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SENTINEL

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Paddling for a Purpose

Inaugural Sponsored Ocean Paddle raises £1,600 for Cancer Support & Awareness

HIAS Visit



All you need to know about Child Benefit Scheme inside



Floating University Comes to Town

— **Liam Yon,** SAMS —



St Helena's streets were filled with an extra burst of energy and youthful enthusiasm this week as James Bay welcomed the arrival of cruise ship, MV World Odyssey. Carrying over 520 passengers and 180 crew members, the vessel's visit offered a vibrant celebration of culture, exploration, and unexpected connections in the middle of the South Atlantic.

Unlike standard luxury liners, the 22,496 GT vessel serves a dual identity; between September and April each year, it operates as the "floating university" for the renowned Semester at Sea study-abroad program, chartered by the Institute for Shipboard Education to carry college students, faculty, and lifelong learners on global academic voyages, however during the summer months, it transitions back to the luxury classic liner, MS Deutschland.

Drawing on this unique student population, Tuesday's visitor turnout felt noticeably younger than typical cruise ship calls. Passengers wasted no time diving into island life; while many pre-booked island tours or hired local taxi operators on the spot, others took to wandering the historic streets of Jamestown.

Welcoming the arrival, St Helena Tourism Manager, Dianne Venning, highlighted the enthusiastic response from those onboard. "The visit of the MV World Odyssey provided a great opportunity for students, teachers and professors travelling with Semester at Sea

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Photo by Sinead Green

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Donna Crowie, SAMS

As I sit in the office writing my comment, the Carnival tunes are pumping from my Tuesday morning show. Yes, this weekend is Carnival 2026; this Saturday, the town will be full of colour showcasing those handmade costumes and also showing how the community of St Helena comes together and shows support for a charity that has helped so many people over the years.

Have you ever searched what is cancer? According to my friend google its "a large group of diseases characterised by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells in the body." Of course, cancer can start anywhere in the body. Some types are easy to treat, but then there are others that are very severe.

This disease has affected so many families near and far. Cancer wasn't something I can remember hearing very often, but now that's all we hear. Just writing this my eyes are full – there are people amongst our community who have fight the disease more than once – you really showed the Big C whose boss, but it's also heart-breaking remembering those who lost their battle.

Now not all times you can prevent this, or any illness, but when the opportunity arises, I urge you to get a screen or test done – as we have heard there is bowel screening taking place soon – if you meet the requirement, go for it! It's better to deal with it now than to regret it later.

I know sounding very mournful right now. Losing someone to this and being unable to help is devastating. I'm sure others feel this way too, so do whatever you can to prevent it.

Ok, that's enough sad faces now – I really thought last week and on the weekend we were bringing in the Christmas weather – now what, I am sitting here with jacket on and it very dull outside – even though we enjoy the hot summer days, we also need to be grateful when the heavens open, if it keeps going with no rain we might be seeing hosepipe bans and water reductions happening soon.

Also, as you read this on Thursday, 22 October, we are 64 days away from Christmas day - just saying! Happy Thursday everyone, and happy reading!

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ST HELENA NEWS



to experience the unique attractions of St Helena," she said. "The visitors were very enthusiastic to explore the island and make the most of their time ashore. They were excited to climb Jacob's Ladder, go hiking, meet Jonathan the tortoise and visit the historic sites of Longwood House and Napoleon's Tomb. Those keen to explore St Helena's marine environment also enjoyed scuba diving, snorkelling and swimming in James Bay."

On land, iconic spots like the Castle Gardens proved popular, alongside the ever-challenging Jacob's Ladder—where the brave ones conquered all 699 steps to earn their official certificates at the St Helena Museum. The sunny weather also drove crowds to local refreshment spots, with The Standard steps packed with locals and visitors alike, and long queues forming at Uncle Borb's Ice Cream bus.

Dianne noted how warmly the visitors engaged with the community throughout the day. "Following their excursions, the visitors spent time wandering around the town, browsing local shops for souvenirs and sampling the offerings of local eateries," she commented. "They were friendly, engaging and appreciative of the opportunity to visit, sharing positive comments about their experiences."

For one group, the day featured a bespoke island tour coordinated by Markques McKnight through Da Nova Travel Agents and delivered at short notice by the New Horizons Youth Club, who reflected on the successful day of sightseeing and heritage via a Facebook post. "At New Horizons, we are proud to offer more than just a tour," they said. "We create experiences, think outside the box and make the most of what St Helena has to offer."

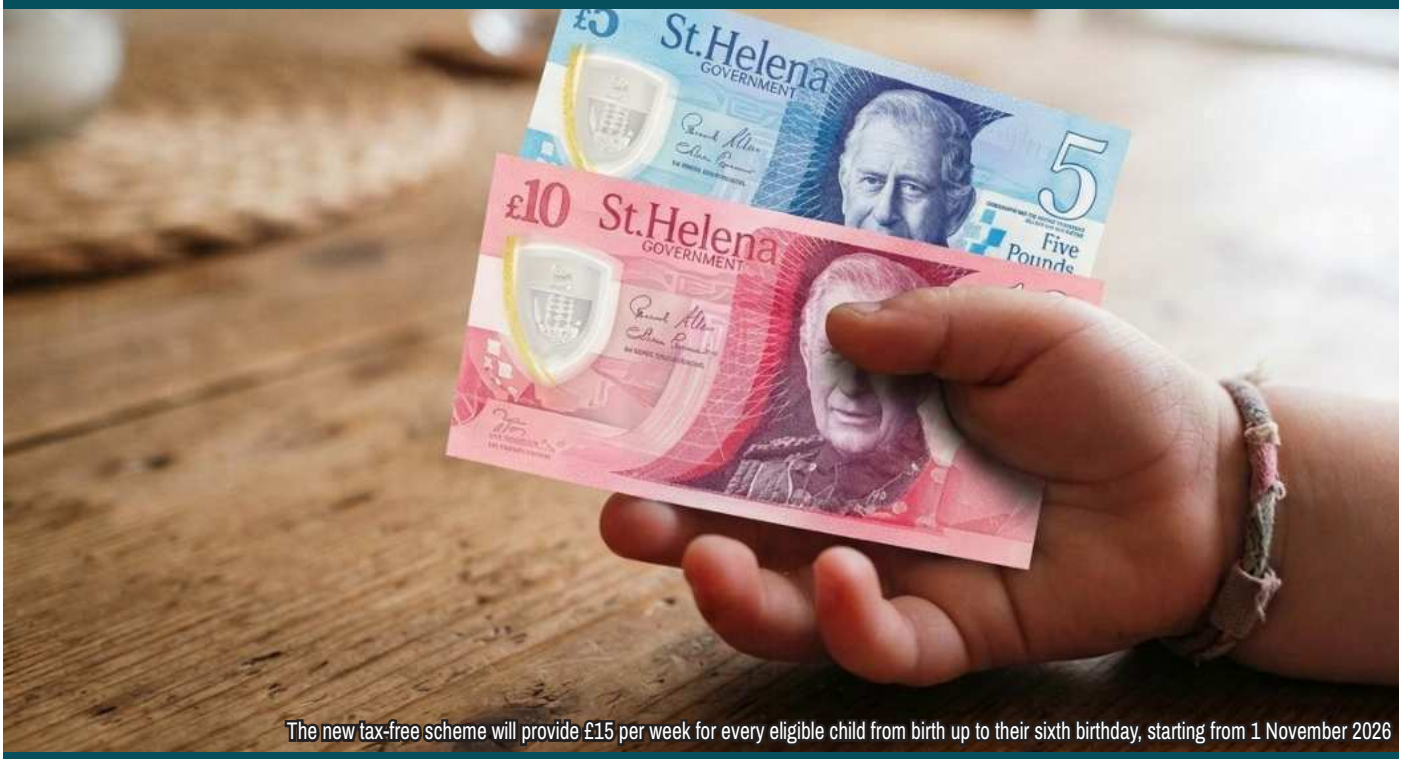
For local resident, Jodie Thomas, the highlight of the cruise ship's visit will undoubtedly go down as her "best day ever" because Jodie had a surprise encounter with one of her favourite content creators, whom she has spent years watching on YouTube—Nicole Laeno, a digital creator boasting over 3.74 million subscribers. "Believe it when people say it's a small world," Jodie posted to Facebook. "Today I got to meet one of my favourite Youtubers that I grew up watching, and still watch; Nicole Laeno. It was such a shock and pleasure to meet such an icon and I will forever remember this moment! Best day ever - I am beyond excited!"



With smiling visitors, unforgettable local hospitality, and memories that spanned from the historic heights of High Knoll to chance celebrity meetings, the World Odyssey's stopover proved to be an absolute triumph for St Helena. "It was a pleasure to welcome our visitors and to see them immerse in the island's experiences, attractions and local culture during their visit," concluded Tourism Manager Dianne.



Financial Relief for Young Families



The new tax-free scheme will provide £15 per week for every eligible child from birth up to their sixth birthday, starting from 1 November 2026

All you need to know about St Helena's new Child Benefit Scheme

Liam Yon, SAMS

With families across St Helena facing the everyday pressures of rising costs, the St Helena Government's new Child Benefit scheme is set to launch on 1 November 2026, with the first payments scheduled for the following week. Approved by Executive Council, the scheme introduces a dedicated, tax-free payment of £15 per week per eligible child for families with young children from birth up to their sixth birthday.

Appearing on the SAMS Radio 1 'In The Know' programme this week, Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, and Deputy Financial Secretary, Nicholas Yon, provided a comprehensive deep dive into how the policy will work on the ground, emphasising that the initiative is designed as a "practical investment in families".

Opening the discussion, Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks highlighted that the policy forms a core part of the government's commitment to "protect living standards, support families, and make St Helena a place where people can build a future".

"The purpose of the benefit is to help improve the financial position of families with young children," she explained, noting that it assists parents with everyday expenses such as "nappies, food, milk, etc." before children enter full-time education or preschool. The scheme recognises that "giving children a good start matters to the whole community," pointing to international evidence showing that financial support during early development yields long-term social and educational benefits.

Detailing the operational guidelines, Deputy Financial Secretary, Nicholas Yon, outlined the core criteria required to qualify for the £15 weekly payment.

To be eligible, a child must be born and under the age of six (defined as zero to five inclusive, up to their sixth birthday); be ordinarily resident on St Helena, with parents or guardians intending for the child to live on the island for at least the next six months; have a claimant who holds primary responsibility for their day-to-day care and is at least 16 years of age.

Nicholas noted that standard provisions are in place for temporary absences. Families taking a holiday or break overseas can continue receiving the benefit for up to 90 days, after which payments pause until the child returns. However, where a child is absent due to an official government-arranged medical referral, the benefit will continue uninterrupted for the duration of the trip, mirroring the rules of the Basic Island Pension.

In a deliberate effort to ensure maximum uptake and accessibility, the application process has been kept streamlined, with applicants not required to submit any employment status or income-related details.

"We're not asking for income information or employment status, we're not asking for any of that information," the Deputy Financial Secretary stated. "For the purposes of child benefit, that's irrelevant."

Instead, the short application form requires only the applicant's name and relationship to the child, the child's name and date of birth, a copy of the child's birth certificate or identifying document confirming age, and a simple declaration confirming primary care responsibilities and residency intentions.

Discussing why the government opted against means-testing or income thresholds, Nicholas and the Chief Minister explained that adding complex administrative criteria risks discouraging eligible families from applying.

"The moment you start to look at setting those type of levels... the worry is, the risk we have is that people simply won't apply," he noted. By keeping the scheme broadly accessible—while working within tight budgetary constraints—the government aims to reach approximately 90% of children who need financial support.


Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks said she was 'really excited' to be able to get this scheme over the line for young families

To ensure families receive the full financial value of the support, Executive Council confirmed that the Child Benefit is completely tax-free. Furthermore, the payment will not be taken into account when calculating a household's eligibility or entitlement for Income-Related Benefits (IRB).

The scheme does however include one specific exclusion; families where an employee (or their spouse/partner) is working under the Technical Cooperation (TC) programme. Because TC personnel receive direct international salary supplements and allowances specifically intended to support dependents living on the island, they are excluded from the local Child Benefit scheme.

Application forms for the scheme will be made available this week, alongside an official press release. Residents can download forms from the St Helena Government website, pick up hard copies at the Customer Service Centre or the Benefits Office, or contact the Benefits Office directly for assistance.

Completed applications can be submitted electronically via email or handed in physically. While applications can be submitted at any time—including in advance of a baby's birth—payments will officially commence the week following approval, starting from the week of 1 November 2026.

Payments will be made on a weekly basis every Thursday—aligning with existing pension and IRB schedules—with funds paid directly into bank accounts, though cash collection options will remain available at the Customer Service Centre for those unable to use a bank account.

Reflecting on the milestone, Chief Minister Cairns-Wicks encouraged families to look into the scheme. "This is a commitment to families... a commitment to say this is a friendly place for people to live, work, do business and, and importantly, raise a family," she said. "For all those with families out there, I encourage you to find out further information and make those applications. Really excited that we've managed to get this over the line and available to local families."

The Treasury team plans to closely monitor uptake from day one, with formal reviews scheduled after six months and twelve months to evaluate the rollout.

Guardians of the Island's Skies

St Helena marks International Day of the Air Traffic Controller


Bramwell (right) and Dayle

St Helena Airport Air Traffic Services, Contributed

When the weekly flight drops through the clouds towards Prosperous Bay Plain, few passengers think about the calm voice guiding it in. This week, on Tuesday, 20 October, that voice got its day; the International Day of the Air Traffic Controller. A day to celebrate the people who keep aircraft safely separated around the world.

This year is a milestone. The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) turns 65. It was founded in Amsterdam in 1961 by Jacob Wachtel and 12 founding members, and today it represents more than 130 member associations worldwide. Its 2026 theme, "Attract them, Value them, Keep them," focuses on recruiting, training and keeping the next generation of controllers.

On St Helena, two controllers are always on the island. Bramwell Bushuru, Senior Air Traffic Control Officer (SATCO), heads Air Traffic Services at the airport and is based on the island. He is joined by Dayle Russell, a relief controller who has been on the island multiple times to support the unit.

"Every flight into St Helena depends on teamwork between the tower, the pilots and everyone on the airfield," commented Bramwell. "It's a job that demands focus and clear thinking, and it's hugely rewarding."

"Working here is special," added Dayle. "St Helena is one of the most remote airports in the world, and every arrival feels like an achievement."

Air traffic control is a skilled, well-respected career. Controllers give pilots instructions and information to keep aircraft safely apart, both in the air and on the ground. They make quick decisions, communicate precisely and stay calm when the weather or the unexpected comes into play. Training is demanding, but it opens the door to a profession that is needed in every country in the world.

That is why this year's theme matters to St Helena. The Air Traffic Services team wants to hear from young Saints who are curious about aviation, whether they dream of working in the tower or in another part of the industry. Good communication skills, a sharp mind, and an interest in maths, science and problem-solving are a great starting point.

"If you've ever looked up at a plane and wondered how it all works, come and talk to us," Bramwell added.

Interested in a career in air traffic control or aviation? Contact the Air Traffic Services team at Satco@sthelenaairport.aero.

Grilled Over Healthcare

Minister Henry pressed on Staff Shortages, Wait Times, and Aging Care Demands during October Ministers Question Time



Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, responded to non-executive members in the Council Chamber during the twelfth sitting of Ministers Question Time

Liam Yon, SAMS

Members of the Legislative Council assembled in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 6 October, for the twelfth sitting of Minister's Question Time (MQT). Opening proceedings, the Speaker noted that the session followed the International Day of Democracy and reminded the public that the phased 2% adjustment to Health and Social Care service fees officially came into effect on 1 October to help cushion local services against global inflation.

With the sitting devoted entirely to the portfolio topic "Health Services – Delivering Better Outcomes," Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, faced a comprehensive gauntlet of seven inquiries from non-executive members covering staffing deficits, specialist wait times, budget returns, primary healthcare access, elder care capacity, preventative health strategies, and strategic delivery targets.

