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SENTINEL

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Too Little, Too Late?





Police issue public apology, but van Wyk couple says timing and lack of transparency "robs it of sincerity" as they push ahead with legal action





Guilty Pleas entered by Saint Brothers in Swindon Shooting case

A New Era for Maritime Safety



OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

I had the pleasure of joining in on a little open mic session on Saturday; a little get together to appreciate Andy our vet who will be leaving us soon. Andy is an outstanding vet and an amazing musician, so something like this would've been right up his street.

You may know Andy if you needed someone to have a look at your pet who's feeling poorly or you've probably seen him having a good ole bagpipe session somewhere around the island, or even helping out with the Commonwealth Games team, helping to house some athletes and their families when travelling to Scotland. So, a little appreciation jam session was well deserved, and enjoyed.

What was so good about this little open mic session is that it brought so many musicians in one place. We had musicians who haven't played for years, some who don't play out as often and some who are not in a band. We had musicians who've been playing way before I was born (and I'm 35) and some who you probably have seen in a band in recent times. Andy would join in with his violin and even blessed us with one off his bagpipe sessions.

A big shout out to Mark Anthony and his crew and Sally and the standard team who made this happen for Andy. So, cheers Andy and all the best for the future.

So, from there I slipped down to Donny's to help out with the Church Lads & Girls Brigade Halloween disco. Just want to say a big thank you to Donny and his team and to all who joined us, supported our cause and for all who helped out. Well done for all who took part in the fancy dress, there was some very well put together outfits and it looked like the kids enjoyed it. The money that the brigade received from the entrance fees and raffles will go to helping us pay for activities and events and presents for the kids in the CL&GB, so once again thank you!

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YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As most people know by now, we (Kevin and Tasneen) were arrested over two and a half months ago by the Royal Saint Helena Police Service (RSHPS). At the time of our release from custody, the police were fully aware that their mistake caused us to be suspects which resulted in our arrest and detention. Their error turned out to be rather basic – a detective failed to dial the international dialling code prefix when trying to call what he knew was an international number. The arrest resulted in trauma for us and our children. Our young daughters were subjected to questioning by the police without our knowledge or consent and they were then taken away from our home to a place of safety. This is not to mention our humiliating public arrests, being placed in handcuffs, being detained for nearly four hours and the subsequent raid on our home, including having had our personal equipment confiscated.

In recent weeks we have commenced the process of suing the RSHPS by formally serving them with a legal demand, in addition to lodging a complaint with them for their exceptionally negligent conduct. As recently as Friday, 23 October, the RSHPS delivered the finding of their internal investigation, in which they expressly stated that their actions were reasonable. They steadfastly refused to apologise. Their exact words were: *RSHPS cannot apologise for the arrests as they were based on genuinely held, reasonable beliefs.* Remarkably, that self-same report acknowledged and admitted that the incorrect number was dialled. We are unable to reconcile how an initial error can result in (alleged) reasonable conduct thereafter. Acting on the basis of a mistake renders every subsequent action flawed. In our view, this fact alone calls into question the reasoning employed in the report.

It is therefore extremely surprising that, less than a week later, the RSHPS has elected to publish an apology in the newspaper. RSHPS uses the acronym P.R.I.D.E as their motto, the black text sitting proudly against a yellow background on the SHG website. The 'I' in the acronym stands for integrity, no less. Despite the obviously flawed investigative process, it took RSHPS two and a half months to issue a public apology. For an organisation preaching integrity, this does not correspond with those values, in our respectful view.

Whilst we appreciate that an apology has finally been tendered, the wording falls short of what we had expected for one simple reason – the RSHPS has not publicly taken accountability or been transparent about their error. As mentioned, we have liaised directly with RSHPS regarding this matter and yet we had only learnt about the apology via the media. RSHPS did not bother to confer with us prior to issuing the public apology. That is contrary to the value of integrity which they (allegedly) espouse as an organisation.

We believe that this apology is a sign of progress, but we also believe that the passage of time, coupled with the police's previous public statements, in which they comfortably absolved themselves of their wrongful actions, robs the apology of its sincerity. We are by no means ungrateful, but we feel that the public should be aware of the circumstances in which the apology has been tendered. In our view, the RSHPS did not issue the statement due to a sincerely held belief of their wrongdoing, but rather due to pressure and actions taken by ourselves and, of course, the ensuing legal action. There is clearly an absence of genuine contrition.

The 'apology' tendered by RSHPS basically says: 'We apologise for the trauma caused to you and your family, but we were just doing our job.' What the apology should say is: 'We apologise for the trauma caused to you and your family, because we failed to do our job properly.' There is a distinct difference between the two, and this is where we believe that accountability is lacking.

RSHPS has recently launched a campaign to improve its rapport with the community. If they wish to do so, acting with integrity would be a good place to begin.

Regards,

Kevin and Tasneen van Wyk

Editor's note: In last week's coverage and photo special from Carnival 2026, we published photos taken by Mikhail Harris and would like to give Mikhail full credit for his excellent captures from the day. Many thanks for the shots Mikhail. ***Liam Yon, Editor.***

Dear Editor,

At recent constituency meetings, a few residents have asked questions about the funding allocated to the Primary School Reorganisation Project, particularly the refurbishment works that form part of the programme.

Although the funding allocations were previously published through Government's budget process, I recognise that budget documents are lengthy and can be difficult to navigate, so it is understandable that some residents may welcome a simpler summary.

The key figure is that the budget allocation for the refurbishment element of the Primary School Reorganisation Project, funded through the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), was just over £3.5 million.

To further break that figure down, the allocation for the Key Stage 1 site (known to most of us as Harford) was originally set at £1,876,629. The allocation for the Key Stage 2 site (St Pauls) was £1,694,533.

I remain committed to ensuring that residents have access to clear and accurate information about projects that affect our schools, our children and our communities.

The decision to pause the refurbishment programme was not taken lightly. As the project developed, legitimate questions emerged regarding the affordability, practicality and deliverability of the proposed refurbishment model.

The purpose of the pause is to allow a thorough and objective review of the available options to ensure that the eventual solution is affordable, deliverable, represents good value for money, and meets the long-term needs of children, families and schools.

Taking additional time now will help ensure that we make the right decision for the next generation rather than simply proceeding with a solution because it was the original plan.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Turner
Minister for Education, Skills and Employment

Climate Resilience on the Global Stage

Minister Karl Thrower departs for three-week international mission



Minister Karl Thrower, who departed St Helena on Saturday for a three-week international itinerary including summits in France and Turkey

— **Liam Yon**, SAMS —

Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Planning (ENRP), and Economic Development (ED), Karl Thrower, departed St Helena on Saturday, 31 October, to begin a high-profile three-week overseas mission centred on international climate cooperation, island resilience, and bilateral governance discussions.

The Minister's extensive itinerary will see him participate in two major international summits in Europe and Asia Minor before concluding his trip with official ministerial engagements in London.

Minister Thrower's overseas trip begins in France, where he will represent St Helena at the Green Overseas Conference in Paris.

The Green Overseas (GO) initiative—funded primarily through the European Union—is designed to strengthen climate resilience, accelerate the transition toward renewable energy, and protect delicate biodiversity across Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and Outermost Regions.

For an isolated island like St Helena, participating in the Paris forum provides an important platform to engage directly with international partners, share technical expertise on sustainable island infrastructure, and explore funding streams dedicated to climate adaptation and marine protection.

Following his engagements in Paris, Minister Thrower will travel to Turkey to participate in COP31, the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference, hosted in Antalya from 9 to 20 November.

As global climate discussions increasingly focus on the severe vulnerabilities faced by small island developing states and remote island communities, COP31 brings together international leaders, environmental policy experts, and financial institutions to drive forward global carbon reduction targets, loss-and-damage funding, and sustainable energy security.

Minister Thrower's presence at COP31 ensures that St Helena's unique environmental profile and economic priorities remain visible within broader UK and international delegation discussions.

The final leg of Minister Thrower's three-week itinerary will take place in the United Kingdom, where he is scheduled to hold a series of official bilateral meetings.

To ensure the continued operation of cabinet and ministerial duties during Minister Thrower's absence, portfolio responsibilities have been formally reassigned within the Executive Council. As such, Minister Andrew Turner has assumed temporary responsibility for both the ENRP and ED portfolios.

Minister Thrower is expected to return to the island following the completion of his official schedule in the UK later this month.



Minister Thrower will join global leaders at COP31 to represent St Helena's environmental priorities and economic resilience within international delegation discussions

Too Little, Too Late?



Police Headquarters at Coleman House, where the couple was wrongfully detained, with Police issuing a public apology over two months later

Police issue public apology over van Wyk wrongful arrest, but couple says timing and lack of transparency "robs it of sincerity" as they push ahead with legal action against RSHPS

Kevin and Tasneen van Wyk, who questioned the sincerity of the police apology due to its timing and lack of transparency

Liam Yon, SAMS

More than two and a half months after the high-profile wrongful arrest of Bank of St Helena employees Kevin and Tasneen van Wyk, the Royal St Helena Police Service (RSHPS) has finally issued a public apology. However, the long-awaited acknowledgement has been met with a sharp response from the couple, who revealed that just days prior, police had flatly refused to apologise in an internal investigation report.

Published as an official public announcement, the RSHPS addressed the events of 13 August 2026, when Mr and Mrs van Wyk were handcuffed at the Bank of St Helena and detained at the Police Custody Suite at Coleman House. In the statement, police acknowledged that the investigation was entirely unrelated to the couple's employment or family life, noting that "further enquiries quickly established that neither Mr nor Mrs van Wyk had any involvement in the offences under investigation".

The RSHPS public announcement then concluded with a formal apology. "The RSHPS wishes to make this clear and apologises sincerely to Mr and Mrs van Wyk, and to their family, for the distress this incident has caused," they said.

Despite this public conciliatory gesture, a joint letter penned by Kevin and Tasneen van Wyk—published in full in the 'Your Letters' section of this week's The Sentinel—reveals a starkly different stance taken by the police, just days earlier.

According to the couple, as recently as Friday, 23 October, the RSHPS delivered the findings of their internal investigation, expressly maintaining that officers' actions were "reasonable" and steadfastly refusing to apologise. Quoting the internal report, the couple noted the police's exact position, where police stated outright that "RSHPS cannot apologise for the arrests as they were based on genuinely held, reasonable beliefs."

Remarkably however, this same internal report admitted that the fundamental error triggering the entire ordeal was a basic oversight by a detective who failed to dial the international dialling code prefix when attempting to reach an international number, inadvertently connecting the call to the family's local landline.

"We are unable to reconcile how an initial error can result in (alleged) reasonable conduct thereafter," said the van Wyk family, bemused at the findings of the RSHPS's internal investigation report, adding that, in their view, "acting on the basis of a mistake renders every subsequent action flawed."

Reacting to the sudden about-face by the RSHPS, the van Wyks noted that they only learned of the public apology through the media, as police did not confer with them or provide advance notice. Reflecting on the circumstances of the statement, Kevin and Tasneen saw the apology as "a sign of progress," though questioned its sincerity.

"We believe that this apology is a

sign of progress, but we also believe that the passage of time, coupled with the police's previous public statements, in which they comfortably absolved themselves of their wrongful actions, robs the apology of its sincerity," they said.

"In our view, the RSHPS did not issue the statement due to a sincerely held belief of their wrongdoing, but rather due to pressure and actions taken by ourselves and, of course, the ensuing legal action," they added, noting that "there is clearly an absence of genuine contrition" in the apology from the police.

The fallout from the 13 August incident—which saw the couple detained for nearly four hours, their home raided, their personal devices seized, and their young daughters subjected to police questioning and temporary removal to a place of safety—continues to escalate through formal legal channels.

Mr and Mrs van Wyk confirmed they have officially commenced the process of suing the RSHPS by formally serving a legal demand, alongside lodging a formal complaint regarding the police's "exceptionally negligent conduct".

Noting that the RSHPS proudly displays the acronym P.R.I.D.E—where the 'I' stands for integrity—the couple suggested that true institutional reform and rebuilding community rapport, as is the aim of the RSHPS's new action-plan, requires genuine accountability rather than reactive public relations.

For now, the couple are continuing to push ahead with legal action against the RSHPS.

To read the complete, unabridged letter from Kevin and Tasneen van Wyk detailing these developments, turn to the 'Your Letters' section of this week's edition.



The couple have formally initiated legal proceedings against the Royal St Helena Police Service following their wrongful arrest in August

St Helena Government

APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Application has been received in respect of the following proposals:

1. **Application 2026/103:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Installation of 5x Solar Streetlights,** Ladder Hill on Parcel HTH0316. **Applicant:** Streetlight Section, St. Helena Government.
2. **Application 2026/104:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Installation of 1x Solar Streetlight,** Entrance to St. Mark's Church, Longwood on Parcel LWN0094. **Applicant:** Streetlight Section, St. Helena Government.
3. **Application 2026/105:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Garage/ Storage Building & W/C,** Cleugh's Plain, on Parcel NG0054. **Applicant:** Christopher Henry, C/o Kurt Johnson.

