention was not to create advantages for a select few operators," Cllr Thomas wrote. "The investment was intended to support the commercial



Minister for Economic Development and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Karl Thrower, who commissioned the comprehensive fisheries review



Head of Strategic Policy Ann Muir, author of the 97-page Situational Analysis, who will lead upcoming public consultation sessions



Councillor Julie Thomas, who formally requested an independent assessment of the review process before proceeding

fishing sector as a whole... the question that should therefore be asked is not whether additional facilities are required, but why the existing publicly-funded facility is not delivering the outcomes for which that investment was made".

The former Chief Minister also criticised administrative comparisons between St Helena's traditional day-boat fishers and overseas industrial operations, emphasising that local fishers face persistent barriers in accessing ice, processing, and reliable routes to market.

She also warned that non-attendance by local fishermen at government meetings signalled deep-seated mistrust rather than apathy, cautioning against drafting long-term policies on potentially flawed and incomprehensive data. "I formally call upon government to pause the current Fisheries Review and commission an independent assessment of the Situational Analysis to determine its accuracy, completeness, balance and suitability," Cllr Thomas urged.

Nearly three months later, and with the Options for Policy paper set to land on Friday, the coming weeks will test whether SHG's public consultation can bridge the trust gap with local fishers or if demands for an independent overhaul will gain further momentum across the community.

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

Communications Officer

Connect Saint Helena Ltd has a vacancy for a Communications Officer. The successful candidate is responsible for developing and implementing effective communication strategies to enhance Connect Saint Helena Ltd.'s (Connect) public image, engage stakeholders, and promote key initiatives. This role involves content creation, media relations, digital engagement, and internal communications to ensure consistent messaging across all platforms.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- Communications, Public Relations, Journalism, Marketing,
- Experience with graphic design, video editing or email marketing tools
- Website design and digital analytics
- Driving Licence, Class A

QUALIFICATIONS

- GCSE English and Maths at Grade C or above
- Public Relations/Journalism

BENEFITS

- A competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.
- 15% pension contributions of the base salary and 30 days annual leave.

For further information and a full Job Description please contact Clare Harris +290 22255 or email Clare.Harris@connectonline.co.sh
Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Claire.B.Duncan@connectonline.co.sh by 9:00am on Monday, 5 October 2026. To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.

www.connect.co.sh/vacancies.html | connectsainthelenaltd | https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-saint-helena-ltd/

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. Sep 18
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Sep 19
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 1:00pm: Northwards Sounds
- 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. Sep 20
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Donna Crowie
- 12 noon: MQT/Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Sep 21
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 1pm-3pm: Indie Waves with Sue
- 3-5pm: DNA with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30 In The Know

TUE. Sep 22
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Sep 23
- 7am: Morning show with Deon
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett

THU. Sep
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 11am: All things Maritme
- 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





Have you ever heard five types of music all in one day?

On Sunday, from 7am to 12 noon, you will hear some gospel music and then some 60's, plus much more!

Not giving too much much away - just be sure to tune in on Sunday.

Jyst don't burn the roast pork, because Donna is sure to have you singing along and dancing around that kitchen; making you forget about everything!

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 'Hard'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday





17 September 1683 - Dutch scientist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek is the first to report the existence of bacteria

We know the struggle! Week 2 of the kids being back to School and we're wondering what to put in their lunch boxes. As mentioned last week, Pumpkin and Butternut Squash are two items that can be found in most shops at the moment. A few weeks ago, we shared a chocolate energy ball recipe, but today we are going to try 'No Bake Pumpkin Energy Balls' - we know it sounds strange, but it's very easy to do – and make sure get the kids involved!

No Bake Pumpkin Energy Balls



Ingredients

- 1 cup (100g) Rolled Oats
- ½ Cup (120g) Pumpkin Puree
- ½ Cup (120g) Peanut Butter
- 2-4 tablespoons honey/ Golden Syrup
- 2 tablespoons Chia seeds
- 2 tablespoon Ground flaxseeds
- 1 ½ teaspoon of pumpkin spice (you can make your own blend by combining Nutmeg, Ginger, Cinnamon, cloves and all spice)

Method

1. Add oats to a food process or blender and grind until it turns into flour. You can also use oat flour.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine all the ingredients. Using a spoon shape into small bite sized balls. Enjoy!

Notes

- Swap peanut butter with other nut or seed butter, if needed.
- You can use all chia or ground flax seeds. I personally recommend chia seeds as they add a nice "pop" of texture.
- Transfer to an airtight container and keep in the refrigerator for up to one week or freeze for up to 3 months.



The Island Pulse

One Year On: Councillors Reflect on Their First Year Since the 2025 General Election



— **Cllr Julie Thomas,Communication Champion,** Contributed

With the first anniversary of the 2025 General Election approaching, this week's *The Island Pulse* gave all seven Councillors an opportunity to reflect on their first year in office – the issues they have championed, the progress made, the challenges encountered and what they believe still requires attention.

Rather than attempting to cover everything they have worked on during the past 12 months, the Councillors agreed that each would focus on one issue they have been campaigning or advocating for during their first year. The topics therefore should not be interpreted as representing the only areas each Councillor has been working on, but rather as a snapshot of issues they felt were important to highlight with the community.

The discussion also began with an update from Select Committee 1 following its recent public hearing on the Labour Market Strategy.

Labour Market Strategy report approved

Chair of Select Committee 1, Councillor Robert Midwinter, confirmed that following the Committee's sixth live public hearing on 28 August, the Committee met on Tuesday 8 September and approved its report.

The report contains **16 recommendations** arising from the hearing and will now be sent to the Minister responsible for Education, Skills and Employment, Minister Andrew Turner, and Chief Secretary Ian Todd, for their feedback, acceptance or comments.

Once that process has been completed, the report and the Government's response will be laid together before Legislative Council at its next formal sitting.