Councillor Clint Beard opened the session by asking for an update on staffing levels across the Health Directorate, highlighting active vacancies, international recruitment drives, and affected clinical services.

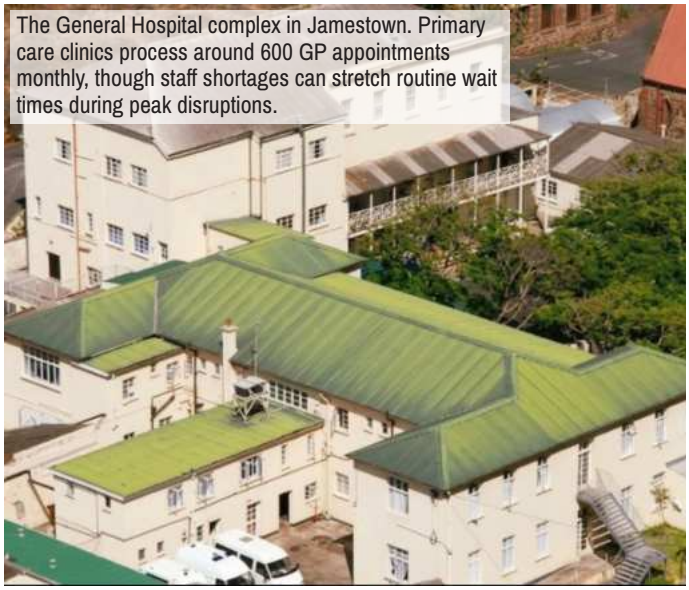
Minister Henry emphasised that maintaining a workforce of roughly 250 local and specialist staff remains an ongoing challenge. He identified nursing and social care as the hardest-hit sectors, pointing out that upskilling local nurses frequently enables them to pursue opportunities offshore. "Social care is one of our highest priorities and one of the most affected services with staffing," he stated, noting that St Helena faces an aging demographic within its care workforce alongside a persistent 23-person vacancy deficit in social care, which relies heavily on staff working substantial overtime.

When Cllr Beard questioned how training needs are being met following a 22% increase in the portfolio budget line, the Minister explained that health promotion and education teams are collaborating on local course offerings alongside continuous doctor development and care certificate programs. However, when pressed for the specific financial allocation set aside for staff training, he admitted, "I don't have a budget breakdown... it's probably hidden between some of the other lines... I am afraid I cannot answer that directly".

Regarding international recruitment, Minister Henry defended the reliance on technical cooperation (TC) funding, arguing that without it, "we wouldn't be able to provide a foundation service". Asked if any essential hospital services had been suspended or downscaled, the Minister acknowledged that recent shortages—including a temporary deficit of two doctors—forced the health service to notify the public and reschedule routine appointments, though emergency responses remain prioritised.

Councillor Robert Midwinter then asked what progress had been made in reducing waiting times for specialist appointments, diagnostics, and overseas medical referrals, as well as the targets set under the three-year budget settlement.

Minister Henry reported substantial breakthroughs in eyecare and audiology, largely backed by BIOT funding. He revealed that three visiting specialists are scheduled to perform 60 to 80 cataract surgeries by year-end, while newly acquired equipment now allows an oculoplastic surgeon to address 90% of local eye conditions on-island. Furthermore, optometry backlogs have been cleared, with 1,312 patients seen in 2025 and 930 in 2026, alongside the resolution of an 80-person hearing aid



The General Hospital complex in Jamestown. Primary care clinics process around 600 GP appointments monthly, though staff shortages can stretch routine wait times during peak disruptions.

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Unpredictable emergency medical evacuations and overseas referrals that average 10 to 12 transfers a month, rapidly absorbs portfolio budget allocations

waiting list, dating back to prior to 2024.

The Minister noted that £500,000 of a £1 million BIOT capital equipment allocation has already been spent to replace aging clinical assets (against an estimated total replacement need of £4 million) and confirmed that local bowel screening has resumed. However, overseas referrals remain a heavy burden, averaging 10 to 12 patient transfers to South Africa per month. Minister Henry cautioned that high volumes of urgent, life-saving cases continue to push non-emergency, or "green", patients further down waiting lists.

In response to Cllr Midwinter's follow-up on long-term diagnostic independence, Minister Henry illustrated the stark financial trade-offs. "We've just had an orthopaedic surgeon come out, did a number of hip replacements, about 40, 50 consultations... we've saved about £100,000 to £120,000 there. That is quickly absorbed if I get two medevac flights in."

Addressing neurological care, the Minister acknowledged that diagnosing complex conditions remain difficult due to required multidisciplinary support and missing specialised equipment, though a visiting specialist recently reviewed 40 to 50 local patients.

Councillor Ronald Coleman then pressed Minister Henry on how the significant public expenditure allocated to Health and Social Care in the 2026/27 budget would translate into tangible improvements for patients.

Minister Henry explained that much of the £2.2 million budget increase was instantly swallowed by pre-existing cost pressures. Roughly £500,000 was absorbed by recent staff pay increases, while rising global pharmaceutical prices and freight hurdles added another £500,000. Despite these inflationary headwinds, the Minister pointed to expanding on-island treatment—such as the restoration of local knee and hip replacement surgeries that vanished in 2017—as evidence of tangible progress that spares patients from traveling abroad. However, he reiterated that unpredictable emergency evacuations and chronic illness management mean large budget additions can be consumed almost immediately.

Councillor Dennis Leo then raised ongoing public frustration over accessing primary healthcare, questioning what steps are being taken to secure timely GP appointments, routine clinics, and community services.

Minister Henry detailed the immense volume handled by primary care. When fully staffed, with five doctors, the clinic offers roughly 600 GP appointments monthly, complemented by over 1,000 appointments across specialist, diabetes, and community nurses—effectively seeing one in four island residents every month. While the target timeline for a GP appointment is seven to ten days, staff shortages and emergency cover push wait times up to three weeks during peak disruptions.

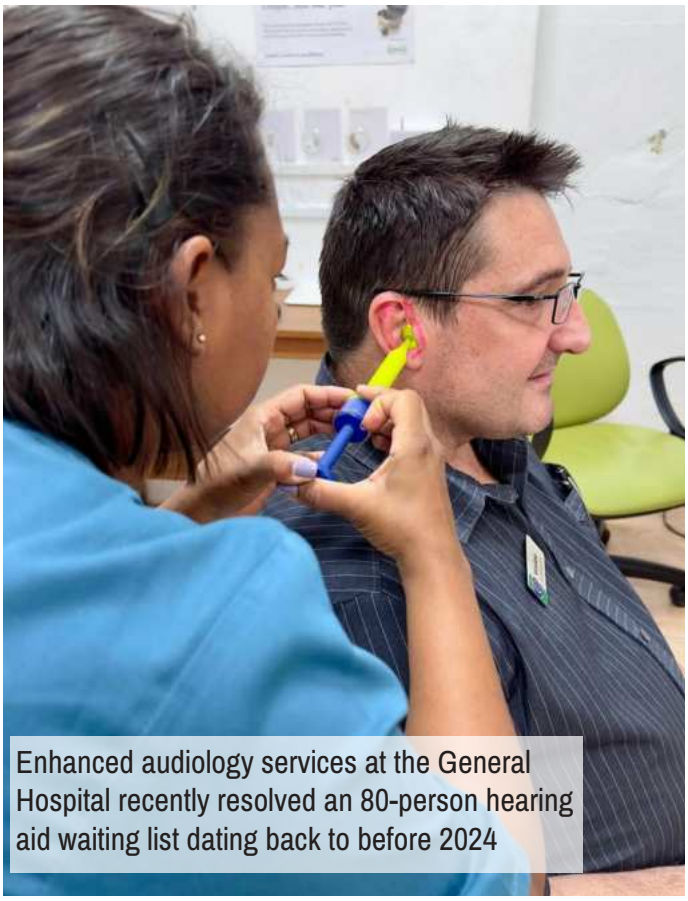
To alleviate pressure on doctors, the Health Directorate is launching a patient questionnaire to redirect routine follow-ups to senior and specialist nurses. Minister Henry also cited severe data extraction limitations with the PatientSource clinical software system. Because the system cannot automatically calculate appointment metrics, staff must perform time-consuming manual audits to track wait-time trends.

In supplementary exchanges, Cllr Leo relayed a constituent complaint about being turned away from booking an appointment at the hospital front desk, which the Minister promised to investigate. Cllr Midwinter urged the Minister to publish regular access standards and reminded the public that missed appointments continue to clog clinic schedules. Responding to Councillor Julie Thomas regarding system upgrades, Minister Henry confirmed that professional record digitisation is underway to enable accurate data reporting.

Next up, Councillor Derek Thomas inquired how the government is preparing for skyrocketing care demands linked to St Helena's aging population, specifically across residential, domiciliary, and community support sectors.



Some of the staff and residents of the Community Care Centre. Social care remains heavily impacted by a persistent 23-vacancy deficit and an aging demographic across the care workforce.



Enhanced audiology services at the General Hospital recently resolved an 80-person hearing aid waiting list dating back to before 2024

Minister Henry presented a stark demographic reality; for every two working-age Saint Helenians, there is now one person above working age potentially heading toward requiring care. With residential facilities at or over capacity, a capital business case for expanding care infrastructure was submitted to the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), but no funding is currently available.

The Minister highlighted the immense fiscal challenge, noting that residential care costs between £25,000 and £30,000 per person annually. "It's all right to say let's open up access to another 10, 15, 20 bed spaces, but the cost associated with that is also huge... those numbers are well outside of what we will ever see as a budget that we will get from the UK," he stated.

When Cllr Thomas asked if financial support would be increased for informal family carers providing round-the-clock home care for an £80 stipend, Minister Henry stated that strict budget boundaries make general wage or allowance increases impossible at present without overspending.



Visiting specialists and teams, as part of the new service, have cleared optometry backlogs and expanded on-island procedures, reducing reliance on overseas referrals.

Cllr Thomas further probed about inter-agency coordination. The Minister pointed to the newly independent Safeguarding Board as a key multi-agency mechanism connecting health, social care, housing, and community services. Responding to Cllr Julie Thomas, regarding the long-awaited Aging Demographic Report, Minister Henry confirmed the situational analysis is published on the SHG website to serve as a baseline for future policy.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex then stood up to ask what evidence exists to evaluate current preventative health programs and what further action is required to improve public health outcomes.

Minister Henry highlighted the urgent need to combat lifestyle diseases, pointing to the roughly 1,500 residents living with diabetes. The Health Promotion team is currently running small-scale pilot schemes—including meal replacement programs and specialised diabetic nurse follow-ups—to identify sustainable interventions before rolling them out widely.

Beyond diabetes, Minister Henry noted that a UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) doctor has been retained for a year to overhaul the island's smoking cessation program. The health service has also rolled out thousands of MMR vaccines, initiated STI awareness campaigns targeting youth, and established regular health promotion radio broadcasts.

In response to Cllr Essex's query on school engagement, the Minister confirmed that health promotion officers coordinate with schools through PSHE classes and the school nurse, while also partnering with community youth organisations like New Horizons. Cllr Julie Thomas requested a formal, public-facing Preventative Care Strategy framework, which the Minister agreed to publish and promote over the airwaves.

Closing the sitting, Cllr Julie Thomas asked Minister Henry to outline his three highest priorities for the current financial year and the measurable outcomes expected under the SHG Vision and Strategy.

Minister Henry named his top three strategic pillars as Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, focussing heavily on diabetes to reduce downstream health complications and converting successful pilot schemes (such as meal replacement trials) into full working frameworks; Timely Access to On-Island Care, achieving a target where 90% of GP appointments occur within ten working days, while targeting an 18-week wait time for local elective surgeries, aligning with NHS benchmarks; and Service Longevity and Workforce Stability, stabilising staffing levels to protect core services and ensure long-term fairness across healthcare delivery.

When Cllr Thomas asked how frontline staffing shortages would be resolved to meet these goals, the Minister stated that the primary focus must be working with HR and recruitment teams to streamline entry pathways for both returning Saints and international professionals.

Addressing Cllr Thomas's call for public reporting mechanisms to track progress, Minister Henry agreed on the importance of transparency through media updates, but cautioned that small-community dynamics require strict safeguards. "When it comes to health data, it is also data protection and it is also patient confidentiality... we have to show progress, but we have to do it well enough not to offend people... or directly put that against individuals," he said.

Improvement at Its Best



Hampshire Advisors "really impressed" at phonics success 18-months on as focus turns to broader reading culture Subheader

HIAS advisor Emma Tarrant leads a professional development session with local education staff in the KS2 School classroom

Donna Crowie, SAMS

Education specialists Emma Tarrant and Joanne (Jo) Keyon from the Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service (HIAS) in the UK recently returned to St Helena, marking an 18-month milestone since their first visit to help the Education Portfolio establish a core phonics programme. The initiative was originally set in motion following a request from former Portfolio Director, Marie Horton.

During their initial visit in April 2025, Emma and Jo worked closely with teachers and teaching assistants to get the phonics programme off the ground. Advising staff on essential resources and materials, they also modelled lessons in real-time. As Emma noted, this was "so the teachers could observe how the sessions would run". Alongside classroom support, the advisors hosted parent information evenings across what was then the three primary schools on-Island to introduce families to the new learning framework.

Although Emma and Jo are only on-island for brief periods, their collaboration remains active year-round through regular remote meetings. "I meet every half term with the phonics group—initially that was a group of head teachers and most of the teachers who were teaching phonics—delivering some ongoing training," she explained. "Now, it's regular meetings with the phonics leader, kind of catching up, looking at the data, making sure that everything's going smoothly. She sets the agenda and I just provide help".

Both advisors bring a wealth of classroom experience to their roles. Before joining HIAS, Emma taught in a small infant school with just three classes before moving to a large primary school, teaching children from Nursery up to Year 6. Reflecting on her career path, Emma shared, "We used to have advisors come in and work with us, and one of them turned around and said to me, 'So, career development, what are you looking to do?' And I said, 'Actually, I'd like to do your job,' and here I am".

Jo's background is rooted in secondary education, starting as an English teacher before advancing to Head of English and Assistant Headteacher. Encouraged to apply for an advisory role, Jo has now spent ten years with HIAS. While her early teaching career focused primarily on students from Year 7 upwards, shifting to advisory work meant supporting learners from Reception all the way to Year 11—which she described as "a huge learning curve".

Today, working as English advisors, closely supporting over 400 primary schools and 70 secondary schools under Hampshire County Council, Emma explained that their core remit is "to work with those schools and support them in improving teaching and learning with a specialist kind of look at English particularly".

Returning to St Helena for their second major deployment, the advisors spent their first few days observing classes directly. Both Emma and Jo expressed immense admiration for what they saw. "We were really impressed," they shared. "We saw really strong teaching on phonics, particularly in Key Stage 1, where we saw phonics lessons taught to whole classes. Because that's when you teach phonics—you teach phonics daily to all children through Year R (Reception), Year 1, and Year 2. So, it was a big part of their curriculum, and we saw the teachers and the TAs in the schools doing a good job".

The impact of this hard work is strikingly evident in the data. Prior to the introduction of the phonics programme in 2025, baseline screening showed that only 20 percent of



HIAS education advisors Joanne Keyon (left) and Emma Tarrant (right)

children passed the phonics check. Between 2025 and 2026, progress surged dramatically, with this year's pass rate climbing to an exceptional 68 percent. "That's really huge progress," Jo noted, highlighting the scale of this achievement. "Yes, you know, in the UK when we're working with schools, we might see schools improving by five [to] ten percent; that's a 48 percent increase". Emma added, "actually, you can see that there is a real commitment to getting this right for the children, and to do this well, the schools are owning it and doing it".

