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SENTINEL

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SHG halts Primary School Reorganisation construction works amid rising concerns over cost, logistics, and deliverability

SHG Consults Public on Stand-Alone Victims' Access to Compensation Scheme





Bread and Health Fees go up in price today



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Liam Yon, SAMS

Pinch, punch, it's the first of the month! We have entered October, the tenth month of the year – which means we are well and truly into the home stretch of 2026 and there is lots to look forward to. Obviously, we have plenty of community events coming up, particularly with regards to the Cancer Support & Awareness Charity, with the main event, no doubt, being the highly-anticipated Carnival in Jamestown on 24 October. Before that though, we have the Man Cave, second edition, coming our way on Saturday night, 10 October, this time at the Blue Hill Community Centre, all in a bid to address Men's Mental Health – a very real issue and relevant topic on St Helena. Hopefully there's a good turnout, I know I'm trying to get a crew together for a guy's night of good fun, friendly competition and loads of banter! I think I saw that Denny was looking for interest for transport out to Blue Hill, which could likely be arranged if it is needed. I think that'd add to the fun, be like a busride to the event, and hopefully back again – get it going ca Dennis! I will run an article in next week's issue on the Man Cave to get the excitement going, so be sure to check it out and get your crews together for what should be a great night. After that and the cancer events, we will have Halloween to look forward to, Bonfire Night of course, and then, you know where I am going with this – it will be the Festive Season here on St Helena, widely considered the best time of the year when Saints come home and the Island is vibrant and lively, I can't wait (although the wallet is not so excited about it!). This year has really flown by, but let's not dwell on things, let's just look forward to all the fun that we can have on this beautiful Island of ours – see you all out and about soon ◙ Enjoy your Sentinel.

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to applaud Jason Moyce for his efforts in trying to find out what has been happening with access to the Samaritans helpline in St Helena. As it happens, when I first contacted Sure about the service five years ago, it was after seeing a video from the Falklands, where Sure provided access via a local number, and I was alarmed to be told that while Sure had introduced a similar service in St Helena, it was currently suspended, although I was reassured that it would be restored as soon as possible, which it was, as I called the number from the UK at great expense, and was connected to Samaritans.

While the Samaritans service in the UK can still be called from St Helena, on 0044 330 094 5717, the only cost effective way of doing this is by using a Voice over IP service, which entails buying call credit, which in turn entails having an international debit card; otherwise, the only option is to call the number using Sure, which costs 98 pence, an additional source of discomfort and distress as well as expense. Before it was closed down, it was possible to use Skype to call freephone numbers anywhere in the world even without buying call credit, but calls to the Samaritans number 116 123 were blocked as it was considered an emergency services number, which could only be used if the caller's location was known. (Ironically, Samaritans have not traditionally required this information, as they did not originally intervene and call emergency services without the caller's consent.)

Unfortunately, when I contacted Samaritans' head office in the UK about access to the helpline from St Helena, the Falklands and Gibraltar, they seemed completely unaware of these places, only telling me that the territories had different legislation from the UK and Ireland, without elaborating as to what the difference was, and later referred to their finite resources, although I was not suggesting that Samaritans fund anything on St Helena, least of all a local branch that people in need could visit and speak to someone in person. Gibraltar has established a similar organisation to Samaritans of its own, known as GibSams, which not only operates a local telephone service and face to face service, but also a webchat service, something Samaritans in the UK are still rolling out, even after deciding to close their email service.

In fact, the reason why I contacted Samaritans in the UK was about access to its webchat service, which is geoblocked outside the UK (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and Ireland. However, as access to the webchat service is still so limited from within those countries, it would probably make no difference if it were not geoblocked, the irony being that as St Helena does not have its own IP address range, with Sure instead using ones in the UK and Guernsey, meaning that users in St Helena are not automatically denied access. (This explains why Sure subscribers are able to use BBC iPlayer, but not streaming services from South Africa, despite TV channels coming from there.)

Back in 2019, the Falkland Islands Safeguarding Children's Board discussed the availability of the Samaritans helpline in the Falklands, which had first been introduced in 2011; while its members recognised that Samaritans were under no obligation to provide the service, they agreed that the line was important and hoped it would continue being available locally, while the then Head of Social Services suggested that the possibility of speaking to Tristan da Cunha and St Helena regarding the possibility of setting up a joint, centralised line, with the help of the Foreign Office.

I do not know if any discussions on this between the South Atlantic islands took place, but perhaps they should take place now; one thing that should be done is the adoption of the 116 123 number to call Samaritans from all of them, as the use of local numbers like 20000 from St Helena and 51515 from the Falklands may have given the impression that this was a locally provided service. Perhaps the number could divert to a selection of Samaritans branches in towns with connections to St Helena like Swindon, Cheltenham and Reading, but more importantly, rather than have Sure covering the cost of the call to the UK from St Helena, it could provide a number in the UK that would divert to emergency services in St Helena, which Samaritans volunteers in the UK could call free of charge.

Recently on social media, there was a discussion about setting up international call centres in St Helena, but while the reaction was dismissive, given the soul-destroying nature of the work, there is a line of business the island, not least Sure, might consider, namely directory inquiries, expanding its existing local service into a one allowing people in the UK to find a number and be put through to it for no more than the cost of a call to a landline, and considerably less than the existing rip-off 118 numbers currently in use. While these numbers are declining in popularity because they are such a rip-off, Sure in St Helena could make more money from people calling a low-cost '118 290' directory inquiries service from the UK in a day than it does from inbound calls from the whole world in a year. And it could not be worse than what has happened to vulnerable people in the UK, who, instead of calling Samaritans directly, called via a directory inquiries service, costing £1.79 a minute!

Yours sincerely,

Ken Westmoreland

Give us this day our (pricier) daily bread



Bread loaves are a cultural staple for households on St Helena

Solomons bread and bakery products to increase in price from today

Liam Yon, SAMS

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has announced a price increase across its range of bakery products, set to take effect from today, Thursday 1 October. The adjustment will see the price of daily baked staples—including standard white, brown, and specialty loaves—rise by between seven and eleven pence per item.

As the island's only large commercial-scale bakery, Solomons supplies the vast majority of local households with daily bread, a product widely regarded as a fundamental island staple.

Under the updated pricing structure, retail prices for loaves across all grocery outlets will be adjusted across the board. Large white and brown loaves will see an eleven-pence increase, rising from £2.25 to £2.36. Medium white and brown loaves will rise by ten pence from £1.96 to £2.06, while small white and brown loaves will increase by seven pence, moving from £1.40 to £1.47. Additionally, multi-seeded loaves will see a seven-pence increase, bringing the price from £2.20 to £2.27.

In a public customer notice released recently, Solomons explained that bakery prices were last adjusted in 2024. The company cited compounding operational pressures over the past two years as the primary driver behind the increase, specifically pointing to rising electricity tariffs, higher ingredient and supply costs, increased shipping charges, and recent minimum wage adjustments.

Solomon's stressed that the decision was carefully considered to balance financial viability with customer impact. "As a locally produced staple, we understand how important our bread and other bakery products are to our customers," they said. "We have therefore taken care to review our prices carefully and have kept the increases to the minimum necessary, while continuing to maintain our bakery range for the local community."

Despite the company's explanation, the announcement met an immediate wall of criticism and discontent from local residents. With household budgets already strained by the island's high cost of living, many consumers expressed deep frustration at another price rise on an essential food item.

Beyond the immediate financial impact, the news has opened up a wider public debate regarding product standards. A significant majority of public comments following the announcement focused on what many residents perceive as a decline in the recent quality and consistency of baked goods.

Critics and consumers took to social media to voice their dissatisfaction, with many sarcastically questioning whether product quality, loaf texture, and baking standards would be increased in line with the new shelf prices.

Solomons confirmed that a full updated price list covering its wider bakery range—including rolls, pastries, and cakes—would be made available across its grocery outlets.

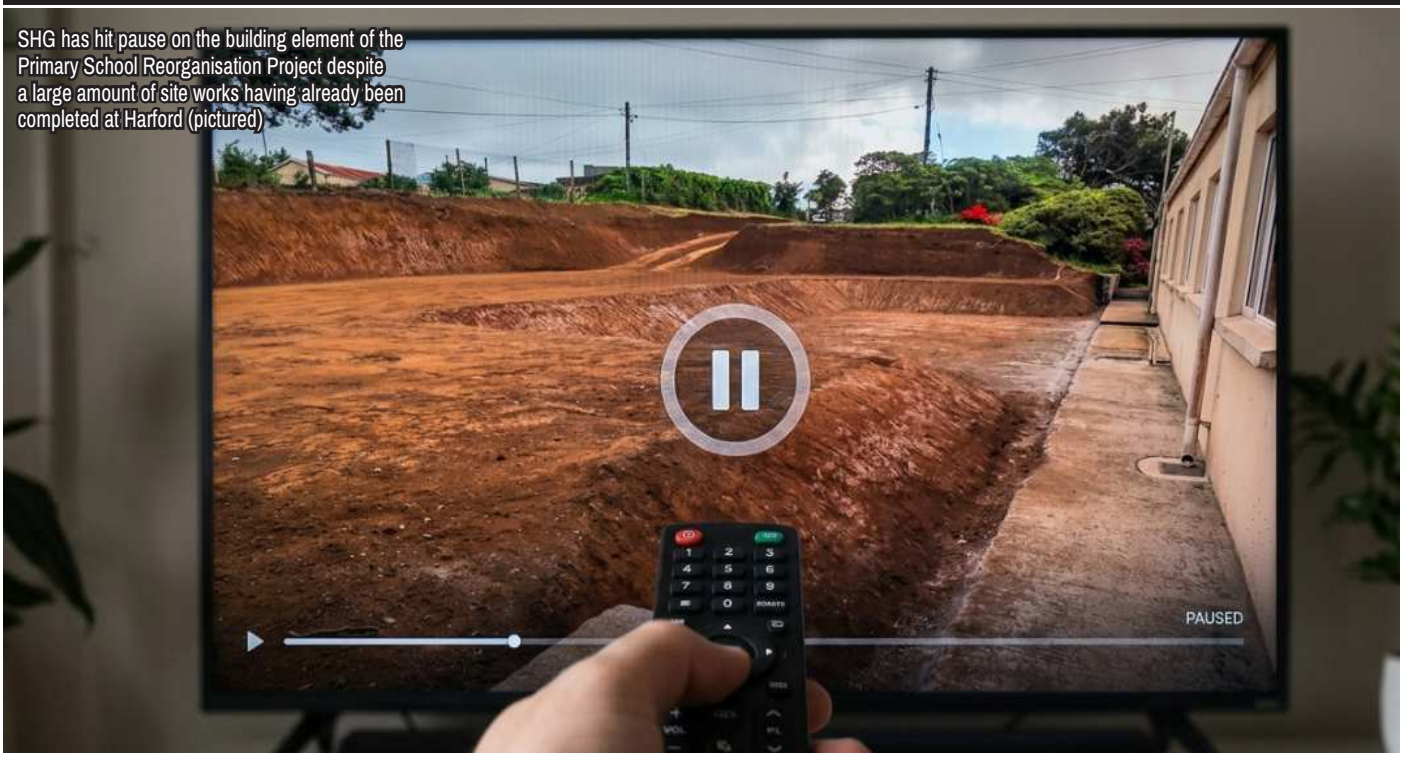


Bakery products on display at The Star in Jamestown, where updated price tags across the bakery range take effect from Thursday



Solomons Bakery, St Helena's only large commercial-scale bakery supplying daily bread and other products across the island

The Primary School Pause



SHG has hit pause on the building element of the Primary School Reorganisation Project despite a large amount of site works having already been completed at Harford (pictured)

SHG halts Primary School Reorganisation construction works amid rising concerns over cost, logistics, and deliverability

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government (SHG) has officially paused the building and refurbishment element of the Primary School Reorganisation Project. The decision, announced on Thursday, 24 September, marks a significant juncture in the island's primary education reform, as officials initiate a comprehensive review into whether the proposed model remains practical, deliverable, and financially viable for St Helena's long-term future.

According to SHG, the pause comes in response to escalating concerns regarding the projected costs, logistics, and overall feasibility of transforming the island's primary school estate. Crucially, the review will also directly incorporate feedback from parents, guardians, and school staff who have voiced growing frustration over transport arrangements and the day-to-day realities experienced by families under current temporary operations.

Minister for Education, Skills and Employment, Andrew Turner, framed the decision as a necessary step to safeguard the island's educational investment. "We do not get opportunities like this very often," he stated. "This project must deliver the right model for St Helena's children, families and staff; not simply for the next five years, but for the next 50 years. That means being absolutely sure that what we build is affordable, practical and capable of serving the island well for generations."

The Minister acknowledged that public sentiment played a direct role in pushing government to hit the brakes on the construction phase. "Over recent months we have listened carefully to the views of parents, staff and the wider community," he added. "We have heard genuine concerns about the practicality of the proposals, the impact of transport arrangements, and whether the project can be delivered in the way originally envisaged."

As such, Minister Turner said that "it is right that we take those concerns seriously, and they will inform both the review and the improvements we make while it is underway" adding that "pausing the buildings element is a responsible step to make sure we get this once-in-a-generation opportunity right."

Last week's announcement is the latest turn in an 18-month saga that has seen multiple schedule revisions, temporary relocations, and operational hurdles.