Agriculture – moving from policy to implementation

For newly elected Councillor Dennis Leo, agriculture was the focus of his reflection on the first year.

He described working on the Agricultural Policy as a highlight, particularly because policy development was one of the reasons he wanted to enter Council.

Councillor Leo highlighted agriculture's importance to employment, the local economy and food security, but also the significant challenges facing the sector. These include an ageing workforce and skills gap, limited scale and productivity, heavy reliance on manual labour, limited adoption of mechanisation and modern agricultural technology, and underdeveloped marketing of local produce.

With St Helena heavily dependent on imported food, he said increasing and sustaining local production in priority areas is essential to improving food security and reducing reliance on imports.

The policy objectives include increasing the availability of good-quality and affordable local produce, encouraging more sustainable agriculture, improving stewardship of agricultural land and strengthening the management of invasive species, biosecurity and disease risks.

A key element of the selected policy option is the introduction of a farm manager.

Councillor Leo explained that the role will involve working with tenants and producers to coordinate annual production, cropping and marketing plans, rather than simply telling farmers what to do. Existing tenants of key agricultural assets are expected to be invited to participate through revised 10-year agreements, with agreed performance expectations.

Implementation will initially focus on arable production before extending to livestock and poultry.

Councillor Leo also stressed the importance of public participation when consultation begins. He believes the conversation should extend beyond farmers to consumers, asking what produce people currently cannot obtain locally and what they would like to see available.

He also suggested that farmers could benefit from a more structured association, potentially under the Chamber of Commerce, to support collective planning and coordination.

Putting more money into people's pockets

Councillor Ronald Coleman chose the cost of living as the key issue from his first year.

He explained that one of his main reasons for standing for election was concern about St Helena's future and a desire to improve quality of life without leaving anyone behind.

He has consistently raised the increasing cost of essentials in Legislative Council, including fuel, bread, transport, fresh meat and vegetables, and more recently fresh fish.

Councillor Coleman stressed that cost-of-living pressures are no longer restricted to those on the lowest incomes, with low- and middle-income households also struggling to make ends meet.

His central message is that more money should be put into people's pockets so that individuals and families can decide how best to use it.

He identified income tax as one area where change could help, including consideration of increasing thresholds or introducing different bands to provide greater benefit to lower-income households.

He also supports consideration of targeted subsidies for low- and middle-income households, pensioners and those receiving benefits.

For Councillor Coleman, the cost of living sits alongside agriculture and fisheries as key areas requiring continued attention.

Local opportunity and building the

island's workforce

Councillor Clint Beard focused on local opportunity, a central commitment in his election manifesto.

He said those on the electoral roll put Councillors into office and that building public confidence is therefore fundamental to effective representation. He has sought to provide residents with as much information as possible when questions are raised, emphasising that this must include honest information, even when the answer may not be what people want to hear.

For Councillor Beard, local opportunity is particularly important in recruitment, training and career progression.

He questioned whether local employees always receive fair parity within employment structures and argued that where Technical Cooperation Officers are brought to St Helena to provide specialist skills, those skills should be passed on to local workers.

He described this as leaving a "legacy" – ensuring that specialist expertise remains on island after the individual eventually leaves.

He also wants St Helena's training budget to be used more effectively to develop the local workforce, with appropriate conditions where necessary to ensure that investment produces a lasting benefit.

However, Councillor Beard made clear that supporting local opportunity does not mean rejecting overseas workers. Where local people cannot fill essential positions, including roles caring for the elderly or working in healthcare, external workers will still be needed.

The challenge, he said, is getting the balance right.

He ended with a fundamental question about St Helena's future: are we giving people the opportunity and incentive to stay, or simply allowing them the choice to leave?

For Councillor Beard, "business as usual is not an option."

Protecting pensioners

Councillor Robert Midwinter reflected on his continuing work on pensions, alongside his existing responsibilities as Chair of Select Committee 1 and Elected Member representative on the Liberated African Advisory Committee.

He highlighted the ongoing campaign for indexation of UK State Pensions for eligible recipients on St Helena, noting that despite provisions under the BIOT agreement, this has not yet been achieved. The matter continues to be pursued, including through the UK Overseas Territories Association.

Closer to home, Councillor Midwinter has also been advocating for the Basic Island Pension (BIP) to be index-linked.

He pointed out that BIP recipients include some of the island's lowest-income pensioners and argued that they deserve protection against rising living costs.

Many of today's pensioners did not have access to pension schemes during their working lives, he said, and that was not their fault. He believes St Helena therefore has a responsibility to ensure they have a liveable income in retirement.

Communication as part of good governance

For Councillor Julie Thomas, the issue she chose to highlight was communication, scrutiny and accountability.

Having served as St Helena's inaugural Chief Minister for four years following the 2021 election, Councillor Thomas said her role changed significantly when she returned to Council as a Councillor in 2025, but her commitment to communication did not.

That has continued through The *Island Pulse*, her weekly synopsis provided in The Sentinel, social media and support for the Legislative Council's communications.

She stressed, however, that communication must work in both directions. While Councillors have a responsibility to communicate with the public, they also need timely and meaningful information from Ministers and the Executive to enable effective scrutiny and representation.

Councillor Thomas highlighted instances where information had entered the public domain before Councillors had been properly briefed, including elements of the Budget, Child Benefit changes, concessionary transport fares for over-70s and the Property Disposal Plan 2026–2030.

She emphasised that this was not about blaming individuals, but about recognising that communication is part of good governance.

Her 2025 campaign message was "time is of the essence", and she said this applies not only to delivering projects and making decisions, but also to communicating with the community.

The Fisheries Review provides a clear example. Having taken considerably longer than originally anticipated, the review has left commercial fishermen facing prolonged uncertainty. The forthcoming Options Paper will set out potential ways forward, but will not itself conclude the review, with a decision not expected until December 2026.