Building on this foundation, the current visit has also turned toward the next phase of literacy development; expanding the broader reading culture. "So, I've been working with Key Stage 1 around sort of reading and looking at how they might kind of grow that reading culture," Emma explained. "We've looked at what additional texts might be needed to support reading at home with children, and with Key Stage 2 we've just started conversations around kind of how might the teaching of reading look to adapt over the next academic year".

While no formal dates have yet been fixed for a future return visit, the bond between the Hampshire advisors and St Helena's educational community remains exceptionally strong. "We've got a really good relationship with the schools, we've got a really good relationship with the teachers, [and] the pupils are absolutely lovely," Emma and Jo reflected. "We love working with you. So, if there was an opportunity, we'd very much welcome it".

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

International Labour Hire Feasibility & Scoping Study

St Helena Government's Trade and Investment team is seeking an experienced independent consultant or organisation to assess whether recruiting agricultural workers from overseas could help local businesses fill vacancies that have been difficult to fill with local workers. Whilst the study will initially look at agriculture, it will also consider labour needs across other areas of the private sector. It will look at:

- Demand for labour within the private sector, and whether employers would use a locally based international labour-hire service.
- St Helena's immigration and employment law, and any gaps in the way of a sponsored labour route;
- Housing, travel and logistics for incoming workers;
- Delivery models, costs and commercial viability;
- Ethical recruitment and safeguards against exploitation;
- Comparable schemes in small island and remote locations, and potential source markets;
- A business case with a clear recommendation: proceed, refine or do not proceed;

The study will provide St Helena Government with an evidence-based assessment of the feasibility of a locally based international labour-hire service and a clear recommendation on whether to proceed, refine the approach or not proceed. Applicants should have relevant experience in areas such as international recruitment, workforce mobility, ethical recruitment, migration or immigration policy and evidence based business case development. Experience of working in small island, remote or overseas territory environments, and experience undertaking similar work for government or public bodies, would be advantageous.

Applicants who are not based on St Helena must be able to travel to the island and engage appropriately with local businesses, stakeholders and the wider community.

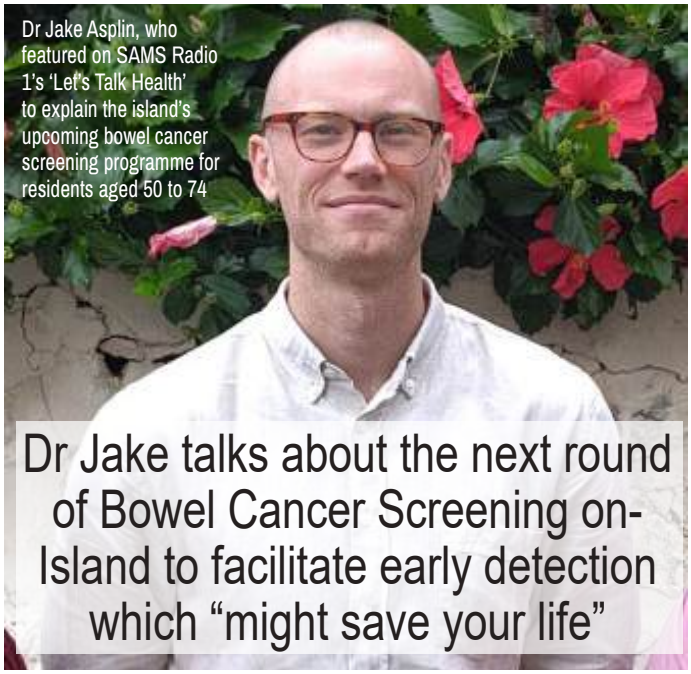
The Expression of Interest will be closed on 30 October 2026, with the appointment expected to be made on 13 November 2026.

For further information or to request the full Expression of Interest document, please contact: Michael Ormrod, Head of Trade and Investment via telephone number, 22470 or email, invest@sainthelena.gov.sh.

SHG

06 October 2026

Getting Ahead of the 'Cancer' Curve



Dr Jake Asplin, who featured on SAMS Radio 1's 'Let's Talk Health' to explain the island's upcoming bowel cancer screening programme for residents aged 50 to 74

Dr Jake talks about the next round of Bowel Cancer Screening on-Island to facilitate early detection which "might save your life"

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

In a recent interview for the SAMS Radio 1 program, 'Let's Talk Health', Dr Jake Asplin came in to talk about the bowel screening program to be launched as soon as kits arrive on island.

Some individuals on-island will already be familiar with this screening process as this will be the second time an island-wide bowel screening program is being launched. The repeat screening program is in line with bowel cancer screening programmes in the UK where "typically a person would take part in bowel cancer screening every two to three years," commented Jake.

"Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer worldwide and the second largest cause of cancer deaths," Jake said, as he explained that in an ageing population like we have on the island, there are bound to be cases of bowel cancer diagnoses as age is known to be one of the risk factors of cancer.

The eligibility criteria to take part in the screening program includes anyone in the 50 to 74 age bracket, irrespective of whether they have had a bowel screening in the past. This screening is designed to detect microscopic levels of blood in the stool of an individual. This will indicate whether further testing needs to be done if a positive result is returned.

"A positive test result does not necessarily mean that you've got bowel cancer. It simply means there was a little blood present in your stool and we need to find out why this is the case," Jake reassured, as he elaborated, "98% of people will likely have a negative test result."

People with a positive test result will be contacted by the Health section for an appointment to further investigate. It will most likely be necessary to do a colonoscopy to determine the cause of the microscopic blood present in the sample and then further treatment will be determined on an individual basis. Dr Lars, a repeat visiting specialist to St Helena, is an expert in performing screening colonoscopies and he is scheduled to come to the island in January to perform any necessary follow-up procedures identified during the screening tests.

During a colonoscopy, polyps or small growths in the lining of the bowel can also be removed to prevent these from potentially becoming cancerous. "The test is not only aimed at finding cancer early but also to take preventative action. Having said this, it is important to mention that nine out of ten bowel cancers that are found early are curable," Jake said, aiming at putting listeners' minds at ease.

Screenings are unique programmes as it requires an individual "who is perfectly healthy at the time, to come in for a health test," Jake explained as he elaborated that the requirements for a population-wide screening program is very high in that there has to be a direct correlation between the results and detection of the disease or underlying risk factors. The aim of a screening test is to identify a condition at very early stages in order to implement preventative action or early treatment, ensuring better health outcomes.

When asked about lowering your risk to get bowel cancer, Jake noted how "you can't always prevent bowel cancer, as with all cancers, it is sometimes unavoidable. But there are definitely things you can do to lower your risk like trying to live as healthy a lifestyle as possible. It means to stop smoking, reduce your level of alcohol intake, stay fit and active and eat plenty of fibre, fresh fruit and vegetables." In short, if you look after your own health more holistically, you can drastically reduce your risk of not only getting bowel cancer, but any cancer.

"If you experience any known symptoms of bowel cancer, do not wait to take part in screening, instead immediately seek medical attention," urged Jake. Symptoms of bowel cancer include an inexplicable change in your bowel habits lasting for three weeks or more, feeling you need to poo after already going, tummy pain, bloating or a lump and unexplained weight loss. If any of these symptoms are detected and lasts more than three weeks, "I would recommend you make an urgent appointment with your GP as these symptoms should not be ignored," Jake reiterated. The other key symptom is if you see any blood in your stool, irrespective of whether it is dark or fresh red blood. If you are bleeding non-stop, you are advised to call 999 or go to the Emergency Department.

Test kits will be made available at clinics and at the hospital as soon as they are available where anyone in the age bracket can collect them to take part in the screening program. The test is called a 'faecal immunochemical test' or FIT and in the test kit participants will find all the information explaining how to collect the sample as well as everything you need to do so. "You take your kit home and follow the instructions in the pack," Jake explained, "you collect a small sample of your poo, pop the sample in the container and then place it in the pack." Individuals need to complete their personal information on the included form and can then return the pack to any one of the health clinics.

"If we can find bowel cancer early, the survival rate is absolutely brilliant. This is why bowel cancer screening is such a good idea," concluded Dr Jake. "So, if you are eligible, then please do come forward. It is a really simple thing to do, it takes ten minutes and it might save your life!"



The Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kit allows eligible residents to collect a small sample at home in under ten minutes to return to their local clinic

Clean Up, Clean up, Everybody, Everywhere



Social Care is reducing its overall budget contribution toward cleaning services for older residents, while encouraging families who can afford to contribute to help maintain private arrangements

Social Care Services reduces its contribution towards cleaning support for the elderly, as Minister Henry explains recent adjustment

Donna Crowie, SAMS

Rumours have been circulating that the Social Care Directorate is cutting its contribution toward cleaning services for older people living at home. However, Minister for Health and Social Care, Martin Henry, has clarified that the service is not being entirely scrapped, but adjusted.

"The service is not being totally withdrawn from everyone," Minister Henry confirmed. Instead, Social Care is "reducing its contribution towards cleaning support, while continuing to fund essential assistance for people whose needs and circumstances require it."

In the budget approved in July, a total of £17,000 was allocated for cleaning services for the elderly for 2026/27 and 2027/28.

As those who followed the budget proceedings will recall, if the St Helena Government stays within budget and meets the conditions set by the UK Government, SHG will be able to secure an additional £1 million for the next financial year.

Historically, Health and Social Care has been a directorate prone to overspending its allocated budget. Because over-expenditure trends are already starting to show across multiple budget lines, Minister Henry noted that expenditure is now being reviewed monthly by a senior team.

"This adds to the importance of managing resources carefully while protecting services now and securing essential additional funds in the near future," he said.

The funds allocated for cleaning cover "both funding cleaning and helping people arrange it," Minister Henry explained. "Existing arrangements already include publicly funded provision, contributions towards some costs, and completely privately funded cleaning which we administrate."

Although Social Care is reducing its financial payout, Minister Henry emphasised that a change in who pays does not necessarily mean the cleaning itself has to stop. The funds released will remain within Health and Social Care to sustain other essential support.

"It is not funds for external activities or to make pure savings," he added. "If we don't reduce this service, we have to find savings in another; there is no external source."

For families of elderly residents who can afford to pay for cleaners, Minister Henry notes that private contributions enable the service to continue for their family member while preserving public funding for individuals with greater needs, fewer alternatives, and increasing demands elsewhere.

However, the Minister made it clear that having relatives on the island does not automatically mean suitable help is available.

"What matters is the person's needs, their circumstances, and the support they can realistically access," the Minister stated. "Funded cleaning will therefore continue for some recipients, including those whose needs, and lack of suitable support, mean that assistance remains necessary."

Social Care is currently working with individuals and their families to assist with cleaning arrangements—including cases where relatives wish to meet the cost. Cases will also be reviewed on an individual basis if needs or circumstances change.

Acknowledging that major decision-making roles carry heavy responsibilities, Minister Henry concluded that the primary focus must remain on maintaining essential support for those who need it most.

"Our priority must be to maintain essential support for those who need it most, within the limited funds, while working with individuals and families to make the best use of the resources available," he said.

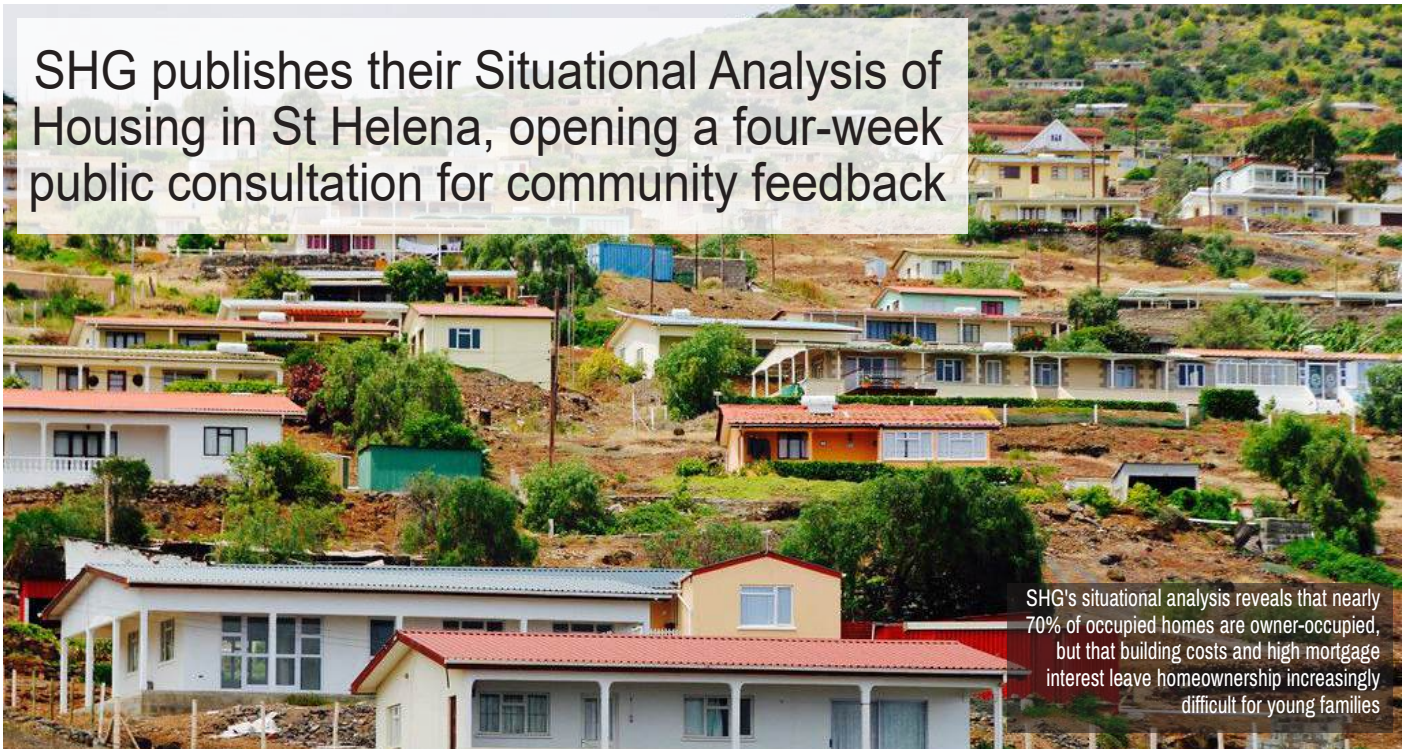


HSC Portfolio Director, Tracy Poole-Nandy, alongside Minister Henry who clarified that public funding for elderly cleaning services is being targeted to preserve assistance for those who need it most

ST HELENA NEWS

"A clearer understanding of the current housing situation"

SHG publishes their Situational Analysis of Housing in St Helena, opening a four-week public consultation for community feedback



SHG's situational analysis reveals that nearly 70% of occupied homes are owner-occupied, but that building costs and high mortgage interest leave homeownership increasingly difficult for young families

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena Government has published a detailed situational analysis report assessing the island's housing landscape, opening a four-week public consultation period to give residents a voice in shaping future housing policy.

Authored by SHG's Head of Strategic Policy, Ann Muir—following a similar evidence-based report released for the fishing industry in June—the new housing document examines current market conditions, affordability barriers, social housing challenges, and the impact of the island's changing demographics.

Much like the fisheries review, the working document does not set out immediate policy decisions, but instead establishes an extensive evidence base to inform future government actions.

"The document examines the island's housing needs and the factors affecting availability, suitability, and accessibility to housing, alongside the wider social and economic context influencing housing on St Helena," explained SHG. "It aims to provide an evidence base for a clearer understanding of the current housing situation, and to inform decisions on future housing policy development."

The report itself reveals that while nearly 70% of occupied homes on St Helena are owner-occupied—with almost 60% owned outright—homeownership remains increasingly out of reach for younger adults and lower-income families.

It tells how high building costs, averaging around £90,000 to construct a modest starter home, excluding land, combined with 7% mortgage interest rates and low local median wages, have forced many residents to delay building, rely on overseas earnings, or remain living with family.