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Administration Assistant on Telephone 24724 or email rea.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Any person who wishes to make Representations on any of the above Applications should make them in writing to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email planning.mailbox@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date: 4pm – 19 November 2026

Patricia Coyle, Head of Planning & Building Control

ST HELENA NEWS

Guilty Pleas entered by Saint Brothers in Swindon Shooting case; Attempted Murder Charges dropped



Dylan and Kyron Anthony face December sentencing following recent dramatic courtroom developments over the shooting of Aaron Thomas in Gorse Hill, Swindon, back in June

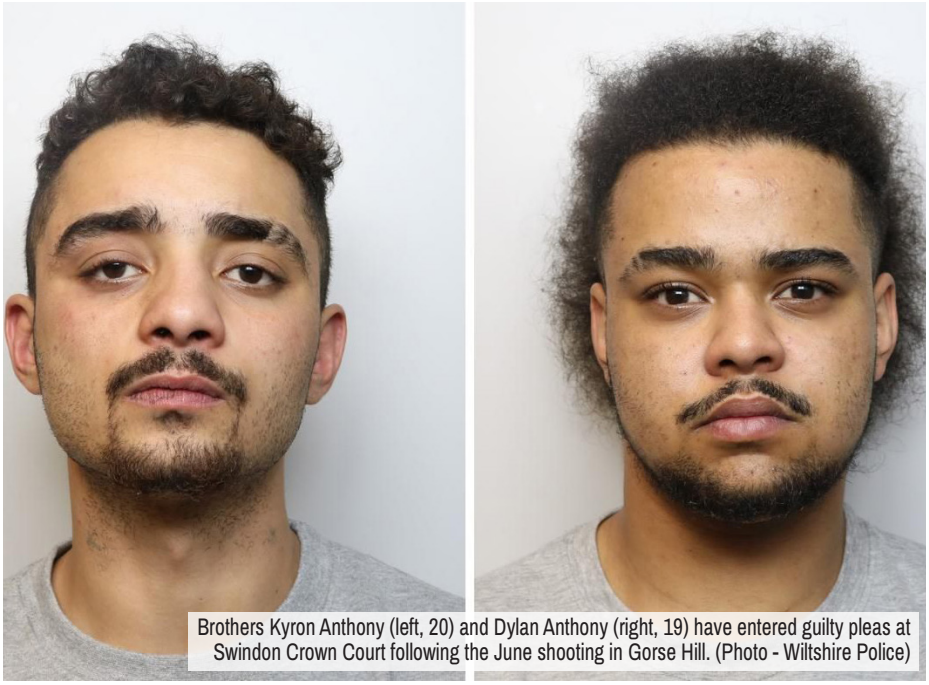
Liam Yon, SAMS

Major legal developments have unfolded in the United Kingdom regarding the high-profile shooting incident in Gorse Hill, Swindon, which sent shockwaves across our island community earlier this year.

Official statements released by Wiltshire Police and local UK court reports confirm that a scheduled November trial has been averted after St Helenian brothers, Dylan and Kyron Anthony, both entered guilty pleas at Swindon Crown Court, leading prosecutors to formally discontinue the attempted murder charges against them.

Many will remember the shooting, which took place shortly before 9pm on Friday, 19 June, on St Paul's Street in the Gorse Hill area of Swindon. Emergency services rushed to the scene following reports of gunfire, discovering a 34-year-old man—widely known within the St Helenian community as Aaron 'Shorty' Thomas—suffering from serious, life-changing injuries.

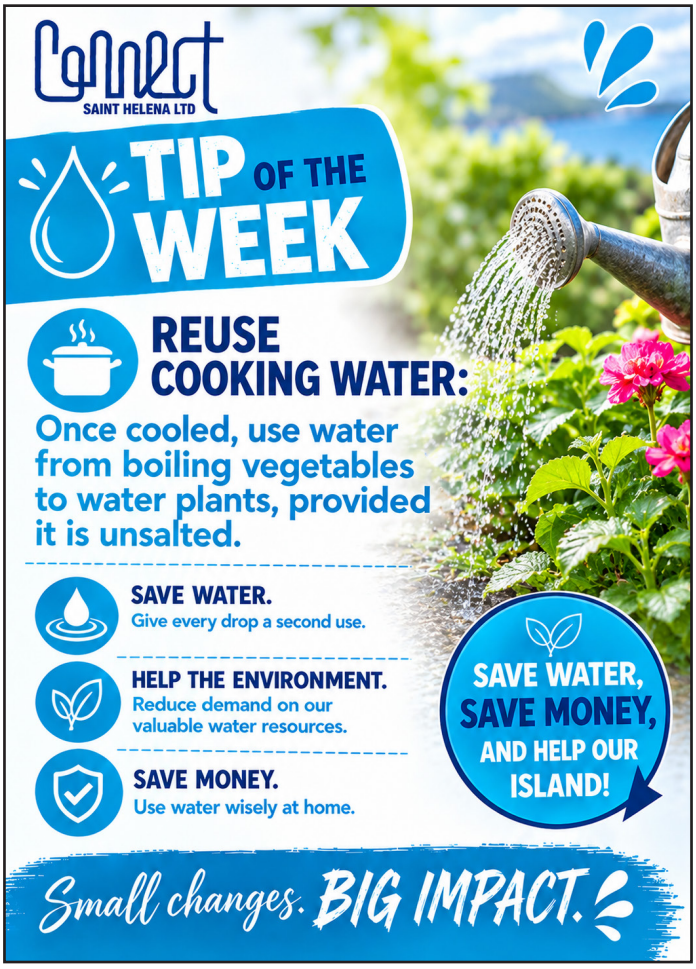
Aaron was immediately evacuated by air ambulance to the Major Trauma Centre at Southmead Hospital in Bristol, where he underwent extensive medical intervention. While the incident triggered a massive armed police response across Swindon and the detention of several individuals during the initial investigation, the direct connection to St Helena turned



Brothers Kyron Anthony (left, 20) and Dylan Anthony (right, 19) have entered guilty pleas at Swindon Crown Court following the June shooting in Gorse Hill. (Photo - Wiltshire Police)



Victim Aaron 'Shorty' Thomas shared a video update showing the extent of his medical treatment following the attack



a distant UK news story into a deeply personal tragedy for our island. Because the victim and the primary suspects all share close ties to St Helena, the case has remained a heavy topic of conversation across the Island.

In the latest official updates published by Wiltshire Police following hearings at Swindon Crown Court, significant changes were confirmed in the legal proceedings, with both brothers changing their initial pleas.

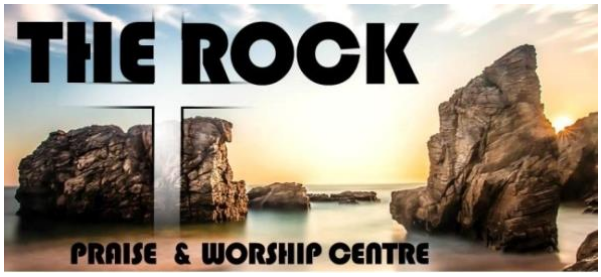
As such, 19-year-old Dylan Anthony, of Milton Road, Swindon, changed his plea in court, now admitting guilt to causing grievous bodily harm with intent (Section 18) and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. His older brother, 20-year-old Kyron Anthony, also of Milton Road, Swindon, has also entered a guilty plea to the charge of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Following the entry of these guilty pleas, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) formally discontinued the attempted murder charges that the co-accused had originally faced, rendering a full trial now unnecessary.

Wiltshire Police have additionally confirmed that the broader investigation surrounding the incident has concluded, meaning all individuals initially arrested or bailed during the extensive multi-agency police operation, other than the brothers, have now been officially released with no further action taken.

With legal arguments and plea negotiations having concluded, both Dylan and Kyron Anthony remain remanded in custody, with His Honour at Swindon Crown Court formally listing the joint sentencing hearing for Friday, 11 December.

The Sentinel will continue to follow these proceedings closely and bring you the latest following the conclusion of the sentencing hearing next month.



Church Notices

Praise and Worship Service

Sunday 8th November

There will be no Sunday Service or Kids Zone but all are invited to join in the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Jamestown at 11am.

Cell Meetings

Tuesday 10th November

Jamestown @ 7pm, (contact Bramwell 64352)

The Rock Christian Fellowship, Longwood Avenue

at 5.30pm Wednesday 11th November.

(Contact: Tav 51727 for details)

Wednesday 11th November

Half Tree Hollow @ 7.00pm, (Contact: Mercy 53227 or Pastor 51672)

Saturday 14th November- Prayer meeting online. Contact Mercy 61707

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

Sinking in the Dark

Investigation highlights Harbour Safety Gaps after Newcastle Collision



Jamestown Harbour at dusk. The marine safety report highlights that navigation within unlit mooring areas during hours of darkness poses significant collision risks



Local vessel Newcastle being lifted out of the water following its sinking on 24 April 2026

Liam Yon, SAMS

A comprehensive independent marine safety investigation has laid bare a combination of environmental hurdles, unlit moorings, and structural regulatory gaps surrounding the sinking of local fishing vessel, Newcastle, in James' Bay earlier this year.

The incident, which occurred in the early hours of 24 April, saw fishing vessel, Kristina, collide with the moored Newcastle during hours of darkness and light rain. While the collision resulted in no reported injuries and a subsequent negative breath test for the master of Kristina, the impact inflicted catastrophic structural damage on the Newcastle, causing the vessel to flood and sink at its mooring.

The formal investigation report—compiled under the authority of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance 2021—emphasises that the accident was not the result of a single isolated error, but rather the alignment of multiple absent or degraded safety barriers within an unregulated harbour environment.

According to the investigation's narrative, the master of the Kristina began preparations at approximately 4.15am, setting out to collect bait and returning to pick up a guest ahead of a morning fishing trip. Operating in pre-dawn darkness—with sunrise not officially recorded until 6.32am—the vessel departed the landing steps at low speed, navigating primarily by visual observation.

At the time, the master was actively monitoring an anchored catamaran, Blue Jacket 2, positioned near Needle's Eye. As the master scanned to port, the Newcastle suddenly loomed into view at extremely close range. Due to the minimal distance, effective avoiding action proved impossible, leading directly to the collision.

The investigation identified several critical factors that severely diminished the detectability of the Newcastle. Secured on an informal mooring within the harbour, the vessel featured a dark hull colouring, a very low freeboard, and displayed no mooring or navigation lights. These physical characteristics rendered the vessel virtually invisible against the dark, calm surface of the water during a period of light rain and zero moonlight.

Compounding the visual challenge, the report noted that an effective lookout was not maintained aboard the Kristina, with a second person on board not formally assigned to watchkeeping duties. Furthermore, investigators observed that the wheelhouse windows were fitted with tinting, which may have further impaired outward visibility in low-light conditions. While an echo sounder was operating, it was not actively monitored, reflecting an absolute reliance on human visual observation.

In its core safety message, the report underscores the inherent dangers of operating within unlit waters. "Navigation within unlit and unregulated harbour environments presents a significant collision risk, even at low speeds and in calm conditions," it noted. "The absence of basic controls, such as lighting, zoning, and lookout practices, can combine to create high-risk situations despite experienced operators."

Beyond the immediate operational circumstances, the investigation highlights broader systemic vulnerabilities within the Jamestown harbour. The harbour currently operates without formal navigational controls, defined transit lanes, or distinct physical separation between moorings, anchorages, and active vessel routes. Individual moorings lack formal allocation, identification, or lighting, and no published guidance exists for navigating through the congested mooring area.

Crucially, the report draws attention to a major regulatory void regarding local craft. At present, there is no statutory requirement on St Helena for the formal registration, inspection, or structural assurance of locally operating small vessels outside of the international ship register. Consequently, oversight of vessel condition, main-



The Kristina, which was involved in the early-morning collision while preparing for a fishing trip

tenance standards, and basic safety compliance across the local fleet remains extremely limited. Visual examination of the Newcastle following its recovery revealed extensive marine growth and advanced structural degradation of internal ribs and framing, indicating a vessel in a heavily deteriorated material state.

The investigation places this incident within a broader pattern of local maritime challenges, noting historical parallels with the Kristina's 2024 grounding near Long Ledge and the January 2023 collision involving a yacht tender and the unlit protruding section of the submerged Papanui wreck. These recurring events demonstrate that night navigation hazards in the absence of adequate marking and lighting represent an ongoing operational risk.

Rather than apportioning individual blame, the investigation report puts forward a comprehensive suite of seven key safety recommendations designed to overhaul harbour management and protect mariners.

The recommendations call for the introduction of appropriate lighting and navigational markers to clearly define the mooring area, alongside formal harbour zoning that establishes designated, separated spaces for moorings, anchorages, and transit routes. Additionally, the St Helena Maritime Authority is urged to promote mandatory lookout requirements for small craft, improve night-time visibility for moored vessels through low-cost solutions like reflective materials or portable lights, and conduct a formal navigation risk assessment for Jamestown harbour in line with Red Ensign Group standards.

Significantly, the report strongly supports the ongoing development of the St Helena Maritime Authority's proposed Policy for Local Vessel Licensing and Safety Standards, which aims to introduce a structured framework for registration and safety oversight across the island's domestic fleet. Furthermore, recommendations advise tightening communication protocols, salvage coordination, and pollution response logging during future marine incidents.

As the findings are digested by maritime stakeholders and government officials, the report serves as a timely reminder that proactive regulatory reform and enhanced infrastructural controls are essential to ensuring the safety of St Helena's vibrant maritime community.