Councillor Thomas stressed the importance of meaningful engagement with those directly affected before decisions are made.

She also highlighted Bunkers Hill, where residents have waited for progress and clarity. Even where projects face financial, technical or other difficulties, she argued, communication should continue.

Her message for year two is therefore that transparency and timely communication strengthen both accountability and public confidence.

Customs tariffs and affordability

Dr Corinda Essex chose the review of customs tariffs as the issue she has pursued particularly strongly during the past year.

She said she remained disappointed at how long it has taken for issues to move from discussion to action and recalled bringing a motion almost a year ago calling for a comprehensive review of customs tariffs, with particular emphasis on making essential goods more affordable.

She pointed to toilet rolls as one example, noting that this essential household item continues to attract 20% duty.

She also highlighted building costs, where items such as sewage pipes and plumbing materials can attract 20% duty despite many other building materials carrying lower rates.

Fuel costs and duties on petrol and diesel were also raised as an associated concern.

Dr Essex recently met with the Chief Minister, Financial Secretary, Senior Economist and Deputy Financial Secretary to discuss the implications of potential fuel increases and possible mitigation measures.

The customs tariff review is now being considered by the Tax and Revenue Working Group, and Dr Essex said she hopes both this work and the consideration of fuel mitigation will lead promptly to practical measures benefiting households and businesses.

From quick wins to delivery

Councillor Derek Thomas also focused on the pace of progress and delivery against issues raised by the public.

He said one of his priorities was greater involvement of all Councillors in matters of national importance, allowing them to contribute to decision-making and help inform the public. He believes this has not happened to the extent he envisaged.

As Elderly Persons Champion, he highlighted the challenges faced by elderly residents and called for consideration of an uplift to the Basic Island Pension and benefits.

He welcomed the Budget announce-

ment of concessionary bus fares for people over 70 but expressed frustration that the promised August announcement had still not been made by September.

Other issues he continues to pursue include affordable medical care for pensioners, reform of the Casual Work Scheme, the Road Traffic Ordinance, medical testing requirements for drivers over 70 and professional driving licences.

He also welcomed progress on the Land Development Control Plan and flexible building regulations, including the potential to accommodate timber and containerised construction.

Councillor Thomas highlighted his motion calling for a review of Connect Saint Helena's operations and welcomed an audit expected shortly.

He also pointed to progress in renewable energy, with EDIP funding allocated towards the first phase of solar generation and battery storage, and said his ambition is to see energy prices stabilised and ultimately reduced through greater use of renewables.

Better use of the island's fibre-optic cable and improvements to telecommunications are also matters he continues to monitor.

Agriculture and fisheries remain important concerns, including support for full-time farmers through subsidised fuel, water difficulties affecting Longwood farmers, and ensuring St Helena's fishing industry delivers a reliable supply of fresh fish to local consumers.

He also believes St Helena must continue pressing for UK funding support for major infrastructure projects following the loss of previous European development funding.

As Elderly Persons Champion, Councillor Thomas also described his continued engagement with older residents, including visits to elderly persons' institutions and participation in senior citizens' events.

His overall assessment was that progress has been made, but too slowly, and he intends to continue pressing for outstanding issues to reach completion.

Looking towards year two

Although each Councillor selected a different issue for discussion, the programme demonstrated that their work during the first year has extended considerably beyond the individual topics highlighted.

What the discussion did provide was a snapshot of some of the priorities being pursued: strengthening food security, addressing the cost of living, creating meaningful opportunities for local people, protecting pensioners, improving communication and scrutiny, making essential goods more affordable, and ensuring long-awaited policies and projects are delivered.

A common thread was the desire to see greater progress and clearer communication.

As St Helena enters the second year of the current Legislative Council, the seven Councillors remain responsible for representing their constituents, scrutinising Government and bringing community concerns into Legislative Council.

The message to residents was equally clear: **engagement matters**.

Whether through District Representatives, contacting Councillors directly, attending public meetings, listening to Legislative Council or tuning into The Island Pulse, residents have an important role in St Helena's democratic process.

The first year has brought progress, but also highlighted areas where work remains unfinished. The challenge for the second year will be turning advocacy, scrutiny and policy discussions into tangible outcomes – while keeping the community informed along the way.

Connect
SAINT HELENA LTD

CONNECT FOCUSED ON DELIVERY FOLLOWING URA ANNUAL REPORT

Connect Saint Helena Ltd welcomes the Utilities Regulatory Authority's (URA) Annual Report and thanks the Authority for its independent scrutiny and constructive engagement.

We welcome the URA's support for our phased approach to renewable energy and our plans to strengthen essential infrastructure. Our priority for 2026/27 is delivery.

The planned £868,000 capital programme will focus on renewing ageing assets, strengthening the electricity network, replacing priority water mains, improving water quality through treatment and catchment improvements, and enhancing monitoring and leak detection to reduce water losses. We will also progress the phased renewable energy programme, including additional solar generation and battery storage, with implementation aligned to secured funding and delivery capacity.

The Board and management team remain committed to maintaining open engagement with the URA and keeping customers informed as this work progresses. Our focus is on delivering practical improvements that make utility services more reliable, resilient and sustainable for the island.

11 September 2026

Award-Winning Island

St Helena Crowned 'Emerging Family Destination' at Global Travel Awards



The official Family Traveller Award 2026 plaque naming St Helena winner of the Emerging Family Destination category

Young explorers taking in the dramatic coastline at Sandy Bay—highlighting St Helena's unique appeal for authentic, off-the-beaten-track family travel

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena's growing profile on the global tourism stage achieved a major milestone on Friday, 11 September, when the island was officially named 'Emerging Family Destination' at the Family Traveller Awards 2026.

