

## Big Bicentenary Bash in the Balance



How 'Liberated' were the Liberated Slaves?



## Liverpool Premiership League Champions

After their 1-2 loss against Chelsea last night Manchester City cannot catch Liverpool in the Premiership League Table and Liverpool are the Premiership League winners this year after 30 years in waiting





## First Phase of Rupert's Development Labelled 'Illegal'



## St Helena Covid-19 Preparedness Update

Airport Directorate exploring options to organise further charter flight in the next month or two

Health Directorate continues to seek other options to facilitate medical referrals

Social/Physical Distancing advice suspended

IEG agrees short term changes to enable St Helena to re-engage with the rest of the world

## Juneteenth May Be Over, but Explorer Gretchen Johnson Is Moving Forward With a Powerful Mantra



Gretchen Johnson is a biologist conducting research on human skeletal and dental remains of previously enslaved, mid-19th-century Africans who were liberated by British antislavery efforts but subsequently died on the South Atlantic island of St. Helena. Her research is unlocking and preserving the history of this population on St. Helena island by researching the DNA of their skeletal remains.

In honour of last week's Juneteenth, we talked to Gretchen about what this day means to her, and how her perception of Juneteenth changed as she began uncovering stories of liberated Africans on Saint Helena.

### Has your perception of Juneteenth changed as you began uncovering stories of liberated Africans on Saint Helena?

My perception of Juneteenth has deepened as I immerse myself in examining more closely the label of "Liberated Africans" that was given to the enslaved Africans that arrived on St. Helena Island during the mid-19th century, and later died on the island. The main question that consistently perplexes me is: What was the extent of liberation for the enslaved Africans of St. Helena?

I discovered that although the enslaved Africans that arrived on St. Helena island were liberated, their freedom was transient. Historical records indicate that life for the Liberated Africans in the designated African Depots on St. Helena was still a struggle. Group identity among the Liberated Africans evolved from the familiarity of shared experiences of their recent violent translocation from Africa aboard slave ships, continuously stripped of their culture; ripped away from their families and communities; traditional clothes and jewelry, and their basic human rights confiscated. In fact, many were continuously confused about their new geographical location on St. Helena, in addition to the vast language barrier. This state of affairs prevented the Africans from effectively communicating with their European overseers. Apprenticeship, trade-ships, servant-taking, and military recruitment were common undertakings for the assimilation of some of the Liberated Africans into the local communities on St. Helena.

Many Liberated Africans were employed in the lowest economic occupations, manual labour, some worked as shepherds, domestic servants, labourers of buildings, roads, or agricultural on St. Helena. Several of the Liberated Africans experienced poor health, poor housing, were not fed properly or received clothing, and there were no specific contracts to define the relationship between the servant and master. Thus, many of the Liberated Africans grew increasingly dissatisfied with their work and wages situations. Interestingly, in spite of the apprenticeship, the freed slaves never rose from the bottom class of society.

Additionally, the Liberated African population on St. Helena island experienced compulsory immigration to the British Caribbean colonies and Cape Colony. The rationale for immigration of this population was propelled by expediency generated by the tendency of the African Depots to become overcrowded, insanitary, and essentially fatal with no opportunity for self-fulfilment. Consequently, the Liberated Africans were in a constant state of bewilderment as they were pushed off St. Helena Island. They did not understand their fate or next step—another forced immigration, what to expect once they left St. Helena and arrived at their new illusive permanent settlements in either the British Caribbean colonies or Cape Colony.

In total, up to the year 1867, over 17,000 Liberated Africans from St. Helena immigrated to the British Caribbean colonies and Cape Colony as follows: Jamaica (3,983); British Guiana (5,419); Grenada (796); St. Kitts (138); St. Lucia (700); Tobago (225); Trinidad (3,701); St. Vincent (832); and Cape Colony (1,410). These new colonies became the permanent settlement of the Liberated African immigrants. The lives of the Liberated Africans in the Caribbean colonies and Cape Colony have yet to be explored.

Overall, more than 26,000 enslaved Africans arrived on St. Helena from 1840 to 1872, became liberated and known as the "Liberated Africans." During their journey to St. Helena, amidst appalling conditions, between 5,000 and 8,000 of these enslaved Africans died on the seas. When the island became

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overpopulated, the British government sent over 17,000 of the Liberated Africans onto the British Caribbean colonies and Cape Colony. By 1875 a small community of some 500 Liberated Africans remained on St. Helena Island.