In March 2025, the Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio revealed a sweeping political decision to move from three primary schools (Harford, St Paul's, and Pilling) to a consolidated two-school structure. Under the original plan, the former Harford Primary site was selected to house an Early Years and Key Stage 1 (KS1) school, while St Paul's Primary was designated for Key Stage 2 (KS2). The historical Pilling Primary building in Jamestown was slated to be decommissioned due to space, environmental, and physical limitations. The new model was initially scheduled to go live in September 2026.

However, in September 2025, SHG unexpectedly brought forward the project timeline, announcing a three-phase transition starting in January 2026. To allow major construction to take place safely at Harford, all KS1 pupils across the island were temporarily moved to St Paul's, while all KS2 pupils were relocated to the Pilling site. The sudden shift drew public criticism regarding

the lack of prior parental consultation, complex bus routes, and the emotional toll of multiple relocations on young children, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Fast forward to this year and, in July, enabling works at the Harford site concluded, stripping out legacy infrastructure and preparing for accessible playground expansions while achieving a 70% material recycling rate. However, SHG simultaneously confirmed that the overall project would be pushed beyond the 2026/27 academic year, acknowledging that the scale, structural demands, and technical complexities of the builds exceeded initial estimates.

Now, with temporary arrangements dragging on and key challenges mounting, SHG made the call to pause all physical construction work to review the fundamental model itself.

Despite the freeze on building works, SHG was quick to assure the public that academic and institutional reforms across primary education remain active and on track.

Thus, the pause applies strictly to the brick-and-mortar aspect of the project. Ongoing initiatives—including alignment with Council of British International Schools (COBIS) standards, primary curriculum overhauls supported by external advisors, middle-leadership structural updates, and upgraded safeguarding protocols—will proceed as scheduled.

"Our work to improve the quality of primary education, including curriculum, teaching and safeguarding, will continue," Minister Turner emphasised.

SHG acknowledged that the decision introduces fresh uncertainty for teachers, pupils, and parents currently navigating



Minister Andrew Turner says the government is taking parental and staff concerns seriously as a comprehensive review gets underway

the temporary arrangements.

With KS1 students remaining at St Paul's and KS2 students at Pilling for the foreseeable future, SHG confirmed that these current temporary operational setups—including classroom space allocation and transport schedules—will themselves be subjected to review to ease day-to-day pressures on families.

SHG has stated that the community will play an important role in shaping the review, with public engagement opportunities and further updates to be announced shortly.

With this decision gaining high-public interest and mixed views, Minister Turner is set to answer questions and address concerns from the community in a sit down interview on SAMS Radio 1 this Friday at 2pm.

Breaking Silence

The Conversation is Only Just Beginning

— **Breaking Silence Community Group,** Contributed

What happens when ordinary people decide they have questions that deserve answers?

They come together.

Breaking Silence began with residents who wanted somewhere to talk openly about rising fuel prices, the cost of living, and the pressures being felt across St Helena. It was never about claiming to speak for everyone.

It was about creating a space where anyone who wants to speak can speak, anyone who wants to ask questions can ask, and anyone who simply wants to listen can come along. And something powerful happens when people realise, they are not alone.

More than 40 residents contributed questions through five letters to Ministers. When the only response received was from the Chief Minister on behalf of the Ministerial Team focused on identifying one named person or point of contact, but never answered or engaged with any of the questions or solutions posed it left many within Breaking Silence asking:

Why should a collective concern have to become one individual voice before it is heard?

The strength of Breaking Silence is its collective voice. Different people. Different experiences. Different districts. One shared desire to be heard.

Residents decided they wanted to meet with the Ministerial Team directly. Not to demand agreement. Not to demand that every concern be acted upon. Simply, to introduce themselves, to sit together, listen, and have a genuine conversation.

The Governor chose to engage. Some Councillors wanted to support. The Ministerial Team did not want to attend. But this is not where the story ends. It may be where something much bigger begins.

Because democracy does not belong only to those elected. It belongs to the people who placed their trust in them and who now have questions about what putting people first, building our future together, our island, our say, clarity, honesty, accountability, people are at the heart of the community and our islands future will be won or lost together mean when residents actually come forward.

Breaking Silence is not asking everyone to agree. We are asking people to join the conversation. Bring your questions. Bring your experiences. Bring your ideas. Or simply come and listen.

Because one voice can be easy to overlook. A room full of people willing to listen to one another is much harder to ignore.

There is much more to this story. Next week, Breaking Silence will share what happened, what residents were told, and what comes next.

The conversation is only just beginning.

Reflections on Year One



Chief Minister Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks MBE

Chief Minister shares her review of Government's progress, priorities and challenges after one year in office, noting how "it has not been an easy year"

Liam Yon, SAMS

Marking one year since taking office alongside her Ministerial Team in September 2025, Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, has recently issued a statement reflecting on the administration's initial twelve months in executive leadership. Over the past year, the Chief Minister noted that the government has focused on "protecting and strengthening essential services, moving important projects forward, responding to immediate pressures and building stronger foundations for St Helena's future."

Reflecting on her first year at the helm of executive government, Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks acknowledged how the role has shaped her approach to leadership. "A year in office has deepened my understanding of the responsibility of Government," she shared. "I have learned that moving at pace must not come at the expense of sound decision-making. We must ask questions, test assumptions, consider who may be affected and draw on the best information, evidence and advice available." She added that "good intentions alone are not enough" and emphasized that "we will not always get everything right, but we must be prepared to listen, learn and, where necessary, review our approach."

The Chief Minister stressed that she remains "acutely aware that our decisions affect household budgets, livelihoods and access to services." She noted that the administration is striving to build an island that supports "those facing the greatest hardship" while creating the conditions for residents to build their future on St Helena with confidence.

Addressing the major disruptions faced over the past twelve months, Dr Cairns-Wicks stated candidly that "it has not been an easy year." She highlighted how the airport closure, island-wide power disruption, and Hantavirus response, "tested the Island's resilience and placed significant demands on many people." These incidents were managed through strong cooperation across government, the private sector, the community, and external partners. On the airport closure, she confirmed that "we must learn from these events," adding that "the final report of the independent airport investigation is expected shortly and will be published" following which SHG "will carefully consider the lessons and actions arising from it."

Against that backdrop, the Chief Minister pointed to important financial and strategic milestones secured over the year, including a three-year financial settlement with the UK, additional investment through the UK-funded Economic Development Investment Programme and the BIOT Memorandum of Understanding, and the passing of the government's first Budget. She explained that the Vision and Strategy for 2026–2029 now provides a clearer direction aimed at "protecting living standards and core services, stabilising our population and enabling locally driven growth."

Addressing the financial strain on the community, Dr Cairns-Wicks acknowledged that "rising prices are placing real pressure on households and businesses." While needs continue to exceed available resources, she outlined measures delivered or agreed to help ease immediate pressures, including "increasing the minimum wage to £4.85 an hour, limiting the electricity price increase to 1p per unit, introducing Child Benefit of £15 a week for resident children aged five and under, and concessionary public transport fares for people aged 70 and over." She added that significant public funding continues to meet or subsidise costs across healthcare, social care, utilities, transport, and air access.

Progress was also noted across key infrastructure and project pipelines. Work has advanced on primary-school reorganisation, the new prison, and the Bulk Fuel Installation, while Rupert's Cargo Facility has become operational. She revealed how resources have also been secured to advance renewable energy with Connect Saint Helena Ltd and telecommunications, with the Chief Minister noting that the telecommunications Memorandum of Understanding with Sure SA Ltd provides "a route towards better broadband and mobile services, although important approvals, negotiations and implementation work remain."

Looking ahead to the administration's second year in office, the Chief Minister acknowledged that "not everyone will yet feel the progress being made," but stated that the priority moving forward is clear. "The focus for the year ahead is turning the policies, investment and foundations now in place into improvements that people can see and feel in their everyday lives," she asserted.

Paying tribute to the collective effort across the island, she concluded that "as a Ministerial team, working through our respective portfolios and with the Public Service, our focus will be on delivery; protecting living standards, strengthening essential services, helping to stabilise our population and workforce, building resilience and creating the conditions for sustainable, locally driven growth."

The Sentinel congratulates the Chief Minister and her Ministerial Team for completing their first year in office.

SHG Consults Public on Stand-Alone Victims' Access to Compensation Scheme

Proposed legislation could allow crime victims to claim against civil payouts awarded to offenders, amidst ongoing legal challenges over prison conditions



HM Prison Jamestown, where ongoing claims against public authorities have prompted SHG to consider a dedicated SAVAC framework

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Government has launched a four-week public consultation to determine whether the island should establish a Stand-Alone Victims' Access to Compensation (SAVAC) scheme. Running from Monday, 28 September, to Monday, 26 October, the consultation seeks to gauge community support for the principle of such a framework and assess whether it is appropriate for St Helena.

The proposed SAVAC legislation is not a general victims' compensation scheme and would not cover every victim of crime. Instead, its scope is strictly limited to situations where the government pays monetary compensation to an individual because public authorities treated them unlawfully while they were in custody or under supervision. Under the proposed framework, eligible victims of that offender would be permitted to claim financial restitution directly from those protected government payout funds before any remaining balance is released to the offender.

The initiative comes against the backdrop of ongoing and historical civil litigation brought against the St Helena Government by a number of current and former prisoners regarding living conditions, facility standards, and rights at HM Prison Jamestown. Under existing legal arrangements, civil damages or compensation awarded to prisoners following successful legal claims against the state are paid directly to the individual, leaving victims with limited legal recourse to satisfy outstanding restitution orders from those funds.

Clarifying the legal distinction surrounding the scheme, SHG emphasised that offenders would retain their legal right to seek damages if treated unlawfully while in custody. In its consultation statement, the government noted that an authority's wrongdoing to a person and that person's crime against a victim remain two "completely separate legal issues." The central purpose of SAVAC is to ensure that where state compensation is awarded, victims have a recognised legal avenue to seek redress from those funds first.

The consultation poses several key questions for public consideration, including whether St Helena should introduce a SAVAC scheme, whose circumstances should be covered, how rights should be balanced, whether the framework is practical for a small island community, and whether alternative methods of victim support should be considered.

To ensure widespread participation, the administration is hosting four district public meetings. The first session took place last night in Longwood and will be followed by meetings in St Paul's (Kingshurst CC) on Tuesday, 6 October, Half Tree Hollow (HTH CC) on Wednesday, 14 October, and Jamestown (JT CC) on Tuesday, 20 October.

Residents can also share their views through an online survey featuring "plain-English explanations and illustrative examples" at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/savac, while hard copies of the survey are available at the Public Library and Post Office. Additionally, verbal and telephone feedback can be submitted by contacting the Communications Hub or reaching out directly to Minister Andrew Turner.

Following the close of feedback on Monday, 26 October, the compiled submissions will be presented to Executive Council to inform a final decision on whether to proceed with drafting and enacting SAVAC legislation.

SCHOOL PAGE

News from St Helena Secondary School

Leading by Example
Introducing our New Student Council

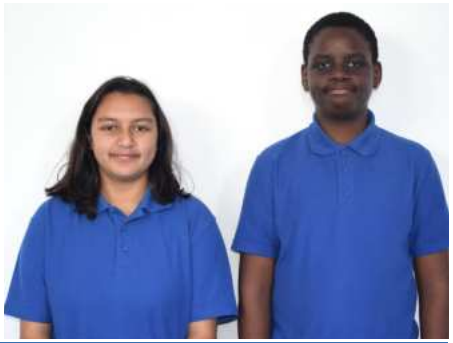
Nominated by their peers, our new Student Council members are officially stepping into their roles as the voice of the student body. Working alongside teachers, parents, and school leadership, they are helping build a positive school environment. These student leaders aren't just representing their classmates, they are leading by example. We wish them all the best in representing their peers and each other.

Their first assignment is joining Children's Champion, Julie Thomas, in a radio discussion on digital safety, which forms part of the Digital Literacy and Boundaries Working Group initiated by SHSS.

Student Council Members are:



Year 7
Daniella Jaiyeola & Leo Wortley



Year 9
Daniel Jaiyeola & Laila-Rose Hudson



Year 8
Sharaye Yon & Kudakwashe Makamure



Year 10
Milan Walton & Faith Chiseya



Sixth Form
Aimee Joshua, Ruth Twalo, Qhi Green



Year 11
Melissa Menezes & Imogen Williams



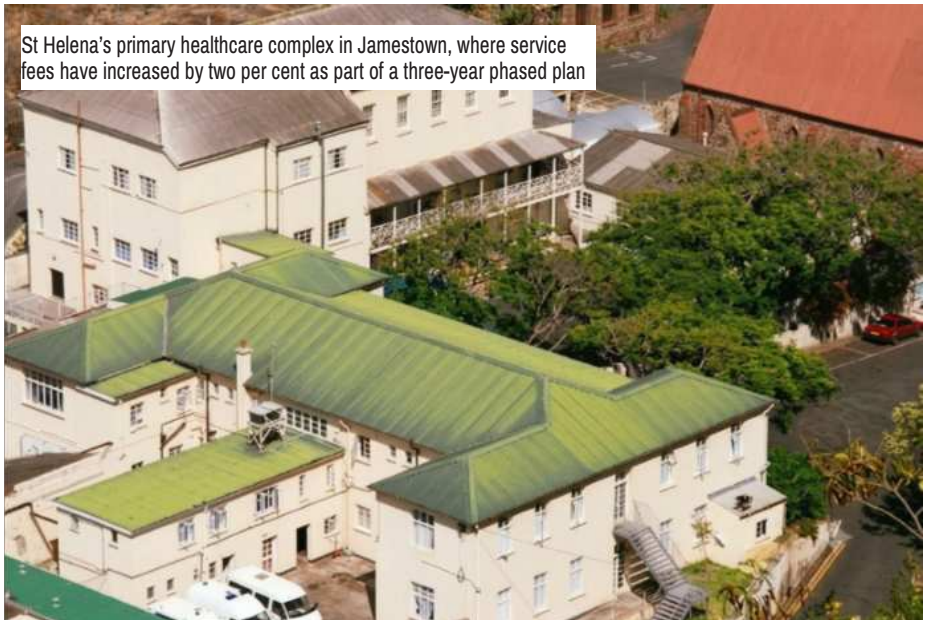
Vice President: Luca Yarrow



President: Nate Joshua

"This Decision Was Not Taken Lightly"

Health and Social Care fees increase by 2% to safeguard vital island services



St Helena's primary healthcare complex in Jamestown, where service fees have increased by two per cent as part of a three-year phased plan

Liam Yon, SAMS

The St Helena Government has announced a two per cent increase in Health and Social Care service fees, effective from today, 1 October 2026, as part of a three-year phased plan to safeguard vital island healthcare services. Commercial fees will also see increases over the same period.