The Newcastle pictured prior to the collision. The investigation noted its dark hull and low freeboard significantly reduced its visibility in the dark

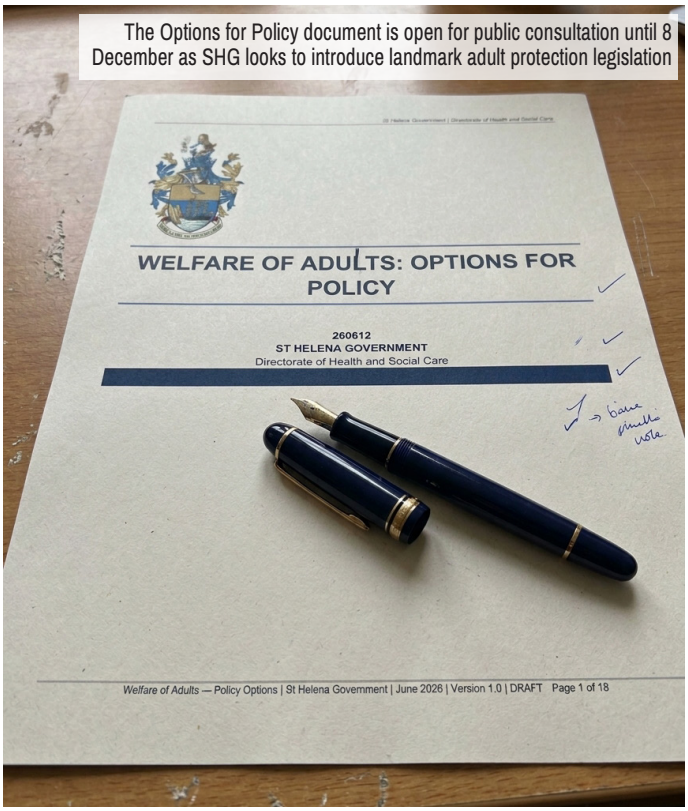


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The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 8th November 2026 – Remembrance Sunday		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
10.30 a.m.	**Remembrance Service**	**Cenotaph**
	Wednesday 11th Niovember	
6.00 p.m.	**Patronal Festival**	**St Martin**
	Tuesday 10th November 2026	
7.00 p.m.	**Praise and Worship**	**Sandy Bay Community Centre**
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 8th November 2026 – Remembrance Sunday		
9.00 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
10.30 a.m.	**Remembrance Service**	**Cenotaph**
	Monday 9th November 2026	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mary
	Thursday 12th November 2026	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 8th November 2026 – Remembrance Sunday		
8.00 a.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Mark
10.30 a.m.	**Remembrance Service**	**Centotaph**
	Tuesday 10th November	
7.00 p.m.	Bible School on Wheels	St Mark

Closing the Gap

Public Consultation Opens on Landmark Welfare of Adults Legislation



The Options for Policy document is open for public consultation until 8 December as SHG looks to introduce landmark adult protection legislation

Liam Yon, SAMS

A public consultation has officially opened on a proposed Welfare of Adults Ordinance, marking what the St Helena Government (SHG) describes as a vital milestone in establishing the island's first dedicated legal framework to protect vulnerable adults. The consultation invites public scrutiny on proposals that seek to resolve a long-standing legal void that has persisted for decades.

While children on St Helena have enjoyed statutory protections under the Welfare of Children Ordinance (WOCO) since 2008, adults have never had an equivalent island-specific safety net. In launching the consultation, SHG highlighted the stark disparity.

"St Helena has no current legislation to address the needs, support, and protection of vulnerable adults, and to underpin social work practice," they explained. "While children on St Helena have been protected by the Welfare of Children Ordinance since 2008, adults have had no equivalent legislative protection. This legislation aims to fill that long-standing gap."

For years, the Health and Social Care (HSC) Directorate and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) have consistently raised the absence of adult welfare legislation as a critical concern. In the absence of local laws, adult social care on St Helena has relied upon the UK Community Care Act 1990. However, the policy options paper highlights that this 1990 Act was superseded in the UK over a decade ago by the Care Act 2014 and "requires areas of practice not achievable on St Helena given its limited resources, geographic isolation, and distinctive community context."

Furthermore, the document warns that continuing to rely on outdated overseas legislation creates a significant legal exposure for the administration. As the options paper notes, operating without island-centric legal standards "exposes SHG to litigation measured against UK service levels," as any court challenge would default to evaluating local decisions against unachievable UK standards.

The push for reform is driven by stark demographic realities outlined in a recent situational analysis. St Helena currently carries the second-highest old-age dependency ratio in the world, surpassed only by Japan. In June 2024, this ratio stood at 48 to 1—measuring residents aged 65 and over against those of working age—up from 45.3 the previous year.

With annual deaths running between 50 and 60 against fewer than 20 births, the island faces a structural natural population decrease of 30 to 40 people per year that will persist regardless of migration patterns. At the same time, informal community support networks are declining, shifting heavier demands onto statutory care services. Projections indicate a need for 90 residential care beds by 2036—double the current capacity of the Community Care Centre. Compounding the pressure, over 50 percent of existing social care staff are estimated to be aged 65 or older, underlining what officials describe as the "fragility of the care workforce."

In evaluating the policy choices, the Directorate noted that failing to act was no longer viable. "It is not defensible in 2026 that a vulnerable older adult on St Helena living with elements such as dementia, experiencing domestic abuse, or unable to manage their own affairs, has no equivalent statutory protection," they assert in the options for policy paper.

Following an evaluation of policy options—ranging from maintaining the status quo to enacting a narrow safeguarding-only bill—Executive Council is recommending Option 3, which is a comprehensive Welfare of Adults Ordinance.

Rather than drafting legislation from scratch, the proposal utilises a "lift and adapt" approach based on the Falkland Islands' Assessment and Safeguarding of Adults Ordinance 2020. HSC confirmed that the Falklands framework offers a proven model for a small British Overseas Territory, which significantly reduces the drafting burden on the Attorney General's Chambers.

The proposed Ordinance creates a complete, single-act statutory framework for adult social care. It places a primary duty on public authorities to promote physical, mental, emotional, and social wellbeing across nine distinct dimensions, supported by a duty to deliver preventative interven-



Local social care facilities like the CCC face increasing demand, with residential care needs on St Helena projected to double by 2036



The proposed ordinance seeks to establish statutory rights to promote the wellbeing of adults and place vulnerable residents at the heart of care decisions

tions to reduce or delay the development of care needs. The law introduces formal statutory entitlements for assessing the care needs of adults as well as the support requirements of carers, including provisions for respite care.

Crucially, the legislation establishes dedicated safeguarding powers and duties to investigate actual or suspected abuse or neglect, accompanied by emergency protective powers and measures to safeguard property. To protect civil liberties, the Ordinance guarantees independent advocacy rights for adults who experience substantial difficulty participating in assessments or reviews. Governance and oversight will be anchored by a statutory Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and mandatory Safeguarding Adults Reviews, alongside clear transparent processes including written decisions with reasons, formal reconsideration mechanisms, accessible complaints procedures, and a statutory right of appeal to the Supreme Court of St Helena.

The policy paper highlights that the proposed Ordinance is directly grounded in the St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009, specifically fulfilling positive human rights obligations under Section 7 (protection from inhuman or degrading treatment), Section 9 (right to personal liberty), Section 13 (right to privacy and family life), and Section 21 (protection from discrimination).

Equally important for the island's administration, establishing local primary legislation fundamentally alters the legal test in court proceedings. "Once St Helena has its own adult welfare legislation, any legal challenge to decisions made under that legislation will be tested against St Helena's own law, measured against St Helena's own context and resources, rather than against UK standards the island cannot meet," emphasised the policy paper. "This is the single most important litigation risk reduction that the Government can achieve."

The public consultation documents—including the proposed draft framework and policy options paper—are available for review on the SHG website and at the Public Library. Members of the public, community groups, and local organisations are strongly encouraged to examine the proposals and share their views.

The consultation officially closes at 4pm on Tuesday, 8 December 2026. Following the closing date, SHG has confirmed that all submitted feedback will be reviewed and compiled into a public summary report ahead of the bill's formal submission to Legislative Council.

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

MAIN BRANCH & CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE
CLOSURE
STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026

The Bank's main branch and Customer Service Centre will be closed on **Wednesday 11 November 2026** for a Staff Development Day.

Normal opening hours will resume on **Thursday, 12 November 2026.**

Any inconvenience caused is very much regretted, and we thank you for your continued support.

St Helena Built Heritage Grant Scheme

St Helena Heritage Society
St Helena Government
St Helena Island

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Applications will now close on Friday 13th November 2026

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

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

A New Era for Maritime Safety

Sea Rescue Service officially names and launches Apex



St Helena Sea Rescue crew members alongside NSRI Head of Fleet and Facilities, Graeme Harding, aboard Apex

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena's maritime emergency capabilities received a major operational boost recently with the official blessing, naming, and launch of the Sea Rescue Service's newest rescue vessel, Apex.

The state-of-the-art, purpose-built craft replaces the service's long-standing rescue vessel, Lima, marking a historic transition for the island's volunteer and full-time sea rescue personnel as they continue safeguarding local waters.

The official ceremony was hosted at the Sea Rescue facility by Sea Rescue Manager, Leeroy Caswell, and drew key dignitaries including Her Excellency, Governor Belinda Lewis, Bishop Dale Bowers, the Chief Minister, Ministers, Councillors, and invited guests.

The event featured a special welcome to long-time friend of St Helena and frequent visitor, Graeme Harding, who is the Head of Fleet and Facilities at South Africa's National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI). Graeme travelled to St Helena specifically to conduct specialised training sessions with the Sea Rescue crew and oversee the formal handover of the new craft.

Following opening remarks by Acting Portfolio Director for Safety, Security and Home Affairs (SSHA), Derek Henry, and Governor Lewis, Bishop Dale Bowers delivered a formal blessing over Apex. Governor Lewis then performed the traditional christening by breaking champagne over the vessel's hull and officially declaring its name.

Following the ceremony, Governor Lewis and her children joined the Sea Rescue team for an inaugural trial run aboard Apex around the bay.

The acquisition of Apex was made possible through UK Government funding provided by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) via the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's (FCDO) Resilient Economies Programme.

Highlighting the strategic importance of the investment, MCA Overseas Strategic Programme Manager, Elise Carlo, emphasised the ongoing commitment to island resilience.

"The MCA is delighted to have supported St Helena in bringing APEX into service, made possible through our Overseas Support Programme funding from the FCDO's Resilient Economies Programme," she said. "This new, purpose-built vessel represents an important investment in St Helena's search and rescue capability, providing Sea Rescue with a modern and capable platform to respond to incidents and help keep people safe at sea. We are proud to see APEX officially named and launched and look forward to the important role she will play in supporting the safety and resilience of the island community."

Minister for Safety, Security and Home Affairs, Gillian Brooks, expressed deep appreciation for the international partnership and praised the dedication of local sea rescue crew members.

"Having this new vessel is a significant investment in the safety and well-being of our community,



Her Excellency Governor Belinda Lewis breaks champagne over the hull of Apex to officially christen St Helena's newest Sea Rescue vessel



Apex takes to the water off in Rupert's Bay during her inaugural trial run following the official naming ceremony

strengthening our ability to respond to emergencies at sea and protect those who depend on these vital services," she said. "Sincere gratitude and thanks are extended to all who worked to get a new vessel for our service, and to the MCA, who has so generously financed this vessel for us. My appreciation goes to the Sea Rescue crew for their dedication and commitment to saving lives at sea. Together, you are strengthening the ability to protect lives and serve our community."

While the commissioning of Apex ushers in a modern chapter, it also brings a poignant end to the operational service of former Sea Rescue Vessel, Lima.

For years, Lima served as the backbone of St Helena's maritime response, braving unpredictable South Atlantic Ocean swells to execute search and rescue missions, medical evacuations, and routine harbour patrols.

Ahead of the official launch of Apex, the crew of the Sea Rescue Service, alongside members of the Emergency Planning Department, gathered on Thursday, 23 October, to take Lima out for one final lap around the island. The symbolic farewell voyage honoured the vessel's dependable legacy before she is officially decommissioned and taken offline.



Former Sea Rescue Vessel Lima out at sea during her final farewell trip around St Helena on 23 October



'Praise in Harmony Evening'

You are invited to 'A Praise in Harmony Evening' at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 20th November. There will be music and singing by the Choir, individuals singing Gospel songs and musical pieces played on the organ. The St Paul's Gospel Group are also performing. Judging how well last year's event was received, there is a guarantee that this is going to be an even better one....So tell your friends and come with some dosh in your pocket and be seated by 7 pm. First to arrive will get the best seats. So keep Friday 20th November free for a wonderful evening of harmony just for you. **That's Friday 20th November at 7 PM.**

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.Nov 06
- 7am - 10am: Sunrise Show with Luke Bennett
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam
- 7:30pm: Country Classics (Repeat)

SAT. Nov 07
- 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. Nov 08
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Liam Yon
- 1pm:Interveiw hour
- 3:30-5pm: UK Chart Show with Liam Yon
- 5pm: Island Pulse
- 7pm: Baptist Church Service
- 20:30: Classical Compilations with Anita

MON. Nov 09
- 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. Nov 10
- 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. Nov 11
- 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. Nov 12
- 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



Do you enjoy listening to classical music? At SAMS Radio 1, we have you covered!

Tune in to the Classical Compilation Show on a Tuesday evening, at 7.30pm, repeated on a Sunday at 8:30pm. On this show, Anita will bring you various classical pieces and performances by well-known solo artists.

So, whether you just want to relax with some soothing music, or broaden your horizons, tune in for this unique program, only on SAMS Radio 1!

