

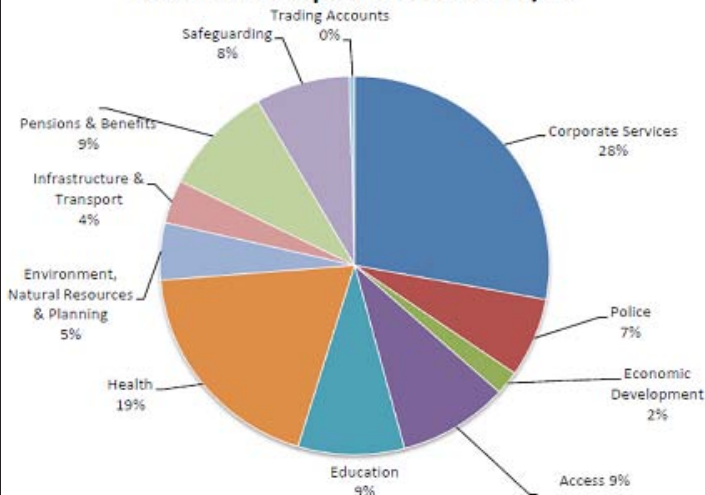
# THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

Est. 2005

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An independent newspaper in association with Saint FM and St Helena Online

**Recurrent Expenditure by Head including Technical Co-operation for 2019/20**



***This is Where Your Money Goes***

responsibility  
reporting  
FINANCES  
**BUDGET**  
planning discipline  
income SPENDING  
obligations  
BALANCED

***Quiet Cruise Ship Visit***



***Unified Saints Expose Some Divides***



***Buy Yourself a St Helena Replica Football Shirt***



## Meeting With Governor Designate

The meet and greet with Dr Philip Rushbrook, Governor designate for St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha attracted around 30 people at The Jury Inn in Swindon on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Prior to the formal introduction Dr Rushbrook and his wife mingled with all present.



Many subjects were discussed about aspirations saints living in the UK had about St Helena. Those present spoke strongly about several topics that affected them directly.

Logistics' about Flights to St Helena, Tourism numbers and the support for locals in the tourism industry, Cost of living and support for more agricultural resources in the private sector, a rather long debate about the health directorate and the processes on St Helena including overseas medical options available to local islanders,

The meeting ended around 1800 with Dr Rushbrook mentioning he was looking forward to his new challenge on St Helena at the beginning of May.

## NEW DENTIST FOR ST HELENA

Lead Dental Officer, Simon Smith, has recently taken up his new post within the Health Directorate on a two-year contract.

Simon has been qualified as a dentist for 31 years and has spent that time working in a General Practice in the UK. For 25 of those years Simon ran his own five- surgery dental practice which had 12,000 registered patients. He also spent ten years working for the Hospital Service helping to provide on-call



## ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER AWARDED CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE & DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

St Helena can claim further success in the Cambridge International Certificate in Educational Leadership course as Head Teacher of St Paul's Primary School, Pat Williams, has passed with a 'Distinction' grade.

All Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications at Certificate Award level are placed on the Higher Education Qualifications Framework (HEQF) at Level 4. This means that the academic and skill demands are equivalent to being on the first year of a university course.

**Pat with Acting Director of Education, Wendy Benjamin (left), and Course Tutor, Julia Drozdowskij**



## NEW DOCTOR FOR HEALTH DIRECTORATE

Obstetrician-Gynaecologist, Dr Valentina Rumyantseva, has recently taken up her new post at the General Hospital.

Dr Valentina has previously worked in a State Hospital in her home city of Moscow in Russia. She has also worked in a large Research Institution, which happens to be a referral centre for obstetric and gynaecological patients for the whole of Russia. Whilst there, Valentina completed her PhD on Post-term Pregnancies and Deliveries.



## SHG UK REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED AS CHAIRPERSON OF UKOTA

St Helena Government's UK Representative, Kedell Worboys MBE, has recently been appointed Chairperson of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) (see photo attached). This means St Helena also holds the Presidency of UKOTA, with the Elected Representative from St Helena set to chair the UKOTA Political Council meeting later this year.

The main work of UKOTA is representing the collective view of the OTs through dialogue and contact with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and through other UK Government Departments; both at official and Ministerial level. UKOTA also engages with other bodies in relation to protecting the critical biodiversity of the OTs, which make up 90% of the UK's biodiversity.

The Chairmanship of the Association rotates each year.



## ST HELENA MAGISTRATES' COURT

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**Ralph Ivan Yon (72) of The Briars**, pleaded guilty during the course of his trial to one charge of Failing to provide a Specimen of Breath. He was dealt with by way of a Financial Penalty of £200.00. He disqualified from driving for a period of 2 years. He was also ordered to pay costs of £50.00



## Cruise Ship Visit

The Cruise Ship Crystal Serenity visited St Helena yesterday. She departed at about 3pm. The vessel is travelling from Walvis Bay and continued it's onward journey to Ascension Island.



Apart from tours around the Island there were not many activities laid on for our visitors but Basil George was around as usual.



## Peculiar Press Release

I have read the press release below about ten times but I can still not understand how SHG assisted the 'Amalia' to restore power to the communication equipment. I am not too bright so maybe somebody can help me and explain.

**Mike**

### "SHG ASSISTS 'AMALIA' FISHING VESSEL

Yesterday, Tuesday 19 March 2019, at 9.30am, the owners of the fishing vessel 'Amalia' informed the St Helena Sea Rescue Service that they had lost all communications with the vessel which was operating on a tuna tagging trip at Bonaparte Sea Mount.

As normal in these circumstances, the Sea Rescue team initiated the pre-agreed SHG emergency response structure to coordinate action and effort.

Under this structure, a 'Silver' multiagency command group was activated by the Police Directorate with Governor Lisa Honan as the Gold Commander to investigate the loss of communication with the Amalia.

At 12.20pm yesterday, communications were re-established with the vessel. The Skipper reported that the vessel had suffered a loss of power to the communications systems but all of the crew on board were safe and well. The vessel has now returned to James Bay.

The Sea Rescue Service would like to thank all parties involved in re-establishing communications with the vessel.

Silver Commander, Mike Miskell, extends thanks to all those involved in preparing a search plan and diverting resources to keep the crew safe. It was reassuring to see how the different agencies, including the new Ship-to-Shore communications unit, worked with members of the community to deal with this concerning loss of communications.

**SHG**

**20 March 2019"**

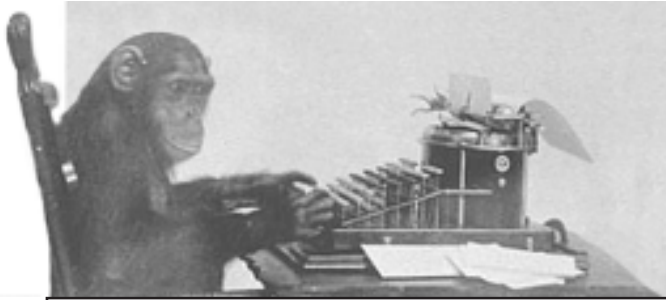
## For Sale



GSXR SUZUKI 600 with full package if interested call Elvis on mobile 65348.







Tel: [+290] 22327  
Email: [independent@helanta.co.sh](mailto:independent@helanta.co.sh)  
[http: www.saint.fm](http://www.saint.fm)

# Editorial

The Unified Saints meeting reminded me more of disunity rather than unity; government officials and councillors on one side and 'the rest' on the other. But right at the end it was announced that Unified Saints have found a new relationship with DFID and SHG and communications are now much better. This is very heartening to know and I hope it continues and develops.

The extent of the distrust or whatever you want to call it, which is often made clear between 'the rest' and councillors I find disheartening but it is the usual relationship between the represented and those who represent them – no matter where in the world you happen to be. The laughter which greeted Corinda Essex when she stated she never lied to constituents revealed much about the way things are in St Helena.

A 2018 opinion poll in the UK puts advertising executives at the bottom of a list of professions you can trust. Politicians in general come second from bottom with just 19% of those polled saying they could be trusted. Government ministers managed a score of 22% and journalists 26%. I blame the Daily Mail for that low score.

Top of the list are nurses (96%) and then doctors with 92% thinking they can be trusted. Teachers, engineers, scientists, judges and the police also came high on the list of the most trusted professions in the UK.

Another poll by the World Economic Forum tells us the people of Singapore think their politicians have the highest ethical standards; Singapore politicians gained a score of 6.4 from a maximum of 7. The UK is ranked 17<sup>th</sup> with the people of Britain giving them a score of 4.8. Bottom of the list of 135 countries is Brazil with a score of 1.3. As usual, St Helena does not feature on the list.

Corinda also said she tells people her views or her assessment of any given situation whether her listener will be pleased with what she says, or not. This reminded me of a noisy night I experienced when I was 'picked on' to go and talk to a group of people who were not happy with having a new Tesco supermarket in their neighbourhood. I was chairman of the planning committee at the time so I suppose I was the logical choice.

The meeting was in an upstairs room of a pub. It was not a large room but there were a lot of people in it. Facilities were non-existent. We all had to stand and I was facing the rest of them about two feet and one inch from those nearest me. The room got sweaty and discussion got heated. It was only a medium size supermarket and the development included road improvements on the approaches to the supermarket, sufficient car parking within the development site and a petrol station handily located at the entrance/exit to the car park.

Tesco sells petrol cheaper most.

I did not tell the disgruntled throng I would consider their views, ask for a review or another damned report. I asked them what they did not like about the road improvements, cheaper petrol and having everything they want to buy in one shop. The disgruntled assembly envisaged massive traffic jams and the Lord knows what else. A cool assessment of the plan by any thinking person would indicate traffic volumes had been accommodated and any disruption would be minimal or non-existent. They just did not want a supermarket; unfortunately that is not a valid objection in the world of planning.

As things 'progressed' I faced a throng of people shouting at me; the intellectual content of their objections diminished by the minute. I find people who 'lose it' and start shouting to be amusing more than anything else and it may be the expression on my face betrayed this. In the end the hot tempered people trudged out of the steamy room in a most unhappy frame of mind.

The last time I thought of this incident was when Governor Gurr would not leave his office to talk to a group of good humoured and very relaxed people assembled outside the Courthouse. They were waiting for him to discuss the prevailing troubles of those times. Instead the governor left by the back door and was taken with a police escort via Castle Terrace, the museum and Shy Road back to Plantation House. I still wonder what was going through his head at the time.

## *John Lennon quote*

When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life.

***Have a happy week, Vince***

**THE ROCK**

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON  
SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019 @ 11:00  
FOR PRAISE AND WORSHIP  
At No 3 Unit Longwood Enterprise  
Park

Transport is available from  
Jamestown, HTH  
Contact 23249

**PRAISE & WORSHIP**

# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Sir,**

A bit of a shame that Governor-designate Dr Rushbrook's pre-arrival research hasn't extended so far as to learn how to pronounce the name of his destination properly. Let's hope that before he turns up in May, somebody kind will have pointed out that it is only people demonstrating their profound ignorance of our island who doggedly refer to "St. Helayna", and -even worse- calling people "St. Helaynians". Not an impressive debut: score so far for attention to detail: 2 out of 10.