SHG explained how resident fees have remained unchanged since April 2021, noting how, in the five years since, the cost of healthcare has risen significantly due to global price hikes on medical supplies, increased freight charges, and a growing demand for specialised overseas medical referrals. SHG highlights that patient fee contributions currently cover just over three per cent of overall Health and Social Care running costs, with the remaining 96.9 per cent funded through FCDO aid and local taxation.

To keep care affordable, SHG states that the two per cent adjustment has been "purposefully kept low"—below St Helena's local inflation forecast, below cost increases facing the UK NHS, and well under the ten per cent annual average rise seen in global medical expenses.

Detailing the new fees under the phased structure beginning next month, SHG revealed how prescription fees will rise by five pence per item from £2.60 to £2.65, followed by annual five pence increases to £2.70 in 2027/28 and £2.75 in 2028/29; hospital general ward stays will increase by 30p, from £13.85 to £14.15 per day; CT Scans will increase by 40p, from £20.55 to £20.95; dental examinations will rise by 20p, from £10.30 to £10.50; and Social Care Services will undergo a two per cent adjustment, supported by ongoing hardship reviews.

Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, underscored the financial reality driving the decision. "Although this is a very modest adjustment and the first change since 2021, this decision was not taken lightly," he revealed. "We fully understand that households across St Helena are feeling the weight of rising living costs, and we know that no one wishes to see fees increase, especially when household budgets are tight."

"However, with medical costs both locally and overseas growing far faster than our revenue, and with our community growing older and needing more complex care, taking no action would put the services we all depend on at risk," he continued. "A two per cent increase is the minimum necessary to help sustain our health service, and it remains far below the actual cost of delivering medicines and care to our residents."

Minister Henry also addressed concerns over affordability. "Most importantly, I want to reassure everyone that no one will ever be turned away from receiving care because they cannot afford it," he made clear. "Strong, compassionate hardship provisions are in place to support anyone who needs them."

SHG further emphasised that access to care will "always be determined by clinical need, never financial circumstances," and that all existing safeguards remain in place, including free care for children under 16 and young people aged 17 to 18 in full-time education, while standard eligibility rules for resident rates also remain.

However, where residents are facing financial hardship, applications for fee reductions or waivers can be made through the Admissions Panel and Adult Support Team. Cases where prescription costs cause "genuine difficulty" can also be referred for exceptional consideration to ensure necessary treatments remain accessible.



Minister Henry (pictured alongside Portfolio Director Tracy Poole-Nandy and CMO Dr Peter Moss) stated the modest two per cent fee adjustment was 'not taken lightly' but is necessary to safeguard services

Warm Support for our Sister Island



Attendees gathered at historic Harlyn House to show their support for the Tristan Storm Appeal



Severe structural damage across Tristan da Cunha prompted local fundraising efforts on St Helena to aid ongoing recovery

Harlyn Coffee Morning raises £250 for Tristan storm recovery

Liam Yon, SAMS

Community spirit on St Helena has delivered a welcome boost for our South Atlantic neighbours following a successful fundraising Coffee Morning at the historic Harlyn House, raising £250 to support ongoing storm recovery efforts on Tristan da Cunha.

The initiative was sparked after local resident, Patsy Flagg, read coverage in The Sentinel detailing the launch of the Tristan Storm Appeal. Moved by the scale of destruction on the island, Mrs Flagg reached out to local appeal coordinator, Maria Yon, to offer Harlyn House as a venue for a fundraising gathering by way of a Coffee Morning.

Held on the morning of Saturday, 26 September, the event drew a warm turnout of 24 guests who enjoyed ice-breaker games, bingo, a raffle, and a spread of home-made treats. Ticket sales, activity proceeds, and individual donations combined to raise £250 for the rebuilding fund.

Expressing her heartfelt gratitude to all involved, Maria—a direct descendant of the Swain family on Tristan and whose father, Stanley Swain, resides on the island—highlighted the impact of local generosity. “I would like to give a huge ‘Thank You’ to Mrs Flagg, all the helpers, and everyone who made the morning a success, as well as thanks to everyone who has donated in any way so far,” she said. “These funds will go a long way in helping the resilient community of Tristan with their recovery efforts.”

The funds arrive at a critical moment for Tristan da Cunha’s 233 residents as they continue to navigate a long and challenging recovery path. In early July, the settlement was battered by severe, hurricane-force winds reaching speeds of up to 124mph (200km/h).

The ferocious storm left widespread destruction across key public infrastructure. Critical facilities—including The Residency, the Biosecurity Building, Communications Offices, the BFBS TV receiver, the Albatross Bar, the RIB boathouse, and the Public Works Department sheds—suffered roof losses and extensive structural



Venue host Patsy Flagg (left) with Maria Yon



Attendees enjoying a laugh on the veranda during the successful fundraiser



Guests relaxing on the veranda at Harlyn House during Saturday's coffee morning



Organisers, helpers, and attendees gathered inside Harlyn House during the fundraising coffee morning on Saturday, 26 September



Helpers and guests folding raffle tickets during Saturday morning's event, which raised £250 for storm recovery

damage, while heavy longboats were lifted and thrown across the settlement. Most devastatingly, one young family lost their home entirely. While no serious injuries were reported, rebuilding community assets and homes remain a daunting task for the remote island.

The proceeds from the Harlyn House Coffee Morning will be transferred directly to assist with these long-term recovery efforts.

How You Can Help?

For those wishing to contribute to the ongoing appeal, donations can be made directly to the David Wilson Charity Fund via the Bank of St Helena:

- **Account Name:** David Wilson Charity Fund Tristan Da Cunha
- **Account Number:** 02227002

To offer additional support or for further information on the appeal, members of the public can contact Maria Yon directly on telephone 24134, mobile 61324, or via email at keith.yon@helanta.co.sh.

ST. HELENA DIVE CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Date: Monday 5th October 2026
Time: 6.30pm
Where: The Dive Club, the wharf

Members and non-members welcome. Snacks will be provided.

AGM papers will be circulated to members in advance, via email.

Membership is due on the night or can be paid in advance at the BoSH.

Please let us know in advance of nominations for the committee. If you have any other matters you wish to discuss, please let us know. Email us on shdiveclub@gmail.com

Do you want to sell your vegetables, fruit, honey, eggs, coffee or other farm products at the Farmers' Market planned to be organised by the Chamber of Commerce at the Jamestown Community Centre on Saturday 14th November?

If so, please let Corinda Essex know before 5th October. She can be contacted on cs.essex@helanta.co.sh, by telephoning 22038 or in person. If you are interested, but the 14th is not suitable, the Market could be held on 20th October instead, so please state which date you prefer.

Chamber Members participating will receive £10 per business to help with transport and set up costs. Other businesses will be charged a table fee of £10. It is hoped that producers will take this opportunity to boost their sales and show what they have available.

Fresh, But Familiar, Fountain



Water flows once again as the new fiberglass replica stands fully operational in the Castle Gardens

Historic 129-year-old Castle Gardens fountain replaced with fiberglass replica

Donna Crowie, SAMS

The iconic fountain in the Castle Gardens fish pond has officially been replaced, bringing a long-standing restoration effort to a successful close.

Originally installed in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the historic cast-iron fountain served as a centrepiece of the gardens for nearly 130 years—with the pond's resident goldfish lineage dating back to a donation by William Thorpe in 1898.

However, following decades of severe corrosion and an incident of vandalism in 2008, the original structure was deemed beyond repair in 2020. The issue was formally brought before Legislative Council in 2024 to explore options for a replacement.

While an initial attempt to produce a cast-iron replica proved unsuccessful and cost-prohibitive, funding secured through the Tourism Development Programme enabled the creation of a durable fiberglass replica. Following planning approval in August, members of the St Helena Government Building Maintenance team worked throughout last week to install the new fountain.

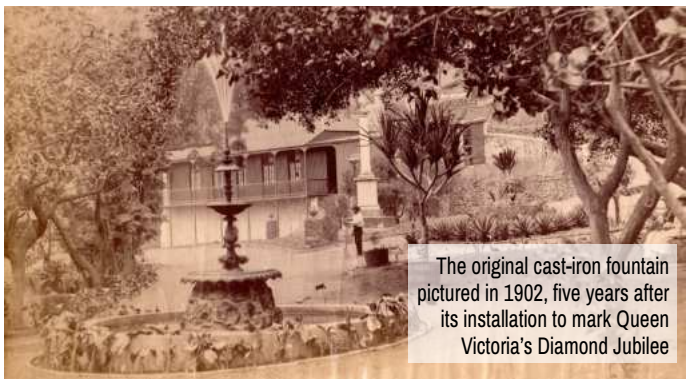
Works were officially completed on Wednesday, 23 September, with the pond refilled and the fish safely returned to their home in the Castle Gardens.



Decades of severe corrosion and an instance of vandalism in 2008 left the original 1897 structure unsalvageable by 2020



Members of the SHG Building Maintenance team position the new fiberglass replica during installation



The original cast-iron fountain pictured in 1902, five years after its installation to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee



Onlookers view the newly installed fountain and refilled fish pond in Castle Gardens

Goofy Evacuation

Passing Bulk Carrier 'Goofy' stops at St Helena for medical disembarkation



The Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Goofy anchored in James Bay during Thursday's emergency medical disembarkation

Donna Crowie, SAMS

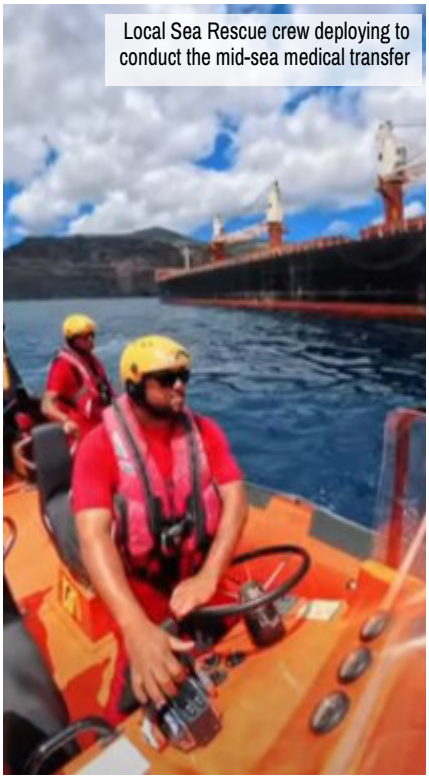
A medical evacuation was carried out off Jamestown on Thursday, 24 September, following the arrival of a passing bulk carrier in James Bay.

The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel, named Goofy, anchored just before lunch last Thursday to disembark an unwell crew member. The nearly 200-metre-long ship was en route from Vietnam in South East Asia to Houston in the Gulf of Mexico when the medical issue arose.

Both the St Helena Sea Rescue Service and the local Wideawake boat were deployed to the scene to assist with the operation and ensure the crew member was brought safely ashore.

Such operations fall under St Helena's international maritime obligations under the Safety of Life at Sea—or SOLAS—convention, which requires the island to assist passing vessels requiring emergency support. Given St Helena's isolated position in the South Atlantic, medical disembarkations of this nature are a regular occurrence for local maritime teams.

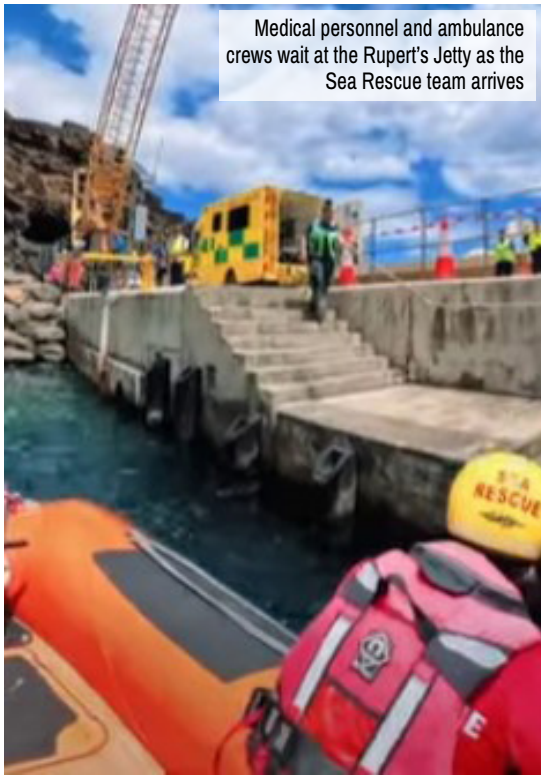
Following the successful transfer, the Goofy departed James Bay and resumed her voyage across the Atlantic.