Selected by an expert panel of international family travel journalists before being put to a public vote, the awards celebrate destinations and travel providers delivering exceptional experiences for families. St Helena was shortlisted in two categories—Adventure Family Destination and Emerging Family Destination—standing shoulder-to-shoulder alongside major global destinations including Oman, Lithuania, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, and Virginia Beach.

The win highlights the island's unique appeal to travellers seeking authentic, off-the-beaten-track adventure, dramatic natural landscapes, marine biodiversity, and rich historical heritage away from conventional tourist hotspots. St Helena Government's UK Representative, Kedell Worboys, was present at the London ceremony to receive the accolade on behalf of the island.

Commenting on the achievement, Head of Tourism, Jonathan Passaportis, praised the collective efforts across the local island community and tourism sector. "We are delighted that St Helena has been recognised in the Family Traveller Awards 2026," he said. "This achievement is a testament to the hard work, commitment and passion of the many people across our tourism industry who work every day to create positive and memorable experiences for our visitors."

Jono emphasised that local businesses play a vital role in showcasing St Helena as a welcoming destination for families, while extending sincere thanks to everyone locally and internationally who voted and supported the island throughout the campaign. "Our tourism businesses and their teams play an important role in making St Helena a safe, welcoming and distinctive destination for families, offering opportunities to explore, experience adventure and discover our unique natural, cultural and historic heritage," he continued. "We thank everyone across the industry for their continued commitment to delivering a high-quality visitor experience, and everyone who voted for and supported St Helena."

While the Family Traveller victory marks a major triumph, St Helena's international award season is far from over. The island remains shortlisted for the second consecutive year as the 'Most Desirable Island – Worldwide' in the 25th annual Wanderlust Reader Travel Awards 2026. Islanders, Saints abroad, past visitors, and global supporters are encouraged to keep the momentum going by casting their vote online at wanderlustmagazine.com before voting closes on Tuesday, 27 October 2026. Supporters simply need to search for and select 'Saint Helena' under the 'Most Desirable Island – Worldwide' category. The overall winners will be revealed at an awards ceremony in London on Wednesday, 4 November 2026. Every vote helps raise St Helena's international profile, ensuring our small island continues to make a big impact worldwide.



St Helena Government UK Representative Kedell Worboys receives the Emerging Family Destination 2026 accolade alongside Rochelle Streater, CEO of Family Traveller, in London

Leak Detection Training Strengthens St Helena's Water Network

Specialist training equips Connect Saint Helena's water department with advanced leak detection skills and technology



RR Media Services for Connect Saint Helena Ltd, Contributed

Connect Saint Helena Ltd has recently paired advanced acoustic technology with specialist staff training to tackle water loss across the island. The recent deployment of a new leak detection system in Sandy Bay slashed localised daily water losses by 66% and reduced detection times from days to hours—marking a major step toward lower operational costs and a more reliable water service for St Helena.

Managing a water network on an isolated island presents extraordinary challenges. St Helena's steep, rugged terrain requires separate, radial water networks with minimal redundancy, where high elevation drops demand intense pressure management. Pumping water across the island consumes significant energy, meaning every cubic meter of treated water lost to underground leaks is also a waste of expensive, diesel-generated power.

For years, an ageing distribution network and long pipeline stretches to remote homes have made undetected leaks an ongoing hurdle. Compounded by operational costs and constrained funding, necessary increases to water tariffs have naturally been a source of community frustration. Connect recognises this strain and is taking proactive steps to improve operational efficiency and protect vital resources.

As Mercy Ncube, Technical Manager (Water) at Connect, explains:

"Providing water across St Helena is never straightforward. With our rugged terrain and scattered communities, leaks can be difficult to find and costly to ignore. That's why every improvement we make has a real impact on the service we provide."

To directly combat underground water loss, Connect has recently invested in the Sewerin AQUAPHON® A200, a state-of-the-art electro-acoustic leak detection system.

When a pressurised pipe fractures underground, escaping water creates high-frequency vibrations that travel through both the pipe wall as structure-borne sound and up through the soil as ground-borne sound. The AQUAPHON® A200 captures these microscopic vibrations and converts them into precise visual and audio data.

To overcome St Helena's challenging terrain and windy weather conditions, the system relies on intelligent noise filtering. It automatically analyses sound profiles and applies custom frequency filters to mute ambient background noise while accentuating the specific hiss of leaking water. Completely wireless Sewerin Digital Radio components eliminate cable rustle, giving technicians maximum mobility across difficult landscapes. The data streams directly to a bright five and a half-inch screen. This allows field teams to see underground fractures instantly and pinpoint their exact location without digging large areas or relying on guesswork.

Highlighting the versatility of the new apparatus, Ncube notes:

"This innovative technology has transformed our leak detection capabilities. It allows teams to identify leaks more quickly and accurately, including in hard-to-reach areas across the island. Its effective-



ness is especially valuable for PVC pipes, which are widely used throughout the island's water supply system."

The practical impact of this technology, combined with specialised training, was demonstrated immediately during field operations in Sandy Bay. Using the AQUAPHON® A200, field teams achieved a dramatic improvement in efficiency, identifying four leaks in just two days. The time required to locate each individual leak was reduced from the previous baseline of four to five days down to approximately four hours, marking a detection speed increase of over 90%.

Consequently, daily water losses in Sandy Bay plummeted from over 120 cubic metres per day to around 40 cubic metres, representing a 66% reduction in water waste. Saving treated water every single day preserves critical stored reserves and significantly lowers the fuel expenditure required to pump replacement water across steep inclines.

Emphasising the broader significance of these operational savings, Ncube states:

"Saving treated water every day in Sandy Bay is a significant achievement. It helps protect our stored water reserves, improves resilience during dry periods, and reduces the amount of water that needs to be produced and pumped through the network. This, in turn, lowers fuel consumption, operational and production costs, and reduces levels of Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Together, these savings deliver tangible benefits for both the utility and the wider community, while supporting a more efficient and sustainable water supply system for St Helena."