Local news and notices:
7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

SAMS South Atlantic Media Services Ltd

Sentinel Sudoku Session

This week's difficulty is 'Easy'

See solution to last week's Sudoku Puzzle:

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

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

Throwback Thursday



5th November 1929: Mr Withecombe drives the first car, an Austin Seven, on the island.

(sainthelenaisland.info)

Do you have an Air Fryer? Are you looking for ideas on what you can make? Well, for the month of November, let's share some recipes that you can try out using your Air Fryer!

Pineapple Fritters with Caramel Sauce



Ingredients

- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 tbs caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 425g pineapple slices in juice, drained
- 5ml cooking spray
- 1/2 cup dollop cream
- 1/4 cup caramel sauce

Method

1. Combine flour, sugar, egg and milk in a medium bowl. Place coconut in a shallow bowl.
2. Using paper towel, pat pineapple dry. Dip each pineapple slice into flour mixture, allowing excess to drip off. Coat in coconut.
3. Line air fryer with baking paper. Spray pineapple slices with oil and air-fry, in batches, at 170°C for 12 minutes or until golden. Serve with cream and caramel sauce.

LIFESTYLE & CULTURE



Julian Fowler, Contributed

Eighteen months ago, saw the start of my biggest challenge in life – my battle with Bowel Cancer.

I went for a routine blood test due to high blood pressure, weight loss, fatigue and other related symptoms. Blood tests returned as abnormal. I was then sent for a colonoscopy and endoscopy, they called me in and explained that they found a growth and needed to do an urgent biopsy. The results came, I stood with my wife and received the news – it was cancer – the word that no one wants to hear. The most frightening experience I have ever had. I sat with disbelief and sadness, but I knew from that moment that I had to be strong for my family, and needed to put my trust in God and the experts.

I never was one to attend doctors and my fear of hospitals and needles petrified me, and here I was about to face them all at once. The doctor provided me with three options, one was to live six months without treatment, two was to have continuous chemo, which would have allowed me to live for two years, or the third option; take the risk, have chemotherapy, radiation and a major life-threatening surgery. After days of discussing with my parents, my wife and daughter, I made my decision to take everything they offered to try and save my life. The NHS provided me with immediate treatment, their care and fast track actions towards me were outstanding.

The day of my first chemo came, I sat in the chair dreaded with fear, around me were other people fighting cancer, sitting seven hours at a time, in total I had 18 rounds.

I endured all the side effects from chemo; hair loss, infections, vomiting, whatever symptom there was, I had it, my weight dropped drastically, but I pushed through and used every bit of energy I had to fight. My mental health also deteriorated fast – there were days when I just wanted to give up.

Going through chemo involved loads of weekly scans, numerous blood tests and Oncologist appointments. After my final chemo, I had a few months break during Christmas, however my body was so exhausted that I couldn't do much.

In January, I started twenty-eight sessions of radiotherapy, which was every day for five weeks. First dose I felt no pain, but by the sixth dose, the pain was excruciating; burnt my skin and cut through my flesh. I couldn't sit – recovery from radiation was long, hard and cruel. When radiation was completed, I had another few weeks break and was told that because my cancer was so aggressive, I needed to do chemo again; in total I had a PICC lined placed four times.

I then completed another twelve sessions of chemo and finally received my surgery date. That day was very emotional, it was time to make my final decision if this is what I really wanted. All treatment had to be stopped and my body needed to be prepared for surgery.

I had my first appointment with my surgeon in Southampton Hospital; he was amazing from day one, he was one of three professors who was going to perform my surgery, they were known in the hospital as The Three Wise Men, he advised it would be a 50/50 chance that he would get zero margins, and the risks were high, but I had no other choice, I had come this far.

The day came, my wife walked me to the theatre doors; I was filled with fear and anxiety.

Performing my surgery were ten consultants, but all I remember was a prick in my arm and then waking up in the ICU. My surgery took 15 hours in total.

I spent one week in ICU and six weeks in the hospital high-care ward, drugged up on morphine and fentanyl. Recovery was slow, but the nurses and everyone who cared for me were incredible. I faced many challenges, but pushed through them.

The day then came to leave the hospital; I was so scared in case something went wrong and I was over an hour away, but was happy to be home. I was then cared for by my wife and daily visits from the nurses. I had to rest and stay indoors to help prevent infection.

I went back to Southampton for a three-month post op scan and my surgeon gave me the news that they managed to get zero margins on the cancer, meaning all cancer was removed. Unfortunately, I had 10 cm cut of my sciatic nerve, which has affected my walking, but I am learning to live with it.

It has been six months since my surgery and I am progressing well. I now have weekly calls by my Oncologist and Surgeon, and have been placed under surveillance for a few years, I have regular scans and blood tests, which I am always anxious about when receiving results. I am also part of a research project within Southampton Hospital, helping to understand this specific cancer.

The journey has been long and tough and there were days when I wanted to give up the fight. It is life changing, but I kept my faith and, with the support, I did it. I believed God would help me through, and he did. I still have many dark days and voices are always in my head, but I am grateful for the support of my wife and daughter who help me through each day. I am trying to stay positive, still adapting, but hopefully getting stronger. I will always live in fear, and with physical and emotional scars, but I am determined to live life the best I can. I am lucky to have survived this awful disease that has taken the lives of many.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my family, friends and everyone all over the world who supported me, for the prayers and encouragement, I will never forget the kindness I was shown and I will be forever grateful. Thank you for the financial support that helped my family, this journey is so unpredictable, life changes within seconds. There are too many people to mention but we thank you and we love you all.

A big thank you as well to my surgical team at Southampton hospital for saving my life and for the NHS who continues to look after me well.

A message to you all; if you feel something is not right, go and check it out before it's too late – it could save your life.

If anyone who would like to talk about my journey, or need support on their journey please do not hesitate to contact me via Messenger.

Battling cancer is a tough ordeal and life will never be the same again, but I am proud to say I am a survivor! Keep praying and never give up!

Bringing Transit to Your Fingertips

NexTech St Helena rolls out trial of TransportHub St Helena, the island's first all-in-one transport app

— Liam Yon, SAMS —

A local tech initiative is aiming to streamline how residents and visitors navigate St Helena's transport network, with NexTech St Helena rolling out a trial for its new digital platform, TransportHub St Helena.

Designed as an all-in-one digital directory and scheduling tool, the browser-based platform brings together information for local taxis, buses, car hire options, and boat operators into a single interface.

The initiative seeks to address common logistical hurdles experienced across the island. For public transport users, the platform aims to replace traditional printed timetables—which are vulnerable to weather damage—with digital route tracking, stop locations, and fare details. At physical bus stops, planned QR codes will allow users to scan and view live route maps, bus locations, and any active road delays or closures directly on their mobile devices.

For transport operators and local businesses, the system offers digital scheduling tools designed to manage bookings and availability more efficiently. Taxi drivers and car hire firms can update their operational status digitally to manage off-hours requests and vehicle availability, while boat operators can streamline inquiries and bookings for visitors planning marine excursions.

Rather than requiring a traditional download from an app store, TransportHub operates directly through mobile web browsers, allowing users to create a home-screen shortcut for easy access, with offline compatibility features built-in.

Following initial trials, further updates and rollout details are expected as the platform establishes its footing within St Helena's growing digital economy.

TransportHub ST HELENA

Every bus. Every road. One app.

Bus times, road alerts, taxis, boat trips and flight-day rides, together at last. Built here on St Helena, for the way the island really moves.

Live buses
See your bus on its way

Every stop
Tap one for the next buses

The island today

Every timetable

Fares & live taxis
Tap a stop, bus or taxi on the map

Map © OpenStreetMap contributors

SUN 01 NOV 2026

LAUNCHING SOON

The trial starts Sunday 1 November. Try it, then tell us what to make better.

Never miss the bus
All four routes, every stop, with a journey planner and a live map.

Road notices on your phone
Closures and works as alerts, just for the buses you use.

Taxis, hire and boat trips
Find and request them in one place, plus shared rides on flight days.

Ship days and visitors
Cruise day plans, back-to-ship reminders and a trip planner.

Help when it matters
999 and the island's key numbers, one tap away.

Scan, or type transporthub.sh

Opens in your phone's web browser, then Add to Home Screen. No app store, works with no signal.

Made on St Helena by NexTech St. Helena Ltd



Members of the national women's cricket squad gearing up for the upcoming visit of the Falkland's team

Tiffany Leo has been appointed as Captain of St Helena's first-ever Women's National Cricket Team

St Helena Women's Team Gears Up for Landmark Falklands Cricket Clash

Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena is on the cusp of making sporting history as the island's newly established National Women's Cricket Team steps up intensive preparations to host the Falkland Islands women in a landmark bilateral series in January 2027.

What began as casual get-togethers and grassroots community matches has rapidly evolved into a structured, highly anticipated international fixture. With recently appointed captain, Tiffany Leo, at the helm, the squad is breaking new ground for female representation in local sport, turning heads and building unprecedented momentum across the island.

Tiffany expressed her pride at being appointed the first women's team Captain for St Helena. "Being selected as Captain is a real privilege," she commented. "I'm excited to get started with this talented new team as we embark on this historic first. I'm grateful for the trust placed in me and will do my utmost to ensure that this team, with the right determination, commitment, and passion, will strive to attain the best results possible for us and for our island."

The roots of women's cricket on St Helena trace back to community initiatives aimed at widening participation, where early squads—affectionately dubbed the "Wicket Women"—first took to the field against junior sides to test their skills. Over the past year, those tentative steps have transformed into a dedicated movement.

Following representation at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Annual General Meeting in Scotland by St Helena Cricket Association President, Derek Richards, plans for international fixtures shifted focus from the men's schedule to create this historic opportunity for women's cricket. While logistical hurdles and weekly flight constraints unfortunately prevented the men's team from traveling to the Falklands, the spotlight swung decisively onto the women's game.

Crucially, these upcoming matches in January 2027 will hold official status, as Derek highlighted following the ICC meetings. "It will be proper, accredited ICC matches," he noted. "This will go down incredibly well for ladies' cricket on St Helena, because building the number of women playing the sport is something we really need to focus on."

Guiding the squad through this transformative period is Coach Scott Crowie. Drawing on his extensive experience as a former Captain of St Helena's international men's team, Scott has embraced the challenge of building the women's team from the ground up.

Reflecting on the journey since training sessions began, Scott noted the palpable excitement sweeping across the island. "I think everybody is amped up for it and looking forward to competing against the Falklands in St Helena," he said in a recent interview.

With many players stepping onto a cricket pitch for the very first time, Scott has been immensely impressed by the natural aptitude displayed during weekly sessions at Francis Plain. "They're starting from scratch," he revealed. "You can see some natural ability coming through, some good hand-eye coordination... the ladies are eager to get out to the training and to be talking every five minutes about cricket and how to improve. So, I think it's a real big buzz on St Helena at the moment."

Transitioning from player to coach has also given Scott a unique vantage point, allowing him to pass down tactical awareness and technical skills directly to the women's squad. "My previous history is that I was the Captain of the international team," he said. "But actually coaching... at least I can transfer my knowledge of the game to them. So, I think, all in all, for the women and myself, it's quite exciting really."

Training sessions continue every week at Francis Plain, where players are sharpening their batting, bowling, and fielding skills.

With an official team sheet due to be published in December—just one month ahead of the Falklands' arrival—competition for places within the squad is intensifying.

As St Helena prepares to welcome its southern visitors in the new year, the Cricket Association is calling on the community to rally behind the athletes and pack the side-lines. It promises to be a defining moment for gender representation in St Helena sport, proving that isolation is no barrier to ambition. "It should be a great event, and we'd love for the public to come out and support everybody," Derek concluded.



Players sharpening their batting, bowling, and fielding skills during weekly practice sessions

Letters from London



— **Michael Binyon,** Contributed —

Has President Trump gone crazy? This is a question being asked – in more diplomatic language – by politicians and leaders across Europe who have been shocked and angered by Trump's scorn for President Zelensky, his envoy's praise for Putin as a "humanitarian" and Trump's diesel deal with Moscow which dropped sanctions on Russian oil exports.

European leaders are now convinced that Trump has turned decisively against Ukraine. They believe he is seeking to force Kyiv to make a deal with Putin that would give Moscow everything it wants. His recent outspoken remarks saying that the US had received "nothing" from Ukraine in return for American help, his view that the war would have been ended earlier if Zelensky had agreed to Russia's conditions and the mysterious sudden cut in Ukraine's access to the Starshield satellite have shaken the NATO alliance. Many Europeans are now convinced that they can no longer count on America as a key military and political ally.

Across Europe, Trump is now widely seen as unreliable, erratic, inconsistent and capricious. This makes relations with America's allies very difficult. Should European leaders react to all the provocative remarks coming from Washington? Or should they ignore Trump's zig-zags in policy and carry on with traditional diplomacy? For the first year of Trump's second term in office, NATO allies thought it would be better to try to find points of agreement with the US president and flatter him. President Macron of France invited Trump to join him in Paris for Bastille Day and to be the guest of honour for France's national day.

In Britain, former prime minister, Keir Starmer, tried to overcome his Labour party's suspicions of Trump's right-wing Republicans by flattering Trump in all their meetings. He offered him an unprecedented opportunity for a second state visit to London, with a personal invitation from King Charles handed over at a Washington meeting. The Trumps came for the visit and he said he was delighted. But a few months later, he furiously denounced the British government for not helping the US and Israel to attack Iran.