Local Sea Rescue crew deploying to conduct the mid-sea medical transfer



Sea Rescue team heading back to land after safe transfer of the crew member from the Goofy



Medical personnel and ambulance crews wait at the Rupert's Jetty as the Sea Rescue team arrives

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. Oct 02
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 2pm: Interveiw - Primary Reorganisation Pause
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Oct 03
- 9am-11: Indie Waves with Sue (Repeat)
- 3pm: Country Chart Show (Repeat)
- 5pm: In the know
- 6pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 8:30pm: OUT! OUT! with Liam (Repeat)

SUN. Oct 04
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Luke(Guide's Draw)
- 1pm:Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse
- 7pm:Seventh Day Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Oct 05
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 3-5pm: DNA with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm In The Know

TUE. Oct 06
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 10am: Minister Question Time
- 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. Oct 07
- 7am: Morning show with Deon
- 11am: Indie Wave with Sue
- 1pm: 1548 with Ferdie
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm: Let's talk Health

THU. Oct 08
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise with Liam & Luke
- 3-5pm: Vibes with Anita (Repeat)
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna
- 7:30pm: The Island Pulse

sure

Bringing you the

BBC World Service

100.7 (Briars)

88.1 (High Knoll)

102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





He's back!

Ferdie returns to the airwaves this Wednesday, and he's bringing his absolute best CD collection just for you.

Make sure to tune in this Wednesday at 1:00 PM as '1548 with Ferdie'

returns to SAMS Radio 1!

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:

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

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



1st October 1982:

Three St Helenians compete in the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Get ready for a month of monster-sized fun! As we countdown to Halloween at the end of October, we will be sharing lots of spooky tasty treats that your little 'monsters' will love to make and eat.

Spider NYC Cookies



Ingredients

Cookies

- 125 g unsalted butter
- 100 g light brown sugar
- 75 g white granulated sugar
- 1 medium egg
- 1 tsp vanilla (optional!)
- 300 g plain flour
- 1 + 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 300 g chocolate chips (150g dark, 150g milk)

Spiders

- 16 Rolo's
- 35 g melted chocolate
- 16 edible eyes

Method

1. Add the butter and sugars to a bowl and beat until creamy
2. Add in the egg and vanilla and beat again.
3. Add in the plain flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, and salt and beat until a cookie dough is formed!
4. Add in the chocolate chips and beat until distributed well!
5. Weigh your cookies out into eight cookie dough balls - they're about 120g each
6. Once they're rolled into balls, put your cookie dough in the freezer for at least 30 minutes, or in the fridge for an hour or so!
7. Whilst the cookie dough is chilling, preheat your oven to 180C Fan, or 200C regular!
8. Take your cookies out of the freezer/fridge and put onto a lined baking tray. I put four cookies per tray!
9. Bake the cookies in the oven for 11-13 minutes.
10. Once baked, leave them to cool on the tray for 5 minutes, and then press two Rolos into the cookies next to each other.
11. Let the cookies cool for at least 30 minutes, as they will continue to bake whilst cooling!

The Island Pulse

Councillors Press for Progress on Legislation, Safety and Public Services



Cllr Julie Thomas,Communication Champion, Contributed

The latest edition of *The Island Pulse* focused on Ministers' Question Time held on Tuesday, 15 September, where Councillors questioned Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs Gillian Brooks on legislative priorities within her portfolio.

With Councillors Julie Thomas and Clint Beard attending the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Cape Town, five Councillors took part in the session: Robert Midwinter, Ronald Coleman, Derek Thomas, Dr Corinda Essex and Denis Leo.

The questions covered cybercrime legislation, the management of the Jamestown wharf, road traffic legislation, immigration, and the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs). The programme also included an update on the Chamber of Commerce's proposed "Buy Local" campaign and Councillor Midwinter's month as Chair of the Councillors' meetings.

Cybercrime legislation: funding now available

Councillor Robert Midwinter asked for an update on progress towards adopting UK cybercrime legislation, which had been included in the legislative programme shared with Councillors in January.

He reported that the Minister explained that the necessary funding and technical resources had previously not been available. However, funding associated with the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) arrangements is now available to progress the work, with up to £120,000 identified for this area.

The work is expected to be completed by 31 March 2027.

Councillor Midwinter highlighted that cybercrime is not simply about St Helena's increasing exposure to external threats as connectivity increases. There are also growing concerns around social media, cyberbullying, cloned Facebook accounts, fraudulent online activity and the potential impact on young people.

He also asked whether consideration was being given to the UK's Online Safety Act, particularly in relation to issues such as cyberbullying.

While progress on cybercrime legislation is now expected, Councillor Midwinter said he had not received a clear indication of who would lead the work or whether a detailed programme had yet been established.

The discussion also touched on the relationship between cybercrime, data protection and wider IT responsibilities within Government.

Jamestown wharf regulations remain unresolved

Councillor Ronald Coleman questioned when legislation or regulations would be introduced to provide greater control over fishing boats, other craft and vehicles using the Jamestown wharf and other landing areas.

The issue has become increasingly visible since port operations moved to Rupert's, with greater use of the Jamestown wharf by local vessels. Councillor Coleman said congestion has created concerns about access, including for emergency services.

Minister Brooks reportedly acknowledged the concerns but explained that existing legislation did not provide the necessary authority to control vessels once they had been taken out of the water.

The Harbour Master is therefore working with the Attorney General's Chambers on proposals, which are expected to go before the Minister's Advisory Board in November.

Councillor Midwinter also asked how affected users would be consulted. He reported that the Minister confirmed consultation would form part of the process.

However, Councillor Dr Corinda Essex clarified an important point: November is the anticipated date for proposals to reach the Advisory Board, not the date when new regulations will come into force. Further development and approval would be required afterwards, meaning implementation may not occur until the next calendar year.

Councillor Coleman also pointed out that the current situation dates back to the introduction of the 2020 Ordinance, which repealed the 2016 regulations. The replacement regulations had not subsequently been completed.

The discussion highlighted the need to ensure that future fisheries arrangements, vessel maintenance and wharf management work together, particularly as the island considers the future direction of its fisheries sector.

Road Traffic Ordinance: further progress expected in October

Councillor Derek Thomas asked for an update on the review and implementation of the Road Traffic Ordinance.

He reported that the Road Users Policy was due to go before the Minister's Advisory Board, with the intention that the Road Traffic Amendment Ordinance would then go to Cabinet in October.

Councillor Thomas specifically sought confirmation that several matters previously raised in Legislative Council would be included. These include:

- provision for international-type driving licences;
- exemption from annual medical examinations for people aged over 70;

- allowing 17-year-olds to ride motorcycles up to 150cc; and
- parking arrangements in Jamestown.

He was assured that these matters are included, although the parking provisions will take longer because of the associated signage and Highway Code requirements.

The Minister also indicated that the policy would be shared with Councillors following consideration by the Advisory Board.

Councillor Dr Essex noted, however, that the legislation will still need to return to the House for formal approval and may require accompanying regulations. She expressed concern that the original legislation dates back to 2016 and that, despite previous consultation, ten years have now passed without the process being completed.

Immigration changes require training before implementation

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex questioned when the recently amended Immigration Ordinance would be fully implemented and what training would be provided to the officers responsible for delivering it.

She was told that implementation would take some time because appropriate training and public awareness work need to be completed first.

Training is expected to begin soon, potentially involving trainers recruited specifically for the purpose, with some training possibly taking place off island. However, no definitive implementation timetable was provided.

Councillors discussed an indicative timeframe of approximately four to six months, although this was not presented as a firm deadline.

Councillor Dr Essex stressed the importance of ensuring that officers are properly trained before the new legislation takes effect, particularly given that constituents already approach Councillors with concerns about confusion and inconsistent information under existing immigration arrangements.

Councillor Midwinter also reported that work remains outstanding on the asylum rules.

He raised the separate issue of immigrant land holding, which was removed from the recent Immigration Ordinance and is now being dealt with as a Crown Estates matter. Minister Karl Thrower indicated that he would update Councillors on progress.

Fixed Penalty Notices expected from 1 November

Councillor Denis Leo asked about progress by the Working Group established in January to develop an action plan for Fixed Penalty Notices.

The Minister advised that FPNs are expected to come into force on 1 November, initially covering marine matters rather than roads. Road-related implementation will require updated signage and other preparatory work.

Councillor Leo said there will also need to be a communication plan so that the public understands what the new system means.

The programme identified 18 categories of Fixed Penalty Notices, including matters relating to parking, criminal damage, theft, harassment, causing alarm or distress, being drunk in a public place, noise abatement, littering, fishing without a licence, breaches of fishing controls, possession of a speargun without a licence, waste disposal and obstructing police officers.

Councillors also raised questions about how the system will operate in practice and whether penalties will be fair, proportionate and applied consistently.

Councillor Dr Essex highlighted that one purpose of FPNs is to avoid people receiving criminal records for relatively minor offences. She said constituents had also expressed concern that FPNs might be intended primarily as a revenue-raising measure but emphasised that this was not the stated purpose discussed during Question Time.

Councillor Leo noted that further clarification is required around the reference to transshipment of fish within the proposed categories, particularly in the context of local fishing operations.

"Buy Local" campaign aims to support island producers

Beyond Ministers' Question Time, Councillor Dr Corinda Essex provided an update in her role as Business and Innovation Champion on a new "Buy Local" campaign being launched by the Chamber of Commerce.

The initiative will initially focus on locally produced food and agricultural products, including fruit and vegetables, meat products, honey and coffee.

A farmers' market is being proposed for November at the Jamestown Community Centre, subject to sufficient interest.

Chamber members participating in the initial market will have their venue and publicity costs covered, with the Chamber also offering £10 towards transport and set-up costs. Non-members will be able to participate for a £10 table fee.

Members of the public will be able to attend free of charge.

Producers interested in participating are asked to register their interest with Councillor Dr Essex by 5 October. The market is expected to proceed if more than six businesses express interest; otherwise, the initiative may be postponed until early next year.

Chair of the Month: coordinating the work of Councillors

Councillor Robert Midwinter also outlined his responsibilities as Chair of the Month for September.

The role involves chairing the fortnightly meetings of the 12 Councillors, coordinating agenda items, liaising with the Speaker and Clerks, and helping ensure that sufficient time is available for matters to be considered.

During September, Councillors have been dealing with issues including Financial Services Regulations and the Proceeds of Crime Ordinance, alongside constituency matters, cost-of-living concerns and public transport.

Councillor Midwinter also described how the Chair coordinates collective correspondence and issues raised on behalf of Councillors.

He confirmed that the regular Councillors' meetings provide an opportunity for both Ministers' Updates and Councillors' Updates, supporting two-way communication between Government and the wider group of Councillors.

The programme concluded by reinforcing the purpose of The Island Pulse: to provide the public with a clearer understanding of the work being undertaken by Councillors, the questions being asked of Ministers and the information coming back from Government.

Ministers' Question Time is one mechanism available to Councillors to scrutinise Government, seek information and raise issues of public concern. The wider role also includes constituency engagement, collective scrutiny, correspondence, committee work and ensuring that matters raised by the public are brought into the Legislative Council.

As Councillor Julie Thomas reminded listeners, the connection between Councillors and the communities they represent depends on people continuing to ask questions, raise concerns and share their experiences.

The Island Pulse is repeated on SAMS Radio 1 on Thursdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 5pm.

Five Years to Become "One of the World's Most Authentic Island Destinations"



St Helena Government aims to expand annual arrivals from around 5,000 to over 6,000 by 2031 under the new five-year strategy

St Helena sets five-year course for Tourism Growth as Executive Council approves ambitious Strategy with the aim of "welcoming 6,000 visitors a year" by 2031

Executive Council has formally approved the 'St Helena Tourism Strategy and Delivery Plan 2026–2031', establishing a multi-year blueprint to expand the island's visitor economy while protecting its natural and cultural heritage.

Officially launched to mark UN World Tourism Day on 27 September, the strategy sets out a comprehensive framework designed to establish St Helena as "one of the world's most authentic island destinations," according to St Helena Government (SHG).

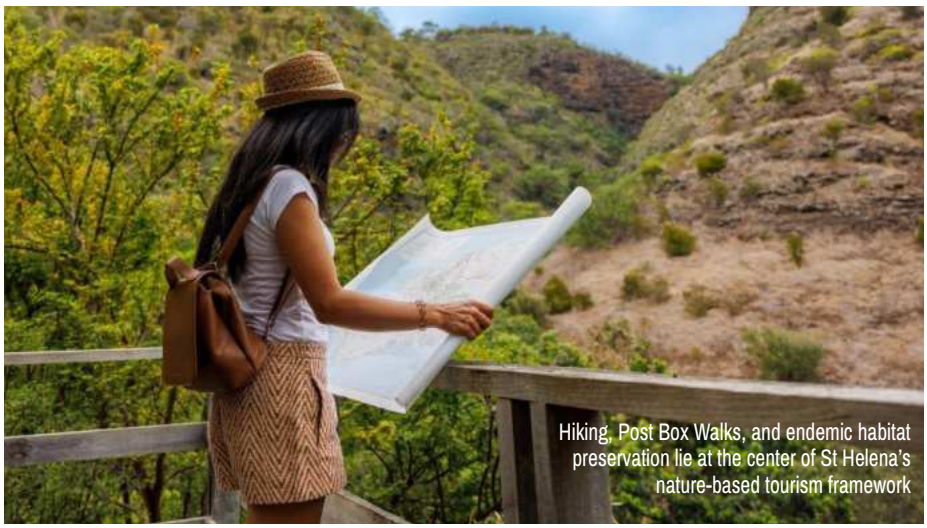
During Executive Council discussions on the strategy, as reported in their official Top Lines, members formally recognised that "after financial aid and remittances, the tourism industry is the largest contributor to the local economy," while commending the document's "evidence-based approach" aimed at providing long-term "stability for the industry". The government confirmed that successful implementation will rely heavily on "cross-sector involvement" between public agencies and private enterprise.