**Yours sincerely,  
Jamestown Reader**

**Dear Editor,**

**To whom it may concern.**

**(Head of ENRD, Derek Henry; Head of ANRD, Darren Duncan; Agricultural Development Officer Andrea Timm, ANRD; STH Bio Security, Julie Balchin; Chairman Economic Development Committee, Hon Lawson Henry; Executive Council; The Independent; & The Sentinel;)**

Recently there was an article in the Sentinel referring to St Helena coffee. It is correct that there are only 4 commercial producers of this fine and rare coffee which we have been producing for more than 25 years. During this time we have made every attempt to keep this valuable coffee's pedigree intact.

It would seem unbelievable that someone could be so naive as to suggest that we should import inferior strains of coffee seedlings & trees (and other coffee beans etc;) into St Helena Island. This coffee has been purported to be one of the finest in the world. To degrade and destroy this valuable pedigree of "Green-Tipped Bourbon Yemeni Arabica" coffee by cross-pollination would be absolute madness.

It has maintained its original pedigree ever since 1732 when it was shipped from the Yemen by the honourable East India Company direct to St Helena Is-

land. By being shipped in this way it has been kept from cross-pollination for 287 years. (It is too far for foreign bees from overseas to be able to make the journey from other land masses). We suspect that the person concerned does not understand the principles of cross-pollination and contamination.

We are very lucky to have the original strain of this rare and valuable pedigree and wish to keep it that way. We do not want for anybody **"to kill the goose that laid the golden egg"**.

We firmly suggest that our Councillors should require SHG to implement a total ban, in law, on any importation of coffee plants or other related products etc; to this island. (Similar to the honey controls) Also **any persons coming to St Helena**, who have visited coffee plantations in countries where virulent coffee diseases are known to have affected crops, **must declare this to Biosecurity on arrival. (For example coffee rust etc;)**

Yours sincerely, in anticipation of a positive reply,

**Mr/s Bill Bolton, (Rosemary Hall).  
Mr Brian Beard, (Beardsville).  
Mr Stephen Biggs & Miss Maureen Jonas, (Farm Lodge).  
Miss Mandy Peters, (Solomons).**

Addendum: Mr & Mrs Axel Oberem agree with the above and have recently started growing St Helena coffee on the island from local seed.

**Dear Editor,**

I read with great disappointment the letter submitted by Elaine Benjamin on page

3 of last week's Sentinel (Vol7 issue 49), particularly the last paragraph which in my view defames the victims and discredits the integrity of the jury and the judicial system as a whole. Such a letter should have been subject to editorial discretion and should have been moderated accordingly, and as a consequence the Sentinel has in my opinion equally defamed these women and could be liable for a claim of defamation.

Whilst Elaine Benjamin might have submitted the letter in her personal capacity, I realise that she is also the head teacher of Pilling Primary School (a public school owned by the SHG). It is disconcerting that a person with such a pivotal role in the community has such a view, and would think it acceptable to publically exhibit them.

The last paragraph shows a complete lack of judgment and is a blatant example of victim blaming. Miss Benjamin has given little regard to the people affected in this matter, or to others who have been victims of sexual abuse. I think such comments has seriously called into question Miss Benjamin's ability to safeguard students entrusted in her care.

St Helena has made significant progress in recent years in bringing Sexual Offences to the courts. This progress would not have been possible without the sheer bravery of victims who are empowered to speak about the crimes that have been committed against them, because they now know that they will be believed.

I sincerely hope the lack of judgement of the Sentinel and indeed Miss Benjamin has not undermined this progress.

**Liza**



**W.A.Thorpe & Sons Ltd would like to  
inform their customers that the  
Grocery shop will be closed on  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March for stock taking.**



# Unified Saints expose some divides

The meeting organised by Unified Saints at Jamestown Community Centre on Monday attracted about 150 people. Eight topics were listed for discussion and the talking lasted for more than two-and-a-half hours. The Governor and Councillors were available to answer questions along with some senior government officers. The evening's discussion was within reasonable bounds by the chairmanship skills displayed by Nicola Essex.

The first topic for discussion concerned the outcome of the independent review of the MOU; the agreement reached between DFID and SHG before the go-ahead was given for the airport project. The issues involved were explained but were based on the processes involved and the administrative aspects rather than the results. As it happens there are no outcomes yet. A report is with councillors now and they will start talking about it in about two weeks. Pressed to give a time when a final result will be achieved, the answer given was "in about six weeks". We'll see.

Increasing freight rates was the next item for discussion. Statistics tell us the number of tourists arriving after one year of airport operation is, according to projections, on target. The starting position on this subject is that DFID have provided the airport and the number of tourists arriving is what was expected and as the MOU tells us, in return for the airport and tourists St Helena pays the full cost for cargo shipments. Apart from that the DFID subsidy to April 2020



has been signed and sealed so nothing can happen, if anything can, until 2021. The shipping contract with AW Shipping runs to 2022. Another report which is due sometime soon is about whether 30,000 tourists arriving here about 20 years time remains a possibility.

The recurring theme in the responses from the councillors and officers was this or that is under review or awaiting a report. Requests from the floor would be considered, but no indication given that they would be supported. The questions and requests from the floor were very nearly all entirely reasonable. One request was for the driving licence to be issued as a smart little plastic thing instead of the tatty old bit of cardboard that is handed out now and probably has been since the first motor car settled its

suspension on Jamestown Wharf. As you have probably worked out, a switch to a smart little plastic thing will be on the list for consideration. Biodegradable plastic please!

Efficiencies and savings within SHG and progress on the review of the Social Security Ordinance were next on the list for discussion. The usual discussion on the household income assessment for social security benefits ran its course and "work will take place" on looking again for cost cutting measures within government. Despite the agenda being advertised well in advance there was no individual among the leaders of society who offered a considered opinion on a way forward; a possible way to make improvements. Everything always under consideration, under review, subject to further discussion; no commitment to anything by anyone until all the groundwork has been fully prepared and broad support for the final decision has been achieved.

The next area of discussion was income tax and tax free incentives. Tax free incentives meant a longish discussion on the perks offered to technical consultants and the difference in the pay between government employees on short term contracts and the resident population. This is one divide which seems very difficult to bridge. Perceptions and understandings are entrenched.

On the subject of income tax personal





# Unified Saints expose some divides

allowance being stuck at £7,000 for more years than anyone cares to remember the official response was that to raise it to, say, £8000 means the extra amount free of tax would need to be regained by a higher tax on something else. Simple really? But is it? In the UK the personal tax allowance for 2010-11 was £6,475. For the new financial year, 2019-20, it will be £12,500 – almost doubled. Once more, something which is routine elsewhere is impossible in St Helena. One more review required?

Another divide ripped through the community centre when Cllr Corinda Essex underlined a point she made by stating she had never lied to constituents on any government matter of any sort. And, she said, as far as she was aware none of her colleagues had either. The laughter this statement raised was deafening and saddening. In the Capital Programme we need funding to build a few bridges between councillors and the people they represent.

In the closing remarks a Unified Saints



representative said that when Unified Saints started to build a relationship with DFID and SHG the attempts at meaningful discussion got off to a bad start. However, just in the last few weeks communication has improved enormously

with both DFID and SHG. The people in the Jamestown Community Centre at 11pm last Monday night were invited to join Unified Saints on what was clearly seen as a new path, a new direction. Perhaps the bridge building has started?

## Pemba the turtle: a year at sea and coming this way

The fortunes of Pemba, an Olive Ridley turtle, have been closely followed by the South African media since she was released back to the ocean in March last year. Found in distress, floating in Table Bay Harbour in 2014, Pemba has been care for at the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town and later the uShaka Sea World in Durban. The cut in her shell (probably from a boat's propeller) has healed and unwanted air in one of the body cavities was eventually released. The unwanted air prevented Pemba from diving for food.



**Pemba, complete with satellite tag**



**Pemba satellite tracking chart. Graphic by Saambr**

Pemba was released on the east coast of South Africa and immediately took advantage of the Agulhas current to head towards the Cape of Good Hope and the location where she was rescued four years earlier.

The South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) tagged Pemba with a satellite tracker and has been checking on her progress since her release. She is now about 250km south of St Helena but probably heading for Brazil which is one of the few nesting locations for Olive Ridley turtles. Pemba has spent time in Angolan and Namibian waters where she probably spent a lot of time feeding over the Walvis Ridge.

## EXCO REPORT - MONDAY 18 MARCH 2019

Executive Council met today to discuss the Appropriation Bill, 2019.

Council approved the Appropriation Bill 2019, which provides for public services for the financial year 2019/20, to stand as Government business during the Budget Session at the next formal meeting of Legislative Council to be held on Monday, 25 March 2019.

The Budget Session will commence with the Budget Speech by the Financial Secretary. The Motion will be adjourned until Thursday, 28 March 2019, when Legislative Council will respond to the Financial Secretary's speech and debate the proposed Budget.

The Budget proposes public expenditure of £46.056 million, an increase in public spending by £5.29 million (14.5%) over this current financial year.

The core Financial Aid package from DFID has increased by £1.19 million to £28.29 million. In addition, for the next financial year SHG has adopted the St Helena Airport operational costs - a total estimated spend of £3.5 million - into the recurrent budget which has previously been funded by DFID through Airport Project funding.

With the increase in DFID Financial Aid planned for next year this means that DFID's contribution to the recurrent budget of SHG is now 69%.

The Government Budget is proposed to be funded as follows:

- Customs revenue of £6.0 million
- Income Tax revenue of £5.1 million
- DFID Financial Aid of up to £31.8 million
- Other local revenue of £2.8 million
- FCO CSSF funding support of up to £0.3 million

### Key elements of the Budget

The proposed Budget will see an increase in funding for Emergency Services of £258,000. The establishment of the new Contact Support Centre accounts for a significant proportion of this additional funding. However, there are proposed increases in budgets for the Fire & Rescue, Immigration and

Sea Rescue Services.

An increase is also proposed for Corporate Finance of £310,000 mainly under Payments on behalf of the Crown for an increase in subsidy for the St Helena Fisheries Corporation of up to £350,000 for the financial year and for a subsidy for St Helena Hotel Development Ltd for the running costs of the SHG owned Mantis St Helena Hotel of up to £200,000.

The proposed Budget will see an overall reduction in the recurrent budget for Health of £128,000. Having undertaken a review of spending on overseas medical treatment and the aero-medical evacuation budgets in this financial year and based on current trend and analysis, it is proposed to reduce the aero-medical evacuation budget by £300,000 and overseas medical treatment budget by £200,000. However, this has been countered by a proposed increase in the Health core budget for the year.