In Germany, Chancellor Friedrich Merz was horrified by the open support voiced by the Trump administration for the right-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. With clear neo-Nazi links, the party is seen as a big challenge to all the mainstream German parties. And, in Italy, Giorgia Meloni, who shared many of Trump's right-wing views and was able to charm the president, was deeply angered when he criticised the Pope. She called his remarks "unacceptable". Since then, relations between Rome and Washington have cooled markedly.

In each case, European leaders have found that flattering Trump makes little difference to his views or actions. Public opinion in Europe is now generally hostile to Trump. He is frequently ridiculed in the press. Politicians fear that supporting the US policies, especially over Iran and Ukraine, will lose them votes. And so, they have hit back hard when Trump's remarks were seen as insulting. British public opinion was outraged when Trump said British troops avoided frontline combat in Afghanistan. Politicians voiced their anger and Trump later withdrew his criticisms.

Instead, Europeans are now trying to work with the lower levels of the US government and co-operating in long-standing arrangements such as sharing intelligence. But even that is becoming more difficult. Europe is therefore working on the assumption that for the next two years, at least, relations with Washington will be strained, made worse by two big issues; Ukraine and Iran. No NATO allied government was consulted by Trump before his attack on Iran in February. Trump's request therefore for the use of European airfields to launch his attack ran into strong public opposition. There was a fear that America was trying to draw Europe into an unwinnable war. Trump was furious at the lack of allied support, and this has reinforced the widespread anti-European feeling within his administration, especially by vice-president JD Vance.

European leaders have seen the growing opposition to the Iran war in America. But they fear that any political setback for the Republicans in the coming mid-term elections will simply make Trump more reckless and determined to win a spectacular "victory" over Iran, at the cost of greater turmoil in the Middle East.

The Ukraine war threatens an ever deeper split. Trump's obvious anger at Zelensky and his continued readiness to ease US sanctions on Russia are a big worry for the Europeans. Ukraine is on NATO's doorstep. The fighting there is becoming more intense, with daily Russian bombardments of Kyiv and other cities. European defence chiefs have pointed to the real danger now that the war will spread to a direct confrontation with Russia. Already there have been numerous Russian drone incursions into NATO airspace, a number of cyber-attacks on key European infrastructure and attempts at political provocation in many areas, including the riots in France and political demonstrations in much of Europe.

The deal Trump announced on lifting sanctions on Russian diesel exports took the other NATO allies by surprise. They were angry at what appeared to be an open repudiation on key sanctions agreed by the alliance on Russian energy exports. They were upset by the emollient tone of US negotiators in dealings with Russian diplomats, and were horrified by their description of Putin as a "humanitarian" for releasing a US prisoner. It is clear that the Trump administration has turned against Zelensky and is determined to force him to agree to peace conditions that the European allies, as well as Ukraine, would see as rewarding Putin for aggression. This underlines the growing fear in Europe that Putin will now be emboldened to put more and more pressure on western Europe, almost to the point of asymmetric warfare.

European politics are in turmoil because of widespread demonstrations, economic pressures and the growing threat of right-wing populism. Governments are struggling to retain authority. They now fear that efforts to maintain a stable liberal democracy are being dangerously undermined by Washington.

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED

The Island Pulse

Community Concerns and the Urgent Need to Secure St Helena's Fisheries Future



Cllr Julie Thomas,Communication Champion, Contributed

This week's edition of The Island Pulse, hosted by Councillor Julie Thomas, brought together Councillors Dr Corinda Essex, Derek Thomas, Ronald Coleman, Denis Leo and Robert Midwinter to discuss recent constituency meetings and the ongoing Fisheries Review.

With only Sandy Bay's meeting remaining to be reported on in this round, the programme provided an opportunity to highlight issues raised by residents in Longwood, Levelwood and Half Tree Hollow before turning to the 17 proposals contained in the Fisheries Options Paper.

Constituency meetings highlight community concerns

Councillor Denis Leo opened with feedback from Longwood's meeting at Harford Community Centre on 21 October, attended by approximately 15 residents and five Ministers.

The Chief Minister outlined the island's financial position, including the UK Government's changing approach towards funding, increasingly viewed as investment rather than traditional donor assistance. She discussed the importance of balancing the budget, securing the anticipated 2% uplift and progressing key projects that could unlock additional funding.

Councillor Julie Thomas clarified that the £15 million annual allocation over three years relates to the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP), with separate funding identified through the BIOT agreement for telecommunications and renewable energy.

Other ministerial updates covered tourism, immigration, infrastructure, education and health. Developments included the anticipated reopening of the Cloud Forest by the end of November, progress on the Half Tree Hollow wastewater project and the introduction of Building Regulations before the end of the financial year.

A teacher raised concerns about the disruption caused by the proposed primary school reorganisation and its subsequent pause, highlighting the additional responsibilities teachers were undertaking to support children, including those arriving at school without having eaten.

At Levelwood, on 22 October, Councillor Ronald Coleman reported that residents raised concerns about poor road conditions, employment opportunities, local wages, agricultural support and access to water. Access to fish, the pause on the Harford School refurbishment and improvements to telecommunications were also discussed.

Councillor Coleman said residents had highlighted the wider pressures of living costs, water security and access to essential services. Ministers acknowledged these concerns while outlining the financial and staffing constraints facing Government.

The Half Tree Hollow meeting on 26 October, reported by Councillor Derek Thomas, attracted more than 40 residents. Health and Social Care generated considerable discussion, particularly delays in investigations and overseas referrals. Residents raised concerns about waiting more than three months for X-ray results and outstanding specialist referrals, with the Minister undertaking to follow up individual cases.

Education featured prominently, with residents seeking greater transparency over expenditure associated with the paused primary school reorganisation. The Minister undertook to provide a breakdown of the costs. The need to develop vocational and apprenticeship opportunities was also raised, given concerns about an ageing workforce in specialist trades.

Economic Development discussions included renewable energy, telecommunications and the Half Tree Hollow wastewater project. Councillor Derek Thomas reported that funding had been identified for the wastewater infrastructure, which would also accommodate the proposed Comprehensive Development Area of approximately 62 to 64 plots.

Residents also questioned the cost of producing Connect Saint Helena's monthly utility bills, while concerns about increased container charges, procurement costs and taxation were raised.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex assisted in following up the container charges concern, although the information obtained from the shipping agent did not appear to match the amount charged, requiring further investigation.

A resident also suggested exploring alternative revenue opportunities, including cruise ship charges and landing fees, rather than placing further pressure on local taxpayers.

Councillor Derek Thomas confirmed that concerns raised at the meeting would be documented and feedback provided to those who had brought them forward.

Across the three meetings, a consistent message emerged: residents want practical improvements, greater transparency around Government decisions and reassurance that the issues affecting their everyday lives are being addressed.

Fisheries Options Paper: Councillors challenge proposals and call for urgent action

The second half of the programme focused on the Fisheries Options Paper, following the conclusion of public consultation on Friday, 23 October.

Councillor Ronald Coleman, Elected Members' representative on the Fisheries Review working group, outlined the collective feedback provided by Councillors on the 17 options. As Councillor Julie Thomas explained, the review's purpose is to establish an evidence-based framework for a sustainable, resilient and economically viable fishing industry, while conserving fish stocks and protecting St Helena's Marine Protected Area for future generations.

However, Councillors expressed serious reservations about the review's foundations, particularly the accuracy and independence of the supporting evidence and whether the proposed options adequately reflected the realities of the industry.

Trust, evidence and existing arrangements

The first option, rebuilding stakeholder and public trust, prompted concerns about the independence and credibility of the review. Councillors questioned the involvement of individuals associated with the 2019 review and highlighted perceived conflicts of interest.

Councillor Julie Thomas considered the Situational Analysis fundamentally flawed, arguing that shortcomings in its accuracy and scope had influenced some of the options sub-

sequently presented. The absence of a Fisheries Officer with relevant industry expertise contributing to the review was another concern.

Maintaining the current arrangements was also considered unacceptable, given ongoing problems with fisheries management, enforcement, market access, processing capacity and relationships between Government and the industry.

On the local informal fish market, Councillors emphasised the need to distinguish between the lawful sale of whole fish and the processing and sale of fish products without the appropriate regulatory approval. They also stressed that local consumption standards should not be confused with export requirements.

Fishing methods, subsidies and attracting new entrants

Councillors questioned proposals to licence larger offshore vessels, noting that increased fish landings would be of little value without sufficient processing, chilling, freezing, storage and staffing capacity.

The proposal to reintroduce micro-spool longlining also attracted strong criticism.

Councillor Robert Midwinter explained that previous trials had demonstrated significant problems with swordfish bycatch, which contained mercury levels exceeding EU regulatory limits. Although the fish could meet South African requirements, it could not be accepted in the EU market.

He questioned why an approach with known limitations was being reconsidered. Councillor Denis Leo described the proposal as reflecting desperation, while Councillor Julie Thomas considered it a step backwards.

There was, however, support for retaining the existing fishing vessel licence categories, provided management and enforcement were improved, and for continuing the diesel subsidy for commercial fishers.

Councillors also supported developing a scheme to attract younger people into commercial fishing, recognising that the industry needs to demonstrate a sustainable livelihood and a credible future if it is to encourage new entrants.

The fish processing plant and the 2031 lease

Some of the strongest concerns centred on proposals concerning the Saint Tuna Corporation processing plant and the repeated reference to the expiry of its lease in 2031.

Councillors questioned why alternative tendering arrangements, changes to processing operations and other possible interventions were being deferred until the end of the lease.

Councillor Dr Corinda Essex clarified that the lease could end earlier through withdrawal, relinquishment, renegotiation or termination. Therefore, 2031 should not be treated as the only opportunity to consider alternative arrangements.

Councillors also questioned why tendering for processing operations serving both local and export markets should wait until 2031, particularly as this had effectively been the intended direction when the processing arrangements were established.

Further downsizing of the plant was considered particularly concerning, given that capacity had already been reduced, making it more difficult to restore the facilities needed to support the local market.

There was unequivocal opposition to Option 13, which proposed closing the fish processing plant at the end of the lease and changing its purpose. Councillors considered this unacceptable, questioning why such an option had been included at all.

Governance, ICCAT and the Marine Protected Area

The proposal to establish a dedicated Fisheries Regulatory and Development Authority received support. Councillors noted that the necessary functions and structures already exist within fisheries legislation and had operated previously. The priority should be to ensure these arrangements are properly implemented and resourced.

By contrast, withdrawing from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) was strongly rejected. Councillor Midwinter highlighted that withdrawal would jeopardise the island's ability to export fish.

Councillors also supported retaining the Marine Protected Area, with stronger management and enforcement identified as the immediate priorities. The suggestion of revoking the MPA was rejected.

A clear call for urgency and accountability

In their closing contributions, Councillors were united in expressing frustration at the time already taken to progress the Fisheries Review and the apparent lack of urgency in reaching a conclusion.

Councillor Midwinter recalled raising concerns shortly after the General Election, particularly as previous work undertaken through Select Committee 1 and Public Accounts Committee scrutiny had already identified many of the issues requiring attention.

More than a year later, he remained concerned that the process was going around in circles. He also challenged the suggestion within the review that the local fish market was working, stating: "The local market isn't working. We all know the local market's not working."

Councillor Leo reinforced the urgency, explaining that fishers had made it clear they could not wait until 2031 to see what happened with the existing lease. They wanted their elected representatives to take action now.

Councillor Dr Essex agreed, warning that the fisheries sector was in a particularly critical position and could not afford the lengthy timescales experienced in developing other strategies.

She stressed that St Helena risked losing what could be an important economic driver. While protecting the local market remained essential, she believed export potential must also be properly explored, with suitably experienced experts assessing its viability and potential economic return.

Councillor Derek Thomas added that, during his October Chairmanship, Councillors had met with a representative from the Attorney General's Chambers to examine the lease agreement between St Helena Government and Saint Tuna Corporation Ltd. He had subsequently written formally to the Chief Minister and Minister Karl Thrower outlining concerns, although further follow-up was considered necessary.

Concluding the discussion, Councillor Coleman reiterated the collective concerns surrounding the evidence, transparency and governance underpinning the review. He called for greater transparency about contributors to the review, clearer accountability for fisheries governance and a more complete and accurate reflection of previous reviews and available evidence.

He confirmed that the consultation feedback was being collated into a matrix by the lead officer, Ann Muir, with a further working group meeting expected once this exercise was completed.

The programme closed with a clear message: St Helena cannot afford to allow its fishing industry to continue deteriorating while decisions are deferred. The review must now translate into a credible, evidence-based and timely plan that protects the local market, supports fishers and properly explores the industry's wider economic potential.

Listeners are encouraged to continue engaging with their elected representatives by contacting the Legislative Council Office on 23179 or emailing Councillors directly at firstname.surname@parliament.sh.

The Island Pulse can be heard on SAMS Radio 1 every Tuesday at 2pm, with repeats on Thursdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 5pm.

NOTICE BOARD

Mantis St Helena

CALLING ST HELENA'S PRODUCERS, SUPPLIERS & CREATORS

We want to showcase more of St Helena throughout the hotel
and we are inviting local producers, suppliers and creators to supply the hotel with food, beverage and locally made products.

FRESH & LOCAL PRODUCE

Fruit & vegetables | Meat & poultry
Fish & seafood | Eggs | Herbs

LOCALLY MADE FOOD & DRINK

Breads & baked goods | Preserves
Sauces | Prepared foods | Dairy products
Beverages | Confectionery

ART, CRAFTS & MOMENTOS

Art | Crafts | Prints & artwork | Textiles
Jewellery | Ceramics | Woodwork
Books & publications | Souvenirs

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

Whether you are an established business or produce something special on a smaller scale, we would like to hear from you.