At the same time, the analysis highlights a striking contradiction in the local market. Despite clear demand for affordable housing, the 2021 Census recorded 803 empty properties across the island, with an estimated 636 deemed habitable or under construction. This, the report suggests, raises crucial policy questions over whether incentives, such as empty property taxes or repair schemes, should be used to bring existing properties back into use before developing new greenfield sites.

The report also details pressing issues within social housing, where a 23-family waiting list, a £230,000 backlog in rent arrears, historic underinvestment in maintenance, and lifetime tenancies continue to constrain the system.

Furthermore, the document highlights how St Helena's rapidly ageing population and shrinking workforce will require smaller, more accessible housing, integrated with health and social care needs.

SHG has now opened a four-week public consultation on the document, running until Monday, 9 November. Members of the public, private landlords, contractors, and local homeowners are invited to submit their comments and feedback directly via email to Head of Strategic Policy, Ann Muir, at Ann.Muir@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Following the consultation, SHG has committed to publishing a summary of all community responses, which will be recorded anonymously, by 7 December this year. This, they say, will directly inform upcoming policy options and long-overdue legislative updates.

The full 49-page report is available on the SHG Website, with SHG informing that "a quick read summary is provided at the beginning of the document outlining key issues, challenges and preliminary findings."

Feedback on the document is being encouraged during the ongoing four-week consultation period.


Carnival
2026
(St Helena) Cancer Support Awareness Charity
Registered Charity No. 00024
Financial Sponsors
United & beautiful, Fabulous & fun
Bring colours together, Celebrate as one
St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air
Parade starts from the top of town at 3pm
Festivities and refreshments at Seafront from 4pm
Prizes for best costumes and designs
Sweepstake draw and live bands
Free entry for paraders in costume
0-12yrs 50p | 12yrs + £1
Since 1790
sure
SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER
The road will be closed from 3pm to 5pm from New Bridge to the seafront, Jamestown. Diversions will be in place
Parking will be available at the KS2 school, formerly Pilling Primary School

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 23
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Oct 24
- 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 25
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Anita and Deon
- 1pm:Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse
- 7pm: Salvation Army church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Oct 26
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 11am: Let's talk health
- 3-5pm: Artists through the Decades with Deon & Anita
- 5:30pm: Country Classics with Donna
- 7:30pm In The Know

TUE. Oct 27
- 7am-9:00am: Morning Show with Donna
- 11am: Vibes with Anita
- 2pm: Island Pulse
- 3:30pm: American Connections with Brian Clough
- 5:30-7pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 7:30pm: Classical Compilations with Anita

WED. Oct 28
- 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 29
- 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



Stay connected and informed with SAMS Radio 1! We bring you trusted, reliable news and noticeboard updates right when you need them. Join us at 7am, 10am, 12noon, 5pm, 7pm, and 10pm to stay up to date with the latest on island affairs, community events and local sports coverage, as well as all of your latest ads and announcements. SAMS Radio 1, keeping you informed and entertained, all day, every day!

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 'Easy'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



22nd October 1815:
Ascension Island is claimed as a British Territory and occupied by troops.

(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 treat recipes that your little "monsters" will love to make and eat.

Slime Popcorn



Ingredients

- 5 cups popped popcorn
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- □ cup butter
- ½ (16 ounce) package marshmallows
- 2 ½ drops green food colouring
- □ cup candy eyeballs, or more to taste

Method

1. Pour popcorn into a large bowl.
2. Melt brown sugar and butter together in a saucepan over medium heat, stirring often.
3. Stir in marshmallows until completely melted and mixture is smooth.
4. Stir in green food colouring until colour is evenly distributed.
5. Pour mixture over popcorn and stir until evenly coated. Sprinkle with candy eyeballs while mixture is still sticky.

Candy Eyeballs is not very common on the island, but to make it colourful, you can add smarties!

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED

The Island Pulse

School Reorganisation Pause Raises Questions as Constituency Meetings Begin



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

Councillors call for greater transparency and community engagement over the future of primary education, while the first annual constituency meeting highlights concern about public spending, staffing and essential services.

The pause in St Helena's Primary School Reorganisation building programme and the start of this year's annual constituency meetings were the focus of the latest edition of The Island Pulse on SAMS Radio 1.

Hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas, the programme featured Councillors Dr Corinda Essex, Denis Leo and Robert Midwinter, who discussed the implications of the Government's education announcement, feedback from a community meeting at Harford Community Centre and issues raised at the first constituency meeting of the current round.

Both discussions highlighted the importance of transparent decision-making, effective communication and meaningful public engagement.

Primary School Reorganisation: Questions Remain

On 24 September 2026, St Helena Government announced a pause in the building and refurbishment element of the Primary School Reorganisation project while further work is undertaken to review the proposed model.

The review will consider concerns about cost, practicality and deliverability, alongside families' experiences of the current arrangements, including school transport. SHG confirmed that work to improve the curriculum, teaching and learning, staff development and safeguarding would continue.

However, the announcement raised questions about the decision-making process, expenditure to date, the future of the proposed school sites and how long pupils would remain in temporary arrangements.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex said the announcement had come as a shock, with little opportunity for prior discussion. She explained that key members of the Education Directorate and the ministerial team had reportedly received limited advance notice.

Councillor Robert Midwinter, who chaired the Elected Members meeting in September, said members had been notified on 23 September that a press release was forthcoming. Minister for Education Andrew Turner had intended to discuss the matter with members the following day, but other commitments and the timing of the meeting meant that the discussion did not take place.

Councillor Denis Leo argued that the importance of the announcement should have been made clearer so members could have ensured the discussion went ahead.

Councillor Thomas also raised governance concerns, noting that the timetable had been brought forward from September 2026 to January 2026 during the September 2025 pre-election purdah period, without her knowledge as the outgoing Chief Minister.

She questioned the circumstances surrounding that change and the level of financial information available to elected members regarding expenditure under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), BIOT funding and the recurrent budget.

She also questioned whether the EDIP Steering Committee had acted within its intended role, arguing that a decision of this significance should have been taken at Executive Council level. She said she would follow up on the matter.

Harford Meeting Highlights Financial and Educational Concerns

Councillor Leo arranged a community meeting at Harford Community Centre on 7 October in response to the announcement and subsequent radio interviews with Minister Turner. The Minister volunteered to attend, allowing residents to hear directly from him.

Councillor Leo said the meeting was intended to establish the community's feelings about the pause and the uncertainty surrounding the project.

The Minister explained that the decision followed unsuccessful procurement exercises. According to Councillor Leo, two tender exercises had taken place, but only one realistic bid had been received. The Minister indicated that proceeding with the original refurbishment plans risked exhausting the available budget.

Residents questioned the procurement process, the quality of tender documentation, the revised timetable and the future use of Harford and St Paul's schools. Questions were also raised about expenditure already

incurred and the decision to accelerate the reorganisation timetable.

Councillor Leo reported that the Minister had undertaken to investigate concerns about the procurement process and the information provided to prospective contractors.

Since the public meeting, it has also been confirmed that approximately £366,000 had been spent on the project: £194,132 at Harford and £171,741 at St Paul's. The reported expenditure included £3,600 for a Stage 1 review.

Councillor Thomas questioned why elected members had not previously been informed about that initial review, particularly when the current pause had been presented as requiring a further evaluation.

Councillor Robert Midwinter stressed that the original two-school model had followed extensive consideration and consultation. He recalled concerns about very small class sizes across the former three-school arrangement, including classes with only two, three or four pupils, which he said were not conducive to children's social development.

He cautioned against interpreting the pause as a reason to return automatically to the former three-school model, emphasising that the reorganisation had been intended to improve educational provision for St Helena's children.

Uncertainty and the Impact on Pupils

Although the Minister indicated that the pause would not stop work to improve educational standards, Councillor Dr Essex warned that prolonged uncertainty could still affect pupils and staff.

The terms of reference for evaluating the available options were expected to be finalised within approximately two weeks, followed by a 12-week evaluation. Dr Essex cautioned that subsequent consultation and decision-making could extend the overall timeframe considerably.

Drawing on her 20 years of teaching experience, she explained that uncertainty and disruption could affect children's sense of security, behaviour and psychological wellbeing, while placing additional pressures on teachers.

She acknowledged the importance of continuing curriculum development and work towards Council of British International Schools (COBIS) standards but warned that disruption could undermine progress towards those objectives.

Councillor Thomas also noted that facilities form part of the COBIS standards and that delays in delivering suitable primary school buildings could affect the island's ambition to achieve those standards within the anticipated timeframe, originally set to be achieved within 5 years.

The temporary arrangements at Pilling and St Paul's schools remain a concern, with questions about transport, safety, comfort and the cost of maintaining those facilities for an extended period.

Funding was another key issue. Councillor Thomas questioned where additional money would come from if the review recommended an option more expensive than the original proposal. She stressed that decisions must be evidence-based, with costs properly understood from the outset, warning that poorly informed commitments followed by delays or reversals risk undermining public confidence.

Community Engagement Considered Essential

The Councillors agreed that meaningful engagement with parents, school staff and other stakeholders would be critical to determining the best way forward.

Councillor Dr Essex urged parents to use the annual constituency meetings to raise concerns and offer suggestions while the terms of reference were being developed. She said their feedback could help ensure the evaluation addressed the issues that mattered most to families and school staff.

Councillor Thomas explained that a further meeting on the western side of the island had been requested. However, she considered it more productive to await the publication of the terms of reference so that a subsequent meeting could provide meaningful additional information.

Councillor Midwinter similarly encouraged residents to raise education questions at constituency meetings attended by all five Ministers.

At the time of recording on 14 October, Councillor Thomas noted that the Minister had not issued the further public statement he had indicated would follow the Harford meeting. She said the Councillors would continue sharing information as it became available.

The terms of reference were expected to be published once finalised, followed by the anticipated 12-week evaluation. The outcome and implementation timetable remained uncertain.

Constituency Meeting Highlights Wider Community Concerns

The programme also heard from Councillor Midwinter about the first annual constituency meeting of the current round, held at Kingshurst. The meeting attracted 22 people, including 19 members of the public and three Councillors.

He described the discussion as lively and constructive, with a wide range of local and island-wide matters raised.

Concerns about stormwater and sewerage at Cape Villa were being addressed through the current works programme, with the contract expected to be let shortly and completion hoped for within six weeks.

Other issues included stormwater runoff between Knollcombes and Bishop's Bridge, the removal of a damaged bus shelter at Ladder Hill and repainting the pedestrian crossing in Jamestown. Councillor Midwinter said he had followed these matters up with the relevant parties.

Ministers also provided updates on developments including telecommunications, new airport fire engines and progress towards bringing the Ruperts cargo-handling facility into operation.

Discussion covered the cost of living, budget pressures, negotiations with the UK Government, fuel prices, education, mental health, safeguarding, adult services, agriculture and roads.

Councillor Midwinter welcomed the opportunity for open debate, emphasising the importance of allowing residents to speak and ensuring different views were heard.

Public Spending, Staffing and Essential Services

The meeting raised broader questions about whether public resources and staffing are sufficiently focused on essential services.

Councillor Denis Leo highlighted a resident's question about whether Health and Social Care had too many administrators and insufficient staff delivering services directly to the public. He said these reflected concerns about the visibility and availability of frontline services.

Councillor Midwinter noted that the expansion of specialist services had increased demand for medical staff. Referring to oncology, he recalled that the service had grown from four patients when it began to approximately 60.

However, Councillor Dr Essex argued that wider public-sector staffing should be reviewed considering financial pressures.

She recalled that government staff-

ing had fallen below 700 posts approximately a decade earlier and said numbers were now approaching 1,000. While recognising that some growth reflected specialisation and new demands, she believed opportunities existed to combine roles, improve efficiency and direct resources towards essential services.

She called for a comprehensive public-sector review, including consideration of staffing structures and vacancy management.

The meeting also discussed changes to domestic recyclable collections. Councillor Midwinter clarified that the move to fortnightly collection concerned household recycling, including plastics, paper and cardboard, rather than general household waste. The trial had found that bins were often only half full, prompting the change to reduce unnecessary collection costs.

Budget Pressures and Difficult Decisions

Financial constraints were another prominent theme. Councillor Leo said some residents felt Ministers were relying too heavily on the lack of money when explaining why particular issues could not be addressed.

Councillor Dr Essex acknowledged that the budget position was extremely tight, with existing commitments leaving little room for additional spending.

She expressed hope that the Chief Minister would make a strong case for additional funding at the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) meeting, particularly given the impact of international tensions, rising oil prices and wider cost increases since the budget settlement was agreed.

At the same time, she stressed the need to identify savings and address areas where public money might be wasted.

Councillor Thomas added that financial decisions must be evidence-based and supported by realistic cost assessments. She also called for means-testing to be introduced as a matter of urgency, arguing that resources must be allocated with a sound understanding of need and affordability.

Residents Encouraged to Attend Constituency Meetings

The programme concluded with a reminder that annual constituency meetings provide residents with opportunities to question all five Ministers, raise local concerns and hear directly about government priorities.

Meetings announced during the broadcast included Councillor Denis Leo's meeting at Harford Community Centre for Longwood residents, Councillor Ronald Coleman's meeting at Silver Hill Bar for Levelwood residents, and Councillor Derek Thomas's meeting at Half-Tree-Hollow Community Centre. Councillor Clint Beard's meeting at Sandy Bay Community Centre was scheduled for the following week.

All meetings were advertised to begin at 7.30pm, with residents encouraged to check official announcements for confirmation of dates and details.

The discussions on The Island Pulse underlined a common message: decisions affecting St Helena's future must be supported by clear information, transparent processes and meaningful public engagement. Whether concerning primary education, public spending or essential services, residents need opportunities to understand the decisions being made and contribute to the way forward.

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND PLANNING

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Grant Funding for Invasive Plant Clearance on Private Land

The Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio (ENRP) wishes to advise the public that funding has been made available to support the clearance of invasive and alien plant species from private land.

The aim of the scheme is to encourage landowners to bring productive land back into agricultural use through clearance and ongoing management of invasive and alien plant species.

For further information, please contact Agriculture Development Officer Andy Timm via email: andy.timm@sainthelena.gov.sh or telephone 24724.

Application packs can be collected from the ENRP Reception.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday, 30 October 2026.

SHG, 20 October 2026

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN US

ST HELENA AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT GROUP

AT OUR AGM MEETING

28 OCTOBER 2026
6:00PM
ELC - Education Learning Centre

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 25th October
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6.00pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 27th October:
Baptist School Hall, 7.00pm
Wednesday, 28th October:
Blue Hill Community Centre, 7.00 pm
Thursday, 29th October: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6 – 10 yrs old
Saturday, 24th October:
Baptist School Hall, 10.00am to 11.30am

ALL ARE WELCOME

For further information contact: Tel No 24644

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 25th October 2026 – 30th Sunday of the Year		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 p.m.	Eucharist/Harvest Festival	St Andrew
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist/Harvest Festival	St Helena & The Cross
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 25th October 2026 – 30th Sunday of the Year		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist/Church Parade/Harvest Festival	St James
	Thursday 29th October	
7.00 p.m.	Cancer Awareness Service	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 25th October 2026 – 30th Sunday of the Year		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Matthew
	Tuesday 27th October	
7.00 p.m.	**Mission Worship and Praise**	**St Mark**



Church Notices

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 25th October 11.00am
Theme: God's Healing Grace, God's Unfailing Love
@ The Rock Christian Fellowship Centre, Longwood Avenue.
Kids Zone at 11am.

Cell Meetings

We're gathering for a Combined Cell Meeting!
Come fellowship with us at the Rock Christian Fellowship Centre (Longwood Avenue) starting at 7:00 PM.
Reach out to the Pastor at 51672 or Gareth at 66048.
We hope to see you there!