A substantial structure change included within the proposed Budget this year is the split of the Environment & Natural Resources Directorate into two separate Directorates - Environment, Natural Resources & Planning and Infrastructure & Transport. A new Head of Expenditure has also been created entitled Access and will cover the costs associated with the transportation of cargo from Rupert's to Jamestown, the operational costs of St Helena Airport and the Airport Contracts Management Unit.

The Budget for Income Related Benefits and Basic Island Pension (BIP) is proposed to increase by £204,000 recognising the projected rate of inflation over the coming year and the projected increase in the number of people becoming eligible for BIP.

Further details of what is included in the proposed Government Budget for the financial year 2019/20 can be found in the Annual Estimates 2019/20 which will shortly be available on the SHG website at: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/finance/>

**ExCo**

**18 March 2019**

**(Also see pages 9 and 10)**

## THANK YOU

St James Parish Council, would like to thank Ivy Yon (Wellingtons), Tracy Corker, Thorpe's, Rose & Crown, Options, Gary Stevens, Jane Sim, Mantis Hotel, Scouts, Queen Mary Store, Colin Peters and the many helpers who gave their support, for their contribution to the "Pancake Race" event, which took place in Main Street on Shrove Tuesday.

The sum of £566.47 was raised and the Council would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who joined in and supported this traditional afternoon event.





## Government gets £5,290,000 more for next financial year

Discussions between DFID and SHG appear to have run more smoothly this year as the government's recurrent budget for the new financial year starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April will be presented to Legislative Council on Monday. The new budget arrangements, known as the Appropriation Bill 2019 was approved by Executive Council on Monday of this week.

The total government budget for the financial year just ending, £40.776 million, is increased to £46.056 million for 2019-20; an increase of £5.29 million. All government directorates apart from Health will see a budget increase ranging from 0.2% to 5.4%. The latest inflation figure issued by the government statistics office is 4.7%. The directorate budget increases mean Safeguarding together with Pensions and Benefits are able to keep abreast of current price increases but Education and Employment, with a budget increase of 0.2% falls behind inflation and will need to make savings to balance the books.

Next year's budget is funded by DFID with £31.8 million, £300,000 from Foreign and Commonwealth Office funds and the rest, almost £14 million, from Island taxes, import duties, fines, fees, rents and other charges.



A review of the current requirements for overseas medical treatment and evacuations has led to a £500,000 reduction in the money reserved for sending patients overseas. £372,000 of that money has been transferred to other budgets within the Health Directorate leaving an overall reduction in the Health budget of £128,000.

Much of the £5.29 million increase goes to airport operation and management costs which have now been transferred from DFID to SHG. £4,212,000 has been allocated to a new Access budget to pay airport costs and for the ferrying of cargo from Rupert's wharf to the Jamestown cranes. The budgeted cost of this cargo shuffle was put at £500,000 for the year just ending. Another big change is the Contact Support Centre which is needed as the government is taking over the ship-to-shore radio communication from Sure. The amount allocated for providing this service has not yet been publicly specified.

More subsidies for St Helena Fisheries Corporation and St Helena Hotel Development Ltd will take £370,000 in addition to the £180,000 for St Helena Fisheries voted through by councillors last year. Also benefitting from extra cash is the Emergency Services and Immigration. An increase of £258,000 is mentioned in a government press release but who gets what and why is not yet officially explained.

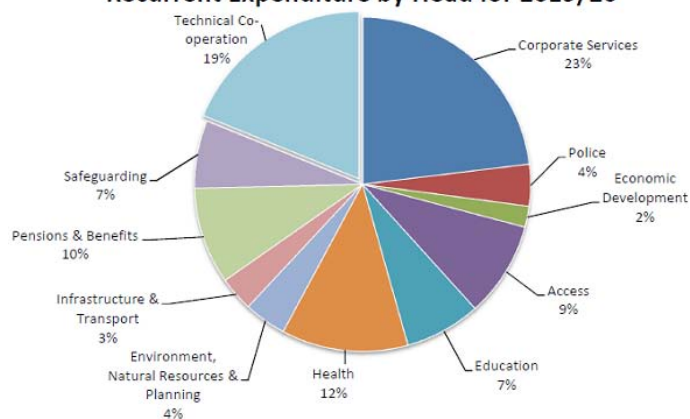
Another big change is splitting the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate into two directorates. The new Infrastructure and Transport Directorate will take responsibility

for roads maintenance and bus services with a £1,530,000 budget. As a result, the slimmed down Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Directorate will have a £1,867,000 budget from 1<sup>st</sup> April, a reduction from £3,392,000 this year. Infrastructure and Transport and Environment, Natural Resources and Planning share a £5,000 budget increase compared with the undivided Environment and Natural Resources budget for the year just ending.

Overall it seems clear that DFID retain a tight hold on St Helena government expenditure as all the increase is allocated to further subsidies and funding for transferred responsibilities. The estimated government revenue which is needed to pay for the £46,056 million expenditure includes an increase in DFID Aid of £1,190,000 compared with this year.

The budget presented to Legislative Council on Monday will not include a Capital Programme. For the third year running funding for public investment in public infrastructure is not present. It is anticipated, and hoped, a decision will be reached on a new Capital Programme in the coming weeks. The Capital programme for 2015-16 amounted to more than £7million.

**Recurrent Expenditure by Head for 2019/20**



### ADVERTISEMENT OF SHARES FOR SALE BY SEALED BID IN THE ESTATE OF OLIVE ROWENA COKER

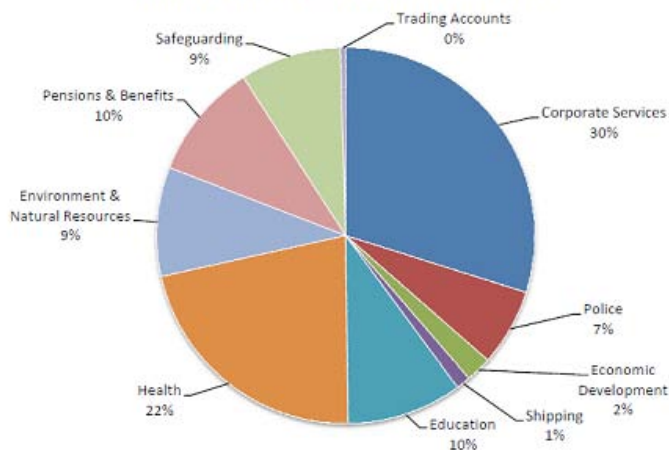
Notice is hereby given that the Executor of the estate of the late Olive Rowena Coker will sell through the acceptance of sealed bids 800 Solomon & Company (St Helena) Ltd £1 ordinary shares.

Offers should be made in writing in a sealed envelope and should be received by the Public Solicitor Office, The Fort, Ladder Hill no later than 4pm on Friday 29 March 2019. The sealed bid envelopes should be clearly marked 'Solomon Shares Offer – DO NOT OPEN' and addressed to Helen Scott.

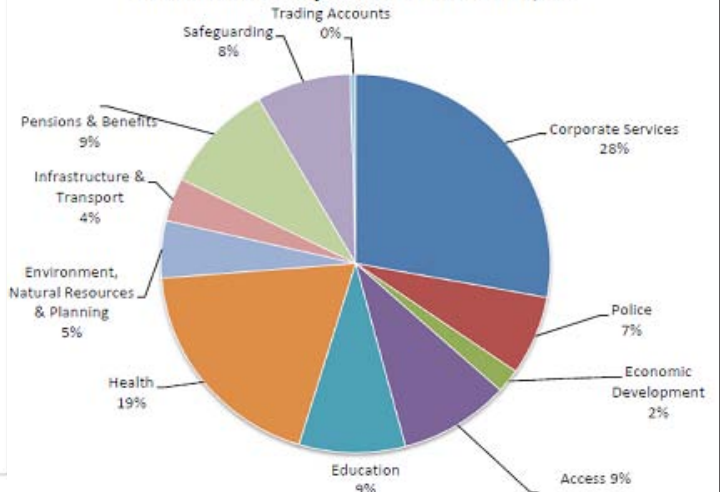
The reserve is set at £800. Payment is to be made in full within 10 days of the notification of acceptance of the bid.

## The share of the pie

**Recurrent Expenditure by Head including Technical Co-operation for 2018/19**



**Recurrent Expenditure by Head including Technical Co-operation for 2019/20**



These two pie charts are copied from SHG Budget Books. They cannot be compared like for like because the way budgets are set up frequently change. The changes in percentage shares for each area of spending does not indicate the actual amount of cash allocated has changed to the same extent. A newcomer to the 2019-20 pie is 'Access' which is mainly the cost of having an airport together with the cost of not having cargo facilities at Rupert's. Access is expected to take 9 pence in every £1 paid in taxes, import duty and DFID aid. Historically the cost of Access to St Helena residents is more than that. We used to have a £5 million subsidy for the cost of running the RMS; the access subsidy was taken away and the cost of access replaced it.

The share of the budget spent by the Police remains at 7%

despite an increase in their budget for emergency and immigration services. Safeguarding has a 1% reduction in its share and Pensions and Benefits share reduces by the same amount. Health drops by 3% and Education by 1%. Technical Co-operation (TC) shown in the heading means, mainly, the cost of providing professional and specialist advice. The total of cost of TC is £8.6million and has increased by £300,000 from 2018-19 to 2019-20. The cost of TC is included in the different budgets according to the cost of TC bought in by the different directorates. Overall, the front-line government services have just about held their position and kept their share of the money available despite extra costs to government such as the airport and ship to shore communications.

## NEW FIRE APPLIANCE FOR ST HELENA FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

A new custom made quick response fire appliance is currently being built for the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service (SHF&RS). This new appliance, along with the large fire appliance purchased in 2018, replaces two current 6X6 land rovers that are no longer considered fit for purpose, due to constant mechanical failures and general wear and tear.

The new appliance is based on the Toyota land cruiser 6x6 MRV, as designed and manufactured by Marce in South Africa.

Brigade Manager, Alan Thomas, and Vehicle Fleet Manager, Nicholas George, have been in detailed design discussions with engineers from Marce agreeing specifications. The chassis has now been delivered and it is hoped that the vehicle will go into full production shortly for completion later this year. It will then undergo full trials by the SHF&RS and Transport Division prior to being shipped to St Helena.

In 2018, a review was carried out on the SHF&RS emergency response capabilities and operational resilience, based on Island-wide requirements. As a result, it was decided that a large fire appliance and a quick response unit, which would be smaller and more versatile, would be needed.

Following a detailed desktop market study, representatives

from both the SHF&RS and Transport Division undertook site visits to selected fire stations and factories in the UK and South Africa in order to explore and discuss various options of suitable replacement fire tenders for St Helena.

As a direct result, a 4x4 2300L MAN water ladder was purchased for the large vehicle and is currently in operation today and the preferred choice for the quick response unit was the Toyota Landcruiser 6x6 MRV as designed and manufactured by Marce in South Africa.