Welcoming the launch, Minister for Economic Development, Karl Thrower, emphasised that economic figures alone do not define the island's goals. "On UN World Tourism Day, we are proud to launch a strategy that sets a clear direction for tourism on St Helena over the next five years," Minister Thrower stated. "But tourism growth is not an end in itself. Our ambition is to grow tourism in a way that creates meaningful and lasting benefits for St Helenians, supporting local businesses, strengthening our economy, and protecting the qualities that make St Helena such a special place."

Under the five-year plan, SHG aims to achieve a four percent compounded annual growth rate in leisure arrivals, building up from 5,007 visitors recorded in 2024/25 to over 6,000 annual arrivals by 2031. To support these targets, SHG has earmarked a dedicated £550,000 Tourism Development Programme allocation alongside £74,000 for visitor information services. As outlined in the government's 'Unpacking Budget 2026/27: Economic Development Portfolio' update, the overarching objective is to "build capacity for an industry capable of welcoming 6,000 visitors a year by 2031."

Beyond headline arrival numbers, the document emphasises increasing economic yield per visitor, extending average lengths of stay, and dampening seasonal slumps.

However, official SHG analysis within the strategy candidly addresses the structural barriers currently limiting



Hiking, Post Box Walks, and endemic habitat preservation lie at the center of St Helena's nature-based tourism framework



SHG aims to increase total available serviced accommodation from 65 to 90 rooms by 2031 while enforcing updated quality assurance standards

sector expansion. Pointing to severe accommodation constraints—with only 65 serviced rooms operating across the island—as well as single-airline dependency, weather disruption, and emigration-driven labour shortages, SHG warned that "achieving sustainable growth will require continued investment, stronger public-private collaboration, improved air service certainty, and a coordinated effort to enhance the island's overall visitor experience".

To directly address the room shortage, SHG is replacing its former Heritage Grant Scheme with a £50,000 Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme. This fund will offer targeted financial incentives to convert heritage properties into high-quality serviced accommodation, aiming to raise the total number of registered serviced rooms from 65 to 90 by 2031, while establishing updated quality standards for private homestays and self-catering units.

To translate these strategic goals into visitor experiences, the delivery plan structures all destination development around six core thematic pillars; History and Heritage, Culture, Marine, Conservation, Hiking, and Adventure and Sport.

In practice, this encompasses interpreting military and Napoleonic history alongside Liberated African heritage in Rupert's Valley, promoting local music and cuisine, regulated whale shark swimming within the Category VI Marine Protected Area, and highlighting nature-based scientific tourism through initiatives like the Darwin-funded Cloud Forest Project. The strategy also focuses on expanding Post Box Walks, hosting the annual Festival of Walking, and developing niche activities such as dark-sky astrotourism, coastal kayaking, bouldering, and plans to host the world's most remote marathon. The strategy commits St Helena Tourism to working alongside local operators to build fully commercialised, bookable seven-day itineraries across all six pillars.

On maritime access, the strategy outlines significant policy shifts aimed at maximizing local economic benefit while minimizing environmental disruption. SHG will actively pivot toward small, high-yield expedition cruise vessels carrying under 250 passengers, whose visitors spend substantially more on local guides, dining, and tours compared to large bulk cruise liners. In parallel, government plans to partner with the St Helena Yacht Club to upgrade moorings, improve landing facilities at Jamestown Wharf, and streamline border clearance processes for visiting sailors.

On the marketing front, SHG is shifting away from broad international promotion toward targeted PR and digital outreach, through specialist agencies in the UK and South Africa. A central pillar of this outreach is the St Helena Diaspora Initiative, which will run campaigns aimed at Saints living in the UK, South Africa, and Ascension to encourage visits during shoulder and winter periods. This effort aims to smooth out seasonal lows while freeing up peak-season airline seats for leisure tourists. Concurrently, SHG will assist local tour operators, accommodation providers, and transport services in adopting online booking engines, digital payment gateways, and channel managers to make island experiences directly bookable on global travel platforms.

The strategy also places heavy emphasis on empowering local businesses by establishing formal training programmes for local Destination Management Companies (DMCs), hosting digital skills workshops, and re-establishing a unified St Helena Tourism Association to ensure private operators have a direct voice in future government policy decisions.

Re-emphasising that local residents remain the primary consideration in every phase of execution, Minister Thrower noted that "the St Helena Tourism Strategy and Delivery Plan 2026–2031 provides a roadmap for achieving this through sustainable growth, while keeping our community at the heart of tourism's future."

The strategy's unveiling follows international recognition for the island, which was named 'Emerging Family Destination' at the 2026 Family Traveller Awards in London. Coinciding with the launch, SHG released a new promotional hero film titled 'Breathe St Helena – An Island Adventure Awaits', produced locally by Colby Thomas of Ridge to Reef Media—a short film well worth the watch.

Government confirmed that progress under the five-year plan will be subject to annual reviews, stating that "implementation will take place gradually, with progress reviewed to reflect changing markets, visitor trends and local needs." SHG added that it "will continue to work with tourism businesses, NGOs, community organisations and other partners to deliver the Strategy and ensure that tourism growth contributes positively to St Helena's economy, environment and community."

The full approved Tourism Strategy and Delivery Plan is now available to view and download from the official St Helena Government website.



The strategy focuses on expanding commercialised marine, coastal kayaking, and adventure experiences across the island

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

True Love Lasts Forever

Sylvia and Bram Thomas Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage





Donna Crowie, SAMS

Childhood sweethearts Sylvia and Bramwell (Bram) Thomas, who reside at New Bridge, recently reached a rare and beautiful milestone—celebrating their Diamond wedding anniversary after 60 years of marriage.

Their story began over six decades ago. When Sylvia was expecting their first child at age 15, Bram was called to court due to her minor status. During the hearing, Bram made a solemn promise to the court that he would marry the love of his life—a promise he proudly kept.

The couple exchanged vows at St John's Church in Upper Jamestown. Thanks to Sylvia's friendship with Marie Yon, the reception was hosted at Yon's Café—now known as Wellington House—with catering provided by then dedicated local wedding caterer, Ethel Yon.

Around 200 guests gathered for what was a quintessential "old-time Saint wedding," complete with free food and drink and a live band. Bram fondly recalls folding back the large wooden partition separating the two front rooms at Wellington House to create one large space for dancing. Music for the evening was provided by the popular Brooks Band, featuring Barry Brooks, Tony Brooks, Johnny Carter, and Donald "Barkers" Thomas on drums.

Sylvia vividly remembers her first dance as Mrs Thomas — "the waltz" around the large table before it was cleared away. Bananas featured prominently on the centre wedding table as a traditional farewell treat for guests as they set off for home. Remarkably, Sylvia still treasures the glass decanters that held the wine on their wedding day 60 years ago.

Funding the big day took early discipline. As a young girl, Sylvia saved money earned after school by watering the garden and collecting eggs for Mrs Pritchard, making two and threepence a week (equivalent to around 11 and a half pence today). Her father carefully put two shillings aside for her each week, eventually presenting her with £200 (in today's value) toward her wedding expenses. "When my wedding was, he was able to give me one lump sum of money," Sylvia recalled. Bram remembers how affordable drinks were back then, stocking up on brandy, milk stout, and "cock fowl" beer alongside a magnificent three-tiered wedding cake.

Before departing the island, many locals will remember Bram from his work as an ambulance driver, a cleaner at the General Hospital, and his time with the PWD stores. In 1987, the couple relocated to the UK to enter domestic service—a common path for many Saints at the time. In a remarkable record of service, Sylvia and Bram worked for the very same family for 36 years. During their time in the UK, they were also fortunate to travel on holidays abroad, visiting destinations including India, Gibraltar, and Thailand, to name a few.

Now happily retired, Bram and Sylvia look back on six decades together with no regrets, only wonderful memories. Every so often, their three children—Roy, Jeremy, and Karen—get to hear the story of how their parents first fell in love.

Today, Bram and Sylvia are truly blessed to share their lives across five generations. Together with their three children, they are proud grandparents to seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and a precious great-great-grandchild.

Cheers to 60 wonderful years, Bram and Sylvia!



Letters from London



Michael Binyon, Contributed

Does Britain still believe in God? More and more the answer seems to be No. Christianity is rapidly becoming a minority religion. Church attendance has fallen sharply over the past decade, with fewer than 5 per cent of Britons now attending services regularly on Sundays. Surveys show that Britain is now one of the least religious countries in Europe – and the findings are causing a crisis for spiritual and moral leaders and especially for the Church of England, the established church still nominally headed by the King.

The once all-powerful Anglican church owns a vast number of historic churches and cathedrals throughout Britain. It is headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is also the head of Anglican churches throughout the world, including the large ones in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa. But the Church of England is now a shadow of its former self. So few people attend churches in villages that one priest sometimes now has to look after as many as 16 churches in different parishes. He has little time to meet worshippers, conduct weddings and funerals, visit the sick or to get involved in parish affairs. At the same time, there is a growing shortage of priests. Few people now attend training colleges and go on to be ordained. Some small churches have been left without a priest for years, and a growing number have been sold and turned into private residences.

The crisis in the Church of England has been growing for a while. Deep political arguments have split the clergy. The first was over the ordination of women, and especially over whether women could become bishops. Most Anglican churches now accept women priests, but a large minority disagree and many priests converted to Roman Catholicism 30 years ago. The issue has emerged again after a woman, Dame Sarah Mullaly, was, for the first time, appointed as the Archbishop of Canterbury last year. This has angered conservative Anglican churches in Africa and Asia, and there is a real danger that they will now not recognise her authority.

The second issue that has caused deep division is whether the church should accept same-sex marriages. These are now legal in Britain, and there is pressure from many gay activists for the Church to allow weddings in churches, or at least perform blessings for gay couples. But homosexuality has long been a very divisive issue, and although the church has for almost 20 years debated what its attitude should be, there is still no agreement between conservative and liberal clergy.

There are also big arguments over diversity and racial issues. Some black churches, especially in London where there are many immigrants from the West Indies, are thriving. There is now strong pressure on the established churches to make amends for their role in slavery 200 years ago. The church has proposed paying an enormous sum in "reparations" to black communities to atone for slavery. It has already spent £1.5 million on research and other fees in launching the projects. But country parishes are furious. They say they are desperately short of money and oppose payments to people who were never themselves victims of slavery.

These arguments have diminished the authority of the Church. Even among older people, Christianity is declining. Weekly attendance at church among those over 70 has halved since 2017, with only 9 per cent now going to Sunday services. Some priests are very active in social issues, working with drug addicts, the homeless and the poor. Churches have also responded by trying to become social centres, concert halls, or even pubs and post offices.

A worrying contrast is the very active growth of Islam in Britain, with some 3 million Muslims now in the country. The small number of extremists, however, have caused a deep rift with other Britons, who see Islam as linked to terrorism. There is anger that Islamist groups are trying to enforce an extremist agenda on schools and communities with Muslim populations. Some right-wing political groups now say they want to stop the building of mosques, expel Muslims from Britain and reassert "Christian values." This is a dangerous and divisive trend.

The Church of England, like the Roman Catholic church, has also suffered from the sexual abuse of children and young people by some clergy. This is an issue that has shocked the nation, especially if abusive priests have not been reported to the police or removed from office. The issue became so politically explosive that the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was forced to resign because he did not do enough to report an abusive priest, who beat several young males attending youth groups. It was the first time an archbishop had ever resigned. The Church has promised to be rigorous in preventing future abuse. But the damage to its reputation has already been done.

Claims by some Christian groups that there has been a revival of faith among young people have been undermined by investigations showing that these were not based on a proper sample. But they have sparked a big debate on whether Britain is still a Christian country. There is much interest in the future of religion in a materialist age, and whether moral values will still be based on Christian teaching. Britain is now an entirely secular society. But Christianity still dominates its festivals, its ceremonies and its rituals. Christmas and Easter remain important celebrations, even if they are overwhelmingly now commercial. Parliament still begins each session in the House of Commons with daily prayers. And most people still swear oaths on the Bible in courts of law.

Divisions between Christian sects have not gone away, however. They still influence politics in Northern Ireland, with Protestants supporting union with Britain and Roman Catholics wanting unification with the Irish republic. The sight of many abandoned or decaying church buildings has revived calls for state money and protection. But people doubt that the Church of England will remain a state church for much longer. King Charles is an active Christian. But his son and heir, Prince William, is not. The future for the Church is very uncertain.

"St Helena is all about authenticity"

Local Tourism Service Providers celebrated at World Tourism Day event, as new film is launched



Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On Saturday, 26 September, St Helena Tourism invited local tourism service providers and guests to celebrate World Tourism day at an event aimed at recognising local contributions to the tourism sector on St Helena.

World Tourism Day is celebrated globally every year on 27 September to raise awareness about the social, cultural, political, and economic value of tourism.