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

Hooked in the Pacific

Team St Helena makes history at Micronesia Fishing Tournament



(L-R) Deon Thomas, Dane Wade, and Adrian Duncan proudly display the St Helena flag and their scoring catches at the 34th All Micronesia Annual Fishing Tournament

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

On 9 October, a team from St Helena made history when they became the first team from the island to take part in the 34th All Micronesia Annual Fishing Tournament.

This competition is sponsored by the Marshall Billfish Club and draws entries from across Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Guam, and the wider South Pacific. Over two days, teams fought to catch the biggest specimen of the qualifying species of fish including Tuna, Marlin, and Barracuda.

Team St Helena was formed by St Helena's AMD engineering team, temporarily working in the Marshall Islands at the time; seizing the opportunity to compete in this international competition.

AMD Engineering donated the entry fees and fuel costs enabling the team to participate in this prestigious competition, with owner of AMD Engineering and Chairman of the St Helena Community Fishers Association, Adrian Duncan, pledging to donate any surplus sponsorship money to the Association—helping raise approximately £1,400 in total support.

The Mayor of Majuro demonstrated the warm Pacific generosity as he gifted the team the use of his personal boat, the 'Takboki', and a skipper to use during the competition, with several local sponsorships also contributing, including St Helena Tourism, JAMS, Pour Decisions, White Horse, Rose & Crown, and other personal sponsors.

On the first day of the competition, the St Helenian team was severely hampered by sudden rough seas and a storm that struck around 9am, forcing them to abandon fishing for the day and seek shelter further up the coast at Long Island. With the boat's canopy torn off by the fierce conditions, the exhausted crew had to spend two hours executing emergency repairs before resting for the night.

Undaunted, day two brought improved weather and an all-day trolling expedition led by their skipper across 15 different islands, seamounts, and open waters. After a quiet morning, the team managed to land two scoring fish aboard the Takboki, securing a 19-pound Yellowfin Tuna and a 12-pound Dogtooth Tuna (alongside an ineligible rainbow run-



The official banner showcasing the local businesses and individual sponsors whose generous support helped Team St Helena take part in the Pacific tournament



The official 2026 All Micronesia Tournament leaderboard showing Team St Helena taking 8th and 10th place finishes on the Tuna board with vessel Takboki

ner).

The crew's resilience was nearly rewarded with an even more spectacular catch just before the 5:30pm tournament deadline, when a massive strike—suspected to be a heavy Bigeye Tuna—hit the lines. Battling the fish from the depths using a traditional St Helenian hand-pulling method, known as "draining," the crew fought hard until disaster struck; a swinging lure accidentally hit the tensioned mainline, snapping it cleanly and cutting short an epic battle.

Despite the heartbreak of the lost giant, Team St Helena successfully avoided being "skunked," outperforming six other competing teams that failed to register a single catch. Their hard work earned them an impressive 8th place finish with the Yellowfin and 10th place with the Dogtooth on the tournament leader board.

The Sentinel wishes to congratulate the team on their achievement and representing St Helena at this international fishing competition, while also seizing the opportunity to raise awareness and exposure of our Island. Way to go boys!



The team out on the Pacific waters aboard their tournament vessel off Majuro Atoll during the two-day international competition

BANK OF ST HELENA PHOTOGRAPHY

Expressions of Interest

The Bank of St Helena Ltd is inviting expressions of interest from photographers. We are looking to commission the production of high quality, authentic digital imagery that will highlight the bank's visual identity and be used on our website, social media campaigns and adverts.

The Bank of St Helena Ltd is looking for imagery consisting of island landscapes, leisure activities, and community life. Natural images of bank staff, branch environments, and client interactions. Photography featuring local entrepreneurs, agricultural plots, and local businesses in action. Lifestyle photography subtly highlighting specific financial services (from youth accounts to commercial services).

If you are interested in this project, please email marketing.manager@sainthelenabank.com to receive further technical requirements, concept ideas and to provide a project quote. Deadline for submissions is 6 November 2026.

Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

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

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

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE

Friendly Societies Satisfying the Needs in Difficult Times



Smartly dressed society members marching down Main Street led by the St Helena Band during a historic 'March Day'—a highlight of the island's social calendar in decades past

Cyril Gunnell, Contributed

Some months ago, a lady in her high 90's who was being interviewed by Tony Leo on the SAMS Northward Sounds radio programme said there have been many improvements in the lives of St Helena residents since yesteryear. This comment caused many listeners to ponder what she could have meant. Sometimes improvements, especially when they are small, are taken for granted and yet in the fullness of time, they are hugely significant.

Recently a friend showed me a photograph that was taken many years ago of a Friendly Society 'March Day'. It prompted me, and especially in light of the ever-increasing price rises that impact the daily lives of so many of us, to re-write an article giving an insight into a time in St Helena's history when hardship for many was gradually being overcome.

In 2016, the government of the day believed it was time for the Friendly Society Ordinance, 1939, to be repealed. It may just be a coincidence, but this followed implementation of the Social Security Ordinance, 2010, which many believe brought about significant improvements to the lives of people who hitherto were unable receive a Basic Island Pension or means-tested benefits, by law.

In December 2016, the Attorney General made an appeal for information pertaining to any Friendly Society still active in St Helena, as he was considering whether the 1939 ordinance should be repealed; and eventually it was.

The only Friendly Society in 2016 to be still not dissolved was the St Helena Children's Benefit Society. The Children's Society remained afloat, just barely, but like all others their membership had decreased significantly in all island districts and it too was eventually dissolved, like the others.

Many still recall the various societies marching along Main Street to attend a church service to be followed by celebrations into the evening. The St Helena Working Men's Christian Association (WMCA) had their office in Lower Jamestown so it was appropriate for them to march up the street to the Baptist Chapel. All other societies marched down the street to St James Church.

The attendees, who were always all smartly dressed, were led by the St Helena Band and escorted by two policemen. These occasions were known as 'March Days' and were an important and much-anticipated event in the island's social calendar. After each march, the St Helena Band performed on the Bridge Square to an appreciative audience.

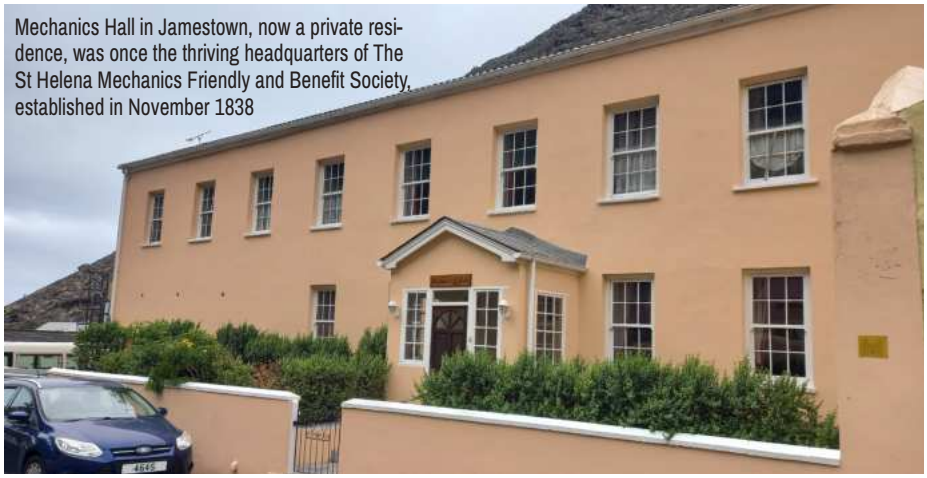
Society membership was from all over the island. Country folk who stayed in Jamestown until late had to find their way back home somehow - today they would welcome the late-night public transport and taxis.

But it is not just the celebrations that are nostalgic. It is also the realisation that Saints will do whatever it takes to facilitate a need. Friendly Societies provided financial and social services. Times then were a lot less affluent than they are now.

Because there weren't social security benefits, basic island pension, minimum income standard, funeral insurance, sophisticated lending arrangements, or employers who could afford sick pay and other benefits, a practical self-help system emerged, namely benefit societies to facilitate some of these needs.

There was a subscription to pay. The amount varied from society to society, for one of them it was sixpence a month (old money) which is equivalent to 2.5 pence today. Subscriptions stopped at age 65 for men and 70 for women, after which they were entitled to old age pension.

Amounts paid out were small, but much appreciated. Some were members of more than one society therefore benefitting twofold or even threefold. Burial allowance was around £14 at one stage; small compared to amounts needed today, but sufficient to ensure a decent burial back then.



Mechanics Hall in Jamestown, now a private residence, was once the thriving headquarters of The St Helena Mechanics Friendly and Benefit Society, established in November 1838



The commemorative monument situated in the Castle Gardens, erected in February 1973 to mark 100 years of the St Helena Working Men's Christian Association (WMCA)

Research shows that Benefit Societies started from 1838. This was just four years after the East India Company transferred its rule over St Helena to the British Government in 1834. Queen Victoria was Monarch, George Middlemore was Governor of St Helena, and St Helena's population in 1838 was 4,977.

The Friendly Societies Ordinance, 1939, laid down the operating arrangements for Societies benefitting the community both socially and economically. Over the years, membership grew into the hundreds. Generally, the aim was to provide benefits; especially sick relief, old age pension, and burial allowance. The societies had a motto:

The St Helena Mechanics Friendly and Benefit Society, 10 November 1838 - Hands clasped in unity.

The St Helena Poor Society, 1848 (I couldn't find out what their motto was).

The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society Court St James No. 5635, 12 December 1871 - Bow of benevolence speeding the arrow of assistance.

The WMCA, 6 February 1873 - We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmity of the weak.

The Church Provident Society for Women, 16 March 1878 - Beloved let us love.

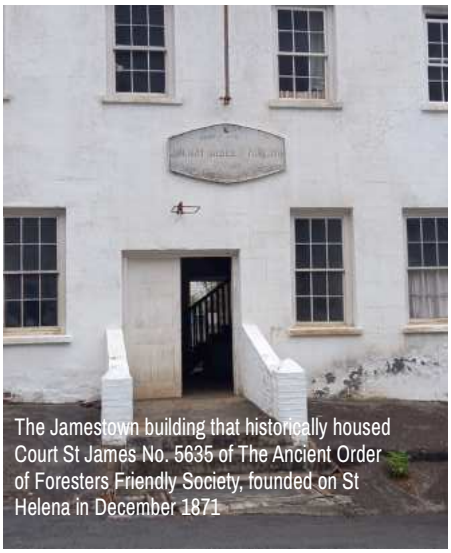
St Helena Children's Benefit Society, 8 November 1887 - Feed my lambs.

As circumstances on the island improved and help from societies was less needed, membership dwindled year on year to the point where some societies decided to centralise. However, numbers continued to drop and it was decided the societies should be dissolved. The assets value for each society was shared among the surviving paid up members.

Only the Poor Society loaned money. This was to both members and non-members, including businesses, although the latter wouldn't qualify for any of the subscription benefits. Loans attracted interest, and also interest on top of any unpaid interest. The loans could pay for almost anything including property, but not cars.

The Poor Society's membership was 1,000 at one point but, over the years, this decreased to less than 50, making it uneconomical to keep running. The Poor Society building was sold and the value of all assets was split between the members.

Although Friendly Societies may not be needed today, their significance when they were, cannot be underestimated.



The Jamestown building that historically housed Court St James No. 5635 of The Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society, founded on St Helena in December 1871

Invitation to Tender

St Helena Island



Construction of a Zulu Monument, Ladder Hill

St Helena Tourism invites tenders for the construction of a monument at Ladder Hill commemorating the 25 Zulu leaders exiled to St Helena between 1907 and 1910.

Works include clearing the site, constructing the monument and surrounding stone wall, in line with the approved design.

Tenders will be evaluated and scored on:

- Health and safety measures on site
- Relevant experience, with references
- Programme of works

Weighting: Technical and quality 60%, Price 40%

The Scope of Works and tender documents are available from Sophia Joshua, St Helena Tourism.
E: sophia.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh
T: 22158.

A site visit will be held on **Friday 23rd October 2026, 14.30** at Ladder Hill Viewpoint. Completed tenders must be submitted by **Monday 2 November 2026, 12 noon.**

sthelenatourism.com

ST HELENA NEWS

A Pilot Year with Visible Success

Wrapping up Round 1 of the St Helena Heritage Grant Scheme, with applications for Round 2 now open



Before and after comparison of the historic Rose & Crown building, which underwent extensive masonry repairs, gutter maintenance, and a full façade repaint

St Helena Heritage Society, Contributed

The Heritage Society and the Tourism Development Programme have concluded the inaugural round of the St Helena Heritage Grant Scheme, marking a significant milestone in the conservation of Jamestown's historic streetscapes.

The initiative was launched to provide small grants to property owners to aid in the preservation and maintenance of buildings with significant heritage value. In its first year, the scheme successfully approved five property applications, alongside a specialised allocation granted to the Museum of St Helena.

The pilot year has delivered highly visible aesthetic and structural improvements across Jamestown/

In terms of commercial restorations, the historic Rose & Crown building underwent extensive masonry repairs, gutter maintenance, and a full façade repaint. This project proved so successful that it inspired the owners to independently fund identical restoration work on the adjacent building, The Hive.

Under residential and media landmarks, on Market Street, Compton House successfully integrated brand-new, traditionally crafted wooden sash windows while working on a re-rendered front wall and, in the Castle Gardens, the South Atlantic Media Services (SAMS) building underwent critical structural repairs including its front veranda balcony, and main stairs, removing a public safety hazard (see more details of this work in 'Conserving Our Heritage' article in this week's The Sentinel).

The grant scheme also allowed for public heritage to be addressed, with the Museum of St Helena utilising its allocation to secure specialised tools and materials required to conserve and paint the historic cannons located around the Museum grounds and at the Ladder Hill fort.

In addition, the grant scheme assisted with large-scale projects at the Association Hall on Main Street and the St Helena Yacht Club on the historic wharf, with all essential materials having been successfully procured. These projects are positioned to commence physical works, including traditional timber balcony and historic stairwell restorations, over the coming months.

Looking ahead, while the Heritage Society considers the first round a groundbreaking success, organisers noted a lower-than-expected uptake in final applications despite high initial interest from the community.

A formal review revealed that strict match-funding requirements prevented several eligible property owners from submitting final proposals. Match-funding meant that the grant covered up to 50% of the total project cost, with the applicant needing to cover the other 50%.

To lower these barriers, the Heritage Society has modified the scheme's framework. Moving forward, small-scale projects focused entirely on aesthetic improvements—such as exterior painting—will be completely exempt from match-funding requirements, al-

lowing owners to access support with zero out-of-pocket costs. For larger structural projects, the grant will now cover a higher percentage of the overall budget.

With Round 1 successfully establishing a baseline for historic conservation, the lessons learned have already been implemented to ensure the scheme remains accessible, sustainable, and impactful for the island community moving forward.

The application window for Round 2 closes on 31 October 2026; property owners within the Jamestown boundaries are strongly encouraged to apply early to secure funding for their historic buildings.



The completed restoration works at the South Atlantic Media Services (SAMS) Media Centre in Castle Gardens, showing the renewed verandah, balcony railings, and main stairs



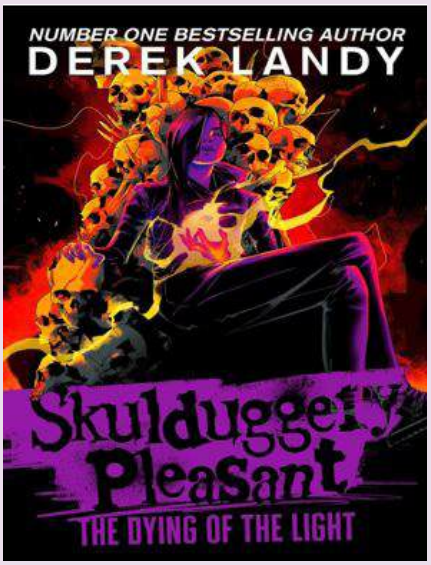
Essential restoration works in progress under scaffolding at the historic Association Hall on Main Street



Before and after views of Compton House on Market Street, where grant funding supported re-rendered front walls and brand-new, traditionally crafted wooden sash windows

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



Skulduggery Pleasant The Dying of the Light by Derek Landy

He's dead. She's deadly. The bad guys don't stand a chance.