**SHG**

**18 March 2019**



**Toyota Land Cruiser 6x6 before conversion**





# THE CONSTITUENT

C Leo (LegCo)



Unified Saints gave the Governor, SHG officers and members of the Legislative Council the opportunity to meet with members of the electorate on Monday 18 March at the Jamestown Community Centre. The turnout from the public was exceptional. In the interests of further unifying and informing Saints, hopefully Unified Saints will consider holding additional meetings at other locations throughout the island.

Unlike the very first public meeting whereby Unified Saints invited elected members to attend, the meeting was controlled throughout and I would like to commend Miss Nicola Essex of Unified Saints who chaired this meeting. If St Helena is to make positive and constructive progress, going forward orderly public meetings will be absolutely essential to the process.

The meeting gave me the opportunity to provide some details on the work of the Social Security Review Working Group (SSRWG). The Group started the work in May 2018. The Social & Community Development Committee (SCDC) gave the SSRWG the mandate to carry out the work. The work is expected to conclude in June 2019.

The Group meets once a month and consists of the following members: Councillor Hercules, Government Economist – Nicole Shamier, Director of Safeguarding – Tracy Poole-Nandy, Assistant Director of Safeguarding – Victoria Kellett, Deputy Financial Secretary – Nicholas Yon, Head of Finance Services – Connie Stevens, Claims Manager – Anthony Hopkins, Executive Assistant at Corporate Services – Nicole Plato and I also serve on the group as chairman.

To support the ongoing work, we have called on expert input from the SHG Statistician, the Public Health, the Prison probation officers, the Human Rights Commission and from the Attorney General's Chambers.

Further expert support is obtained from the findings and recommendations of the Social Welfare Review carried out by Roy Sainsbury in 2013.

The work is complex; indeed in 2010 & 2011 the Social Security legislation was passed to help the vulnerable people of St Helena, unfortunately, it turned out that some of the legislation simply hurt many of our vulnerable people.

It is therefore important that the SSRWG be as diligent as we possibly can be with what we have been tasked to do. So the work is still ongoing and I will name some of the items the SSRWG is working on:

- 1) Review of the: Social Security Ordinance, the Social Security Regulations and the Social Security Policies.
- 2) Highlight current problems & issues with the Social Security systems
- 3) Ascertain the effectiveness of the current Social Security systems
- 4) Identify Groups within the community who needs social welfare assistance
- 5) Identify Social Security Policy Aims for those groups
- 6) Income Related Benefits (IRB)
- 7) The Basic Island Pension (BIP)
- 8) BIP in relation to IRB
- 9) BIP – Qualifying Years and entitlement
- 10) BIP – Adjustments and definitions

- 11) Minimum Income Standard (MIS)- Calculations of the basket
- 12) The Poverty Line and the Housing Benefit
- 13) Unemployment Benefits, the unemployment policy, and the unemployment form to determine the medical evaluation process. And a 3 day Community Working Scheme.
- 14) The Better Life Allowance Policy, the Home Care Policy and the Carers Allowance Policy.
- 15) The Child Benefit Allowance, the SCDC Emergency Fund, Guardians Allowance and Fostering Assistance

As I said, the work is ongoing, some costings are being done, and therefore you will appreciate that I have an obligation to report back to the Social & Community Development Committee in the first instance. Therefore it would be irresponsible of me as the chairman of the working group to give the public a running commentary of the work as it is being progressed.

However, according to a request from the Unified Saints, constituents would like to have an update on the Household aspect of the Ordinance. With the approval of the Chairman of the SCDC I am able to inform constituents of the following: As a result of the serious concerns relating to the negative impact the Social Security legislation is having on our vulnerable people due to the current definition of the Household, the Committee has therefore asked the SSRWG to give priority to the work on the Household issues and provide recommendations for consideration and possible correction ASAP.

<b>Minimum Income Standard (MIS)</b>	£69 (Without housing benefit)
<b>Income Related Benefits (IRB)</b>	£69 Currently 136 households receive IRB
<b>Basic Island Pension (BIP)</b>	£71.30 Currently 755 people are in receipt of BIP. <b>Note: The benefit is supported by the Social Security Ordinance which is designed to assist the vulnerable people within our society.</b>
<b>Minimum Wage</b>	Currently £3.05 and will increase from 1 April to £3.13 for employees of 18 Years and from £2.10 to £2.18 for all young persons aged 16 and 17 years old (agreed in December 2018 that these changes would take place from 1 April 2019).
<b>Better Life Allowance (BLA) or Disability Allowance</b>	Severe - £60.00 High - £35.00 Moderate - £15.00 Low - £11.53
<b>Unemployment Allowance (UA)</b>	Single - £15.08 Couples - £30.16
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	SHAPE £30.52
<b>Full Time Home Carer</b>	£80.50 a week. (35 hr for 5 day week - £2.30 per hour)
<b>Poverty Line</b>	88.98 per week including £20 for housing.

## 2018/19 Agriculture Programme

Enterprise St Helena

### Farm to Fork - Supply Local, Buy Local Celebrating Local Ingredients & Local Dishes Chef of the Year & Street-food Chef of the Year Competitions

The 2018/19 Agriculture Programme Working Group and Hospitality Upskilling co-hosted the Chef of the Year Competition last Saturday at Prince Andrew School. This competition was open to anyone over the age of 18.

The competition was tight and the judges had a difficult time to decide the winners from the delicious meals created by all participants.

The Chef of the Year competition was judged by Councillor Christine Scipio and Mike Harper. The contestants had to produce a dish with premium tuna utilising ingredients from the larder table and a dessert that incorporated crème caramel.

The winners were:

Gold medal from Craft Guild of Chefs - Mylyn Watson (owner of Mylyn's Cuisine), winning a set of Tsuki chef knives

Silver medal from Craft Guild of Chefs - Jason Hopkins (works at Mantis St Helena), winning a set of Sabatier chef knives

Bronze medal from Craft Guild of Chefs - Shay Johnson (works at Bertrand's Cottage), winning Tzuki Cleaver set of knives

The Street-food Chef of the Year competition were judged by Her Excellency The Governor, Lisa Honan, Councillor Buckley and Julia Benjamin. The contestants had to produce their signature dish plus a healthy option dish.

The winners were:

Gold medal from Craft Guild of Chefs - Keanan Bailey and Elvis Hercules (works at Bertrand's Cottage), winning a set of Tsuki chef knives

Silver medal from Craft Guild of Chefs - Mark George & Lisa Benjamin (owners of Snack Shack), winning a set of Sabatier chef knives

#### Well done to all the winners!

A special word of thanks to the judges for offering up their time to assist with the judging.



For more information please  
contact Delia Du Preez on 22920  
or email [delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh](mailto:delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh)

Enabling Tourism and Economic Growth

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Tourism: [www.sthelenatourism.com](http://www.sthelenatourism.com)





**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

[www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)

## BANK CLOSURE

Bank of St Helena would like to advise customers that the St Helena and Ascension branches will be closed on **Monday, 01 April 2019**. This closure is necessary to enable the Bank to complete its End of Financial Year procedures.

On Tuesday, 02 April 2019 the Main Branch in Jamestown will open from 09:30 to 15:00; the Ascension branch will open at 08:45. Normal opening times, for both branches, will resume as of **Wednesday, 03 April 2019**.

Bank of St Helena would like to thank customers for their support and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STL 1ZZ**

T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. [info@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:info@sainthelenabank.com) · web [www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)

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



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has an exciting opportunity for a

## Building Services Manager

To lead the Building Works Team

As Building Services Manager, you will:

- Manage all aspects of construction projects and be responsible for the delivery of all the elements of the Building Services department
  - Undertake Risk Assessments and compile method statements, as necessary
- Manage all staff assigned to construction projects ensuring that the jobs are carried out in a safe and cost effective manner.
  - Set expectation and deliver on quality standards and customer service standard

*Further information is contained on the Job Description*

Interested Persons Should:

- ✓ Demonstrate good managerial and technical skills
- ✓ Be self-motivated, organized and innovative and able to lead a team
- ✓ Ideally have a relevant industry qualification or a proven track record of working in a similar environment for a minimum of 5 years
- ✓ Have a valid Driver's licence

*Further details contained in job description which can be downloaded from our website or Facebook page*

Salary for the post will start at **£16,800** per annum (£1,400 per month), depending on qualifications and experience

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Ian Gough, General Manager (Services & Properties) on telephone number: 22380 or via email address: [GM-Services.Properties@solomons.co.sh](mailto:GM-Services.Properties@solomons.co.sh)

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via e-mail address: [hadmin@solomons.co.sh](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and should be completed and returned to Nicola Essex, Human Resources Manager, Solomons Office, Jamestown, **By 5 April 2019**



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc  
has a vacancy for a

# Supervisor

Within the DIY Store

## Job Outline

To carry out the day to day Supervision of the DIY Store and to deputise for the Manager and other Supervisors in their absence.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have knowledge in Customer Service, Cash Handling & Security
  - Be literate in Maths, English & IT
- Have good leadership skills and Supervisory experience
  - Have some knowledge in Stock Management

Salary for the post will start at **£745.71** per month (£8,948.52 per annum)

For further information,  
including the Company's  
attractive benefits package,  
please contact  
Colin Bargo,  
DIY Store Manager  
on telephone number: 22104  
or via email address:  
diy@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected  
from Solomons Reception Desk, in the  
Main Office Building, Jamestown or  
alternatively an electronic copy can be  
requested via e-mail address:  
hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should be  
completed and returned to Nicola  
Essex, Human Resources Manager,  
Solomons Office, Jamestown,  
by 4 April 2019.



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc  
Has a vacancy for a

# Supervisor

Within the Half Tree Hollow Supermarket

## Job Outline

To ensure that the shop floor is managed efficiently and effectively, and that customers receive the best standard of service possible.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have knowledge in Customer Service & Security
  - Be literate in Maths, English & IT
- Have knowledge & experience in Food Handling
- Have knowledge & experience in Cash Handling
- Have good leadership skills and Supervisory experience
  - Have some knowledge in Stock Management

Salary for the post will be **£745.71** per month (£8948.52 per annum)

For further information,  
including the Company's  
attractive benefits package,  
please contact  
Marilyn Joshua,  
Grocery Manager  
(HTH & Silver Hill Shop)  
on telephone number: 23559  
or via email address:  
hth-manager@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected  
from Solomons Reception Desk, in the  
Main Office Building, Jamestown or  
alternatively an electronic copy can  
be requested via e-mail address:  
hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should  
be completed and returned to Nicola  
Essex, Human Resources Manager,  
Solomons Office, Jamestown,  
by 5 April 2019



## VACANCY FOR TRAINEE ROCK GUARD

The Environment and Natural Resources Directorate has an opportunity for someone who is looking to start or change their career to work in the Rockfall Section as a Trainee Rock Guard.