Technology is only as effective as the people operating it, which is why Connect, supported by the St Helena Government, initiated a comprehensive two-stage capacity-building programme. Senior staff first completed intensive off-island training in Johannesburg before leading on-island practical sessions for seventeen team members. From this group, four local staff members have been appointed as dedicated Leak Detection Specialists to drive ongoing acoustic surveys across the island.

This initiative demonstrates how targeted investment in modern technology and human capacity delivers immediate operational improvements while laying the foundation for sustainable water management and rebuilding community trust across St Helena.

Ncube concludes:

"Water is one of St Helena's most precious resources, and this investment is already making a real difference. We are proud of the dedication shown by the entire team, some of who have taken on specialist leak detection roles. Their new skills are helping us locate and repair hidden leaks more quickly, reducing water losses and strengthening the island's water supply for the benefit of the whole community."









SCHOOL PAGE

News from St Helena Secondary School

History, Mystery, and Adjectives

Year 7s Take English Studies to High Knoll Fort



On Friday, 11 September, our new Year 7s visited High Knoll Fort as part of their English studies, led by Head of the English Department, Mrs Mercia George, and joined by her team: Sandra Peters, Steve Plato, Sandra George, and Briony Prudy.

The trip was designed to inspire pupils ahead of their baseline writing assessment.

Mrs Shelley Magellan-Wade began with a fascinating talk on the fort's history, before encouraging the children to explore the site using their five senses — what could they hear, see, touch, taste and feel? Pupils then considered how carefully chosen adjectives and adverbs could bring their narrative or descriptive responses to life.

The children engaged brilliantly, coming up with some fascinating theories and vivid descriptions. Many were captivated by the eerie atmosphere of the fort, with several convinced it was haunted!

We look forward to reading the descriptive writing pieces this experience inspires.





From the Tomb to the Avenue

Students Step Out for 'Outdoor Pursuits' Enrichment Group



Last Friday, students enjoyed the 'Outdoor Pursuits' enrichment group, led by Mrs Samuel and Mrs Yon. The group took a refreshing walk from The Tomb to Longwood Avenue, giving pupils the chance to exercise, relax, and connect with nature.

Enrichment takes place every Friday during Period 5, offering students a wide range of activities to choose from, including Games, Cooking/Baking, Classic Board, French or Spanish, Drama, Rock Band, Fire Service, Community Outreach, First Aid, and Zumba.

These sessions highlight the school's commitment to fostering student wellbeing, creativity, and community spirit.





NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Gospel Outreach Services
Sunday, 20th September:
Kingshurst Community Centre, 3.00 pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 22nd September:
Baptist School Hall, 7.00 pm
Thursday, 24th September:
Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30 pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old
In recess until 26th September

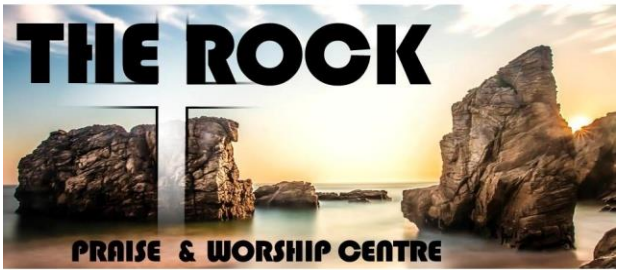
ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 22388

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 20th September 2026 - 25th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist/Church Parade/Junior Church	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 20th September 2026 – 25th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 24th September	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John

The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 20th September 2026 – 25th Sunday of the Year		
5.30 p.m.	**Patronal Festival**	**St Matthew**
	Tuesday 22nd September	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark



Church Notices

Prayer Meeting

@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.
Saturday 19th September 2026 at 8.30am-Online
Contact Mercy for details-65880 or 24212

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 20th September 11.00am
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 22nd September 2026
Cape Villa @5.00pm, (Contact Priscilla 51919)
Wednesday 23rd September 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.

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

The Christian gift/bookshop & DVD rental (as well as second-hand goods shop) is available. Fridays from 9am to 12noon
For further information contact Pat 64295



NOTICE BOARD

CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRE UPDATE

Please be advised that, the Customer Services Centre will continue to be closed on Wednesdays.

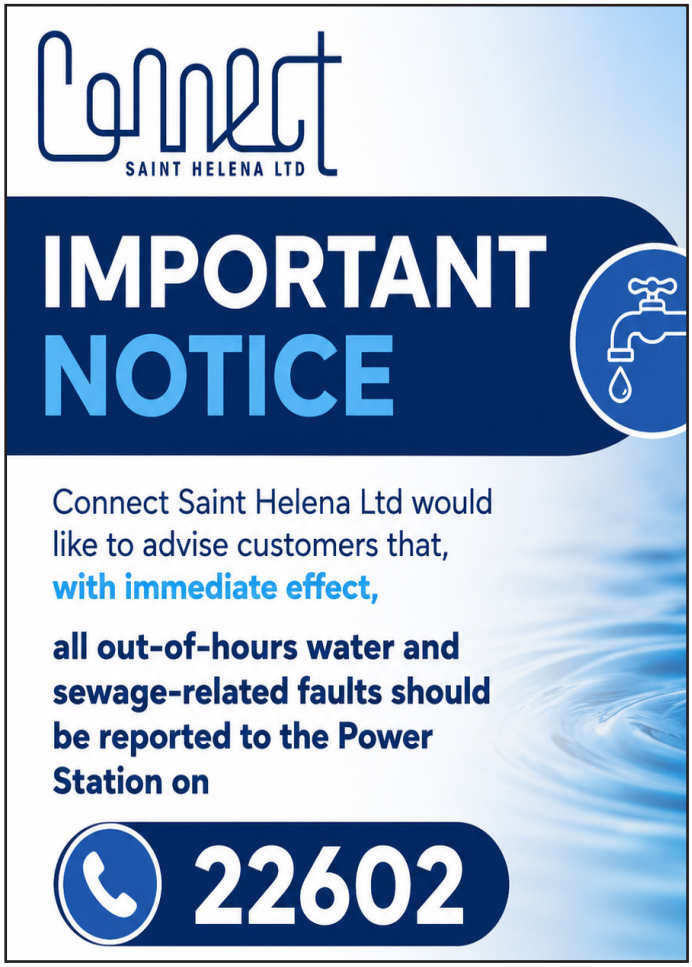
We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and we look forward to assisting you during our regular hours.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

info@sainthelenabank.com
+290 22390
www.sainthelenabank.com
Market Street, Jamestown
@sainthelenabank
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





Solomon's Minority Shareholders Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Minority Shareholders of Solomon & Company on Thursday, 24 Sept 2026, at 5pm at Wellington House, Jamestown.