At Saturday night's event, held in The Market in Jamestown, guests were entertained upon arrival by the sounds of local musicians, James Fantom and Tom Wortley. Head of Tourism, Jonathan Passaportis, then addressed guests and gave recognition to local service providers' hard work in making a success of tourism on the Island.

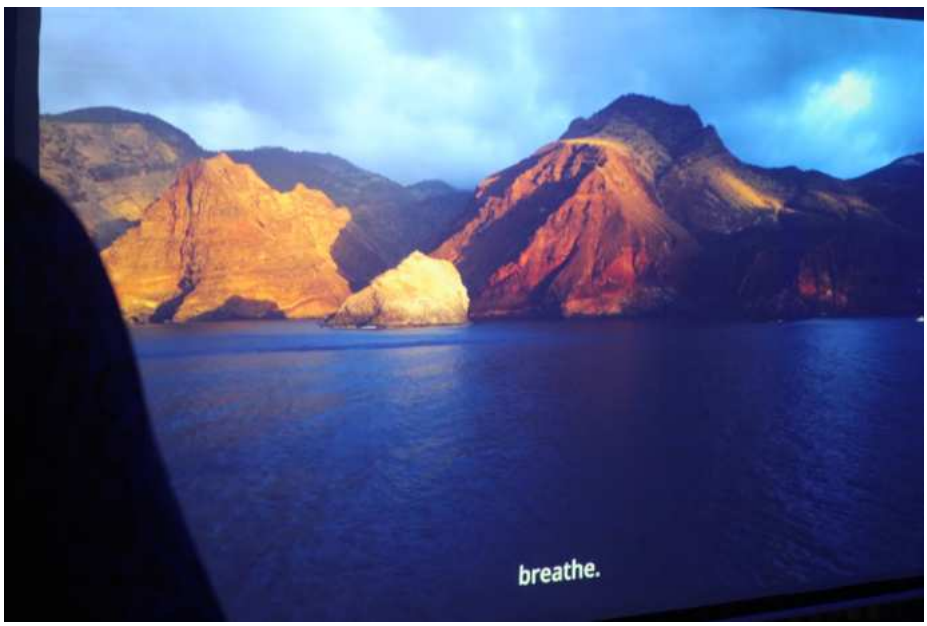
"I look at everyone here and I am inspired," he said. "Not all heroes wear capes, one of the most heroic things people can do is to turn up. When the chips are down, turn up, put a smile on your face and welcome people in."

Jono praised the contributors to St Helena's tourism sector as doing exactly this again and again, even in the face of challenges and adversity.

Jono then announced the theme for this year as 'Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism', focusing on how AI can foster smarter, more inclusive, and sustainable travel experiences. "It's all about AI and how AI can drive tourism," he elaborated, "AI is the future. We can't hide from it. But when we go through and read the tourism feedback forms, they're all commenting on the amazing experience they had with the 'people' on the island. It's not the amazing websites or the wonderful marketing material. That's the reality - the island of St Helena is all about authenticity."

During his address, Jono urged everyone to look at the newly approved Tourism Strategy and Delivery Plan, laying out the future of tourism on the island. "One thing that features throughout this document is the importance of authenticity and authentic experiences," he noted.

When thanking tourism service providers, Jono took time to celebrate the 'Emerging Family Destination' global award that St Helena recently won, presenting a plaque to the guests ahead of the actual award's arrival. When doing so, he reiterated how this award









belongs to everyone on the island in acknowledgement of all the work done in the tourism sector.

Minister Karl Thrower then joined Jono in congratulating the sector on the award and their outstanding contribution to making tourism on St Helena a success and continuing to find solutions to challenges through working together.

To conclude the evening, Jono revealed the latest tourism marketing video that went out on social media platforms from 27 September to coincide with World Tourism Day, celebrating and highlighting the unique experience that St Helena provides as a tourism destination.

"What makes this movie so powerful is that it was created on the island by Saints," Jono said as he continued, "I believe in handing over and in generating the island's local capacity. It is imperative. We are really proud of this video and I think everyone will be really proud of this video."

Jono acknowledged Colby Thomas, creator of the video, working in collaboration with Tyanne Williams and Dani Thomas, representing St Helena Tourism, while he confessed that the short film makes him feel emotional, as he expressed the hope that it would resonate with the whole community.

Finally, Jono again thanked everyone for their contribution and wished the tourism sector a good year as he shared his hope that next year there would be less of a focus on resilience and even more of a celebration of a developing and close to thriving industry on the Island.





THE WEEK OF WALKING CHARITY CHALLENGE

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

24 Post Box Walks • 7 Days • 1 Amazing Challenge

Sunday 4 October – Saturday 10 October

Can you complete **all 24 official Postbox Walks across St Helena in just 7 days?**

Take on the challenge, explore the island's incredible walking routes and **raise funds for Cancer Support St Helena**.
St Helena Tourism will donate £50 for every walker who successfully completes the challenge!

We kick off the week on **Sunday 4th October - International day of walking**, celebrating one of St Helena's favourites, Blue Point Post Box hike. Blue Point polled highest to be one of two Post Box Walks, for the installation of an authentic red post box, donated by Royal Mail UK.

Sunday, 4 October
Time: 10:00
Meeting Point: Thompsons Wood, Blue Hill
Google Maps location: -15.99585, -5.74811
Duration: Approx 3 hours
Walk Grade: Moderate 5-6

Scan to explore

Tracking Your Hikes with Outdooractive
To ensure all completed walks qualify for the charity donation, participants must track and map every route using the Outdooractive app.
1.Download the App: Get the free Outdooractive app on iOS or Android before you start.
2.Scan the QR Code: Scan the QR code on this flyer to instantly access official St Helena Post Box Walk route maps and trail details.
3.Record Your Trail: Hit "Record" on Outdooractive at the start of each hike to log your live GPS track (including Blue Point!).
4.Submit Proof: Show your 24 completed app track logs to the St Helena Tourist Office team by Saturday 10th October to unlock the £50 donation!

For further information contact the Tourist Office:
T: 22158
E: visit@sainthelena.gov.sh

sthelenatourism.com

NOTICE BOARD

METER READING SUBMISSIONS

Customers who wish to submit their own electricity and water meter readings may do so between **1 and 7 October 2026** for **October invoicing**. Customers who call in their readings will have an actual reading applied to their next bill, not an estimate.

Customers in the following areas may submit their readings if they choose to:

- Levelwood, Sandy Bay, Blue Hill, Deadwood, Longwood, St Paul's, Cleughs Plain, Rosemary, Sapper Way, New Ground, and Half Tree Hollow (Three Tanks to Cow Path and Hollow Crescent to Clay Gut).

Please note: All other areas not listed above are scheduled for a Meter Reader visit in October and therefore do not need to submit a meter reading.

When submitting your electricity or water meter readings, please include:

- Customer Reference
- Date the reading was taken

Providing this information helps us process your reading quickly and accurately.

Submission Options

Telephone: 22242 | Mobile/WhatsApp: +290 66242 | Email: meterreadings@connectonline.co.sh

Vacancy

General Worker (Banana Plantation)

One Year Fixed-Term Contract

Salary for the post will be £11,388 per annum (£949 per month).

Job Outline

As a General Worker at the Sandy Bay Banana Plantation, you will support the rehabilitation, cultivation, maintenance and harvesting of the Company's banana plantations ensuring harvested bananas are handled and prepared for sale through the Company's grocery shops in accordance with agreed production, quality and operational standards.

Interested Persons Should:

- Ideally be knowledgeable and have experience of banana harvesting and plantation maintenance
- Be physically fit and able to undertake physically demanding duties including working on steep and uneven surfaces
- Be comfortable to work outside in varying weather conditions
- Have the ability to operate various power and hand tools and agricultural equipment including undertaking equipment maintenance
- Be safety conscious and committed to following safe working practices
- Have excellent communication skills and able to work well in a team or independently
- Be organised, self motivated and able to follow instructions and established procedures
- Passion for producing high quality products and maintaining excellent standards of plantation cleanliness and crop care
- Be flexible to work outside of normal working hours as and when required

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

Mr Daren Duncan, Farms & Coffee Production Manager via 24461 daren.duncan@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Monday, 05 October 2026.**

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

- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

NOTICE BOARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 4th October
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6.00pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 6th October: Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Thursday, 8th October: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

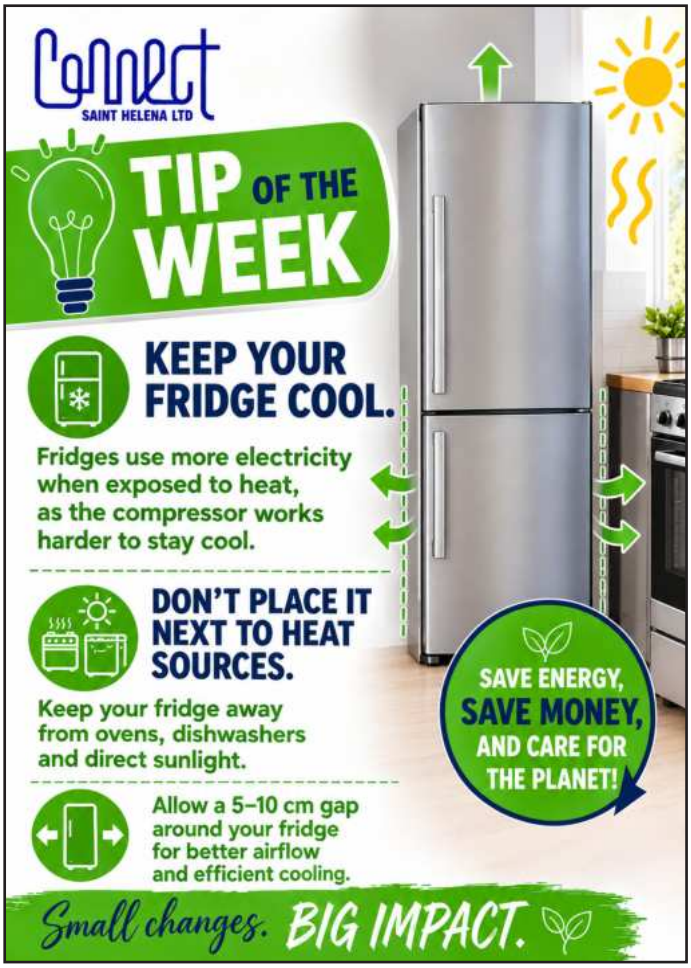
SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old
Saturday, 3th October:
Baptist School Hall, 10.00 am to 11.30

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 4th October 2026 - 27th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	St Peter
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 4th October 2026 – 27th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Monday 5th October	
7.00 p.m.	**Eucharist**	St Mary
	Thursday 8th October	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 4th October 2026 – 27th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
	Tuesday 6th October	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark





Church Notices

Prayer Meeting

Saturday 3rd October 2026 at 8:30am -Online
Contact Mercy for details-65880 or 24212

Praise and Worship Service

Take note: There will not be a church service on Sunday 4th October due to the older people's tea and fellowship that afternoon at 3pm by invitation.

Cell Meetings

Cell Meeting
The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue
at 5.30pm Wednesday 7th October.
(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)
Wednesday 7th October 2026
Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm (Contact: Mercy 53227 or Pastor 51672)

Christian Gift/bookshop & DVD rental

The Christian gift/bookshop & DVD rental (as well as second-hand goods shop) is available. For further information call 51672 or 64295

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.

Senior Marine and Fisheries Conservation Assistant
(£13,569 per annum)

We are seeking a Senior Marine and Fisheries Conservation Assistant to aid the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Officer in executing the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section's initiatives. This role will ensure alignment with the Marine Management Plan and Marine Research and Monitoring Plan through effective coordination of the Section's operational activities and projects. The successful candidate will manage administrative duties related to coordination efforts and Marine Protected Area management, assist with fieldwork activities and collaborate closely with the broader team. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Adam Riggs on Tel No. 25966 or Email: adam.riggs@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 14 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 21 October 2026
Interview date: 28 October 2026

Prison Officer
(£13,569 per annum)

Working in a prison isn't for everyone, but, if you're one of the few with the right blend of qualities, it's a secure and very rewarding career. HM Prison Service serves the public by keeping in custody those committed by the courts. The role of a Prison Officer is to look after them with humanity and help them lead law abiding and useful lives in custody and after release. Day-to-day, you'll supervise prisoners and help to create a safe, secure environment where rehabilitation is supported and encouraged. You will take direction from Senior Prison Officers and assist the Superintendent of Prisons to run a safe and secure prison. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Paul Duncan on Tel No. 25995 or Email: paul.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 14 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 22 October 2026
Interview date: 03 November 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

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

Research Coordinator
(£16,248 per annum)

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

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

Enquiries: Angela Benjamin on Tel No. 22607 or Email: angela.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 16 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 21 October 2026
Interview date: 29 October 2026

Customs & Immigration Administrative Assistant
(£10,088 per annum)

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Custom & Immigration team? If so, we are looking to recruit a Custom & Immigration Administration Assistant. The Custom & Immigration Administration Assistant is responsible for completing straightforward administrative processes that support the smooth running of Customs and Immigration services and delivering a high quality, customer focused service. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who works methodically and has a keen eye for detail that can provide administrative support to the organisation. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Juliette O'Dean on Tel No. 22287 or Email: juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 15 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 21 October 2026
Interview date: 30 October 2026

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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

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- → **Paid sickness absence**

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

Administrative Assistant
(£10,088 per annum)

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Central Support team? If so, we are looking to recruit an Administration Assistant. The Administration Assistant is responsible for completing straightforward administrative processes that support the smooth running of Portfolios and delivering a high quality, customer focused service. We are seeking a highly motivated individual who works methodically and has a keen eye for detail that can provide administrative support across the Portfolios. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**08 October 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**14 October 2026**
Interview date:	**27 October 2026**

Administrative Team Leader
(£13,569 per annum)

The Administration Team Leader will contribute to service delivery by coordinating the daily operations of the Senior Administration Assistants and Administration Assistants within the Administration Support Service operate smoothly, ensuring that all administrative tasks are performed efficiently and effectively to enable the Portfolios to operate smoothly. Located in the Central Support Service but mobile across the Portfolios, this role promotes efficiencies and assists the Senior Administration Team Leader in creating an effective administration service that adapts to the evolving requirements of a contemporary Public Service. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22470 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**08 October 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**14 October 2026**
Interview date:	**22 October 2026**

Executive Assistant to HE Governor
(£16,248 per annum)

We are looking for an Executive Assistant to HE the Governor to serve as the principal point of contact in administration matters relating to the Office of the Governor. Working in a fast-paced environment, the postholder will co-ordinate and manage engagement with a range of officials, including Ministers, Elected Members, senior public servants, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, community organisations and members of the public. They will be required to maintain oversight of the Governor's commitments and responsibilities, respecting deadlines and ensuring timely follow up and completion of agreed actions. The role requires exceptional organisational skills as well as high standards of integrity and confidentiality. The successful candidate will work alongside the current postholder for a short period of time to ensure a smooth transition.