The ninth book in the bestselling Skulduggery Pleasant series.

Following the loss of Valkyrie Cain, Skulduggery Pleasant must track down Darquesse before she turns the world into a charred, lifeless cinder and so he draws together a team of soldiers, monster hunters, criminals and Valkyrie's now murderous reflection. Not everyone gets out of this alive.

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

Paddling for a Purpose

Inaugural Sponsored Ocean Paddle raises £1,600 for Cancer Support & Awareness



Event organiser Cerys Joshua (front right) enjoying a well-earned pause at Lemon Valley alongside fellow paddlers before taking on the return leg to Jamestown

Liam Yon, SAMS

October marks the flagship fundraising month for the St Helena Cancer Support & Awareness Charity, with island residents and Saint communities abroad rallying together to support those affected by cancer.

While traditional events lead up to the grand finale of Carnival 2026 this coming Saturday, 24 October, this year's calendar featured an exciting new initiative—a Sponsored Paddle from the Jamestown Wharf to Lemon Valley and back.

Organised by young local resident, Cerys Joshua, the event combined a passion for ocean sports with community fundraising. Calling on islanders of all ages and abilities to join the challenge, Cerys's vision became reality on Saturday, 17 October.

Under clear skies and exceptionally calm sea conditions, a large contingent of paddlers assembled down at the Wharf.

Equipped with paddleboards and kayaks, participants set off at around 9.30am to undertake the round trip along the coastline. Crowds gathered along the Wharf to cheer on the fleet as they departed, while Enchanted Isle Ltd provided safety coverage, accompanying the group in their support vessel throughout the journey.

Every participant completed the course to Lemon Valley and back, making the inaugural paddle a resounding success. The initiative generated around £1,600 in donations for the charity.

"Thank you everyone that participated in the Paddle board for Cancer Awareness and Support on Saturday the 17th October," said Cerys in a Facebook post Expressing her gratitude following the event. "It was so heart-warming to see how many of you turned up for such a good cause.



A large contingent of paddleboards and kayaks making their way along St Helena's coastline towards Lemon Valley



The fleet returns safely to the Jamestown Wharf steps after successfully completing the round trip and raising £1,600 for the charity



Spectators gather at the Jamestown Wharf as participants take to the water for the early start



Paddlers of all ages took part in Saturday's challenge, taking advantage of calm sea conditions

Altogether, we've helped to raise £1,600 for the Cancer Awareness charity!"

Cerys extended special thanks to Enchanted Isle Ltd for providing the safety vessel, New Horizons Youth Club for donating kayaks and paddleboards, and Ady Shellie Travelling for the promotional support on Social Media.

The St Helena Cancer Support & Awareness Charity also extended its gratitude to Cerys and all who participated and donated.

With such strong community backing, many are already looking forward to the next instalment of what promises to become a staple on the island's annual events calendar. Well done Cerys and all!



Conserving Our Heritage



The fully restored exterior façade and new timber balustrades of the Media Centre, funded through the St Helena Heritage Society Grant Scheme

St Helena Heritage Society Grant Scheme benefits restoration of SAMS Media Centre in the Castle Gardens

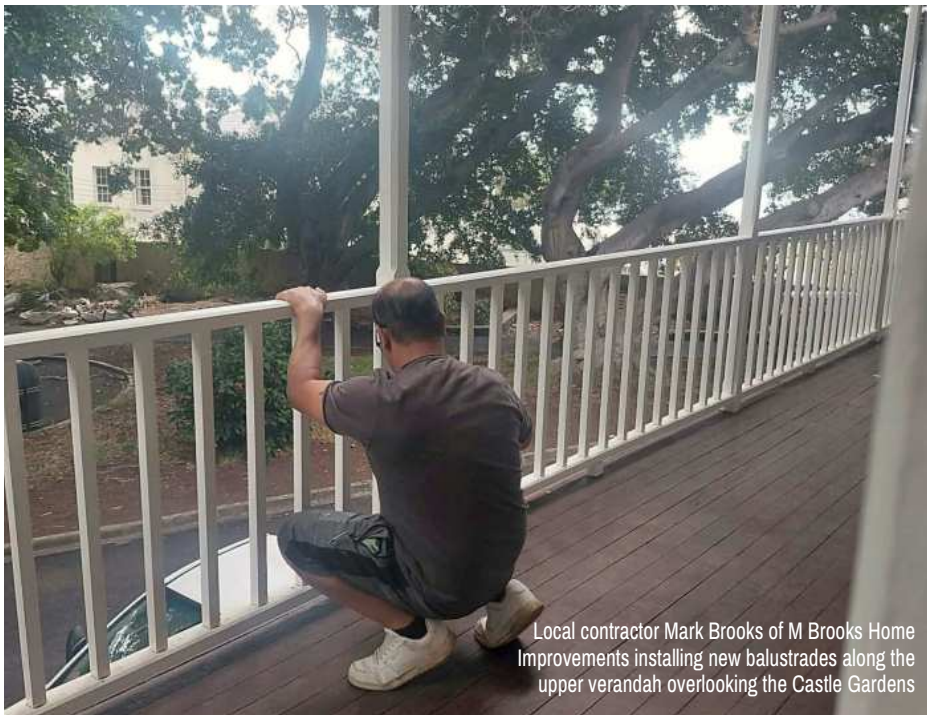
Anita Robbertse, SAMS

It has long been our dream to repair and restore the Media Centre building in the Castle Gardens rented form St Helena Government by South Atlantic Media Services Ltd (SAMS), but we had not been able to source the necessary funding to do so.

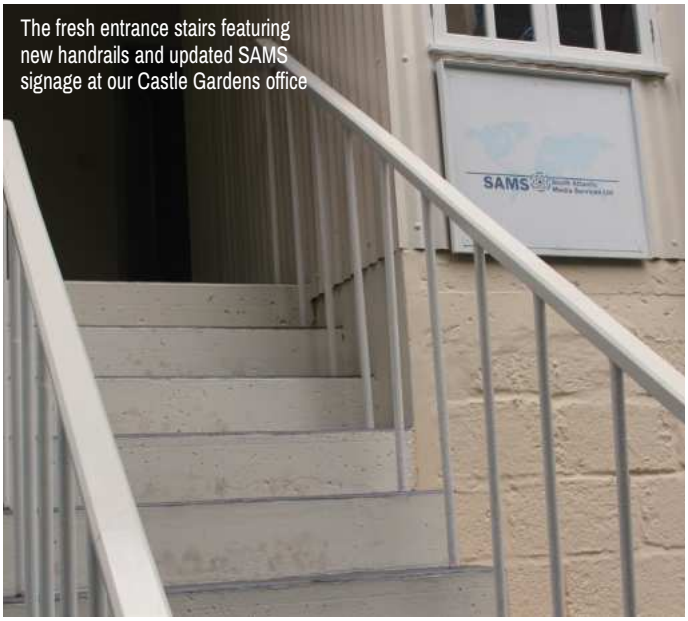
This was until the St Helena Heritage Society, in collaboration with St Helena Tourism, launched an initiative to beautify and repair historic buildings and monuments in the Jamestown Conservation Area in September 2025. Under this Grant Scheme, individuals or organisations could apply for funding to assist in restoring buildings and monuments of historic and architectural importance. The emphasis of the scheme was to increase the visual appeal of buildings in the Jamestown Conservation Area, for example structures listed in the Crallan Report.

SAMS turned to David Taylor, a former Head of Planning on the island, capitalising on his expertise in this area. David assisted us with advice and guidance, assessing the scope of works and applying for funding to improve the appearance of our office building in the Castle Gardens. Through the years, the balustrades and other parts of the building had been the target of extensive vandalism, leading to an unsafe and unsightly exterior of the building. With the building's prominent location, it was an eyesore to visitors.

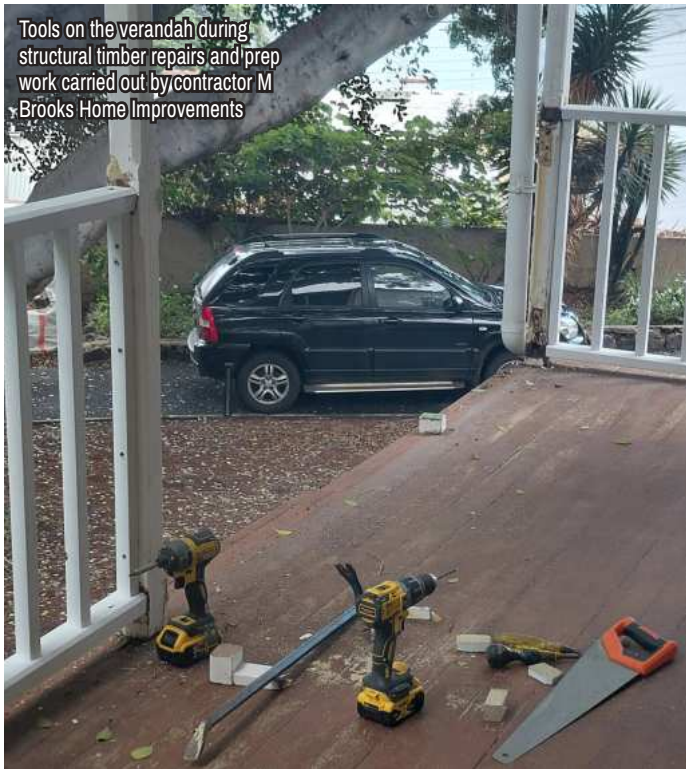
As with a lot of other NGO's, SAMS found themselves with a lack of sufficient funding to address this



Local contractor Mark Brooks of M Brooks Home Improvements installing new balustrades along the upper verandah overlooking the Castle Gardens



The fresh entrance stairs featuring new handrails and updated SAMS signage at our Castle Gardens office


Tools on the verandah during structural timber repairs and prep work carried out by contractor M Brooks Home Improvements

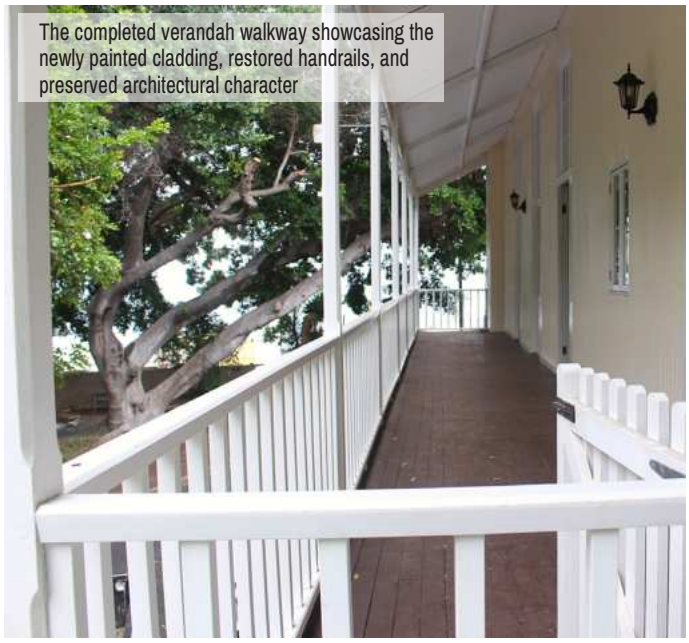
problem due to budgetary constraints. We were therefore delighted to be awarded funding through this Grant Scheme to undertake the necessary repairs. Under the scheme, organisations or individuals could qualify for a maximum of £5000, subject to eligibility criteria, as well as match funding to be provided by the applicant.

After much planning, the necessary match-funding was eked out from the recurrent budget and the search for a suitable contractor commenced. After several quotes were obtained, it was agreed to contract M Brooks Home Improvements to undertake most of the work, including the replacement of the balustrades and the sanding and painting of the exterior of the building.

Over the next months, Mark Brooks undertook the work as the weather allowed. In September 2026, the last of the repair work was completed and we are delighted with our newly renovated office building.

It is with much gratitude that we would like to thank all involved in making this project a resounding success; the St Helena Heritage Society for partially funding the project, M Brooks Home Improvements for their outstanding quality work, and David Taylor for his patience and always being available to lend a guiding hand and expert advice.

We can now proudly invite visitors to the gardens to have a look at our fresh new image, while also preserving the original look of this lovely building we call our SAMS' home.


The completed verandah walkway showcasing the newly painted cladding, restored handrails, and preserved architectural character


Years of wear and vandalism had left the exterior verandah, handrails, and balustrades of the SAMS Media Centre in an unsafe and unsightly state

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

GROW ST HELENA

Agricultural Innovation Award

Got an idea for farming or aquaculture on St Helena? Pitch it for a share of £10,000

St Helena Government is looking for the island's most promising agriculture business ideas, and we want to help turn them into real, trading businesses.

Up to £10,000 is available across up to three winners!

1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
Up to £5,000	**Up to £3,000**	**Up to £2,000**

What can the award support?

- **Equipment and set-up costs -** tools, equipment and small scale infrastructure to start or expand your business.
- **Land lease support -** access to SHG-owned land, or help securng a private lease
- **Training -** SHG-arranged mentors and trainers, or training you source yourself

Who can apply?

- Anyone aged 18 or over with an agricultural or aquaculture business idea based on St Helena.
- New ideas not yet trading, or existing businesses looking to expand or diversify
- Individuals, or partners and co-founders applying jointly (one application per person)

How it works

1. Complete the application form before the closing date.
2. Shortlisted applicants pitch live, in person, to a judging panel, followed by questions
3. The panel scores each pitch and decides the winners
4. Winners sign a funding agreement, then claim back approved cost against invoices

Please note: funding is paid by reimbursement against invocies, not as an upfront cash payment. Winners must commit to keeping their business active for at least two years, to be tax registered and to take part in milestone check-ins over that period.

KEY DATES

Applications open:
Thursday 15 October 2026
Applications close:
Thursday 19 November 2026
Pitch event:
Early December 2026

How to apply

Application forms are available from the Economic Development, Trade and Investment Team. For questions or help with the application process, contact Alexandria Thomas or Michael Omrod via invest@sainthelena.gov.sh or +29022470

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.

Planning Officer – 1-year fixed term

(Local interests only)
(£13,569 per annum)

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

This could also be offered on a secondment opportunity.

Enquiries: Darren Duncan on Tel No. 24724 or Email: darren.duncan@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 28 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 November 2026
Interview date: 12 November 2026

Trainee Dental Technician

(£11,604 per annum)

We are looking for a Trainee Dental Technician to join our team and develop the practical skills required to support the provision or repair of dental prosthetics/devices. The trainee will work closely with the Senior Dental Technician & Dentist, on prescription, gaining hands-on training, alongside a structured modular self-directed learning platform, to enhance patient's oral health, appearance, speech & wellbeing. Successful completion of all modular and end-of-training assessments will provide progression to a Grade C5 Salary. Anyone interested in applying is encouraged to contact the Dental Clinic on 25387 to arrange a practical work sample before the closing date. The work sample will assess manual dexterity, attention to detail, and basic aptitude for the role.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Charmaine Buckley Thomas on Tel No.25387 or Email: Charmaine.buckley@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 04 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 11 November 2026
Interview date: 18 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

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

BENEFITS

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

2 x Additional Educational Needs Practitioners
(£13,569 per annum)

Are you passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of children and young people? If so, the Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Team is looking to recruit two Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Practitioners to support pupils with AEN across all schools. In this role, you will assess pupils' needs, establish a baseline and develop individual support plans with interventions according to the child's level of need. Each practitioner will have a main area of AEN to focus on:

- Cognition and Learning
- Communication and Interaction
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Physical and Sensory

The area of AEN may change over time to help build a team with a wider range of skills. If you would like to join a supportive team and make a difference so that children and young people reach their full potential, please get in touch for more information or an informal chat about the role.