The successful candidate will be required to be available for on-call duties, to assist with mountain rescue operations, have a valid drivers' licence in Classes A, B and C and have an awareness of Health and Safety techniques.

Candidates will be required to undertake an assessment to determine their physical fitness and ability to work from heights. The successful candidate will be trained in current international abseiling and rope techniques, hillside inspections and will have the opportunity to obtain a certificate for safe working from ropes.

The salary for this post is at Grade B7 which is £7,730 per annum.

If you are interested in finding out more about this post please speak with the Maintenance Supervisor, Mr Darin Francis or e-mail [roads.supervisor2@helanta.co.sh](mailto:roads.supervisor2@helanta.co.sh)

Application forms and Job Profiles are available from the Maintenance Supervisor or from Receptionist at Essex House. Completed application forms should be submitted to the Human Resources Manager, Essex House or email [karenthomas@enrd.gov.sh](mailto:karenthomas@enrd.gov.sh) by no later than Tuesday 26th March 2019.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical declaration and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

**Derek Henry**  
**Director, Environment and Natural Resources**  
**11 March 2019**



Units available  
at the  
Jamestown Market  
&  
ESH Business Park,  
Ladder Hill

Enterprise St Helena

Enterprise St Helena (ESH) have units available for rent to local entrepreneurs for non-industrial / clean business at the Jamestown Market & ESH Business Park, Ladder Hill.

Applications should be submitted to Emma Peters, Receptionist/Administration Support, in the form of an extended business brief detailing your planned business and intended opening hours with a 3 year cash flow via email [emma.peters@esh.co.sh](mailto:emma.peters@esh.co.sh) or in hard copy to the Enterprise St Helena Office, ESH Business Park by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Monday 25th March 2019.

Terms and Conditions apply.



**For further information please contact: Michielle Yon,**  
**Director of Resources**

**on 22920 or email: [michielle.yon@esh.co.sh](mailto:michielle.yon@esh.co.sh)**

Enabling Tourism and Economic Growth

Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: [info@esh.co.sh](mailto:info@esh.co.sh)



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**Vacancy  
Human Resources  
and Administration  
Manager**



Enterprise St Helena is seeking to employ a suitably qualified and experienced individual to work within the Human Resources department. Reporting to the Director of Resources, the successful candidate will be responsible for managing all human resource related activities. Ensuring that the overall administration, coordination, and evaluation of human resources plans and programmes are realised.

The successful applicant must:

- Hold a CIPD qualification or working toward one.
- Have at least 5 years' of proven HR generalist experience.
- Have excellent decision-making, strategic thinking, leadership, interpersonal and ethical conduct skills.

A copy of the Terms of Reference and an application form can be obtained via email or collected from the Enterprise St Helena Office at Ladder Hill Business Park. Completed application forms should be submitted to the Director of Resources, Enterprise St Helena, Ladder Hill Business Park by no later than close of business Friday 29th March 2019.



For further information please contact: Marilyn Caswell on telephone number 22920 or email  
**Marilyn.Caswell@esh.co.sh**

Enabling Tourism and Economic Growth

Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: [info@esh.co.sh](mailto:info@esh.co.sh)



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**Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc**  
has a vacancy for a

# Trainee Underwriter

Within the St Helena Insurance Cell Captive

## Job Outline

To assist in the day-to-day operations of the department and to provide an efficient service to both external customers and the St Helena Insurance Agency

## Interested Persons Should:

- Have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English
  - Be computer literate
  - Have good Customer Service skills
- Have some knowledge and experience with administrative duties

Salary will start at **£644.68** per month, \$7,736.16 per annum

For further information,  
including the Company's  
attractive benefits package,  
please contact  
Mervyn Henry,  
Underwriter

on telephone number: 22682  
or via email address:  
[mervynh@solomons.co.sh](mailto:mervynh@solomons.co.sh)

Application forms may be  
collected from Solomons Reception  
Desk, in the Main Office Building,  
Jamestown or alternatively an  
electronic copy can be requested  
via e-mail address:  
[hadmin@solomons.co.sh](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and  
should be completed and returned  
to Nicola Essex, Human Resources  
Manager,  
Solomons Office, Jamestown,  
By 26 March 2019





## Enterprise St Helena Board of Directors' Meeting



A meeting of the Enterprise St Helena Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday 27 March 2019 at 9:00am at the Head Office of Enterprise St Helena, Ladder Hill Business Park.

Specific items that will be discussed which are open to the public:

- Draft Budgets for 2019/2020;
- Tourism Strategy 2019/2020 update;
- Support to Recycling Initiative Proposal;
- Human Resource & Finance Policy updates;
- Governance Document updates;
- Subcommittee updates.



A copy of the Agenda and Papers open to public can be obtained from the Board Secretary via email: [natasha.bargo@esh.co.sh](mailto:natasha.bargo@esh.co.sh) or alternatively from the ESH website: [www.investinsthelena.com](http://www.investinsthelena.com)

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### Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

Main Street, Jamestown, Island of St Helena, STHL 1ZZ  
Tel: 290 22380, Fax: 290 22423, Email: [generalenquiries@solomons.co.sh](mailto:generalenquiries@solomons.co.sh)  
Web: [www.solomons-sthelena.com](http://www.solomons-sthelena.com)

Prosperity Through Partnership

## CUSTOMER NOTICE

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc  
wishes to advise customers  
that their Butchery  
**will be closed**  
for essential maintenance  
from **Monday 25 March 2019.**

Sale of fresh meat  
will resume  
on **Tuesday 9 April 2019.**

Solomons would like to  
take this opportunity  
to thank you  
for your continued custom.

Registered Office: Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU, England  
Registered in England and Wales, Reg No. 496276



### Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

Main Street, Jamestown, Island of St Helena, STHL 1ZZ  
Tel: 290 22380, Fax: 290 22423, Email: [generalenquiries@solomons.co.sh](mailto:generalenquiries@solomons.co.sh)  
Web: [www.solomons-sthelena.com](http://www.solomons-sthelena.com)

Prosperity Through Partnership

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc,  
wishes to advise the public that following  
the recent advert to tender for plots avail-  
able for sale at Sea View within Parcel  
No AF0288, Registration Section Alarm  
Forest, PLOT 3 has since been withdrawn  
from the offer.

In the light of the amendment, the clos-  
ing date for submission of tenders has  
been extended to Friday, 12 April 2019.

The date for the viewing, 29 March 2019  
at 10am remains.

Any inconvenience caused is very much  
regretted.

**19 March 2019**

## VACANCY FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS TEACHER

The Education & Employment Directorate is seeking to employ suitably a qualified learning needs teacher. The successful applicant will take responsibility for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs across all schools and will support children receiving Alternative Education Provision.

Applicants must have qualified teaching status and recent experience in teaching would be advantageous. The ideal candidate must be self motivated and have good interpersonal skills. Salary for the post is based on qualifications. The salary band for teachers on the Directorate's Scheme of Service ranges from £10,550 - £18,114 per annum. Opportunities are available for career progression.

For further details regarding this post, interested persons should contact Miss Lolly Young, Head of Inclusion, on telephone number 22706 or e-mail [lolly.young@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:lolly.young@sainthelena.gov.sh). Application forms which are available from Education & Employment Directorate and Corporate Human Resources should be completed and submitted, through Directors where applicable, to the Human Resources Officer at the Education Learning Centre or e-mail [Gillian.lithgow@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:Gillian.lithgow@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm, on Wednesday 3 April 2019.

*SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.*

**Mrs. Wendy Benjamin**

**Acting Director of Education & Employment**

**21 March 2019**



## TIP OF THE WEEK

Select the proper  
pan size for  
cooking.

Large pans require  
more cooking water  
than necessary.

# Tax Timeline

15 March 2019

## ARE YOU AN EMPLOYER OR AN EMPLOYEE?

### Dates for your Diary

#### 30 April 2019

Final date for **EMPLOYERS** to submit P7 Form (Employer End of Year Return, [2018/2019] ) to Executive Officer, PAYE, Income Tax Office. See below for email addresses

#### 30 April 2019

Final date for **EMPLOYERS** to issue a P5 or P60 (Employee Certificate of Earnings & Tax Deducted for the year 2018/2019) to every employee.

#### 31 July 2019

### FINAL DATE TO SUBMIT A TAX RETURN

By 30 April 2019, all **EMPLOYEES** should have received a certificate of earnings for the year 2018/2019 from their employer.

If you feel you have paid too much tax or you have additional income to declare then you must submit a Tax Return by the 31 July 2019 as after this date you will have no further right to file.

If you are unsure if you should complete a Tax Return, please contact us or should you require a Tax Return visit [www.sainthelena.gov.sh](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh)

### Income Tax Office Contacts

Email:

[gillian.knipe@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gillian.knipe@sainthelena.gov.sh)  
[pamela.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:pamela.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Tel. No. 22287



## **POLICE APPEAL FOR INFORMATION**

### **THEFT IN MUSEUM PUBLIC TOILETS**

On Saturday, 9 March 2019, it was reported to St Helena Police that a theft had occurred at the public toilets opposite the Museum in Jamestown. The ball-cock and associated fittings had been removed from a cistern in the Gents Toilets causing the water to continuously fill the tank.

It is not known when this was removed, but given the use of the toilets and the fact that this was very noticeable, it is likely that the theft occurred late on the Friday evening or early that Saturday morning.

Police are appealing for any information that any member of the public may be able to supply in relation to this theft. If anyone has any information which may assist with this investigation, regardless of how minor it may seem, please contact Coleman House Police Headquarters on tel: 22626 or email: [cid@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:cid@sainthelena.gov.sh).

These public toilets are provided as a benefit to the community as a whole and, as such, the Police would encourage all members of the community to report suspicious circumstances in relation to these or any other public conveniences.

**SHG**

**20 March 2019**

### **FORMAL MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MONDAY, 25 MARCH 2019**

The first sitting of the tenth meeting of Legislative Council will take place on Monday, 25 March 2019, at 10am in the Council Chamber and not on Friday, 22 March, as previously announced. The meeting is expected to last two days continuing on Thursday, 28 March, and will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1.

The main purpose of this meeting will be the Budget Session when, on Monday, the Financial Secretary will make his Budget Speech to Legislative Council. This Motion will then be adjourned until Thursday when Legislative Council will respond to the Financial Secretary's speech and debate the proposed Budget.

Seven Sessional Papers, including three Bills for an Ordinance - Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2019, Property Tax Bill, 2019, and Appropriation Bill, 2019, will be presented in the House along with four questions and four Motions.

The Bills can be found on the Publications page of the St Helena Government website, via the following link: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/publications/](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/publications/).