In 2008, a slave burial ground was discovered in Rupert's Valley on St. Helena Island, containing an estimated 8,000 bodies. This burial ground was located in the path of a planned road for St. Helena's first airport. A British archaeological team exhumed the skeletal remains of 325 individuals of the Liberated African population.

The archaeological findings gave rise to my field research on St. Helena in 2018, in which I began my expedition on the island. From the 325 individual skeletal remains of the Liberated African population, exhumed from the slave burial ground, I carefully collected the petrous bones, teeth, and metatarsals/metacarpals of this population. Selection of these specific bones for sample collection is ideal for ancient DNA analyses that will provide powerful new scientific data.

For me, sample collections of these bones from the remains of the Liberated Africans on St. Helena Island brought on a whirlwind of emotions. Every day I held in my hands the bones of a very young population of individuals whose lives were cut short by the tragic realities of slavery. Holding the bones of babies and neonates that fit in the palm of my hand was even more striking to me! This experience of holding the bones of the Liberated Africans of St. Helena is imprinted in my mind forever! When does one ever have the unique opportunity to have this up-close tangible experience?

The gravity of being a part of history in this moment and to do justice for this forgotten Liberated African population of the transatlantic slave trade weighed heavily on me. I am now using science and ancient DNA analyses to unlock the genetic identities of this forgotten population. These are the bones of my ancestors who endured the traumatic transatlantic slave trade and were voiceless!

After flying over 23 hours from the remote island of St. Helena, my plane finally touched ground in Washington, DC. I cannot express in words the overwhelming emotions I felt to have finally arrived on American soil with the bone collection

of the Liberated African population from St. Helena island. I was incredibly relieved, and for the first time these individuals arrived on American soil not as slaves but for me to finally bring them justice by using science to tell their forgotten journey and stories! I am honoured and grateful to be in this position as a black woman scientist to tell the forgotten stories of my ancestors who were voiceless during the traumatic transatlantic slave trade. The story of the journey of this mid-19th century liberated African population is complex and dynamic! Regrettably, it is a huge aspect of Black history that has never been told before, and even this population's label of being "Liberated Africans" is quite an enigma! These liberated Africans are the long-lost ancestors of black communities in America, the Caribbean, South America, Africa, St. Helena, and the list continues. This colossal impact to the African Diaspora and significance in the transatlantic slave trade is shockingly unknown worldwide!

Although such human tragedies and human loss were occurring in the journey of the Liberated African population of St. Helena, similar to the traumatic plight of black communities worldwide, there was a "deafening dead" silence and omission of this story among history scholars and social scientists. St. Helena's pivotal role in the transatlantic slave trade has been silenced and hidden for far too long!

There is an enormous amount of healing that has to be done as the Black Lives Matter Movement is now international and the pervasiveness of racism worldwide must end. Black communities and the Diaspora are crying out as never before for equality and justice!

This Juneteenth celebration honors freedom. Let us revisit the true meaning of "liberation" of Blacks and their communities; unearth the hidden stories of forgotten Blacks and their communities that have never received justice, honored, valued, or recognized. On Juneteenth and after, I urge everyone to grapple with the struggles of Blacks! Try to put yourselves in the shoes of the oppressed and ask: how would I survive the systemic racism prevalent in American society today? Make a choice to not become an oppressor!

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

25th June 2020

## Fruit Dumped in the Sea

On a recent voyage of the MV Helena from Cape Town pallets of apples and oranges were dumped in the sea by the Island's Biosecurity. Before the fruit was dumped each apple and orange was cut in half. Was this fruit a threatt to the Island or was this valuable commodity dumped because of a simple clerical error? I think people want to know.

Sometime it feels like St Helena has too much money. In this case we even could afford to pay staff to cut apples and oranges in half before dumping. Can, please, somebody teell us the truth.

Mike







In last Friday's editorial I mentioned that Sure had a problem with whoever it is that transmits the BBC Radio World Service. The transmission comes from West Africa, somewhere, not Ascension as I presumed. I reported that Christine Thomas told me Sure was working on it and hoped to have normal service resumed soon. On Monday this week, there it was, right in my ear, BBC World Service was back.