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: Sharon Peters on Tel No. 24543 or Email: sharon.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 06 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 11 November 2026
Interview date: 24 November 2026

Overseas Medical Liaison Officer
(£13,569 per annum)

The Overseas Medical Liaison Officer will help to organise, manage, and monitor all matters relating to the referral of patients from St Helena for medical treatment overseas. Execute all travel and accommodation arrangements for patients being referred from St Helena to South Africa, the United Kingdom, or any other country for medical treatment including return arrangements. The duties of the post will also include liaising with the Chief/Senior Medical Officer on expected travel dates and timeframes, and for treatment abroad to aid effective projected costs of referral.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Helen Lawrence on Tel No. 22500 or Email: helen.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 29 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 04 November 2026
Interview date: 18 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

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.

Portfolio Assistant
(£11,604 per annum)

Help build St Helena's future.
The Sustainable Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) sets out an ambitious plan to grow the island's economy, attract investment and help residents build their own futures.

As Portfolio Assistant, you'll support the Portfolio Director and Minister at the heart of this work, across Trade and Investment, Civil Aviation, Crown Estates and Housing, Tourism, Telecommunications and Financial Services development.

What you'll do

- Manage diaries and keep the Portfolio running smoothly
- Organise Committee meetings and take minutes
- Help prepare Executive Council papers and policy research
- Act as Communications Officer
- Coordinate events, visiting delegations and overseas travel
- Handle enquiries from the public and stakeholders

Why join us?
This entry-level role offers real room to grow, with the chance to build a career in one or more of these policy areas.

What we're looking for

- A Level 2 qualification or equivalent experience
- Strong organisation and communication skills
- Confidence with MS Office and an eye for detail
- Discretion and flexibility for occasional out-of-hours work

If you're organised, curious and want to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us for more information and a discussion

Enquiries: Damian Burns on Tel No. 22470 or Email: damian.burns@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 28 October 2026
Shortlisting date: 03 November 2026
Interview date: 12 November 2026

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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

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

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

Community Staff Nurse
(13,569 per annum)

The Community Nurse will work within the community setting either at the District Clinics or providing care to patients living at home. The individual will be expected to work as part of a multi- disciplinary team and to support the Community Nursing Sister in the delivery of an efficient, effective and evidence-based nursing service to the population of St Helena. They will also undertake the responsibility for assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of care to patients that is managed on the Community Nursing caseload under the direction of the Sister or Chief Nursing Officer.

Enquiries: Jackie Henry on Tel No. 23563 or Erika Bowers on Tel No.22500 or Email: jackie.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh Erika.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 05 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 11 November 2026
Interview date: 19 November 2026

Terrestrial Conservation Officer
(£16,248 per annum)

The Terrestrial Conservation Officer will play a crucial role in fostering the Island's prosperity by implementing the Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio's (ENRP) terrestrial conservation programme, aimed at preserving St Helena's unique terrestrial biodiversity, endemic species and natural ecosystems. This position will provide operational direction and support for the Terrestrial Conservation Section, using sound restoration ecology knowledge to guide the delivery of habitat restoration, invasive species management and endemic species recovery programmes. The post holder will maintain a regular and visible presence in the field, working closely with the Species and Habitats Teams to support effective conservation delivery.

The post holder will support the Head of Nature Conservation in the strategic development of the terrestrial conservation programme, ensuring that practical conservation delivery, monitoring, research and scientific evidence inform long-term conservation management. The post holder will also manage and support to the Nursery Officer and Habitat Chargehands, working closely with them to coordinate the delivery of the Species and Habitats Teams' work programmes and build on the considerable practical knowledge and experience within the teams. The role also includes programme and project implementation, habitat restoration and species conservation, reporting, communications and outreach activities, and maintaining effective relationships with local and international stakeholders and conservation partners associated with the work of the Terrestrial Conservation Section (TCS).

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Elizabeth Clingham on Tel No. 24724 or Email: Elizabeth.clingham@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 12 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 19 November 2026
Interview date: Week commencing 01 December 2026

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St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

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BENEFITS

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

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

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

Cloud Forest Project Technician
(£10,088 per annum)

We are seeking a highly motivated, reliable individual to work within the Terrestrial Conservation Section of ERNP at the Cloud Forest as a Conservation Technician under the DPLUS 224 funded project. This post is challenging but rewarding and involves taking responsibility for the day-to-day specialist restoration fieldwork activities under the project and supporting the Peaks Management team in working to protect and conserve the Islands endemic flora and fauna. Key activities will include contributing to the delivery of project outputs, specifically innovative invasive plant management, habitat restoration and creation or expansion of new habitats, fragments, or corridors. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Myra Young on Tel No. 24724 or Email: myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 06 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 12 November 2026
Interview date: 23 November 2026

Nursery Chargehand
(£10,464 per annum)

We are seeking a highly self-motivated, reliable individual to work within the Forestry tree nursery at Scotland. The purpose of this role is to take responsibility for the production of healthy tree seedlings designated for timber or firewood production within the National Forest Estate. Key responsibilities will include oversight of the tree production cycle from seed collection through to field planting, nursery husbandry activities, and data collection and feedback, all in line with established nursery protocols that minimize the risk of pathogen occurrence. Please contact us for more information and discussion on this challenging, but rewarding role.

Enquiries: Myra Young on Tel No. 24724 or Email: myra.young@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 05 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 11 November 2026
Interview date: 27 November 2026

Receptionist (Local interests only)
(£9,573 per annum)

The Receptionist will be based at Essex House and will be the first point of contact for all visitors, providing receptionist duties ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness. Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Sara-Kay Yon on Tel No. 22500 or Email: sara-kay.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 05 November 2026
Shortlisting date: 12 November 2026
Interview date: 20 November 2026

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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

PRESS RELEASE

SHG Announces Launch of New Child Benefit Scheme

Following the decision made by Executive Council in July 2026, the St Helena Government (SHG) is pleased to announce that a new Child Benefit scheme will officially launch on 1 November 2026.

Designed to improve the financial situation of families and directly benefit children, the scheme recognises that investing in early childhood supports healthy development, reduces poverty, and yields long-term benefits for society and economic growth. While operating within SHG's financial constraints, the scheme targets universality for all resident families with children from birth before they start full-time primary school.

The benefit will provide £15 per week in its first year (with a planned increase to £20 per week in the following year) for each eligible child up until, but not including, their sixth birthday.

The scheme establishes a fixed Child Benefit to support the day-to-day expenses of raising young children on St Helena, such as food, clothing, nappies, transport, and childcare, helping to ease household financial pressures. Rather than acting as an income replacement or an assessment of a family's poverty gap, it provides a straightforward, reliable weekly entitlement that families can easily plan around. Recognising that giving children a good start benefits the entire island community, the scheme helps shape St Helena's future while addressing employment barriers such as childcare and transport costs, particularly for single parents and lower-paid workers. While the core entitlement rules are defined by the policy, comprehensive operational guidelines ensure that applications, decisions, payments, changes, reviews, recovery, and records are managed efficiently.

Key Information and Eligibility

- Entitlement is determined on a child-by-child basis. For a family with two eligible children, the support doubles to £30 a week.
- Except for specific technical exclusions, the benefit is not means-tested. Family income, savings, property, and employment status do not affect eligibility. A universal approach within the eligible group avoids complex administrative reassessments, prevents income cut-offs from penalising working families, and ensures lower-paid households receive support regardless of fluctuations in earnings.
- The child must normally live in St Helena (eligibility is based on resident children rather than strict St Helenian status), and the claimant must have primary responsibility for the child's day-to-day care. Only one person may receive Child Benefit for the same child and week.
- Carers in shared-care arrangements should nominate one person to receive the payment. If an agreement cannot be reached, the Benefits Office will determine eligibility based on the child's usual home, daily care responsibility, ordinary costs, and relevant legal orders.

- Child Benefit is non-taxable and is fully disregarded when assessing Income-Related Benefit (IRB), meaning families receiving IRB will receive Child Benefit as additional support without an equivalent reduction in their IRB (though a separate application must still be submitted).
- Individuals receiving certain international family supplements or allowances under SHG Technical Cooperation Programme terms (specifically, those receiving a supplement to salary as part of their contract) or their spouse or partner do not qualify, avoiding overlapping family support.

How Payments Work

Payments will normally be made weekly into a verified Bank of St Helena account in the claimant's name, though cash payments can be arranged where banking access is not possible. Entitlement generally begins from the first week following the later of the application being received or all eligibility conditions being met. To ensure uninterrupted support, temporary absences from St Helena lasting fewer than 90 days will not stop payments, while children away on government-arranged overseas medical referrals are covered separately for the full duration of their treatment.

Claimants are required to promptly notify the Benefits Office of any relevant changes in circumstances, such as shifts in daily care, residence, shared-care arrangements, payment details, or changes affecting Technical Cooperation eligibility.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted using the official approved form available on the SHG website at https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/app/uploads/2026/10/Child-Benefit-Application-Form.pdf. Alternatively, hard copies are available from the Benefits Office or the Customer Services Centre in Jamestown.

Completed applications, along with required evidence (such as a birth certificate or passport) and payment instructions, can be submitted in writing or via email to the Benefits Office:

gail.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh; joanne.jonas@sainthelena.gov.sh; sharon.wade@sainthelena.gov.sh

Members of the public are kindly requested to telephone the Benefits Office on 22605 to make an appointment. Applicants will receive a written decision outlining the reasons and rules applied. Those who disagree with a decision may request an internal review, normally within 14 days, addressed to the Deputy Financial Secretary.

Chief Minister, Dr Rebecca Cairns-Wicks MBE, added:

"We want St Helena to be a place where families can build their future and children have the opportunity to thrive. Child Benefit is one practical step towards that ambition.

We know that £15 a week will not meet every cost of raising a child. But it is regular support that families can plan around and put towards what their children need, whether that is food, clothing, transport or childcare. We want eligible families to be able to access this support through a clear and straightforward application process.

Giving children a good start matters to us all. Through Child Benefit, Government is helping families with the pressures they face today and investing in the children who will shape our island's future. This is part of building the fairer, more resilient St Helena we want to see."

#StHelena #ChildBenefitScheme #AltogetherBetterforChildrenandYoungPeople

www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt **SHG, 20 October 2026**

NOTICE BOARD

AUDIT ST HELENA
External Auditors

VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT AUDITOR

Salary range £11,091 to £12,929 per annum
(*Open to applicants residing locally*)

Audit St Helena is seeking to recruit an Assistant Auditor to join its Audit Team.

The person will assist with financial and performance audits across the public sector and will support other business processes. No prior experience in this field is required.

Prospective candidates are required to have good GCSE grades **or** Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Mathematics and be prepared to study for the ACCA Foundations in Accountancy programme.

On the job training will be provided and through training and practical experience, the successful candidate will develop the knowledge and skills required to confidently and efficiently carry out business processes within the workplace.

For further information, Job Profiles and Application Forms please contact Helene Williams by telephoning 22111 or emailing helene.v.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh. Completed application forms should be submitted to this email address or by hand to Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown, by no later than close of business on **Friday 30 October 2026.**

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

Vacancy

Stock Control Clerk

Since 1790

Salary for the post will commence at £11,196 per annum (£933 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within Warrens Wholesale for a Stock Control Clerk.

As the Stock Control Clerk you will provide an efficient service to both customers and the Company operations and assist with the accurate reporting of stock transactions.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be in possession of GCSE English and Math in grade C or above, or equivalent
- Be customer focused and committed to providing excellent customer service
- Possess experience in administration
- Be computer literate namely in the use of Microsoft applications and ideally possess experience working with Access Dimensions
- Have excellent communications and interpersonal skills
- Have the ability to multi-task, prioritise and work to deadlines whilst demonstrating a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail
- Be analytical and have an aptitude for figures
- Have the ability to effectively problem solve and use own initiative
- Able to work on weekends

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

Jean Lawrence, Assistant Wholesale Manager, via 22422 wholesale@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 29 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

CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH 2026

BEHIND THE SCREEN: YOUR SAFETY, YOUR WELL-BEING, YOUR DIGITAL LIFE

1. DO YOUR RESEARCH

Doing a simple Google Search of a person's or organisation's name can reveal if they're legitimate or not, for example other people could have been scammed by them and there could be testimonials about it online. Also check well known Public Review Platforms & Directories like TrustPilot, Yelp or Google Reviews to see if a company has a good or bad reputation.



2. CHECK MULTIPLE SOURCES

When doing your research, ensure you check multiple different websites to verify if a person, news article or organisation is legitimate, for example check multiple different news websites e.g. BBC News, The Guardian, The Times etc. and social media platforms e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn etc.





ENSURE IT'S LEGIT, BEFORE YOU COMMIT.

The internet is a global digital space that's full of information and misinformation, news and fake news, real people and fake profiles, legitimate businesses and scammers. Don't give your money or your heart away unless you're certain that a person or organisation is real. Take the following precautions before you trust anyone you meet online or trust anything you see online.

3. DON'T TRUST ANYONE

Cyber criminals can hack or clone social media accounts, or use AI and Deepfake tricks to clone voices or fake video calls, making it look or sound like a colleague, family member or friend is in distress. If something feels 'off', where someone you know is acting out of character, e.g. asking for money, it could be a cyber criminal impersonating them. In this situation contact the person in question directly, using contact details you know are correct and question them.



4. LOOK FOR RED FLAGS

* **'TOO-GOOD-TO-BE-TRUE' OFFERS:** If someone or something seems too good to be true – it usually is!
* **UNEXPECTED CONTACT:** Receiving messages, emails or phone calls 'out of the blue' could indicate a scam.
* **REQUESTING SENSITIVE INFO:** Legitimate organisations never ask for passwords, PINs, etc. via text or phone calls.
* **BEING PRESSURED:** Scammers will pressure you, using threats, or persuasion to send money or take some action straight away. They can also promise some special deal or offer.
* **STRANGE PAYMENT METHODS:** Demands to pay using gift cards, cryptocurrency, or wire transfers are usually signs of fraud.



PAUSE, DISCONNECT & PROTECT

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Special Orders Coordinator

Since 1790

Salary for the post will be £13,692 per annum (£1,141 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Procurement Department for a Special Orders Coordinator.