The CEO will be in attendance and this is your opportunity to share your views and questions with management.

VACANCY

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

Insurance Manager

Commencing at £19,260 per annum

Bank of St Helena Limited is seeking to recruit a suitable person to fill the new and exciting position of an Insurance Manager.

Reporting to the Deputy Managing Director, the Insurance Manager will monitor and be responsible for the management of Insurance Policy sales, Underwriting and Claims.

The role includes:

- Overseeing the Insurance team and provide customer support on a daily basis.
- Ensure the section is operational, efficient and compliant at all times.
- Deliver first-class service to customers, whilst adhering to processes and procedures.

Working closely with the Deputy Managing Director and in collaboration with Caribbean Alliance, the successful candidate will also:

- Develop and implement risk management strategies.
- Oversee the life cycle of Insurance Policies, monitor sales, manage underwriting and Claims .
- Train and manage the Insurance team.
- Ensure adherence to Regulations in collaboration with Caribbean Alliance.

About You

The ideal candidate must be:

- Highly motivated, self-reliant, and able to work to their own initiative.
- Flexible and adaptable to meet work demands.
- Accurate and detail-orientated, with both a practical and strategic approach to tasks.
- A strong communicator with excellent interpersonal and influencing skills.

Essential Requirements

- A background in financial and/or business management.
- Proven organisational skills with the ability to build effective working relationships at all levels.
- Must have good interpersonal skills and deal with people in a professional manner, with strong sales and negotiation skills.
- Some knowledge of the delivery of insurance products is desirable.

Training and Development

- Training for the position will be provided, which will include international training resources.
- Candidates will be expected to study towards a relevant professional qualification if one is not already held.

How to Apply

- For more information, please contact the Deputy Managing Director on + 290 22390 ext 222 or email deputy.managingdirector@sainthelenabank.com 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, 25 September 2026.

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

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

info@sainthelenabank.com

+290 22390

www.sainthelenabank.com

Market Street, Jamestown

@sainthelenabank

Bank of St Helena Ltd

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.

Forest Worker
(£9,573 per annum)

The Forestry Section is looking to recruit a Forest Worker to provide support for field work within the silviculture team. The role involves performing manual forestry tasks, which encompass land clearing, control of invasive and alien plant species, ground preparation, planting, thinning, pruning, fencing, cleaning, and the harvesting of sawlogs, firewood, and fence posts, as specified by the relevant line manager. The role also includes the collection of tree seeds and seedlings when necessary and also nursery related activities.

Contact us for information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Myra Young on Tel No. 24724 or Email: myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**23 September 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**28 September 2026**
Interview date:	**08 October 2026**

Cover Supervisor (SHSS)
(£12,101 per annum)

Are you looking to play a pivotal role in fostering a supportive, inclusive, and high-achieving school environment? If so, St Helena Secondary School is seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated Cover Supervisor to join its forward-thinking team. In this important role, you will ensure the continuity of learning by providing effective classroom cover when teaching staff, both locally appointed and Technical Co-operation Officers, are absent due to illness or approved leave. You will maintain accurate records of cover arrangements and support the completion of assessments and reports in accordance with the school's assessment calendar for colleagues on long-term absence or leave. Additionally, you will undertake playground and on-call duties, including supervision within the Isolation Room, as required and in line with the published duty rota.

Please get in touch for further information or an informal discussion about the role.

Enquiries:	**Phil Toal on Tel No. 24290 or Email: phil.toal@sainthelena.edu.sh**
Closing date:	**02 October 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**07 October 2026**
Interview date:	**15 October 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

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.

Casual Domiciliary Support Worker

(£6.65 per hourly rate)

Social Care is seeking dedicated and motivated Casual Domiciliary Support Workers to join their team within the Health & Social Care portfolio. In this rewarding role, you will provide high-quality support to vulnerable adults in their own homes and within the wider community. The individual's vulnerability could be due to mental or physical disability, frailty or illness. Support will include assessment of needs and provision of personal-care tasks, such as bathing, toileting and dressing and domestic tasks such as meal preparation, cleaning and laundry. To provide respite sessions including time in the community and supporting access to day services. You will also be required to hold a valid driving licence.

For more information or to arrange an informal discussion about the role, please contact us.

Enquiries:	**Rosalie Brown on Tel No. 22920 or Email: rosalie.brown@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**25 September 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**30 September 2026**
Interview date:	**12 October 2026**

Foreman Mechanic

(£13,569 per annum)

The Foreman Mechanic will support the maintenance of a fleet of vehicles and heavy plant equipment to meet the demands of the Public Service. Undertaking and overseeing efficient and effective repairs and maintenance of vehicles and plant equipment. Assisting with planning, allocating and monitoring work schedules and completing formalities associated with the work. Ensuring the day-to-day work of the Mechanics is delivered on time and to quality.