Enquiries:	**Carol Henry on Tel No. 22470 or Email: carol.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**07 October 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**12 October 2026**
Interview date:	**21 October 2026**

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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

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

Head of Economic Development Policy

(£30,560 per annum)

St Helena's Economic Development Portfolio are modernising financial services, growing tourism, opening the island to new investment, and looking to support new economic sectors to create economic growth. We need a senior policy leader to turn strategy into results that people and businesses can feel.

As Head of Economic Development Policy, you will deliver the vision of the SEDS, to create an enabling environment where people and businesses thrive, preserve what makes St Helena unique, and help improve how government delivers.

What you will do

- Own the Economic Development Delivery Plan, including budgeting, strategic planning and Monitoring & Evaluation.
- Advise the Director, Chief Secretary and Minister for Economic Development on all aspects of economic development policy.
- Engage with Executive Council, Legislative Council, businesses and partners to build support for change.
- Remove barriers that hold back local businesses and population growth, working across government.
- Turn policy into legislation where needed, working with the Attorney General's Chambers.
- Develop strategies for new and existing economic sectors.
- Promote St Helena internationally, keeping the investment prospectus, website, and promotional materials current.
- Identify funding sources beyond UKG Assistance and lead bids where appropriate.

What you will bring

- A degree in economics, international development, public policy or a related field, or equivalent experience.
- Significant experience in economic development, including delivering a work plan.
- A track record of writing and implementing policy and strategy.
- Senior leadership experience, building and developing high-performing teams.
- Experience of managing budgets, resources and funding.
- Strong analytical skills and the confidence to present difficult messages clearly.
- Excellent written and verbal communication.

A project or programme management qualification, such as PRINCE2 or MSP, would be an advantage.

Why join us

This is a rare chance to influence a whole economy at a scale where your work is visible. You will work closely with ministers, shape legislation, and see your decisions make a direct difference to the community.

Enquiries:	**Damian Burns on Tel No. 22470 or Email: damian.burns@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**23 October 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**30 October 2026**
Interview date:	**Week commencing 9 November 2026**

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NOTICE BOARD

(St Helena) Cancer Support Awareness Charity
Registered Charity No. 00024

Together we can make a difference

Events Calendar

JOIN US FOR A SERIES OF FUN, COMMUNITY EVENTS
IN SUPPORT OF CANCER SUPPORT AND AWARENESS ST HELENA

28th September — Launch of Carnival Sweepstake

2nd October — Pass the Baton Challenge
led by SHG

3rd October — Coffee Morning
10am – Jamestown Community Centre
Don't forget your mug.

8th October — Miscellaneous Stall
10am – Canister

9th October — Sponsored Karaoke
at Donny's Club 7pm

16th October — Mufti Day
Any Colour

17th October — Sponsored Paddle Board
from James Bay to Lemon Valley
Led by Cerys Joshua

18th October — Patients Lunch
by invitation

24th October — Carnival Parade
starting 3pm with festivities
on the Seafront from 4pm

SUPPORT ♥ AWARENESS ♥ HOPE

Together we make a difference

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

has a Vacancy for a

Financial Services Manager

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

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

Interested Persons should have:

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

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

Application forms can be collected from the Main Office Building, Jamestown, or alternatively, an electronic copy can be requested via email address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, or via email address hrm@solomons.co.sh by **1600hrs, Friday, 16 October 2026.**

NOTICE BOARD

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

Electrician

Total package value up to £26,908

(comprising salary of £15,062.00 per annum plus food and utilities allowances, free housing and other benefits)

About the role

As an Electrician with the Ascension Island Government, you'll help keep the island's buildings, equipment and essential services running safely. You'll be part of the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing team, working on everything from homes and workplaces to specialist equipment in the hospital and dental surgery. It's a varied, hands-on role that also includes supporting cargo operations when needed.

What you'll do

You'll install, inspect, test and repair electrical systems, appliances, tools and equipment. Your work will include lighting and power circuits, fire alarms, and air conditioning and refrigeration units. You'll keep clear records, follow safe working practices and help other trades when needed. Cargo handling is a core part of the role. When rostered, you'll work outdoors on the pier, barges or a vessel, which can involve 12-hour shifts and weekends. You'll also take part in an out-of-hours on-call rota.

What you'll bring

You'll be a qualified electrician with at least five years' experience and a current IET Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) qualification. You'll be comfortable planning your own work, solving practical problems and communicating well with the people who rely on your work. You'll also need basic computer skills and a clean, valid licence for class A, B and C vehicles. Experience with air conditioning and refrigeration would be welcome, as would a relevant qualification or a willingness to work towards one.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary of up to £15,062 per annum (taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a single status contract and the following benefits:

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

This appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory Employment References; Basic Criminal Record Check; Satisfactory Medical Clearance; Approved EVISA

Closing date:	**23 October 2026**
Interviews:	**week commencing 26 October 2026**
Start date:	**as soon as possible**

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

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

St Helena Built Heritage Grant Scheme

What is the St Helena Built Heritage Grant Scheme?

The aim is to provide financial assistance towards the conservation of buildings, and monuments in the Jamestown Conservation area. Grant awards will give particular attention to buildings and monuments of historic and architectural merit and applications where urgent and important conservation work is judged to be necessary, emphasis is placed on increasing the visual appeal of buildings.

Who is eligible and how much can you apply for?

Applications for funding are welcome from owners of heritage properties in the Jamestown Conservation Area; this usually means, but is not limited to, listed buildings and monuments as catalogued in the Crallan Report.

The funding pot is limited at £50,000 and grants are capped at £5,000.

Applications must be match funded for 40% of the total project cost.

For example an £8,000 project would be eligible for £4,800, while a £15,000 project would only be eligible for the maximum of £5,000.

Smaller projects (up to £1,000 in value) of a purely aesthetic nature, such as painting, will not require match funding.

For an application form, full list of criteria and information required for an application, please contact museum@helanta.co.sh or call us on 22845.

If you are unsure of your eligibility or whether your project will meet our criteria for funding then you can still contact us for a consultation.

Applications will close on the 31st of October.

NOTICE BOARD

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MONTHLY BILL - UPDATE

Following the introduction of monthly billing, Connect Saint Helena Ltd (Connect) would like to provide a further update to help customers understand how the new billing system works and what it means for their accounts.

Actual Bills

During months when a meter reader does not visit your area, you can submit your own meter reading if you wish. Providing a reading helps us calculate your actual consumption for the billing period rather than estimating your usage. Please look out for our adverts in local media and on Connect's communication channels, namely our Facebook page and website www.connect.co.sh, for meter reading submission dates and instructions.

Estimated Bills

If actual meter readings are not available, your bill will be estimated based on your previous average monthly water and electricity usage.

How Monthly Billing Works

Our bills are prepared monthly and are based on the readings received at the beginning of the month. For example, if you submit a reading on **1 October**, this reading will be used to prepare your bill issued at the **end of October**. That bill will then be sent to you in the **first or second week of November**.

All standing charges are calculated daily and applied according to the number of days in the billing period.

To ensure your account is accurate, each month's bill is processed at the start of the following month. This allows us to include all payments received during the previous month before your bill is issued.

Receiving Your Bill

You can expect to receive your bill during the first or second week of the month following processing.

Your repayment period remains unchanged, you will still have **28 days from the end of the billing period** to make payment.

Benefits of Monthly Billing for Domestic Customers

1. **Fairer monthly charges** Instead of costs building up towards the end of a quarter, charges are spread more evenly across each month.
2. **More predictable bills** Monthly billing provides a clearer view of ongoing usage and account balances throughout the year.
3. **Additional water allowance in the medium tariff band** Domestic customers receive an extra 2 units within the medium tariff band over a quarter, providing greater value before higher tariff rates apply.

Current Domestic Monthly Tariff Rates

Electricity	Water
First 333 units - £0.47 per kWh	First 5 m^3 - £2.49 per m^3
Units above 333 - £0.58 per kWh	6-9m^3 - £2.35 per m^3
	Over 9m^3 - £6.40 per m^3

Note: These are monthly rates, prorated from the previous quarterly tariff structure.

Direct Debit Customers

For customers who pay by Direct Debit, payments will be collected on the 29th of each month. If the 29th falls on a weekend, payment will be taken on the nearest working day before the 29th.

How Do I Know How Much to Pay?

The easiest way to check what you owe is to look at the balance outstanding shown on your most recent bill. If you are unsure how much you need to pay, please get in touch with our Billing Team, who will be happy to confirm your account balance.

Need Help?

If you have any questions about your bill, credit note, meter readings or account balance, our Billing Team is here to help.

Please call us on 22242 or 22341, or email enquiries@connectonline.co.sh. A member of our team will be happy to assist you.

We thank customers for their patience and cooperation as we continue to improve our billing services.

30 September 2026

Lay Advocates Recruitment

Two Positions Open

PUBLIC SOLICITOR OFFICE

Judge Brian Barker KC during a 2023 review of legal services on St Helena praised the role of the lay advocate:

> *"The Lay Advocate System is a tradition in the islands where highly regarded members of the community have rights of advocacy and can be asked to advise and sometimes represent St Helenians in both criminal and civil mattes …. Their community knowledge often allows them to resolve issues without the need to come to court"*

If you think you could be a lay advocate or would like some more information, please contact the Public Solicitor's Office on 23008 or the Public Solicitor on walter.scott@publicsolicitor.com and you will be supplied with more information.

As self-employed advisors, lay advocates are supported in their important role by the Public Solicitor's Office but are independent of the PSO and enjoy the freedom of setting their own hours and working at their own pace.

The role is challenging and can be very busy. Lay advocates need to be available to attend the police station (often out of hours) and court for criminal matters.

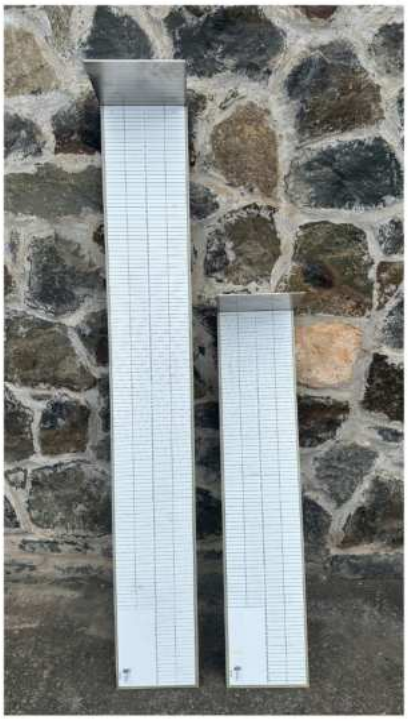
The role is financially rewarded through the Legal Assistance Fund depending on experience and hours worked per month. Full details can be made available on request.

If you are interested in the role, please send a Letter of Interest outlining why you think you would make a good lay advocate to walter.scott@publicsolicitor.com by no later than the 23 October 2026.

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

MEASURING BOARDS AVAILABLE



The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section has a limited number of 1m and 1.5m measuring boards (L-shaped ruler) available for local fishers.

Limited to one measuring board per licence holder. If a licence holder has multiple vessels then only one measuring board will be issued.

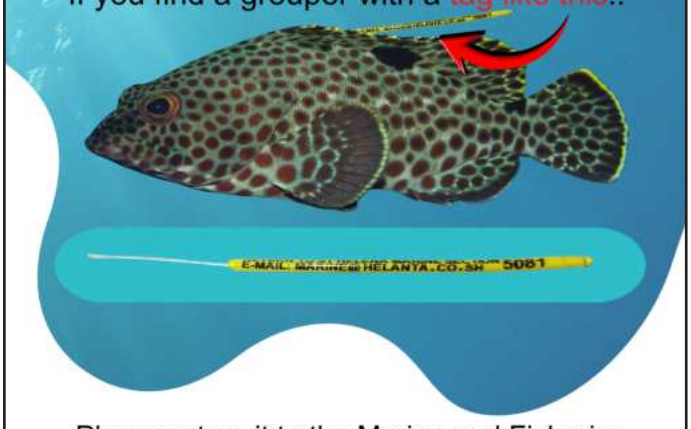
Please phone the Marine Section on 25966, or email jake.letori@sainthelena.gov.sh to register your interest.