Almost straightaway there was an interesting programme about whether animals are conscious of themselves. If a dog looks in a mirror does it recognise itself? It seems not. Our cousins, the primates, gorillas, chimpanzees and similar, are conscious of themselves and so are pigs. Pigs are known to be brainy and it was demonstrated they can work out what a mirror does quite quickly. A mirror was placed at an angle so the pig could see some lovely food in the mirror but the food itself was hidden from direct view – behind a screen of some sort. It did not take long for the pig to work out where its next meal was.

That reminds me of something Winston Churchill once said. He was warning of war at the time but no-one was listening and he had one of his bouts of depression. As a result he strode off to the pig sty and sought the company of his pigs. Time passed and someone was sent out to tell him he should return to the house for dinner. Churchill was sitting on an upturned bucket watching his pigs with his intense glare. He observed to the person who came to get him that, "Cats look down on you, dogs look up to you but pigs treat you as equals."

Apart from being conscious of ourselves there is also the challenge of being conscious of other people; putting yourself in someone else's shoes. Humans are not very good at that. It is a weak point with me. Some people have the patience of Job (the biblical character) others just cannot do it. But it is not just patience that is required to see a whole vista from another perspective.

Recently, the UK Prime Minister said we should not lie about our history. His remark was made in the context of a statue of a slave trader which was pulled off its pedestal in Bristol and dumped in the dock. Edward Colston was described as a philanthropist as well as a slave trader. He built poor houses, schools, hospitals and churches for the ever grateful residents of Bristol. The money Colston had amassed came from the slave trade. Logically, pulling down the statue was a cosmetic action which was a bit of therapy for the Black Lives Matter demonstrators. A truer action on their part would be to burn the schools, hospitals and churches built with the profits of slavery and then fund-raise to replace them. But that will not happen, will it?

What Prime Minister Johnson meant, I think, was that the

part the British (mostly English) played in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade has to be faced and not thrown into Bristol Harbour. But, if the British (mostly English) want be truthful about history we have to face a long list of unpleasant facts. One example in that long list is the Kikuyu people whose ancestral land is in Kenya. The Brits in the 1950s dispossessed them of their land and when the Kikuyus fought to get it back they suddenly became terrorists. More than 1 million were corralled into concentration camps where thousand died from hunger and disease. Much like the poor wretches buried in Rupert's Valley. Despicable tortures were used on the concentration camp inmates. All this came to light in 2012 when a group of Kikuyu survivors sued the British Government. In the process the extent to which British Officials in Kenya went, led by the Governor Sir Evelyn Baring, to hide the truth was revealed. Hiding dirty history often meant burning official government files. How much do we not know about the Brits in Yemen in the 1960s, the Bengal famine in 1943 and let's not forget the first ever concentration camps used by Brits during the Boer War. Johnson is more right than he probably realises when he says we should not lie about history. The problem is, history is written by the victors and, at the same time, the truth is hidden or lost. Vince

## A Word from Mike

It appears to be some turbulence in Council at the moment. Rumours are flying far and wide who is leaving Executive Council and who are stepping in to the 'hornet's nest'. We heard on Saint FM that Councillor Anthony Green is leaving ExCo. It is apparently Councillor Cruyff Buckley who is taking over Tony Green's seat. It was apparent from the interview with Councillor Green yesterday that everything is not as it should in the Castle. All the nonsense with police investigations and secrecy has put the Councillors in a very difficult position.

We have heard resignation rumours about both Councillor Russell Yon and Councillor Clint Beard. Councillor Yon said that we would hear more from him after Monday night. It does not say much but it indicates that something is going on there as well.

The uncertainties and apparent discontent in Council which can be heard on a daily basis, together with rumours about blatant corruption and nepotism are seriously disturbing for the operations of our government. Hopefully, some of the most outrageous rumours are hopefully untrue, but I would not bet on it.

The Independent has slavishly followed what is happening to the reformation of our Constitution and the ideas from Professor Sarkin. What is happening at the moment put doubts in my mind if St Helena has any ability at all to be more selfgoverning. Just a thought....*Mike* 

## Tourism: Putting People First



Tammy Williams

The World Tourism Organisation called the outbreak of COVID-19 as bringing the world to a standstill with tourism been the "worst affected of all major economic sectors" They have also entitled tourism recovery as 'Putting people first'.