The Order Paper for the meeting is available on the SHG website at: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/order-papers/>

**SHG**

**19 March 2019**

### **RESULTS OF 2018 BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED**

St Helena Government's (SHG) Statistics Office is pleased to announce that the final survey report and dataset of the 2018 Business Survey is now available for download from the Statistics Reports & Publications Page of the SHG website: <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics-reports-and-publications/>



St Helena  
Government

[/www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics-reports-and-publications/](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/statistics-reports-and-publications/)  
Highlights from the findings include:

- Retail and wholesale trade, vehicles and construction together account for over half of the Island's private sector businesses and their employees
- The main concerns local businesses have about the current business environment include low demand for their products and services, high costs (including of utilities), staffing issues, and the availability of commercial land
- Only 15 local businesses (less than 12%) provide a pension benefit to their employees, and most of these are the larger businesses. The number of employees in these businesses is 629, or around 43% of private sector employees
- Most employees in the private sector are service and sales workers (25%) or work in elementary occupations (21%). 11% of all employees work in occupations that are classed as managerial

The survey covered all 159 private sector businesses on St Helena that employ at least one person (sole trader enterprises were not included), and the total number of private sector employees, both full-time and part-time, was 1,444 at the end of March 2018. The report includes various charts and tables, using business classifications that were chosen to avoid the risk of being able to identify individual businesses from the summary statistics.

**SHG**

**15 March 2019**

### **GOLF REPORT FOR SUNDAY 17th March 2019**

Day one of the Annual 36-hole Arnold Flagg Challenge Cup got underway on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12:00. It was a beautiful warm day. Twenty dedicated golfers turned up to take part in the event in honour of a man who gave so much of himself to the golf club. This is a stroke play competition where full handicap is applied. Mr Larry Legg handicap 7 was in tip top form. He was top on the leaderboard with gross 36 and 37 to end with nett 66. He would have led with an even bigger margin if it wasn't for an unfortunate two stroke penalty he picked up on hole-16 after playing off the wrong tee box. Tied at the top with nett 66 but second on a countback was handicap 21 Mr Donald Bowers. The other players who finished in the top ten were Lawson Henry net 67, Bramwell Lumukwana and Eileen Wallace nett 68, Peter Johnson and Jeffrey Stevens nett 69, Pat Henry and Sean Nugent nett 70 and Leon Crowie at nett 71. Four golfers collected balls in the two ball pool; Larry Legg on hole-11, Donald Bowers hole-7 Eileen Wallace hole-5 and Leon Crowie on hole-16. A special thanks to Eileen who donated a beautiful plaque in honour of the late Mr Arnold Flagg.

Day 2 which will also be the final round will tee off at 12:00 on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Going by the level of competition displayed so far, it will be an interesting day on the course as contenders jostle for the top spot. Junior golfers training will take place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 at 1630hrs.

Wish you all a great golfing weekend.....!

**Contributed by;  
SHGC**



# Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens



Last weekend there was a mixture of Premier League and FA Cup games on our TV. In the Premier League Liverpool return to the top of the table with a less than comfortable win against Fulham. Leading through Sadio Mane's 11th goal in as many games in all competitions, the visitors failed to put a limited Fulham side away, allowing the hosts back into the game.

A defensive mix-up between defender Virgil van Dijk and goal-keeper Alisson gifted Ryan Babel an equaliser against his former club on 74 minutes.

But Fulham keeper Sergio Rico then made an equally poor blunder, dropping Salah's tame curling shot and fouling Mane as the Senegal forward went for the ball.

Substitute Milner calmly hit his penalty down the middle as Rico dived right, sending a relieved Liverpool back to the top for the first time since 1 March.

Klopp's side are now two points ahead of Manchester City, having played a game more.

After a poor first half performance against Chelsea, Everton scored 2 second goals to put a major dent in the London sides bid to gain a Champions League spot.

In other matches, it took a 94<sup>th</sup> strike from Ritchie to earn a point for Newcastle as they drew 2-2 with Bournemouth. Only Manchester City, Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United had collected more points than Newcastle from their last nine games before the Magpies' trip to the south coast.

Captain Morgan spiced up the atmosphere at the King Power Stadium as he scored a 90<sup>th</sup> minute winner for Leicester. The foxes defeated Burnley 2-1 despite having Harry Maguire sent off in only the 4<sup>th</sup> minute of the game.

West Ham came from 3-1 down to beat the bottom side Huddersfield Town 4-3.

Manchester United best chance of silverware this season slipped away last Saturday as they loss to Wolves in the FA Cup Quarter Finals. Despite fielding a strong side United was second best to Wolves who deservedly booked a semi-final spot with a 2-1 win.

Man City remains on course for the quadruple as they came from 2-0 down to beat Swansea City 3-2. Substitute Aguero beat Swansea keeper Kristoffer Nordfeldt with a diving header off Bernardo Silva's low cross at the end of a superb move in the 88th minute.

Replays showed the Argentina striker was marginally offside but the video assistant review system was not in use at the Liberty Stadium, despite having been used in City's third and fourth-round ties at their Etihad Stadium home.

City had levelled in contentious circumstances too when Cameron Carter-Vickers was judged to have tripped replacement Raheem Sterling in the area and Aguero's penalty hit the post before rebounding in off Nordfeldt for an own goal.

Defeat was harsh on the impressive hosts, who led 2-0 inside 30 minutes through Matt Grimes' penalty and Celina's spectacular second.

Substitute Andre Gray scored two minutes after coming on to send Watford into the FA Cup semi-finals with victory over

Crystal Palace at Vicarage Road.

The Hornets had earlier led through Capoue's instinctive finish before Michy Batshuayi levelled for the Eagles.

But soon after replacing Will Hughes, Gray fired past Vincente Guaita to send his club into only their sixth FA Cup semi-final.

Brighton came from two goals down with two minutes left before beating 10-man Millwall on penalties to reach their first FA Cup semi-final since 1983.

Millwall led with second-half goals from Alex Pearce and Aiden O'Brien.

Jurgen Locadia made it 2-1 before Solly March levelled with a stoppage-time free-kick after a terrible mistake by keeper Martin.

Millwall's Shane Ferguson was sent off in extra time, and Jake Cooper's miss gave Brighton a 5-4 penalty shootout win.

Brighton's Glenn Murray hit the bar with the first penalty of the shootout, but Seagulls' keeper Mat Ryan saved Mahlon Romeo's spot-kick with his foot to give his side hope.

Manchester City will face Brighton at Wembley on the 6<sup>th</sup> April in the first semi-final and Watford will play Wolves on the 7<sup>th</sup> April in the second semi-final.



There will be no Premier League games this weekend as Euro 2020 qualifies are taking place.

Next year's European Championship, which runs from 12 June to 12 July.

While we are used to tournaments taking place in a single host nation - or across two countries, as with Poland and Ukraine in 2012 and Austria and Switzerland in 2008 - the 2020 edition will be played out across the continent, with games in 12 countries.

No team automatically qualifies this time, with the games to be held across London, Glasgow, Dublin, Rome, Baku, St Petersburg, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Bucharest, Bilbao, Munich and Budapest.

The opening match will be played at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

Wembley will host seven games - three group matches, one last-16 tie, both semi-finals and the final.

Glasgow's Hampden Park and Dublin's Aviva Stadium will host last-16 matches and three group games. Every host country to qualify will play a minimum of two games at home.

The format of Euro 2020 will be the same as Euro 2016 - six groups of four teams, with the top two and the best four third-placed teams going into the last 16.

**Group A:** England, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Kosovo.

**Group B:** Portugal, Ukraine, Serbia, Lithuania, Luxembourg.



# Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

**Group C:** Netherlands, Germany, Northern Ireland, Estonia, Belarus.

**Group D:** Switzerland, Denmark, Republic of Ireland, Georgia, Gibraltar.

**Group E:** Croatia, Wales, Slovakia, Hungary, Azerbaijan.

**Group F:** Spain, Sweden, Norway, Romania, Faroe Islands, Malta.

**Group G:** Poland, Austria, Israel, Slovenia, Macedonia, Latvia.

**Group H:** France, Iceland, Turkey, Albania, Moldova, Andorra.

**Group I:** Belgium, Russia, Scotland, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, San Marino.

**Group J:** Italy, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, Greece, Armenia, Liechtenstein.



We released images of the replica shirts of the St Helena International team this week. They are retailing at £40 each for adults and £35 for children. Sizes range from 7/8 year olds to 4XL. We have been overwhelmed with the demand for these shirts and had to place another order.

Interested in purchasing a shirt you can contact Tina Youth@helanta.co.sh or tel 22034 or send her a message on facebook.

## RMS T20 Cup Cricket Results

**Saturday 16 March 2019**

**1.30pm**

**Pirates 266/5**

David Young 79

Brooklyn Fowler 63

AJ Bennett 3/13

Kieran Williams 2/10

**Lions 103**

Alan Thomas 24

Ralph Knipe 14

Patrick Crowie 2/45

Nick Aldridge 2/78

**Performance Points**

David Young 3, Brooklyn Fowler 2, AJ Bennett 1



**Sunday 17 March 2019**

**10.00am**

**Mustangs 98**

Richie Joshua 37

Makyle Fuller 23

Richie Joshua 1/15

Luke Bennett 1/23

**Heat 99/2**

Dax Richards 26

Ryan Belgrove 25

Scott Crowie 4/0

Ryan Belgrove 3/21

**Performance Points**

Scott Crowie 3, Ryan Belgrove 2, Richie Joshua 1



**1.30pm**

**Challengers 180/5**

Phillip Stroud 50

Jordi Henry 39

Jordan Yon 3/23

Joey Thomas 2/16

**Allstarz 103**

Darrell Leo 28

Ross Henry 13

Gareth Johnson 2/15

Ross Henry 1/31

**Performance Points**

Phillip Stroud 3, Jordi Henry 2, Andrew Yon 1



## Fixtures

**Sat 23 March**

**1.30pm**

Mustangs V Pirates

Umpires: Woodpeckers

**Sun 24 March**

**10am**

Challengers V Woodpeckers

Umpires: Mustangs

**1.30pm**

Heat V Allstars

Umpires: Pirates



## JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

It planned to start the 2019 Skittles Season after the Easter Holiday period.

Team Captains are invited to enter teams with the Centre Secretary, Mrs June Lawrence, telephone - 22519, by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. to enable fixtures to be arranged for the start of the league on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## Calling Saint Helena – we need YOU!

Following the incredibly successful and exciting past few weeks of whale shark research conducted in St Helena's waters by Georgia Aquarium, St Helena National Trust Marine and EMD Marine teams, we wanted to remind everyone that the research does not stop here...!

One of the brand new aspects of the 2019 research was the deployment of the **world's first deep clamp tags with a crush limit of 6,000m!** The Trust's Marine Team and Blue Marine Foundation funded the development of these tags by Thomas Maughan from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

These clamp tags (like the one pictured below) are designed to 'pop off' safely from the shark after approximately 90 days – so please **DO NOT** remove these white/yellow rocket shaped tags if you see any on whale sharks while out enjoying St Helena's waters.