Please contact
Matt Joshua
GENERAL MANAGER
MANTIS ST HELENA

25505

matt.joshua@mantiscollection.com

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.

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

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

How it works

1. Complete the application form
2. Pitch live, in person, to a judging panel, followed by questions
3. Panel picks the winners
4. Sign agreement, claim costs back

KEY DATES

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

What can the award support?

- **Equipment and set-up costs** - tools, equipment and small scale infrastructure
- **Land lease support** - SHG-owned land or help securing a private lease
- **Training** - SHG-arranged mentors or training you source yourself

Who can apply?

- Anyone 18+ with an agricultural or aquaculture business idea based on St Helena
- New ideas, or existing businesses looking to expand or diversify
- Individuals, or partners applying jointly (one application per person)

Please note: funding is paid by reimbursement against invoices, 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.

How to apply

Forms available from the Trade and Investment Team.
Questions? Contact Alexandria Thomas or Michael Ormrod via invest@sainthelena.gov.sh or +290 22470

NOTICE BOARD

MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT –

LARRY GUNNELL

A Memorial Service is being arranged for the late Larry Raymond Gunnell.

Larry passed away peacefully on Sunday, 10th May 2026 aged 78 years in Queen Alexander Hospital, Portsmouth, Hampshire, England and whose Cremation took place at Portchester Crematorium, Hampshire on 9th June 2026 at 12.30pm. Larry's wish was for his cremated remains to be interred at his birthplace, his beloved St Helena Island.

We will honour Larry's wish by interring his ashes following a Memorial Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Monday, 9th November 2026 at 12.30pm. All are invited to attend. Anyone requiring transport should please contact Mrs Patsy Ellick on telephone number 22624 by midday on Sunday, 8th November 2026.

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Services - 8th November
Sandy Bay Chapel, 8.45am
Head O'Wain Chapel, 10.45am
Jamestown Chapel, 6pm

Bible Studies
Tuesday, 10th November:
Baptist School Hall, 7pm
Wednesday, 11th November:
Blue Hill Community Centre, 7pm
Thursday, 12th November: Sandy Bay Chapel, 5.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS
Adventure Kids – Age 6-10 yrs old
Saturday, 7th November: Baptist School Hall, 10am to 11.30am

Gospel Outreach Service
Sunday, 15th November: Kingshurst Community Centre, 3pm

ALL ARE WELCOME
For further information contact: Tel No 24644

VACANCY

Connect SAINT HELENA LTD

ELECTRICAL NETWORK SUPPORT WORKER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ an Electrical Network Support Worker to provide assistance and support to Linesworkers as part of ongoing programmes for preventative maintenance and infrastructure refurbishment of the electricity distribution network.

The role will involve general labourer duties, as well as the requirement to clear and maintain undergrowth and trees from the High Voltage (HV) and Low Voltage (LV) distribution network.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITIES

- General Labourer experience and be Physically Fit
- Commitment to Health and Safety in the work place.
- First Aid Experience
- Driving Licence
- Able to fell trees with precision
- Small machinery experience, Chain Saw & Strimmer's.
- Hand Tool experience, Lopping Shears and Pruners.

BENEFITS

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

For further information contact Annalisa Young +290 22255. Completed application forms can be handed into the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: Annalisa.Young@connectonline.co.sh by 9:00am on Monday, 9 November 2026. To be considered for this role please complete our application form, CV's will not be accepted.
This vacancy is open to applicant's resident on St Helena Island only

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

NOTICE BOARD

Vacancy

Part-Time Ramp Handlers

Since 1790

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has vacancies for Part-Time Ramp Handlers to join the team at St Helena Airport.

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

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a good standard of English & ICT
- Be in possession of a clean & valid Drivers' Licence ideally in class D
- Be committed to delivering an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake repetitive Manual Handling & physically demanding duties
- Have the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment to meet tight deadlines
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment and remain calm in high pressure situations

For further information contact:

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 12 November 2026.**

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

Vacancy

Part-Time Cargo Processing Agent

Since 1790

Rate of pay will commence at £6.20 per hour, increased to £7.20 per hour upon completion of relevant training.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Cargo Processing Agent to join the team at St Helena Airport.

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

Interested Persons Should:

- Have excellent interpersonal & communication skills and be able to work in a disciplined environment
- Possess a high standard of English & ICT skills
- Be customer focused and able to deliver an excellent level of Customer Service
- Be committed to undertaking the required training as well as the necessary background and medical checks
- Be able to undertake manual handling & physically demanding duties
- Be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Be able to work with accuracy and a high degree of attention to detail
- Have the ability to multitask in a high pressure environment
- Have the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- Be committed to undertaking continuous learning and development.

For further information contact:

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

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Organisation & Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **Thursday, 12 November 2026**

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

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR UK STATE (2027 BIRTHDAY HONOURS) AND ST HELENA NATIONAL AWARDS

Nominations are now being invited for the following awards:

- 2027 Birthday Honours

To find out more about the different types of Honours Awards please visit: www.gov.uk/honours.

- Certificate and Badge of Honour
- Acts of Bravery Award
- Badge of St Helena

- Freedom of the City of Jamestown.

Information on the above awards can be found on the SHG website at https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/app/uploads/2026/09/2027-Birthday-Honours-Nominations-Advert.pdf or alternatively, are available together with nomination forms, from Central Support Service at the Castle, Jamestown, or can be requested via email: linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed forms should be returned to the Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' addressed to 'The Secretary, Honours and Awards Committee', by Friday, 6 November 2026.

SHG, 25 September 2026

St Helena Cloud Forest Project – Project Officer (Maternity Cover)

RSPB

Through the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the St Helena Cloud Forest Project has a vacancy for a **fixed-term Project Officer (Maternity Cover) for up to 1 year**.

We are looking for a passionate and driven individual to facilitate the delivery of the next phase of partnership-based Cloud Forest restoration efforts on St Helena. This exciting opportunity is funded by the UK Government's Darwin+ funding (project DPLUS224). The St Helena Cloud Forest is a truly unique habitat and is home to more than 250 species which are found nowhere else on earth. In addition to the biodiversity value, the cloud forest is important for providing the majority of the island's freshwater resource.

The successful applicant will work with the Project partners to deliver key outputs under DPLUS224 to recover St Helena's cloud forest for wildlife and water security.

Further information about the role as well as details on how to apply can be found via the link: https://app.hireroadrecruit.com/careers/rspb/jobs/x735k1CcCEW5S_YjoCUG9

The closing date for applications is Sunday, 15 November 2026. This role is based on St Helena and is offered as a fixed-term maternity cover contract of up to 12 months.
Please note that applicants must already be living on St Helena to be considered for this opportunity. Unfortunately, we are unable to consider applications from candidates who would need to relocate to the island.

For further information please contact Jenny Weston (RSPB) via: jenny.weston@rspb.org.uk

RSPB | 03 November 2026

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

MEMBER OF NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are being sought for the position of Member of the National Honours and Awards Committee.

Members of the National Honours and Awards Committee are appointed by the Governor in accordance with the National Honours and Awards Ordinance, 2021. Persons appointed must be persons of integrity and high public standing. The duties of the Committee are as follows:

(a) to receive and consider nominations for honours and awards;
(b) to make investigations as it thinks fit to determine persons upon whom may be conferred the honours and awards under the National Honours and Award Ordinance;
(c) to prepare a list of recommendations for the conferment of honours and awards; and to undertake any other duties in relation to the National Honours and Awards Ordinance as may be assigned by the Governor in Council.

As a member of the National Honours and Awards Committee remuneration of £45.50 per meeting will be paid, together with a mileage allowance of 77p per mile for use of personal vehicles or 34p for use of motor cycles in connection with attendance at the meetings.

For further information about the duties of a member and for the relevant form to register, please contact Linda Benjamin, Committee Secretary and Information & Research Support Officer via e-mail linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov sh or on Tel No: 22470.

Completed forms should be returned to the above email by **Monday 19 October 2026.**

Please contact Linda on 22470 if you would like to be considered for the role but are unable to complete a written EOI.

SHG, 01 October 2026

Mantis St Helena

WE'RE HIRING

As we continue to develop our team **at the Mantis St Helena Hotel,** we are looking for passionate, reliable and enthusiastic people to join us in the following **full-time** roles:

Head of Finance
Lead the hotel's financial operations, overseeing accounting, budgeting, financial reporting and cost control. You will ensure sound financial management, maintain compliance, support strategic decision-making and contribute to the hotel's operational performance and long-term financial sustainability.

Chef de Partie
A hands-on kitchen role, preparing and presenting high-quality dishes to a consistent standard. You will support menu delivery, maintain kitchen standards, manage your section effectively and contribute to a great dining experience for our guests.

Reservations Clerk
Manage guest reservations and enquiries, ensuring accurate bookings, room availability and rates across all booking channels. You will deliver friendly, efficient and professional service, creating a seamless booking experience and a positive first impression of the hotel.

Human Resources Manager
Lead the hotel's human resources function, overseeing recruitment, employee relations, training and professional development. You will guide performance management, support departmental managers and foster a positive, professional and inclusive workplace where employees feel valued and supported.

Opportunities for training and professional development

Interested?
We'd love to hear from you.

For the full job profile and other information contact:
Matt Joshua
General Manager
Mantis St Helena Hotel
25505 | matt.joshua@mantiscollection.com

NOTICE BOARD

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

INVITATION TO TENDER

Educational Ocean Video Project

The St Helena National Trust, in collaboration with St Helena Government's Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section, invites quotations from suitably experienced videographers or media production companies to produce a series of four short films celebrating St Helena's ocean and marine environment.

The videos will explore St Helena's Marine Protected Area and the Blue Belt Programme, the importance of the ocean, fishing and sustainable use of marine resources, and the island's rich marine biodiversity. The project aims to raise awareness, engage local communities and wider audiences, and communicate the importance of protecting St Helena's marine environment through accessible, engaging storytelling.

The successful contractor will work with Trust and partners to develop the content, conduct interviews, capture relevant footage, and produce high-quality videos.

We welcome creative approaches that combine local knowledge with fresh perspectives, allowing the stories to develop naturally while ensuring factual accuracy.

Interested applicants should provide:

- Examples of previous relevant video production work or a portfolio.
- A proposed creative approach and production methodology.
- An estimated cost covering all deliverables, with any additional costs clearly identified.
- An indicative timeline for planning, filming, editing and final delivery.

For further details, please contact the Education & Outreach Manager: Telephone: 22190/22307 Email: *sheena.benjamin@trust.org.sh*

Tenders should be submitted by email to sheena.benjamin@trust.org.sh or in a sealed envelope addressed to the Office Manager, St Helena National Trust, Broadway House, Jamestown, no later than 16:00 on Friday 13th November 2026.

Make this year's celebration a little more magical



If a little financial assistance is all you need to make this year's celebration a little more magical, our unsecured personal loans up to £5,000 might be what you're looking for.

Unsecured personal loans

up to £5,000

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

1. Decide what you would like to use your loan for this Christmas.
2. Complete your loan application form and submit it to the Lending Section. You can complete and submit your application online.
3. Following application processing, an appointment will be arranged for you to sign your loan agreement and receive your funds. A minimum of 3 weeks is required.
4. Repay your loan as agreed in your loan agreement, over a maximum term of 3 years.

Applications should be submitted no later than 2 December for applications to be processed by the 24 December.

Terms and Conditions Apply

Apply online; or submit your application to the Lending Section. For further details call +290 22390 or personallending@sainthelenabank.com

Bank of St.Helena Ltd.

www.sainthelenabank.com

NOTICE BOARD

Career Opportunity

Transmission and Provisioning Technician – Falkland Islands

Join Sure as a Transmission and Provisioning Technician and develop your career in electrical, telecommunications and mechanical work. This varied role offers opportunities to learn and grow, with travel beyond Stanley to West Falkland and other islands.

Ideally, you will bring the skills and experience below. We also welcome enquiries from candidates who are keen and able to learn and develop in these areas:

- Knowledge of fibre and copper transmission systems
- Knowledge of radio transmission networks
- Able to work at height
- Experience working with DC voltage systems
- Understanding of mechanical operations involving generators, diesel equipment and turbines (desirable)
- Strong interpersonal and written and verbal communication skills (essential)
- Proficiency in Office 365 applications
- A safety-conscious approach to work

The nature of this role requires the successful candidate to hold a satisfactory Police Disclosure. The post is for a two year fixed term contract.

To discuss the role's responsibilities, contact Nevin Middleton on freephone 131 or email Nevin.Middleton@sure.com. For a copy of the job description, email recruitment@sure.com. To apply, send your CV to recruitment@sure.com by **4pm on Monday 16 November 2026.**

sure.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Christmas with The Salvation Army

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER | 6pm
Mince pies and Carols at the HTH Community Centre

THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER | 7.30pm
Carols at the Sandy Bay Community Centre

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER | 6pm
Carols by Candlelight at the HTH Army Hall

THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER | 7.30pm
Carols at St Marks Hall Longwood

SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER | 7pm
Open Air Carols on the Bridge, Jamestown

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER | 4pm
Open Air Carols at Rosemary Plain

TUESDAY 15th DECEMBER | 7.30pm
Carols at St Michaels Church in Rupert's

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER | 7.30pm
Ecumenical Carol Service at the Court House Steps, Jamestown

FRIDAY 25th DECEMBER | 10am
CHRISTMAS DAY Family Service at the HTH Army Hall

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light..." ISAIAH 9:2

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." JOHN 1:14

For more information please contact:
Capt Antony Palmer 22543 | Envoy Coral Yon 24358 | Nicholas Yon 25311

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICES

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Remembrance Sunday Road Closure

The Highways Authority has given approval for the road from the Cenotaph to Donny's Place at the Seafront, and five parking spaces in front of the Court House, Jamestown, to be closed on the morning of Sunday, 8 November 2026. This is for the Remembrance Sunday Service to take place.