Contact us for information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Nicholas George on Tel No. 24290 or Email: nicholas.george@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**30 September 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**06 October 2026**
Interview date:	**13 October 2026**

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

NOTICE BOARD

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc



LEASE & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ESTABLISHED COFFEE PLANTATIONS SANDY BAY, ST HELENA

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc invites Expressions of Interest from experienced agricultural operators, investors and agribusiness professionals interested in leasing/partnering and developing established coffee plantations in the Sandy Bay area.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY to build on an established coffee enterprise

This is a unique opportunity to take advantage of an existing coffee-growing operation with infrastructure and equipment already in place. The plantation offers scope for continued production, expansion, value-adding activities and market development, locally and internationally.

St Helena Coffee is recognised for its Quality and Heritage. Be Part of its Future.

EXISTING ASSETS INCLUDE:

- Established Coffee Plantations
- Commercial Coffee Pulper
- Coffee Bean Sorting Machine
- Coffee Sorting & Roasting Room
- Drying Shed Facilities

COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc is open to discussing a range of commercial arrangements, which may include:

- Long-term lease agreements
- Crop-share arrangement
- Resale or export partnerships
- Alternative proposals that demonstrate commercial viability

INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST OUTLINING:

- Relevant experience and background
- Proposed lease and/or partnership arrangement
- Business objectives and development strategy
- Financial and operational capability
- Contact details

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, TO REQUEST AN INFORMATION PACK OR ARRANGE A SITE VISIT, PLEASE CONTACT:

Paul Gasteen, Chief Executive Officer

22380 paul.gasteen@solomons.co.sh

CLOSING DATE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

16 OCTOBER 2026

All enquiries and submissions will be treated confidentially.
Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc welcomes discussions with parties committed to maximising the potential of this established coffee plantation and its processing facilities.

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Ad-Hoc Office Cleaner

Rate of pay will be £6.48 per hour.

We are seeking an Ad-Hoc Cleaner for the Company's Main Office building to support the cleaning operations as and when required.

As the Cleaner you will be required to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and also ensure that cleaning routines are completed in the required timeframe.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be reliable, trustworthy and punctual with a flexible approach to work
- Demonstrate excellent attention to detail, and take pride in their work
- Be physically fit with the ability to undertake regular manual handling duties
- Have knowledge of Health & Safety and Hygiene
- Be responsible, able to work independently and manage time effectively, with minimum supervision
- Maintain total confidentiality within the Company

For further information contact the Human Resources Department via email hradmin@solomons.co.sh or by calling 22380.

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, 24 September 2026.**

Take the lead on the St Helena Marathon afterparty!

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air





Celebrate the victory of the St Helena Marathon runners! Can you bring excitement and festivity to the final sprint?

The St Helena Marathon is gearing up to take place on the 28 February 2027 and the momentum does not end at the finish line!

St Helena Tourism is seeking an enthusiastic group, organisation or charity, eager to take creative and operational ownership of post event celebrations. Festivities start from noon on race day, 28 February 2027.

Take this chance to make your mark on the inaugural St Helena Marathon event! A high-energy opportunity to raise awareness and take proceeds for your organisation.

Captivate the community and immerse runners and their supporters in classic Saint style. Are you ready to hit the ground running?

Contact Katie-Raye Williams at the Tourism Office
E: Katie-raye.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh T: 22158

sthelenatourism.com

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

Maritime Week 2026!

In recognition of World Maritime Day!

Celebrating St Helena's Maritime Heritage, Past and Present!

Events!

Sunday 20th September

- **Historic Talk – The Wharf**
  Join Adam Sizeland and learn about the history of the wharf.
  Time: 10:00 – 11:00
  On the Sea Front.

Monday 21st September

- **Visit the Maritime Centre** and learn about the work of the Maritime Authority!
  Time: 10:00 – 12:00

Wednesday 23rd September

- **An Introduction to Ship Surveying –**
  Delivered by Derrick Thorrington
  Time: 18:00 – 18:30
  Maritime Training Centre, The Sea Front.

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER
WORLD MARITIME DAY!

- **Mufti Day**
  Show your support for maritime by wearing something blue!
- **Sea Rescue Demonstration in James Bay.**
  Come along to the Sea Front!
  13:30 – 14:30

- **Radio Programmes**
  Tune in to Saint FM and join Malcolm Bowers on his programme 'High Tide'
  11:00 – 13:00
  Tune in to SAMS Radio for the programme 'All Things Maritime!'
  11:00 – 12:00
  (NB This programme will be repeated on Saturday 26 September at 11:00 and Sunday 27 at 12:00)

Museum of St Helena

- Visit the museum and learn about St Helena's maritime history and maritime connections!

Opening Times
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 – 14:00; Saturday 10:00 – 12:00

For more information on any of these events contact
Wendy C Benjamin on 63351 or on email:
wendy.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

INVITATION TO TENDER

Vessel Support for Offshore Islet and Egg Island Monitoring

The St Helena National Trust invites tenders from boat operators to provide vessel support for seabird monitoring and equipment deployment.

Two contracts are offered:

1. **Islet Surveys:** 10 -12 days of two-day trips, spread every 4 - 6 weeks from mid-October 2026 to mid-June 2027.
2. **Egg Island Monitoring:** Approx. 12 days in hot season (equipment deployment October, 10-day block late November, retrieval December) and 14 - 16 days in cold season (deployment April, 10-day block May, retrieval June, plus nest/camera work).

Tenderers may apply for either one contract or both, depending on capacity (*clearly mark on submission which tender you are applying for*).
Contractors must have suitable vessels, equipment, and operational capacity.
Applicants should provide quotations for half-day and full-day trips (inclusive of staff, fuel, etc.), details of vessel and crew suitability, copies of Health & Safety policy, insurance/liability cover, and safeguarding policies (where available).

For details, contact the Marine Department on 22569/22307 or email emma.holborn@trust.org.sh / neil.thorp@trust.org.sh.

Interested persons should submit tenders in a sealed envelope to the Office Manager, Amanda Constantine, by no later than 16:00hrs on Friday 2nd October 2026.