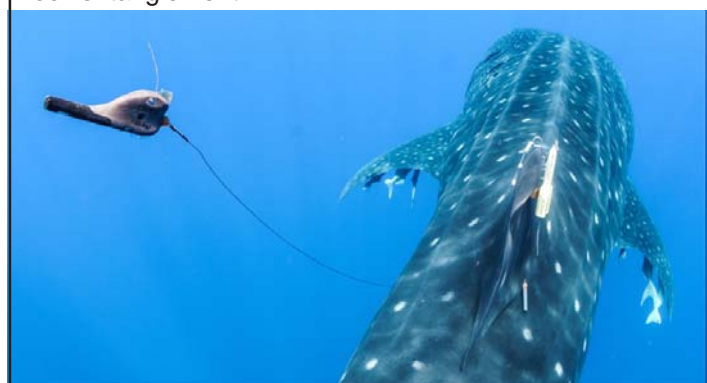


**Deep Water Clamp Tag © Simon Pierce**



**Deep Water Clamp Tag © Simon Pierce**

Likewise, we would kindly ask that the other tags utilised must also **remain on the whale sharks** to collect vital data which will enable us to better protect them. Removing them yourself could cause discomfort to the whale shark and ruin any data collection taking place. The photos below illustrate how different each tag can look, so please do not mistake one of these expensive and crucial tags for fishing line or hook entanglement.



**SPLASH Tag with long tether © Simon Pierce**

This SPLASH tag on the long tether 'pings' useful movement data to us every time it breaches the surface – this is why it is on a 6ft tether line.



**MiniPAT tag © Bluefin Satellite tag hunt**

MiniPAT tags are pop-up archival transmitting tags and are designed to track the large-scale movements and behaviour of whale sharks around St Helena. These tags are particularly useful for when a shark does not spend enough time at the surface to allow the use of real-time Argos satellite tags.



**Acoustic tag © Simon Pierce**

Acoustic tags transmit while attached to the whale shark and these transmissions are detected by the acoustic receiver array dotted all around St Helena's waters.

The Trust's Marine Team conducts regular beach cleans, which anyone is welcome to join, but if you are lucky enough to find one of the tags in this article, either floating in the sea or washed up on a beach, please return to the Trust's office, Broadway House, Main Street, Jamestown or drop us a call on **+290 22569**.

**Thank you for your help!**





## Tackling Illegal fishing around Saint Helena and the surrounding waters



My name is Dan Ward, and I'm a Compliance & Enforcement Manager on the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Blue Belt team.

Our key priority is to maximise the chances of detecting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, whilst at the same time using our limited resources effectively. We are responsible for helping to monitor the zones around United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs). This covers a huge area: around 4 million km<sup>2</sup>. We therefore need to make sure that when as we deploy our monitoring and enforcement assets, we have carefully considered two things: the quality of the intelligence and the scale of the risk of illegal fishing. We can then ensure that we have the right people or assets in the right place at the right time.

We monitor a number of different activities and use different techniques in combination, to identify illegal fishing. For example, this might include a sighting of fishing gear inside the protected zone or the detection of a suspected fishing vessel from satellite imagery. We also act on reports of direct

sightings from other vessels, such as cruise ships or the legal fishing community.

Although individual pieces of intelligence are valuable in their own right, the true value lies in the bigger picture that is generated when all these individual pieces are put together. So, when we get some intelligence in, we try to develop it, for example, by;

- Cross-referencing it with other sources of information (eg: does the sighting correspond with the satellite intelligence?)
- Checking the ownership of the vessel if possible and finding out what other vessels they operate.
- Working with our partners and other government enforcement agencies.

Depending on the quality of the intelligence, a fisheries officer may be deployed where the vessel docks, or we may continue to track the vessel using satellites. We might even be able to request a passing Royal Navy warship to investigate further.

The more information we get in, the more links we can form and the better the intelligence packages we can produce—and this is where we need your help! Fishermen and members of the public really are the eyes and ears on the ground, and so any intelligence we can get from you is incredibly valuable: it really does make a difference. If you see something (anything!) suspicious, please report it to: [OTIntel@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:OTIntel@marinemanagement.org.uk)

All intelligence that is submitted is done so in the strictest of confidence. The source of the intelligence will always be removed and the report is sanitised to ensure that the source can never be identified.

So, what have we done in St Helena? Towards the end of last year and at the beginning of this year, we ran an intensive two month satellite surveillance operation over St Helena. Reassuringly, compliance was found to be excellent, with no significant suspicious instances picked up during the entire period. However, there is no chance of us becoming complacent – we are always monitoring Automatic Identification Systems and various other systems. Working with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) able to gather high quality satellite imagery at short notice. We also work with Catapult who provide additional satellite support.



## ***For Sale at V2***

V2 has the following items for sale, interested persons should contact 25544 after 5PM any day of the week. Please Note: V2 stipulates that Calls and Viewing of products cannot take place before 5PM due to their business demands.

6 Seater Table and Chairs, with leaf so that table can be made smaller to suit 4 people. Table and Chair set is off a Queen Anne Style and mahogany in Colour with Cream seating and fitted Chair Protectors. Also included in the Sale is a Brand New Heat Resistant Table Protector.

Jaguar Table – A great art work and usual piece. Two animals joined together in a tree trunk form the basis of a Centre Coffee Table with a large Glass top which showcases the bottom art work.

Complete bath suite (oversized Organi Bath), with hands and face basin and matching toilet. The set comes with all the accessories to install a bath suite including a trap door. The suite is white in colour and has a unique shape.

Built in Fan assisted Oven and 4 burner ceramic hob – ideal for fitted kitchens, both the oven and top is black in Colour and still boxed brand new.

6 Seater Leather Lounge Suite – NOT NEED but in very good condition with no tears or defects in equipment. The Suite doubly act as a lounge as both ends of this corner suite has reclining Chairs. The Colour is Cream and those wishing to view can stop by V2 Paradise.

Executive Secretary Chairs – 2 black leather secretary Chairs with 5 position and meets the general health standards for Offices. These Chairs is still brand New and has head rest padding and back support.

Halogen Oven – Double sized still brand new, comes with accessories and spare halogen bulb plus cookbook

X-Large Glass Coffee Table – still boxed as new

X-Large Vanity Mirror – still boxed as new

Toyota Passos – the most economical cars at only 1 Litre's, these cars have proven to be the perfect runners, both vehicles are in excellent condition and viewing can be arranged by calling 25544

Also for Sale is 2 C-Max Cars, both vehicles have been very reliable and apart from normal car parts to be ordered, these vehicles are in excellent condition and have been serviced well.

8 Burner Grill, one that could outlast your life. A custom made Grill capable of serving large orders with built in economical drivers as there are 8 separate dials to ensure that the whole grill is not heated. A must have for any commercial business.

Sofa Bed – Double Sofa Bed (casual style) but doubles as a Burgundy Sofa Bed

Dish Washer – Brand New still boxed (Silver Beko Model)

Laptops – Several Different style Laptops, hardly used

King Chef Professional Cooking Pots

Set of 2 Tyres

Brand New Electrical Chain Saw

Brand New Fertilizer Spreader

3 in one Blower

Heavy Duty KEY Safe

Heavy Duty Cash Safe

Heavy Duty Employee Lockers

Family sized Swimming Pool

Double Sleeping Bag

Glider Electric Lawn Mower – Used once

Elite Heavy Duty Meat Grinder with Sausage Maker Attachments

Heavy Duty Automotive Steam Cleaner with attachments and long steaming power

Much consumable packaging, ice cream tubs, baguette packaging, fish cake packaging, solo lids, thermal printer paper by request

2 small printers (EPSON) both in working condition but needs new inks



# Falklands Brexit impact still uncertain as 29 March looms

Friday, March 15th, Penguin News

The possible impact of Brexit on the Falklands is no nearer to gaining definition as UK MPs once again voted against a Brexit deal proposed by Theresa May, as well as voting against the possibility of leaving the European Union (EU) without any sort of deal.

Speaking to Penguin News on Wednesday, MLA Teslyn Barkman said that regardless of the outcome of Brexit, the Falklands will need to negotiate a future relationship with the EU independently of the UK. However, the UK's future relationship with the EU is likely to be the framework upon which the Falklands negotiations can proceed, she said.

This separate negotiation is required because the Falklands' current relationship with the EU is separate to the UK's and is governed by the EU's Overseas Association Decision (OAD). The OAD sets out the relationship between the EU and all EU overseas territories in a number of areas.

It is through the OAD that the Falklands currently enjoy tariff free trade with the EU. Paragraph 26 of the OAD calls for "procedures and arrangements that allow the [overseas territories] to export goods to the Union duty-free and quota-free."

A quirk of this relationship with the EU is that the Falklands' trading relationship with the UK also comes under the OAD. This means that the Falklands will also need to re-establish its trading relationship with the UK after Brexit.

However, that is expected to be more straightforward, says Ms Barkman. "We've had the assurance that it's going to be completely seamless." Ms Barkman highlighted the importance of that seamless transition to the meat sector, as some 70% of the Islands' meat exports go to the UK.

Michael Ledwidth, from the Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCO), told Penguin News that the uncertainty over Brexit has meant that "it's not at all easy to sell product at the moment."

However, Mr. Ledwidth said long-term decisions will only be made once the disruptive process settles, "making a success of the Island's meat industry needs quality, consistency, and timely supply. So, our farmers should not for one moment divert their efforts away from a high quality, bigger numbers ambition," he said.

Ms. Barkman noted that fresh advice published by the UK Government suggested that a no deal scenario could result in the UK trading under World Trade Organization terms. That implies trade tariffs starting at 6% and ranging to 20%.

Ms. Barkman stressed that the UK's future relationship with the EU may not necessarily be the same as the Falklands', but admitted that such tariffs would have an impact on Loligo exports to the EU. "We have modeled what it would mean for our industry if there was a 6% tariff, if there was a 20%, and everything in between."



**MLA Teslyn Barkman said that regardless of the outcome of Brexit, Falklands will need to negotiate a future relationship with the EU independently of the UK**

"Either way we have to rebuild our relationship with the EU, hopefully we can develop that in a way that's mutually beneficial," she added.

MLAs and the Policy Unit will be holding a Brexit-themed public meeting on March 25.



## Entertainment at Silver Hill Bar for this Weekend

**Friday** open from 4.30pm till late mix tunes from the bar

**Saturday** open from 5.00pm to 8.00pm Country tunes from the bar 8.00pm till late mix sounds by DJ Wayne Boom Bang.

**Sunday** open from 5.00 to 8.00pm.

# A JOURNEY TO ST. HELENA, HOME OF NAPOLEON'S LAST DAYS

TEXT BY ERICA MUNKWITZ AND JAMES L. SWANSON; PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAMANTHA REINDERS  
SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

"Please, take the emperor's seat," says Michel Dancoisne-Martineau. He is tall, handsome and illegally charming. With his glasses and impish smile, he looks every inch the roguish professor you wish you'd had for history class. As the honorary French consul on the British island of St. Helena, he oversees Longwood House, Napoleon Bonaparte's home in exile from 1815 to 1821, the last years of his life.