The road and area surrounding the Cenotaph as well as the parking spaces in front of the Court House will be closed from 3am on Sunday, 8 November, until the ceremony has been concluded.

The Highways Authority has also given approval for the road from the Canister to the Seafront to be closed from 10:45 for 10 minutes on the same day to allow the uniformed contingents to march.

Appropriate signs will be in place, and the public are thanked in advance for their cooperation.

SHG, 02 November 2026

www.sainthelena.gov.sh

Request for Expressions of Interest

Provision of Contract Services for responding to Out of Hours Call Outs on the Water Distribution Networks and Wastewater Infrastructure

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is calling for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified contractors willing to provide the services listed below on an annual contract basis.

Water and Wastewater Call-Out Services Required

To provide an emergency on-call service to Connect Saint Helena Ltd from **15:30 to 08:30 Monday to Friday** and on a **24-hour basis** on Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays, Christmas and New Year closure periods, and other occasions where standby arrangements are required.

The service will include:

- Responding to water main leaks and bursts on treated and raw water systems, including pipework up to 300mm diameter and associated fittings.
- Repairs to PE, PVC, copper, galvanised, ductile iron (DI) and HDPE pipework.
- Emergency repair and unblocking of sewage pipes and manholes on private properties and within Connect Saint Helena Ltd's public wastewater network.
- Accurate recording and reporting of faults and work undertaken, including GPS records and weekly submissions.

The Contractor will be required to physically respond to emergency call-outs within agreed response times and undertake repairs safely and effectively.

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest are invited from suitably qualified contractors based on St Helena. Interested Contractors are invited to express interest and provide information demonstrating the qualifications and technical capability required to deliver the above services.

As part of the Expression of Interest, Contractors are invited to provide an indicative annual cost and any associated assumptions. Such information will be used to gauge market expectations and will not be considered a binding quotation or formal tender response.

The Expression of Interest should include:

- Details of previous relevant experience in water, plumbing and wastewater works.
- Company profile and qualifications/profiles of key personnel who will undertake the service.
- Details of equipment and resources available to respond to emergency call-outs.
- An indicative annual cost for providing the out-of-hours emergency response service.

Submission Requirements

The submitted Expression of Interest should include the company name, name of responsible person, address, telephone number and email address.

Expressions of Interest should be delivered to the Procurement Coordinator at Carnarvon Court, Jamestown, or emailed to tender.returns@connectonline.co.sh.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is Wednesday, 18th November 2026 at noon.

Interested contractors may obtain further information from Paul Duncan, Water Operations Manager, Connect Saint Helena Ltd, Seales Corner, on telephone 22255 or email: paul.duncan@connectonline.co.sh.

4 November 2026

NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING...

BENEFITS

- → **Leave** – 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- → **Pension** – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

HOW TO APPLY

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

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

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

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

Tourism Destination Development Manager

(£19,814 per annum)

St Helena Government are seeking to recruit a Tourism Destination Development Manager to play a key role in enhancing St Helena's tourism offering, developing exciting visitor experiences and supporting the sustainable growth of the island's tourism industry. The postholder will lead destination development, tourism investment, product innovation and industry partnerships to improve the visitor experience, strengthen tourism infrastructure, diversify the tourism product and support the delivery of the Tourism Strategy and Tourism Development Programme. This is an excellent opportunity for a motivated and proactive professional to help shape St Helena as a distinctive and attractive tourism destination.

Key Responsibilities

- **Lead Tourism Product Development** – Drive the Product Development workstream of the Tourism Development Programme, identifying and developing tourism products, experiences and attractions that enhance visitor appeal and support sustainable growth.
- **Build Strong Partnerships** – Develop and maintain effective working relationships with tourism operators, Government departments, community organisations, NGOs and private sector partners, encouraging collaboration, investment and best practice across the tourism industry.
- **Enhance Destination Infrastructure** – Oversee and improve tourism assets, including trails, viewpoints, interpretation, visitor facilities and the Post Box Walks network, ensuring these continue to meet the needs of visitors and the local community.
- **Manage Projects and Resources** – Prepare business cases, project plans, funding applications, procurement documentation and progress reports. Identify external funding opportunities and monitor budgets, expenditure and performance indicators to ensure projects are delivered on time, within budget and to agreed standards.
- **Lead and Support the Team** – Supervise and support the Destination Marketing Officer and Product Development & Tourism Officer, providing guidance, allocating work and monitoring performance.
- **Work Collaboratively** – Work closely with the Tourism Manager to ensure destination development complements industry capacity building and visitor servicing, helping to deliver a coordinated and high-quality tourism experience.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Jonathan Passaportis on Tel No. 22158 or Email: jonathan.passaportis@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**19 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**24 November 2026**
Interview date:	**02 December 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.

Police Constable

(13,569 per annum)

A unique and challenging opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and dynamic individual, to join the Royal St. Helena Police Service (RSHPS). The Royal St. Helena Police Service covers both Ascension Island and St. Helena and, at full strength, consists of 34 officers. We are seeking to recruit further Police Constables to support current Policing on both Saint Helena and Ascension.

In line with the requirements of the Police Service Ordinance 1985, the post holder must be under the age of 60 on the date of appointment.

Why join us?

Career Progression – Clear pathways for advancement within the Service, with opportunities to specialise and take on supervisory roles.

Training & Development – Access to professional training, accredited courses, and continuous development to help you grow in your policing career.

Salary Advancements – Competitive incremental pay structure as you gain experience and qualifications.

Enquires: Annabelle Palmer on Tel No. 22626 or Email: annabelle.palmer@sainthelena.gov.sh
Closing date: 01 December 2026
Shortlisting date: 07 December 2026
Interview date: Week Commencing 14 December 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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NOTICE BOARD

St Helena Government

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

JOIN US! WE ARE RECRUITING…

BENEFITS

- → **Leave –** 30 days leave per annum, plus public holidays
- → **Pension –** 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme
- → **Training and Development**
- → **Paid sickness absence**

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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.

Customs/Immigration Officer
(£11,604 per annum)

If you're looking for a challenge, have an inquisitive mind and see yourself working as part of a team why not join the Customs and Immigration team. We need you on the front line where you will be required to help reduce threats to the border integrity of St Helena, by protecting the borders of St Helena by performing anti-smuggling duties, detecting prohibited and restricted goods entering and leaving the island and to ensure the effective control of passengers, crew and cargo on St Helena in accordance with the Customs & Excise Ordinance and associated legislation. This is a critical and demanding role where you will interact with the public on a daily basis.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Juliette O'Dean on Tel No.22287 or Email: juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**18 November 2026**
Assessment date:	**24 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**25 November 2026**
Interview date:	**04 December 2026**

General Operative
(£10,088 per annum)

We are seeking a General Operative to support the Charge Hand in the general upkeep of roads and related machinery, the assembly of site huts, and to aid in the construction, cleaning, and overall maintenance of roads across the island.

If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, this is an opportunity for you to join the Roads Section team.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries:	**Deon Robbertse on Tel No. 23765 or Email: deon.robbertse@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date:	**19 November 2026**
Shortlisting date:	**25 November 2026**
Interview date:	**03 December 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

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

FAIRNESS INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Flu Vaccination Clinics Timetable Announced

Eligible members of the public are advised that a series of flu vaccination community clinics will be held across the island over the coming weeks. **Community Clinic Schedule:** Residents are encouraged to attend the clinic most convenient to them.

Week 1		
10 November	09:30 – 11:00	Kingshurst Community Centre
11 November	09:30 – 11:00	Longwood (Harford Community Centre)
12 November	09:30 – 11:00	Half Tree Hollow (Community Care Complex)
Week 2		
16 November	10:00 – 11:30	Levelwood Clinic
16 November	12:30 – 13:30	Sandy Bay Community Centre
17 November	10:00 – 11:30	Guinea Grass Community Centre
18 November	10:00 – 11:30	Blue Hill Community Centre
19 November	10:00 – 12:00	Jamestown (Castle Courtyard Meeting Room)
Week 3		
24 November	10:00 – 12:00	Kingshurst Community Centre
25 November	10:00 – 12:00	Longwood (Harford Community Centre)
26 November	09:30 – 11:00	Half Tree Hollow (Community Care Complex)
27 November	10:00 – 12:00	Jamestown Community Centre

Alternative Options
The flu vaccination will also be available on request at the routine health clinics and hospital pharmacy throughout the **month of November** according to the following schedule:

- **Jamestown Clinic:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – 14:00 – 16:00
- **Half Tree Hollow Clinic:** Tuesday and Thursday – 14:00 – 16:00
- **Longwood Clinic:** Wednesday – 11:00 – 13:00
- **Levelwood Clinic:** Thursday – 11:00 – 12:30
- **Hospital Pharmacy:** Wednesday – 12:00 – 15:00

For individuals who are housebound and unable to attend any of the above sessions, arrangements can be made for a home visit by a nurse. Please contact the Health Promotion team on 25949 to register your request. To offer further protection to those at-risk, the vaccine is also offered to carers of elderly or disabled people, household contacts of people with weakened immune systems, and all frontline health and social care workers.
For more information, please click the link to our Influenza Vaccination FAQ sheet.

Who can receive the flu vaccine
The flu vaccination programme will target people at highest risk, but over half of the population of St Helena will be eligible for the free vaccine. Eligible groups include:

- All people aged 65 years or more
- All children aged 2 to 16 years
- All adults and children over 6 months with underlying medical conditions, such as diabetes, heart, lung or kidney disease
- Pregnant women
- People in long-stay residential facilities

NOTICE BOARD

BIOT Agreement: Questions and Answers

No.	Question	Answer
About the agreement		
1	**What is the BIOT agreement about?**	The agreement is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UK Government (UKG) and the St Helena Government (SHG). It covers preparations for the possible transfer of migrants in the event that they arrive in the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). If migrants arrive, this will involve the processing and support they would receive. The MoU has been extended until April 2028, with further arrangements set out in Annex A and Annex B. Together, the annexes form the extension agreement. They build on the original MoU and provide newer arrangements, in the event that migrants arrive on BIOT, to cover gaps that were not addressed in the original MoU. Original BIOT MoU: https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/documents/UK-St-Helena-MOU-BIOT-Migrants.pdf
2	**Why was the agreement extended?**	The extension reflects delays to the ratification of the UK–Mauritius treaty concerning the Chagos Archipelago. It maintains existing arrangements until April 2028 while providing additional safeguards, funding and support for St Helena. SHG agreed to support the UKG interests in the welfare of persons, who may arrive in BIOT, in return for enhanced financial support to meet SHG's strategic, social and economic development needs and aspirations.
3	**Has the agreement changed from the original MoU?**	Yes. The extension strengthens several areas, including funding, preparedness, health support, immigration capability, data protection arrangements and the detailed support that would be available if migrants were ever transferred to St Helena, helping to minimise risk.
4	**What is the purpose of Annex A?**	Annex A extends and updates the original MoU until April 2028 and sets out the additional funding, preparedness arrangements and support available to St Helena. It also sets out the maximum number of migrants who can be accommodated on St Helena at any one time. https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/documents/biot-mou-annex-a/
5	**What is the purpose of Annex B?**	Annex B establishes a secure data-sharing framework that allows appropriate health and security screening to take place before any migrant transfer can occur. It includes strict safeguards to protect personal information: • Only relevant SHG personnel will have access to this information. For example, health staff will see health screening data, and immigration staff will see security screening data. • Information is shared on a need-to-know basis only. • Information is encrypted to keep it secure. https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/documents/biot-mou-annex-b/
6	**Does the extension mean migrants will definitely come to St Helena?**	No. The extension maintains preparedness arrangements should they ever be required. Extending the agreement does not, in itself, mean that a transfer will take place.
Funding		
7	**What funding has the extension secured for St Helena?**	Under the extension, the UK Government has committed £9.3m for St Helena, and it is payable regardless of whether any migrants are transferred to St Helena. The funding has been agreed and is provided on a claims basis. It comprises: • £8m development funding for education, healthcare, telecoms and renewable energy: – £2.3m for the Education Review and School Reorganisation Programme, with a focus on securing Council of British International Schools (COBIS) accreditation. – £2m for the purchase of medical equipment and interim support for SHG work to introduce health standards, with a focus on lowering spend on overseas medical referrals. – £3.7m for telecoms and renewable energy networks, with a focus on developing an enabling environment that supports long-term economic stability and growth. • Up to £1.05m for preparedness work: suitable housing for transferred migrants, further training for customs and immigration staff, and improvements to immigration processing systems. Work is also under way on drafting legislation and policy. • £250,000 of unrestricted ex-gratia funding. This carries no conditions and has not yet been allocated, so it can be used for whatever SHG decides.
8	**What funding was provided under the original MoU?**	Under the original MoU, SHG was given £6.65m: • £1.65m to clear the overseas health referral waiting list, which was affecting SHG's ability to focus on its preventative health strategy. • £1.5m for implementation of the preventative health care strategy. • £2m to improve education through additional teaching capacity. • £1.5m towards the ICT Modernisation and Cyber Security Programme.
9	**Would St Helena have to pay for migrants arriving under these arrangements?**	No. The agreement is based on the principle that St Helena will not bear an unreasonable financial burden. For up to five years from arrival, the UK Government will provide funding for flight transfers, allowances, housing, healthcare, social care, education, policing, legal aid, interpretation and other services, if migrant arrivals were ever to occur. This is UK-funded, on top of the funding for St Helena set out above, so these costs do not fall on St Helena taxpayers.