Golf Report

First Turkey and Ham Strokeplay of 2026



SHGC, Contributed

On Sunday, 13 September, the St Helena Golf Club (SHGC) hosted the first Turkey and Ham stroke-play competition for 2026. With unseasonably good weather, thirteen players entered to compete for the prizes sponsored by the SHGC.

At the end of an enjoyable day of golfing, some great scores were returned with Peter Bagley and Neil Joshua both returning an outstanding net score of 66. Peter emerged as the champion of the competition on the countback, taking the first prize, a turkey. Neil won the second prize, a ham, all in readiness for this festive season.

Jason Hopkins ended in the third place with an equally excellent net score of 68. In addition, Jason and Peter tied for the lowest gross score of the day with a total of 76.

In the two ball competition it was only Peter Bagley who managed to score a two on the 14th hole earning him all the balls entered into the pool.

At the 19th hole, a lovely meal was sponsored by club member, Keith Joshua, as an early celebration of his birthday. Thanks goes to KJ by all who enjoyed this meal with him in anticipation of this occasion.

The club is looking forward to hosting the annual Bank of St Helena sponsored 18-hole stroke play competition this coming weekend on 20 September. With great prizes up for grabs, the SHGC are encouraging members to enter to stand a chance to win and also enjoy a nice round of golf.

With hopes that the good weather will last, we wish everyone a good week and happy swinging!





ing an impressive game in the middle of the park, showing both his defensive and offensive qualities to tick the game along toward the final whistle. With not long left, Bellboys were able to strike home a winner in strange fashion; Tyler Benjamin, holding onto the ball in a dangerous area, saw his attempted clearance deflect off the boot of Joey Thomas and back off his own boot to spin and swerve around his own keeper and into the back of the net to seal the 4-2 victory for Bellboys, securing back-to-back league titles.

Keith Yon was named Man of the Match for a standout performance in goal, while Zach Francis picked up the Young Player of the Match award in another mature performance for Bellboys.

The clash also brought a decisive end to the duel for individual honours; Joey Thomas entered the final day leading the Golden Boot race on 33 goals with Rovers' Rico Benjamin close behind on 30. Thomas's first-half double pushed his season tally to 35 goals, officially sealing the Golden Boot crown alongside his team's league triumph.

Elsewhere, Sunday's opening match saw La Verde lock up fourth place in the final standings with a 4-2 win over Fugees. Riley Yon led the charge for La Verde with a brace, while Jordan Yon and Hameed Ganiyu also got on the scoresheet. Lars Williams scored both goals for Fugees in a competitive effort. Jordan Yon earned Man of the Match for his controlling performance on the day, with two-goal scorer Riley Yon taking home the Young Player of the Match award.

The action did however kick-off on Saturday afternoon with third-placed Harts concluding a strong return campaign in the league with a ruthless 11-1 victory over STH Young Boys. LeBron George produced a masterclass in finishing by putting six goals past Young Boys, securing the Young Player of the Match award in the process. Shane Stroud, Brandon Harris, Paul Teyang, and Louis Barnikel also found the net for Harts, alongside an own goal. Jude Jacobs scored the lone goal for Young Boys, while Mark Williams put in a top-drawer performance for Harts to earn Man of the Match honours.

The weekend brings an end to one of the most entertaining SHFA League campaigns in recent years, with Bellboys standing tall once again as the 2026 League Champions!



SPORTS ARENA

ANNNND STILLLL...

Bellboys retain League Title in dramatic final-day decider





Liam Yon, SAMS

The 2026 SHFA League season came to a dramatic conclusion at Francis Plain over the weekend, with Bellboys crowned champions for the second consecutive year following a high-stakes victory over league leaders Rovers.

All eyes were on Sunday afternoon's blockbuster title decider, where unbeaten Rovers entered needing only a draw to claim the championship, while holders Bellboys required nothing short of a win to retain their crown.

Bellboys produced their finest performance of the season in the opening forty-five minutes, tearing out to a 3-0 lead courtesy of a double from Joey Thomas, and a fine round-the-keeper finish from Tyler Brady. Bellboys were notably controlling the proceedings in a way we haven't seen from them all season, keeping possession well and looking threatening with each surge forward. The reintroduction of one of St Helena's best players, Ryan Benjamin, to the heart of the Bellboys midfield seemed to inspire the side, with each of the starting line-up putting in a more assured performance across the park. In contrast, Rovers looked unusually sluggish and slow to get up to speed. While they still provided a threat, due to the quality of their attackers, the Bellboys backline were able to deal with them fairly comfortably. At the back for Rovers, Brett Isaac, playing in his relatively new centre-back position, did all he could to stem Bellboy's attacks, however the holders were determined to retain their crown and were attacking the Rover's defence relentlessly.

Despite the slow start, Rovers refused to lie down after the half-time break and mounted a spirited second-half fightback, with goals from Blaise Baldwin and Ronan Legg pulling them back to 3-2 and within a single goal of the title. Tyler Benjamin moving into a striker's role provided a different dynamic to their attack and, despite playing out of position, his pace and determined pressing caused problems and Rover's looked much more likely to score with his presence at the top of the field. They were able to carve out more chances and began to assert their authority; looking more like the Rovers that we know. Blaze Baldwin will feel disappointed not to have opened the Rover's scoring earlier, with a few headed chances that lacked the power to find the back of the net. Tyler himself also put some good shots at veteran Keith Yon, who was having an inspired performance between the sticks for Bellboys.

However, as Rovers pushed for the equaliser and tensions rose, they were disadvantaged further when right-back, Julian 'Dotty' Henry, was shown his marching orders after an altercation with the referee. With the scoreline and numbers against them, Rovers were quickly running out of time. At this point, Bellboys began to manage the game well, holding onto the ball when they could, with Scott Henry in particular hav-