Collection available from the Marine Centre, The Wharf, Jamestown.

REWARD

Up to £5!

If you find a grouper with a tag like this..



Please return it to the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section, in the Marine Centre at the Wharf in Jamestown, telephone number - 25966, marine@sainthelena.gov.sh

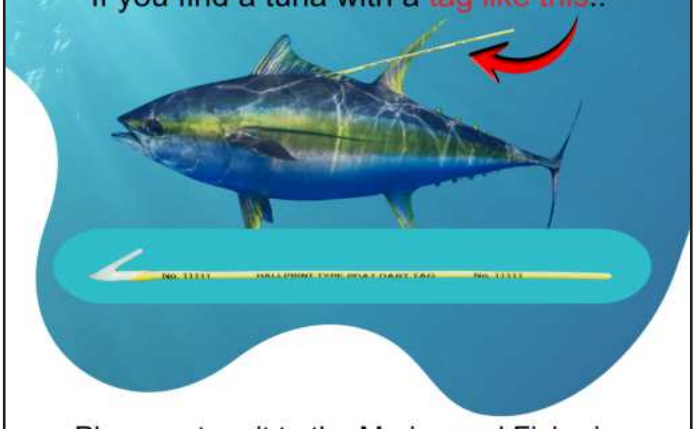
Along with the tag ID, date, location caught and total length of the fish.

If undersized, record only the tag number and fish length, then return the fish to the water with the tag attached.

REWARD

Up to £10!

If you find a tuna with a tag like this..



Please return it to the Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section, in the Marine Centre at the Wharf in Jamestown, telephone number - 25966, marine@sainthelena.gov.sh

Along with the tag ID, date, location caught and total length of the fish.

If undersized, record only the tag number and fish length, then return the fish to the water with the tag attached.

NOTICE BOARD

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT RED HILL SHOP

Are you a reliable, motivated individual with a passion for retail and excellent customer service?

Red Hill Shop, a small, family-run business, is looking for a dependable **Shop Supervisor** to manage our daily operations in an independent, one-staff setup. In this role, you will be the trusted face of our shop - taking full ownership of the store's day-to-day success, keeping our shelves beautifully stocked, and helping us introduce fresh new products and services to our community. If you enjoy managing a shop independently and take pride in creating a clean, organised, and welcoming environment for local customers, this role is perfect for you.

Core Responsibilities:

- **Manage the Shop Independently:** Administer all day-to-day operations and take ownership of the storefront.
- **Deliver Personal Service:** Greet and support our customers with top-tier, friendly service.
- **Handle Stock & Displays:** Ensure display units are fully stocked, accurately priced, and beautifully arranged.
- **Drive Shop Growth:** Bring your own creative ideas to life by introducing new products and services that meet customer demands.
- **Maintain the Business:** Ensure flawless record-keeping, oversee local credit customer accounts, and maintain excellent shop hygiene and safety standards.

What We Are Looking For:

- Proven retail management or shop floor experience.
- Strong understanding of stock control and proficient record-keeping skills.
- A keen eye for detail, store safety, and loss prevention.
- An independent, proactive mindset geared towards running a smooth solo operation.

Work Schedule:

Enjoy a structured, consistent routine with a fantastic perk—**no Friday shifts and no public holiday shifts!**

- **Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays:** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM **Wednesdays:** 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (*Enjoy a mid-week half-day!*)
- **Fridays:** Off **Saturdays:** 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Compensation: Attractive salary accompanied by other benefits.

How to Apply: Ready to take the lead and build a rewarding career with us? Please submit your CV and a Cover Letter or simply reach out to express your interest. You can apply by contacting **Julie Thomas**:

- **Drop off in person:** Gordon's Post, Alarm Forest OR directly at Red Hill Shop.
- **For inquiries, call:** +290 24001 or +290 61920 (Alternative Landline: +290 24570).

Application Deadline: ASAP, preferably by no later than Wednesday, 07 October 2026 (or sooner if possible).

St Helena Government

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Concept Design & Architectural Renders for St Helena Investment Sites

SHG is inviting Expressions of Interest from architects and designers to create concept visuals renders and artist's impressions for three exciting sites in the Investment Prospectus. We're looking for people who can help investors picture the possibilities.

Please note: this call is for illustrative concept visuals only, to help investors picture future possibilities. It is not a decision to redevelop any site. Any future development proposal would follow a separate process.

BRADLEYS	SUNDALE	HIGH HILL
Well-connected sites near Longwood - envision a modern warehousing or light-industrial hub	180° ocean views - picture a landmark hospitality, commercial or lifestyle destination	Forest retreat setting - imagine eco-retreat linked to the island's post box walks

What we're looking for:

- A concept visual and short design note for one, two, or all three sites
- Examples of your previous design, illustration, or visualisation work
- Your proposed fee per property

Fee: Fixed fee per concept, agreed with SHG before work begins.
Timeframe: Concepts to be delivered within approximately 2-3 months of appointment.
Deadline to apply: 23 October 2026

Send your expression of interest to the Trade and Investment team
invest@sainthelena.gov.sh

Full brief with property details available on request.

These sites reflect priorities in SHG's Sustainable Economic Development Strategy 2023-2033 (www.sainthelena.gov.sh) - including hospitality and ecotourism development, and strategic trade and industrial infrastructure.

St Helena Government

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dive Inspection of NAV Aids

The St Helena Port Authority is seeking expression of interests from suitably experienced diving contractors to undertake underwater inspections and assess the structural integrity of the following Navigational Aids.

- The navigational aid marking the wreck of the MV Darkdale;
- Three red navigational buoys within Rupert's Bay;
- The yellow tanker buoy near Rupert's Jetty; and
- The navigational aid attached to the wreck FV Frontier

The purpose of the inspections is to assess the condition, reliability and structural integrity of the navigational aids and their associated mooring systems. This will include, as applicable, inspection of the buoys, fixed structures, chains, anchors and associated mooring components.

Following completion of the inspections, the contractor will be required to provide a written report detailing the condition of each navigational aid and its associated mooring system, identifying any defects or areas of concern and providing recommendations for any remedial works required to ensure the aids remain structurally sound and operationally reliable.

Interested contractors should provide details of their relevant experience, qualifications and capability to undertake the required underwater inspections.

Please note: this Expression of Interest is intended to establish initial interest and capability only and does not constitute an invitation to tender or a commitment by the St Helena Port Authority to award any contract. Any subsequent procurement will be undertaken in accordance with the applicable procurement requirements.

Please submit expressions of interest to Simon Wade, Acting Harbour Master by 9 October 2026 via email to simon.wade@sainthelna.gov.sh

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/

SHG
29 September 2026

SPORTS ARENA

Rounders Report



WSA, Contributed

The Incredibles played the Thunderbats, scoring an impressive 89.5 rounders. April Stevens and Sara Thomas were the top scorers, making valuable contributions with the bat.

With 1st place being determined by rounders scored, the Incredibles put themselves in a strong position by making sure their score was one that the Thunderbats couldn't catch.

The Thunderbats played with only seven players but showed great determination and continued to battle throughout the game, finishing on 5½ rounders.

Lady of the Match went to April Stevens, who had an excellent all-round performance, making a strong contribution both with the bat and in the field.

A great effort from both teams, with the Thunderbats showing real determination despite being short on players.

The game between Battitude and Ballzy Ladies was an important one, as it would determine second place in the league table.

Battitude came into the game in full swing, but Ballzy Ladies showed why there has been such a battle throughout the season, securing the win 21½ rounders to 4.

From Ballzy Ladies, Danni Thomas and Katelyn Benjamin made the biggest contributions with the bat, while Whitney Young was Battitude's top contributor.

Lady of the Match went to Alfreda Yon for her outstanding performance in the field, while Young Lady of the Match went to Katelyn Benjamin for her excellent all-round performance with both the fielding and batting.

With the win, Ballzy Ladies have now secured second place in the league.





Golf Report

Neil Joshua Wins September Monthly Medal

SHGC, Contributed



Nine players contested St Helena Golf Club's Monthly Medal on Sunday, 27 September, with excellent weather providing ideal golfing conditions.

Neil Joshua claimed the title with a net 72, while Peter Bagley took runner-up prize on countback after tying with Keith Joshua on net 73. Bagley finished second, with Joshua third.

Neil Joshua also won the Two-Ball Pool, making it a successful day for the Monthly Medal winner.

New Club Policies Coming into Effect

Members are reminded that the club's new Handicaps Policy and Dress Code Policy will come into effect from 1 October 2026.

Members who are not currently on the club's email mailing list and would like to receive copies of the policies can request them from the Honorary Secretary at secretary@sthelengolf.com.

Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new policies ahead of their implementation.

Next Competition

St Helena Golf Club will host an 18-hole Stableford competition on Sunday, 4 October, sponsored by St Helena Golf Club. Tee-off at 12:00 noon. Registration closes on Saturday, 3 October. To register, leave a message on 24421.

Members are encouraged to register early and support the club's next competition.

Happy swinging!

SPORTS ARENA





utes to re-establish total control, before Joey Thomas finally got his reward in the 88th minute to seal a 6–2 triumph. Longwood's Zac Francis earned Young Player of the Match honours for his display.

The 3.30pm encounter between St Paul's and Jamestown produced an absolute classic, culminating in a dramatic 4–4 draw. Following a subdued first half in which St Paul's exercised greater positional control, Josh Johnson broke the deadlock in the 41st minute to send St Paul's into the interval with a 1–0 lead.

The second half exploded into life, producing seven goals and non-stop end-to-end action. Blaze Baldwin doubled the St Paul's lead in the 56th minute, but a re-energised Jamestown side began moving the ball with greater confidence, aggression, and speed. Lebron George pulled a goal back in the 70th minute to make it 2–1. St Paul's thought they had restored their two-goal cushion when they found the net again, only for the effort to be controversially ruled out for offside. Moments later, Jamestown goalkeeper Ryan Backhouse pulled off a vital penalty save to keep his side within striking distance, before Baldwin eventually grabbed his second in the 80th minute to make it 3–1. An own goal in the 82nd minute brought Jamestown back within reach, but another own goal in the 90th minute at the other end appeared to hand St Paul's a comfortable 4–2 lead heading into stoppage time.



What followed in the final moments was sheer drama. Jamestown surged forward and Lebron George struck in the 91st minute to make it 4–3. With seconds remaining, George was on hand once again in the 93rd minute to turn the ball home, completing a brilliant second-half hat-trick and triggering euphoric celebrations among Jamestown players and supporters as the whistle blew on a dramatic 4–4 draw.

St Paul's defender Korben Minto was named Man of the Match for a solid shift at the back, while teammate Ryan Stevens picked up Young Player of the Match.

DISTRICT FOOTBALL RESULTS

Sunday 27 September 2026

Longwood 2
R Legg (2)
YPoM: Zac Francis

Half Tree Hollow 6
R Benjamin (2), T Brady
R Benjamin, S Henry,
J Thomas
MOM: Rico Benjamin

St Paul's 4
B Baldwin (2), J Johnson, OG
MoM: Korben Minto
YPoM: Ryan Stevens

Jamestown 4
L George (3), OG

DISTRICT FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday 4 October 2026

1.30pm **Jamestown vs Longwood**
3.30pm **St Paul's vs HTH**

**Fixtures subject to weather conditions*

SPORTS ARENA



Stoppage-Time Salvation

Lebron George hat-trick rescues Jamestown in 8-goal thriller as holders Half Tree Hollow pull clear of the pack

Liam Yon, SAMS

Gameweek 2 of the 2026 SHFA District League at Francis Plain delivered another afternoon of high-scoring drama on Sunday, headlined by a breath-taking eight-goal thriller between St Paul's and Jamestown and a second straight victory for defending champions Half Tree Hollow.

In the 1.30pm opening fixture, holders Half Tree Hollow maintained their perfect start to the campaign with a 6–2 win over a spirited Longwood side debuting a new green and white striped kit. Despite dominating possession and territorial control, the champions were unusually wasteful in front of goal, rattling the woodwork multiple times in both halves. League top-scorer Joey Thomas appeared cursed for much of the afternoon, missing opportunities he would normally convert blindfolded as several of his better efforts crashed back off the crossbar and posts. Longwood showed plenty of grit, backed by an outstanding performance from goalkeeper Clayton Leo, who pulled off a series of top-drawer saves to keep his side in contention. However, Longwood lacked attacking fluidity, with their youthful wingers struggling to offer sufficient defensive work rate and striker Sean-Lee Thomas left isolated up front, feeding on scraps against a resolute HTH backline.

Half Tree Hollow eventually broke through in the 14th minute when Ryan Benjamin opened the scoring, before Scott Henry—who produced an immense performance in central midfield for the second week in a row—doubled the lead in the 44th minute to give HTH a 2–0 half-time cushion. Tyler-John Brady extended the advantage to 3–0 in the 58th minute, but Longwood refused to go down quietly. Captain Ronan Legg spearheaded a brief fightback, pulling one back in the 61st minute before unleashing a spectacular long-range wonder strike in the 67th minute to narrow the deficit to 3–2.

As the match entered its final stretch, Longwood's energy levels dropped noticeably, allowing Half Tree Hollow to exploit space behind the defensive line. Man of the Match Rico Benjamin took full advantage, netting a quick-fire double in the 70th and 72nd min-