Dancoisne-Martineau has already guided us through Longwood's famous gardens, designed and cultivated by Napoleon himself and bursting with agapanthus flowers that match the blue and white in the French tricolor flying overhead. He leads us into the house through the billiard room, where the banished emperor laid out maps of his campaigns and notes for his memoirs on the table and used cue sticks to move them about. The consul points out the peepholes Napoleon carved into the green shutters with his penknife, so he could peer out at the world without the world seeing him. The holes at that height barely reach our shoulders, hinting at Napoleon's smaller stature.



**Swanson and Munkwitz with Michel**  
**The authors, James L. Swanson and Erica Munkwitz,**  
**dining with Michel Dancoisne-Martineau, the island's**  
**honorary French consul. (Samantha Reinders)**

And now Dancoisne-Martineau beckons us into the dining room, which glows with muted light from candelabra on the walls. At the consul's invitation, James takes the emperor's seat, in front of the marble fireplace. Erica sits to his right, in the place usually occupied by the Countess de Montholon, one of 28 people who accompanied Napoleon to the island. Samantha Reinders, our photographer, takes the place of the Comte de Las Cases, the principal scribe of the emperor's memoirs. Dancoisne-Martineau sits opposite James, in the place often taken by Napoleon's comrade-in-arms, Gaspard Gourgaud.

The consul notes, apologetically, that the table is the one Napoleon used only from 1815 to 1817, because the one he used later is being restored. We furtively lift the tablecloth; highly polished wood gleams beneath. Either way, he says, he has never allowed a dinner to be served on one of the tables before. "But you have come so far," he says, laughing,

"so we make the exception!"

We have come a long way: three flights totaling 20 hours and covering nearly 12,000 miles over four days from our home in Washington, D.C. (Napoleon sailed only 5,000 miles from Europe, but the voyage took two months.) In truth, we wouldn't have been at the table without the aid of the French ambassador to the United States, Gérard Araud. When we told him we were planning to visit St. Helena, he stopped in his tracks and his face took on a pained, faraway look. "Do you know that the British governor refused to call him 'emperor' and would only address him as 'general'?" He had been the head of state of a great nation."

It was 203 years ago, almost to the day, that Napoleon moved into Longwood House. Here it feels as if the curtain between past and present has been drawn back. It is easy to imagine the man of the hour striding into the room, dressed in the green cavalry jacket of the Imperial Horse Guards, and a white waistcoat adorned with the Legion of Honor—and taking his usual seat at the head of the table with us. Our dinner is a conjuring trick, a historical séance in search of the man whose voice once echoed in this room with tales of war, conquest, glory and defeat, and of vanished dreams of empire and what might have been.

When the emperor sat at this table, he insisted on preserving the protocols of his life at court. Men appeared in military dress, women in evening gowns and gems. It was an explicit denial of the circumstances of his captivity. Tonight, waiters in black suits serve barely seared local tuna, island vegetables and le rosbif; we sip Moët et Chandon Champagne (Napoleon had met the grandson of the brand's founder, Claude Moët, at military school) and a Honig Cabernet Sauvignon from vineyards in St. Helena, California, decorated with a Napoleonic bee, that we have brought along.

As Napoleon is reputed to have said regarding Champagne, "In victory you deserve it, in defeat you need it." Here on St. Helena, then, drinking must have been compulsory.

Dancoisne-Martineau tells us, "Some people who come here do not know that Napoleon was a real man. Some think that Napoleon is just a brandy!" But the consul, who is finishing a 12-volume series on the last years of the emperor's life, adds: "Napoleon was many things—general, emperor, lawgiver, imagemaker, administrator, man of science—what is there for such a man to do on St. Helena?"

Given that the emperor fought on land (engaging in 60 battles and losing only eight), that might seem far-fetched. But water was continuously intertwined with his fate. Napoleon was born on an island, Corsica, in 1769. Water provided an escape route from his catastrophic Egyptian campaign in 1799. He was exiled to another island, Elba, just six miles off the Italian coast, in 1814. After 300 days he escaped, again by water. That feat led to the Hundred Days campaign (actually,



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111 days), during which he launched a reconstituted French Army on a European crusade that left nearly 100,000 men killed or wounded. After his loss at Waterloo, in June 1815, Napoleon was forced to flee France on the high seas.

The defeated emperor briefly considered escaping to America but surrendered to the British, expecting better treatment from them than from the Prussians (whose field marshal, Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher, demanded summary execution). He hoped for asylum on an English country estate, but after the British ship holding him put to sea, he was told that his captors had other plans. The governor of St. Helena was informed by letter: "His Majesty's Ministers deeply sensitive of the high importance of effectually securing the person of a man whose conduct has proved so fatal to the happiness of the World, [have judged] that the Island of St. Helena is eminently fitted to answer to that purpose."

Historian Andrew Roberts, whose *Napoleon: A Life* may be the definitive biography, told us, "When you approach the island by boat, as you get closer and closer and see the rising black rocks, you experience what Napoleon did. You see the totality of what it is. What his fate will be. No wonder Napoleon said, 'I should have stayed in Egypt.'"

For more than 500 years, visitors shared the same seaborne view of jagged cliffs jutting from the sea like a crown of thorns. The age of the airplane bypassed St. Helena because it offered no flat land for a runway and was consistently buffeted by treacherous winds sweeping off the water. But in the hope of stoking the tourist trade, the British spent almost \$400 million to fill in a valley by 2014 with some 800 million pounds of dirt and rock to solve the runway problem and build an airport. The expense, however, did nothing to mitigate the winds. Today, only a special, stripped-down Embraer 190 jet with the best pilots in the world can stick the landing.

After our six-hour flight from Johannesburg, St. Helena appears as an Impressionist's dot in the infinite blue of the South Atlantic and our spirits begin to rise. Then the pilot took to the intercom and announced, "Do not be alarmed. We will be making a violent turn to land and then pushing the engines to max thrust to avoid the head winds for landing. Cabin crew, take your seats!"

The ship carrying Napoleon to the island arrived on October 15, 1815, but he was unable to disembark until the night of October 17. And what must Napoleon have thought as the island came into sight, as he scanned its craggy shorelines and the ramshackle houses of Jamestown, St. Helena's capital (and only) city, with the telescope through which he had surveyed his victories on the battlefields of Europe? As Count de Montholon, who accompanied him into exile, would write, "The valley of Jamestown resembled an entrance to the infernal regions...nothing was to be seen but rows of guns and black cliffs, built as if by a demon's hand to bind together the rocky peaks." With only two main streets and 160 dwellings—less

than an avenue's worth of Paris—he must have indeed thought he had arrived in hell.



**The house boasts a replica of Napoleon's famous death mask, seen resting on a low table in the room where his body was viewed after his death. (Samantha Reinders)**

After his first night in Jamestown, he never set foot there again. There was no residence fit for an ex-emperor on the island, so he had to wait seven weeks for a decrepit summer house used by the East India Company to be brought up to snuff. Until then, he stayed with the Balcombe family—who had also hosted Wellington—at their home, the Briars, and fell under the spell of their French-speaking daughter, Betsy. Between games of whist and blindman's bluff, she may have been the only person ever to box his ears and threaten him with his own sword. He was 46; she was just 13.

These first two golden months at the Briars were his favorite time. Once ensconced at Longwood House, he hosted no cotillions, no grand parties. While protecting his privacy, he was no recluse. In those early days, he was in good health, enjoyed working on his memoirs, received visitors, granted audiences to every important visitor to the island, savored news from the outside world, conversed with British officers, dined with selected visitors, visited people, went on walks and rode horses.

Everything changed with the arrival of the new governor, Hudson Lowe. Lowe sent away Napoleon's faithful aide Las Cases and banished the sympathetic Balcombes, accusing them of suspicious loyalty to the emperor. Lowe then further restricted the emperor's freedom of movement, vetted who could visit him, monitored his correspondence, demanded that a British officer chaperone his horseback rides (provoking him to give up riding altogether) and enforced rules that the ex-emperor must be seen in the flesh several times a day by prying British eyes.

Napoleon made a game of it, antagonizing Lowe with cat-and-mouse tricks to hide from sight, terrifying Lowe that he had escaped the island. Napoleon even designed sunken paths in his garden, which still exist today, to make it more difficult for curiosity seekers to glimpse him. The two men met in person only six times, and on one of their last meetings, Napoleon told Lowe, "You are a bigger scourge for us than all the miseries of this frightful rock!"

**Excerpt to be Continued NEXT WEEK**

# St Helena Conference - Finale



St Helena's second international environmental conference - *Nature's Benefits: Natural Capital in the South Atlantic* - successfully concluded at Anne's Place, Jamestown, on Thursday, 14 March 2019.

The conference which brought together participants from across all UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) in the region consolidated the final outputs of the Natural Capital Assessment Project implemented across the UKOTs in the South Atlantic by SAERI (the South Atlantic Research Institute). The project is funded by the UK Government's CSSF fund, and covers both the South Atlantic and Caribbean UKOTs, led by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

SAERI's Deputy Director - Innovation, Tara Pelembe, said: "On islands Natural Capital isn't a new concept, but it is a different way of framing the relationship between people and nature to feed into modern-day decision-making. In the South Atlantic, the Natural Capital Project worked across many sectors across the South Atlantic Islands, and it was a real pleasure to see a number of the people who have been directly involved in the work from all the islands come together and have meaningful discussions to share ideas, thoughts and be inspired to act. It was especially rewarding to see the future generations fully engaged and participating in conference discussions, and we are grateful to St Helena for hosting the event."

In her closing remarks at the Conference, Chief Secretary Susan O'Bey, reflected on the South Atlantic OTs in particular how similar we are but with different qualities and challenges and how our isolation makes us more accepting of our perceived deficiencies but at the same time builds resilience and innovation. All of which came through in some way during the conference.

St Helena Government will now take forward a number of actions arising from the conference including commitments to:

- *Using and mainstreaming Natural Capital approaches and evidenced-based decision-making in planning and policy development*
- *Enhancing data management and training in GIS*

*systems to build further capacity in the use of tools and software to enable evidence-based decision-making*

- *Upskilling staff and increasing access to and use of spatial data across departments*
- *Centralising spatial data management so that it is readily available to all*
- *Exploring the possibility of creating a new full-time centralised position to manage and analyse spatial data and provide associated policy relevant advice*
- *Identifying and using indicators to monitor environmental change*
- *Developing St Helena as a centre of excellence through the emerging St Helena Research Institute*
- *Further knowledge exchange and collaboration between South Atlantic islands*

The conference was well received on-Island with up to 120 people attending each day to take part in political exchanges and talks on a range of topics about nature's benefits.

Around 600+ listeners also tuned into the conference, which was broadcast live via local radio and online over the three-day period, showing how important the environment and the Natural Capital approach is to all of the South Atlantic islands.