While we all hope for a revival it's a terrible mistake to imagine that recovery will come quickly and anyone that seeks to create such an illusion is irresponsible and foolhardy, any attempt at resuscitating a tourism industry for St Helena will need a new slate in a post-covid world.

The Corona Virus has devastated institutions, banks, businesses and the travel and tourism industries around the world, people and nations who thought they were impenetrable have been brought to their knees, I hope we are not so conceited as to believe this does not include us.

The new approach will require some soul searching honesty about St Helena's tourism potential anyway, echoed aptly by the financial secretary in his budget speech "...moving away from putting all of St Helena's prospects in the tourism basket" And one would add what's wrong with creating a brand new vision for St Helena? What's wrong with SHG taking full command of the spend for economic development and re-routing it in the hope of better results? What could be better than the government consulting the private sector in determining the best way forward? What if we start with a blank sheet and get the private sector to create the tourism strategy from the ground-up? What if we could still reach the world and it did not cost as much? What if we used the entire £897,000 earmarked for economic development truly for economic development?

At Saint FM we have and are still able to reach the world through our radio station, the gateway remains open and we offer an economical and low-cost approach to ensure that the island is still getting exposure. We played a pivotal role including St Helena's day in ensuring that connections were maintained throughout lock-down, we kept families and friends together throughout, how many can say the same? We will continue to think of new ways of doing things, we will continue to rise and shine and bring many benefits to the community while leaning less on the taxpayer.

The tourism industry on St Helena is about people and the services they provide, the meals served, the beds made, the trips to the airport, the guided tours, the souvenirs that are crafted, the marketing and IT skills, the smiles and customer service, the long hours and the challenges of trying to create an attractive product for the people who are visiting our island. I am appalled that our tourism industry has been measured by pretty brochures, numbers, statistics and strategies as opposed to a genuine endorsement of the people within the in-

dustry. Bed nights measured by numbers and not the actual people who made the beds, meals served as opposed to the hands that prepared them. None of the data reveals the uphill struggles and the faces behind them; we can't know who they are because their stories are lost in the numbers. Isn't it time that we focus on the people that are responsible for building the brand?

There have been mixed feelings about the DFID and FCO merger, some believe that the island could suffer some disadvantage as result of it others believe the merger will allow for a better joined up approach, greater oversight and coherence, whatever comes as a result of the merger we can expects some 'oops' and 'oh dear' along the way but that's what shake-ups are meant to do, it's about questioning the reasoning behind what we're doing and now is as good as any time to shake-up our plans for tourism and economic development. The adjustments may not go down well, people may well take offence but in the rush to 'look busy' we might use this time this to stop, pause and question because there are many within the private sector who are not convinced by the current trajectories.

Where there is a will there's a way, the political will to develop an authentic tourism brand must stem from the top, leadership is essential, for now we must expect some form of our own merger with clear responsibilities, SHG enables while the private sector gets it done and this requires apportioning the pie to those prepared to work the hardest.

We have that awkward silence created by blurred roles and responsibilities and a 'stealing' of the things that should be carried out by the private sector, I keep hearing and seeing a growing frustration among many businesses who are weary of having to compete in an unfair arena.

In my humble opinion a tourism strategy is useless without the 'Soul' of St Helena which is the people themselves who are working within the industries, within the soul is a depth and character that surpasses policy and plans and, if the policy is not '*people*' focussed then it is doomed to failure, policies are re-known for driving a wedge between the private and public sectors.

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June members of the private sector have been invited to a public meeting hosted by St Helena tourism at the Jamestown community centre at 6.30pm, I hope people attend and share their feelings but one meeting is not going to be enough to confront the fears and questions, one meeting will not be enough to say we have engaged the private sector however it will be a good step in the right direction if we are prepared to start blank canvas.

## First Phase of Rupert's Development Labelled 'Illegal' Rupert's Beach to be gated and access controlled Liberated African memorial site will be desecrated

Conservation and heritage groups are objecting strongly to the process that has been used to bring the development application for Rupert's to the Land Development and Control Authority for a decision. The development contains proposals for container handling facilities at Rupert's Valley together with office buildings, warehousing, secure compounds and car parking. The lack of a proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for such a "vast" development is called "simply unacceptable" and the recent fuel leak at Rupert's which raised the real risk of an explosion endangering residents demonstrates the "vital need" for EIAs for all future development in this area.