To take the day-to-day operational responsibility for the effective delivery of the Special Orders function, ensuring that customer requirements are managed efficiently and professionally, orders are progressed accurately and within required deadlines, and operational controls are maintained.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have grade C or above in GCSE English & Maths, or equivalent
- Be computer literate namely in Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word and able to undertake online research
- Possess at least 2 years' experience with performing higher level administrative duties
- Possess experience in Cash Handling
- Possess experience of working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- Possess excellent interpersonal & communication skills and ability to engage with individuals on all levels
- Be highly organised with a keen eye for detail
- Have the ability to multi-task and meet tight deadlines whilst demonstrating a high degree of accuracy
- Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude
- Be able to work independently and use own initiative to problem solve
- Be available to work Saturdays

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

Julie Lawrence, Procurement Manager via 22207 procurementmanager@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation &Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **29 October 2026.**

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- Pension Contributions
- Staff Discounts

MOONSHINES

Ronald and Diana Williams; proprietors of Moonshines would like to thank all of those who kindly donated prizes for the raffle towards the Cancer Support & Awareness Charity, those who sold tickets and to those who supported us on the night. Below is the results from the raffle:

Prize	Description	Ticket number	Winner
1	Picnic Bench	632	Priscilla Isaac, Bottom Woods
2	Wooden Planters	746	Joshua's Taxis
3	Large Vegetable Hamper	240	Dane Benjamin, Half Tree Hollow
4	Food Hamper	485	David George, St Pauls
5	Medium Vegetable Hamper	590	Cheryl O'Dean, Deadwood
6	Iced Cake	978	Donald Thomas, Blue Hill
7	Cherry Cake	666	Venus Williams, Hutts Gate
8	Large Pumpkin	470	Ian Todd, The Castle
9	Iron	88	Skye Baldwin
10	Wine	977	Shinade Benjamin, Terrace Knoll
11	Set of Mugs	480	Lisa Bailey, Blackfield
12	Wine	488	Katy Peters
13	Bed Set	197	Zena Peters, New Bridge
14	Wine	304	Derek Richards, Jamestown
15	Kettle	12	Jeffrey Joshua, Longwood
16	Wine	685	Spud Henry, Ropery Field
17	Frozen Food Hamper	692	Kathleen Yon, Mulberry Gut
18	Kitchen Scale	466	Anne Dillon
19	Clock	982	Leroy Peters, Blue Hill
20	Gift Set	35	Lily Henry, Black Field
21	Poncho	1033	Barry Yon, Half Tree Hollow
22	Wine	766	Kyla Hopkins
23	Wine	422	Shelly Knipe
24	Charlie Perfume	476	Theo Plato-Francis
Raffle Tickets sold			£1127.00
Donations from Meals sold (£2 per meal)			£136.00
Donations and tips from the Bar			£140.00
Total transferred to Cancer Support & Awareness Charity			**£1,403.00**

Carnival 2026

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

The Highways Authority has approved a temporary road closure on **Saturday, 24 October 2026, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm** between New Bridge to the vehicle barrier adjacent to the Ex-Customs Building, Jamestown, to help ensure the safe passage of the Carnival 2026 parade through the streets of Jamestown.

Diversion signage will be in place, and motorists are advised of the following alternative routes:

- **Traffic leaving Jamestown via Side Path Road** will be redirected up Napoleon Street.
- **Traffic leaving Jamestown via Ladder Hill Road** will be redirected via the Museum and up Shy Road.

Motorists are kindly asked to make allowances for possible delays.

All motorists and members of the public are thanked in advance for their patience, understanding and cooperation in helping to ensure a safe and successful Carnival 2026 celebration in support of our **Cancer Support & Awareness Charity.**

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

INVITATION TO TENDER

Replacement of Timber Windows at Community Care Complex

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

SSHA5-2026/27 – Replace Timber Windows with Aluminium Windows at the Community Care Complex

A site visit to view the works will take place on Wednesday, 21 October 2026, at 10:00, meeting at the Community Care Complex, Ladder Hill.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

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

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box located on the Top Floor, Post Office Building by 12:00 on Friday, 30 October 2026, clearly marked **"Tender SSHA5-2026/27"**.

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

SHG, 07 October 2026





SPORTS ARENA

District Rounders Report

WSA, Contributed

HTH Celebrate First Win with Victory Over Longwood

HTH celebrated their first win of the competition with an impressive 16–10 victory over Longwood in an entertaining rounders match. Both teams showed determination throughout, with strong batting and some excellent fielding combinations, making for a competitive game.

HTH made a strong start in the first innings, scoring an impressive 12 rounders. Katelyn led the way with four rounders, while Anisa added three. Laila and Nicola contributed 1.5 each, with Ice and Maxina also getting on the scoresheet to help HTH establish an early lead.

Longwood responded with seven rounders in their opening innings and showed real promise in the field. They formed a good triangle between the baller, wicket and first base, working well together to get a few HTH batters out. Their communication and positioning helped put pressure on the batters and demonstrated how effective a well-organised fielding unit can be.

HTH also showed good teamwork in the field, forming an effective triangle of their own to create opportunities for outs and restrict Longwood's scoring chances. Their fielding became particularly important in the second innings, when they limited Longwood to just three rounders through determined and organised defensive play.

Longwood responded well in the second innings by tightening up their field and making it harder for HTH to score freely. Their improved positioning and defensive work limited HTH to just four rounders, showing a positive response and making the opposition work hard for every score.

However, HTH's ability to combine consistent batting with strong fielding ultimately proved decisive. Their early advantage gave them a cushion, while their disciplined second-innings fielding ensured Longwood could not close the gap.

Katelyn Benjamin was named Young Lady of the Match (YLOM) in recognition of her good work in both batting and fielding, making a positive contribution to HTH's first win of the season.

St Paul's Produce Strong Team Performance Against Jamestown

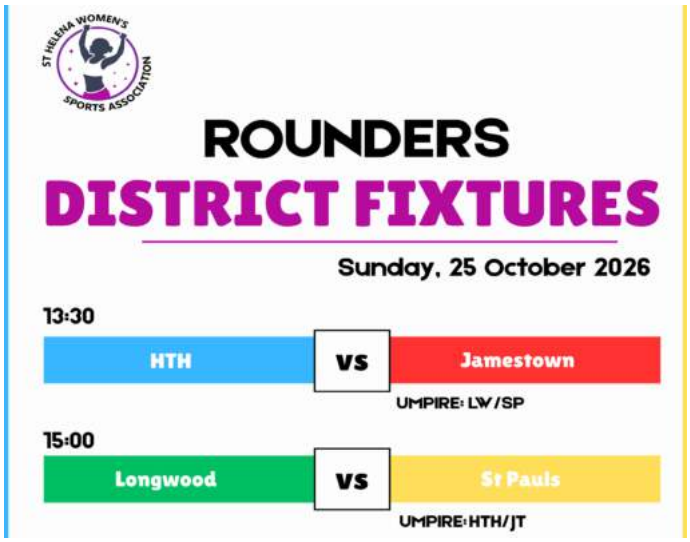
St Paul's produced a strong all-round performance to secure a 22½–15½ victory over Jamestown in an entertaining rounders match. Both teams showed determination throughout, with some impressive batting displays and excellent fielding efforts making for a competitive contest.

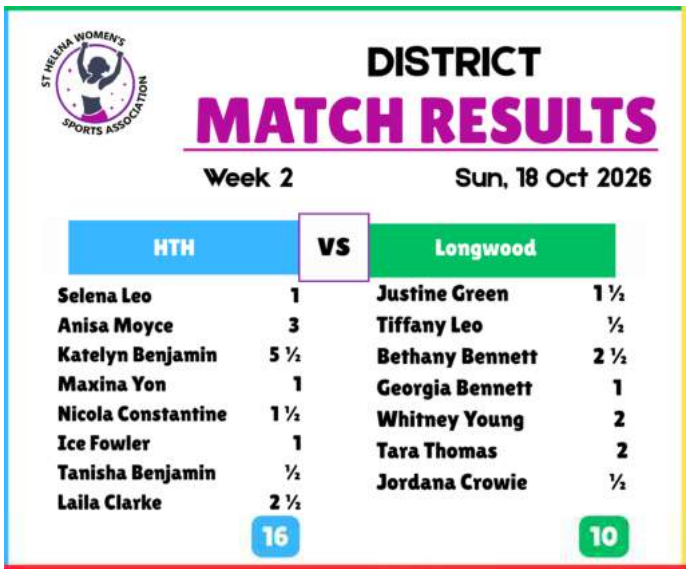
St Paul's made a positive start in the first innings, scoring 13½ rounders. Dani and Alayah led the way with an impressive 4½ rounders each, while Sara added two rounders. Valuable contributions throughout the batting order helped St Paul's build an early advantage and put pressure on Jamestown from the outset.

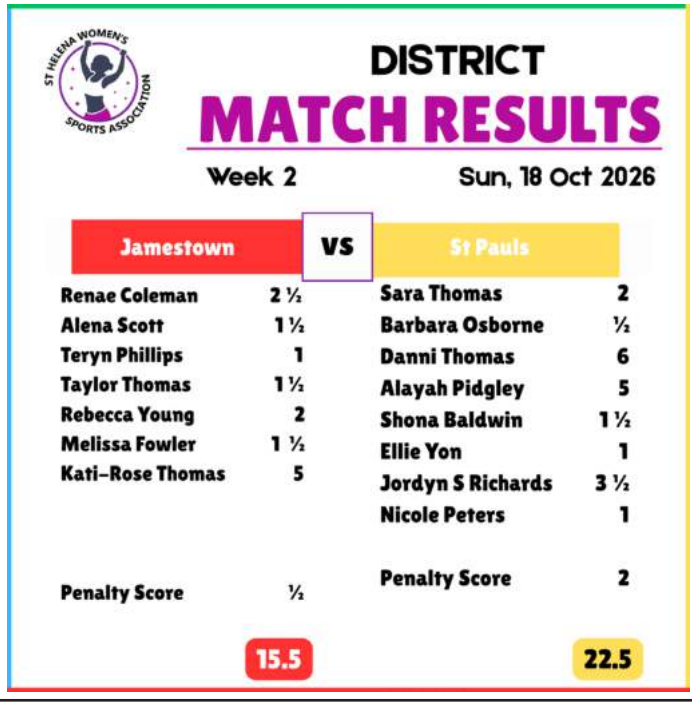
Jamestown responded with 8½ rounders in their opening innings. Kati-Rose Thomas led the batting with two rounders, helping to keep her side in touch. St Paul's fielders worked well together to restrict scoring opportunities, with Shona taking two stumpings and Dani claiming two catches. Further dismissals from Barbara, Jordyn and Hannah helped keep Jamestown's total under control.

St Paul's added a further nine rounders in the second innings. Jordyn top scored with two rounders, while Dani and Shona each contributed 1½ rounders. Jamestown responded well in the field, taking several important wickets through a combination of catches and stumpings. Rebecca Young, Kati-Rose Thomas, Taylor Thomas, Alena Scott and Renae Coleman all played a part in limiting St Paul's scoring opportunities and showed good teamwork throughout.

Jamestown added seven rounders in their second innings and continued to battle hard until the final ball. Katie-Rose Thomas produced an excellent innings, scoring three rounders to finish







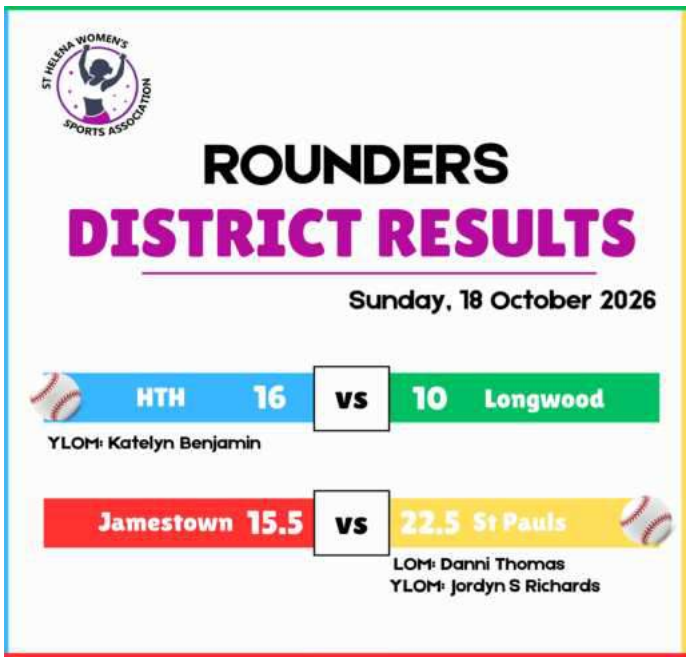
with an impressive 5 rounders overall, making her Jamestown's highest scorer of the match. Despite the effort, St Paul's remained organised in the field, with important dismissals from Jordyn, Shona and Barbara helping to prevent Jamestown from closing the gap.

Both teams displayed good teamwork throughout the match. Jamestown showed some strong fielding performances, particularly through their catches and stumpings in the second innings, while St Paul's combined consistent batting with organised fielding to maintain their advantage across both innings.

Dani was named Lady of the Match (LOM) for an outstanding all-round performance with both bat and ball. Jordyn received the Young Lady of the Match (YLOM) after making valuable contributions in both batting and fielding.

This is the second week of the District Rounders Competition, with St Paul's remaining undefeated at the top of the table. Half Tree Hollow and Longwood are currently competing for second place as the season continues.

It has now been decided that the competition will continue with a second round of district fixtures, giving each team another opportunity to add to their totals. With more matches still to come, the race for the top position remains very much alive, and all teams will be aiming to finish the season as District Champions.



Golf Report



2026 Annual Solomon's Challenge Cup Report

SHGC, Contributed

The Annual Solomon's Challenge Cup 2026 was played on 18 October at the St Helena Golf Club. A total of 23 players took part in this prestigious 18-hole strokeplay event. The weather held up and although it was a bit windy, this did not affect the participants too much, allowing some good competitive scores.

At the end of the day, four players finished with net scores in the 60's. Ashton Benjamin ended with a net score of 69, just missing out on qualifying for a prize as Damien O'Bey edged him out for third place with a net score of 67. The biggest competition of the day, however, unfolded for first and second place as father and son, Bramwell and Asa Bushuru, both returned a net score of 65. According to the competition rules, they had to battle it out in a play-off on the 18th hole to determine the champion. In the end, youth prevailed as Asa finished just ahead of Bramwell to claim this year's title as the Solomon's Challenge Cup champion.



The two-ball pool for Sunday was shared by another father & son duo - Deon and Lukas Robbertse - who birdied the 16th and the 7th respectively, as well as Arthur Francis who scored an eagle on the 18th.

Special prizes were awarded to Damien O'Bey for the Longest Drive (Gents) with Ladies' longest drive going to Laura Buckley. The nearest to the Pin (Gents) went to Neil Joshua while the Ladies' nearest to the pin prize went to Anita Robbertse.

Prizes were presented by Solomons CEO, Mr Paul Gasteen, who thanked the members for participating in the event. The Captain expressed the club's gratitude to Solomons for their continued support while looking forward to a continuation of the partnership.

The next competition will be the Monthly Medal Strokeplay competition, scheduled for Sunday, 25 October. Members are urged to enter the competition early by calling the club on 22421 and leaving a message before 3pm on Saturday, 24 October. Happy swinging!







SPORTS ARENA



Crown Going Nowhere

Half Tree Hollow confirmed as champions as Jamestown climb to second in SHFA District League

Liam Yon, SAMS

Gameweek 5 of the 2026 SHFA District League delivered another weekend of high drama, goal-fests, and crucial shifts in the league table, with Jamestown now favourites to finish as runners-up as Half Tree Hollow's dominating performances confirmed them as 2026 champions with a game to spare.





In the opening match on Sunday afternoon, Jamestown bounced back in style, securing a convincing 7-3 victory over St Paul's. Jamestown's attacking masterclass featured doubles from Lars Williams and Jake Letori, alongside goals from Captain, Jordan Yon, and a second half brace from Lebron George. St Paul's fought hard with two goals from Blaze Baldwin either side of the half, along with a penalty from Shane Stroud. Incredibly, the win sees Jamestown leapfrog St Paul's into second place on seven points, as St Paul's continue their poor run - consisting of a draw and three losses - since their only win of the tournament on the opening day.

In the afternoon fixture, reigning champions Half Tree Hollow continued their formidable march toward the title by defeating Longwood by seven goals to one. HTH's Rico Benjamin put on a clinical display with a superb hat-trick, supported by goals from Joey Thomas, Tyler Benjamin, Ryan Benjamin, and an own goal. Hameed Ganiyu netted a late consolation for Longwood, dedicated to his friend Jerome's new-born baby girl, Emirah.

With another dominant performance, Half Tree Hollow has officially clinched the district crown again, with a game to spare, having picked up a maximum 15 points in their undefeated five matches so far. The tournament reaches its grand finale this coming weekend with the final gameweek of the season. After their win, Jamestown look favourites to finish in second, however if St Paul's can do what no team has been able to do so far and beat Half Tree Hollow on the final day, they could still be in with a shot at finishing in the runner-up position, albeit needing Longwood to do them a favour against Jamestown; who only need to avoid defeat on Sunday to be confirmed as runners-up in this years District League.