No.	Question	Answer
Numbers, transfers and safeguards		
10	**How many migrants could St Helena accommodate, and for how long could they stay?**	The agreement sets a maximum of 52 migrants at any one time. This figure is set by the accommodation available. Housing would be managed through private rentals, and the conversion of the ex-Longwood First School (adjacent to the St Helena Golf Club). Migrants could stay on St Helena for up to five years from their arrival, even if that goes beyond the end of the agreement in April 2028. UK Government funding and support would continue throughout that period, until they are naturalised, repatriated or relocated off the island (up to five years maximum).
11	**Would individuals arriving on BIOT automatically be transferred to St Helena, and how long would that process take?**	No. Arrival on BIOT does not automatically result in transfer to St Helena. Any individual being considered for transfer would first be subject to the necessary health, safeguarding and security assessments by St Helena Government to determine whether their needs can be appropriately supported within St Helena's services and infrastructure. Following completion of these assessments, and where St Helena Government confirms that a transfer can be appropriately accommodated, the UK Government would coordinate onward travel arrangements. While timescales may vary depending on individual circumstances and transport availability, transfers could take place within a relatively short period where all required checks have been completed and there are no unforeseen delays. St Helena Government is already undertaking planning and preparedness activities with relevant agencies to ensure that appropriate arrangements, procedures and support systems are in place should any transfers be approved. This work is intended to ensure that all health, safeguarding, security and operational considerations are properly managed before any arrival takes place.
12	**How would transfers to St Helena be managed?**	Any transfer of migrants under these arrangements would follow a managed process: 1. **Notification:** SHG is informed first if a transfer is requested. 2. **Screening:** UK authorities carry out security checks and health screening before any approval. 3. **Approval:** SHG reviews the results and can approve or decline the transfer. 4. **Transfer:** Only approved migrants travel, by controlled charter flight to St Helena, with UK funding and oversight. This process is designed to protect the welfare and safety of both those transferred and the wider St Helena community at every stage.
13	**What checks and safeguards apply after a transfer?**	Support and safeguards continue after arrival, so the process is managed through different stages beyond the transfer itself: • **On arrival:** initial screening (health, immigration and welfare checks) and accommodation placement. • **Ongoing:** welfare and integration support, and community cohesion management. • **Community safety:** policing and public order preparedness. Removal support is also available if an individual is considered a danger to the community.
Impact on the community		
14	**Will migrants arriving under these arrangements have more access to services and benefits than islanders?**	No. The agreement does not provide migrants with greater access to services or benefits than St Helenians. The arrangements are designed to ensure that any migrants transferred to St Helena have their basic needs met in accordance with international obligations, while ensuring that the costs of doing so do not fall on St Helena taxpayers or reduce services available to the local population.
15	**Would the arrival of migrants affect jobs?**	St Helena currently has gaps in employment that are not easily filled by the local workforce, particularly in roles such as carers, education staff and nursing staff. Migrants transferred to St Helena may be able to help fill some of these gaps, supporting the island's workforce rather than replacing existing jobs held by islanders.
Preparedness and public communication		
16	**How is SHG preparing for the possible arrival of migrants?**	SHG has been taking a proactive and coordinated approach to preparedness across a number of government services and partner agencies. Recognising that any response would require support from multiple sectors, we have adopted a multi-agency planning approach to ensure all key areas are considered, including immigration, health, education, housing, social care, safeguarding, emergency planning, policing and wider community support services. To support this work, SHG has already facilitated two multi-agency workshops involving relevant stakeholders to identify potential challenges, roles and responsibilities, and key actions required across government. These sessions have helped shape planning and strengthen coordination between agencies. The next phase of preparedness is a Tabletop Exercise, which will bring together participating agencies to test plans against a range of potential scenarios. The exercise will provide an opportunity to assess arrangements, identify any gaps, improve coordination, and ensure that all agencies understand their respective roles and responsibilities. While the timing and scale of any future arrivals remain uncertain, SHG's objective is to ensure that appropriate plans, processes and partnerships are in place so that the government is as prepared as possible to respond effectively should the need arise.
17	**How will the public be informed if a transfer to St Helena is proposed or confirmed?**	The public would only be informed once the go-ahead has been given for any migrants to be transferred. Communication would be made only through official SHG channels, to ensure that authentic information from a reputable source is provided. Details of what information can be shared, and where people can find updates or ask questions, have not yet been determined. These can only be confirmed if the scenario arises.

NOTICE BOARD

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

ONLINE USD INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

We've expanded your international payment options.
You can now make Dollar (USD) payments directly through Online Banking, alongside our existing international payment services.



Send payments internationally
Make USD international payments easily through Online Banking.

Upfront exchange rates
View applicable exchange rates before making your payment.

Greater flexibility
More options for your personal and business payment needs.

Simple banking | **More convenience** | **Greater flexibility**

Log in to Online Banking today
and start making **USD international payments.**

NOTICE BOARD



NOV
7-8

The Hanseatic Spirit is expected to arrive at St Helena on Saturday 7 November 2026 at 9am and depart on Sunday 8 November 2026 at 1pm.

SHE IS CARRYING:

154 PASSENGERS AND 167 CREW

DID YOU KNOW?

You can offer visitors a personalised way to explore St Helena through local taxi services!

For as little as* £11 a month you can purchase Hire & Reward Insurance – the 'Taxi Cover'.
*Premiums calculated on Engine Size and range from <1400cc at £11 to 6000cc at £26
A Fee of £26.50 will also be payable to SHG, to upgrade your current Private Road License to a Public Service License and will run the length of your current license until your next MOT

With no pre-arranged tours this visit, there is an opportunity for local taxi drivers to offer their own trips, tailored to visitors' interests and schedules.

POPULAR PLACES FOR LOCAL TAXI DRIVERS TO VISIT INCLUDE:

- Two Gun Saddle
- Stitches Ridge
- Napoleon's Tomb
- Plantation House
- Napoleon's House (Longwood Green)
- Ladder Hill Viewing Platform

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Offer visitors a friendly local experience, share your knowledge of St Helena And help create lasting memories of their visit.

Set up a Refreshment Stand...Bring along your Locally Made Souvenirs... Contribute to the Visitor Experience! (Contact visit@sainthelena.gov.sh to confirm stall location)

Be Friendly
Be Organised
Be Prepared *(show off your Local Knowledge)*
Be Flexible *(changes may be required due to sea conditions)*



SPORTS ARENA



Golf Report



Laura Buckley wins Turkey as Asa Bushuru settles for Ham

— **SHGC,** Contributed —

Twenty golfers enjoyed excellent weather at St Helena Golf Club, although the fast greens provided a challenging test.

Laura Buckley claimed the first prize turkey with an outstanding net score of 70, playing off 19 handicap. Congratulations to Laura on a well-deserved victory!

Asa Grahams Bushuru secured the runner up prize of Ham on countback against Ashton Benjamin, who also finished on 71.

Larry Thomas recorded the lowest gross score of 79, while Jason Hopkins won the Two-Ball Pool on the 5th hole

The club thanks all 20 players for their participation and looks forward to the next competition.

Next Competition: An 18-hole Stableford is planned, subject to a minimum of 10 registrations, given that it falls on Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday, 15 November 2026: Texas Scramble Cross Country Strokeplay, sponsored by Dr Annette Delacourt.

Happy swinging!

trol from the first minute to the last, dismantling their opponents with a display of lethal finishing and midfield creativity. Joey Thomas led the charge with an outstanding four-goal haul, accompanied by a brace from Ryan Benjamin, and individual strikes from Rico Benjamin, Tyler Benjamin, and Scott Henry, who capped an impressive team performance by taking home the Man of the Match award. Despite the heavy scoreline, young Josh Johnson showed bright glimpses of quality for St Paul's, earning the Young Player of the Match accolade.

From the goalkeeper and defensive unit, to the swift and clinical attack, to the impact substitutes introduced in the second half, HTH delivered a complete, controlled masterclass worthy of champions. Their performance marked the perfect conclusion to a flawless campaign as they now look ahead to being able to lift their District Trophy once again. Congratulations Half Tree Hollow!





WSA Netball Team Taking Shape



Players practicing tactical positioning and teamwork during a training session ahead of the squad selection

WSA, Contributed

The Women's Sports Association is pleased to see its women's netball programme taking shape, with a dedicated group of ladies training together over the past two months.

The team trains twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at St Helena Secondary School, with sessions focused on developing skills, fitness and a greater understanding of the game.

An important part of the training has been encouraging players to experience different positions on court. By learning the responsibilities and skills required in various positions, the ladies are becoming more versatile players and gaining a better understanding of how each role contributes to the team.

The regular sessions have also provided an opportunity for the players to build their confidence, improve communication and strengthen their teamwork. Each week brings new challenges as they continue to develop both individually and collectively.

There is now an exciting milestone on the horizon. By the time next month's newspaper article is published, the WSA aims to have selected the squad that will represent St Helena, along with appointing the team's captain. This will be an important step as the players move from development and training towards representing their island.

The WSA is delighted with the progress being made and would like to thank everyone involved in supporting the development of women's netball. What began as an opportunity to bring players together and develop their skills is now building towards a squad ready to proudly represent St Helena.



Members of the Women's Sports Association netball programme focusing on fitness and skills at St Helena Secondary School

District Rounders

ST HELENA WOMEN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION

DISTRICT MATCH RESULTS

Week 4 Sun, 01 Nov 2026

HTH		VS	St Pauls	
Selena Leo	½		Sara Thomas	3 ½
Anisa Moyce	2 ½		Barbara Osborne	1
Katelyn Benjamin	½		Danni Thomas	3
Maxina Yon	1 ½		Alayah Pidgley	2
Laila Clarke	1		Shona Baldwin	1 ½
Sinead Green	2		Ellie Yon	1
Danielle Benjamin	1		Jordyn S Richards	1 ½
			Jaymie Lawrence	½
			Alfreda Yon	½
			Penalty Score	1
	9			15 ½

ST HELENA WOMEN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION

DISTRICT MATCH RESULTS

Week 4 Sun, 01 Nov 2026

Longwood		VS	Jamestown	
Justine Green	3 ½		Rebecca Young	½
Qhi Green	4 ½		Renae Coleman	1 ½
Whitney Young	½		Alena Scott	2
Jordana Crowie	1		Teryn Phillips	½
Rhiann Joshua	3 ½		Kati-Rose Thomas	3
Georgia Bennett	2		Melissa Fowler	½
Emma Bennett	2 ½		Taylor Thomas	½
Tiffany Leo	2			
Penalty Score	2 ½		Penalty Score	1
	22			9.5

ST HELENA WOMEN'S SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ROUNDERS DISTRICT FIXTURES

Sunday, 8th November2026

13:30

HTH VS Jamestown

UMPIRE: SP/LW

15:00

St Pauls VS Longwood

UMPIRE: HTH/JT

SPORTS ARENA





District League Deciders

Jamestown Secures Second as Champions Half Tree Hollow Finish in Style

Liam Yon, SAMS

The 2026 SHFA District League drew to a thrilling close on Sunday with a final gameweek at Francis Plain defined by emphatic victories and the final confirmation of the league table.

Jamestown entered their 1.30pm fixture knowing that simply avoiding defeat would guarantee them second place in the district tournament. Putting on a stellar all-round performance, they delivered precisely that, sweeping past Longwood in a comprehensive 6-0 victory.

Jamestown controlled proceedings with crisp passing moves, scoring three goals either side of halftime. The attack was spearheaded by stellar performances from Lebron George, who claimed Young Player of the Match honours with four goals—including one from the penalty spot—and Lars Williams, who was named Man of the Match after bagging a brace, also converting from the spot.

Longwood certainly posed threats, with Ronan Legg serving as their primary dangerman. However, the Jamestown backline and young goalkeeper Ephrem Stroud held firm under pressure. The match marked the first time this season that Longwood failed to register a goal, largely due to Jamestown's defensive discipline. Longwood were forced to reshuffle their lineup without their usual goalkeeper; veteran midfielder Alistair Buckley admirably donned the gloves for the majority of the match before Delroy Leo stepped in for the final 30 minutes. Buoyed by excellent team spirit, Jamestown celebrated a richly deserved second-place finish.

In the 3.30pm encounter, already-crowned champions Half Tree Hollow capped off an undefeated season in style, putting on a dominant display to defeat St Paul's 9-0.

St Paul's had hoped for an unlikely mathematical miracle—needing to overturn a substantial goal difference against the undefeated league leaders while relying on a Jamestown slip-up against Longwood. Having endured a tough run of one draw and three defeats following their opening-week win, and with Jamestown having already done their job in the first game, St Paul's appeared to lack any spark right from kick-off.

Half Tree Hollow seized complete con-

...continued inside