The consultation response from The St Helena National Trust quotes section 19(1) of the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance which states, "An application for development permission . . . in respect of development which may have significant effects on the environment, shall be accompanied by a report (hereinafter referred to as an "EIA report") assessing the environmental impacts of the proposed development."

The development application proposes a container handling area which starts across the road from the Sea Rescue Building. This container handling area, the largest of the three, leads to a break bulk and cargo yard which extends to the boundary with Hay Town House. Back across the road and adjacent to the last remaining building which existed when the area was used to accommodate liberated Africans is something called the Container Freight Station Yard; a description which leaves its purpose unclear. A public car park indicating parking areas for 18 cars is proposed opposite Hay Town House. A building is shown on the plan within the largest container handling area.

The same ordinance referred to in the National Trust consultation response also states that a Planning Officer can advise an applicant for development permission whether or not an EIA is required. This advice is called a Screening Opinion. The Heritage Society stated in their consultation response, "This application is required by law to be accompanied by an EIA Report, regardless of any Screening Opinion that says





otherwise." A list of reasons why an EIA should be undertaken was then supplied in the Heritage Society's consultation response.

The reasons listed by the Heritage Society include the applicant for the development pointing out, "Within the site there are significant heritage features; the site is the location of the liberated African camp..." however the boundaries of the No1 Building (last remaining liberated African building) are not clearly established and the work associated with the development or the development itself could endanger the one remaining historic building. Also included in the consultation response is the Grade III listed historic defence lines and the 3 metre razor wire fence which abuts the lines in two places and will affect the historic setting of the defence lines.

The Heritage Society maintain that Hay Town House and No.1 Building will both be adversely affected by the proposed development and the gated, controlled access to Rupert's Beach will restrict public use of a popular open space. After including other instances where razor wire is to be used and gated, controlled access erected on what is now public access the Heritage Society object, stating, "In taking all the above this application will have severe effects upon not only the landscape of Rupert's it will also have a severe adverse effect on the inter-relationship between the people of the island and its history, culture and heritage."

In connection with making the African Burial Grounds areas of respectful remembrance and commemoration the Heritage Society say, "The historic symbol of former Liberated African Depot is of International Significance as stated by Dr Pearson on his recent visit. Although the site is not currently listed, officially recognised, fully understood or legally protected, it must be the mark of civilised society to do so for future generations. This application will desecrate a memorial site before its value is properly understood.

In a consultation response which lists twenty-one points of objection it is observed, "The overall Site Plan has within it a massive discrepancy. The proposed cable terminal appears

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## First Phase of Rupert's Development Labelled 'Illegal' Rupert's Beach to be gated and access controlled Liberated African memorial site will be desecrated



to be wrongly positioned by some forty feet and this will affect the proposed layout of the container park, building and entrance area. This should bring into question the competence of the entire application." And "There are indications in the Planning, Design and Access Statement that further application will be submitted for new warehouses. Their sites are not shown. This being the case, the application presented here is not the complete plan. The authority should not be determining this application unless the complete proposal is before them."

Other, informal, comments received regarding this application also mention there is no mention of the widening of Field Road, the turning into Side Path and Side Path itself. If it is not known by how much these roads will be improved it cannot be possible to make decisions on a big development which will have a direct and significant impact on the traffic that uses these roads. The fish processing factory has been described as a "white elephant" that takes up a large area of precious space within the narrow valley floor and the sea rescue building is a "sacred cow" that was built in entirely the wrong place and also takes up too much space. Also not included is the merchant's warehousing or any indication of how this integral part of the whole development will fit into what has been proposed. It is feared the expected inefficiencies of layout and design within the restricted space available will mean it will take longer to transport cargo from



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Rupert's to Jamestown than it does in the current situation. There are already moves afoot for the £400 penalty applied for not removing containers within 7 days to be reviewed and relaxed.

In an equally long and detailed consultation response the National Trust raise many questions associated with built heritage, noise dust and dirt affecting residents, loss of public leisure facilities and an adverse impact on tourism. The Trust's response concludes with: The Trust proposes that the following conditions be applied to development permission:

- 1. Public consultation to take place
- 2. An EIA to be conducted
- 3. A Social Impact Assessment to be conducted
- 4. Revised EMP based on EIA and SIA

5. No development to start until improvements to Field Road and Side path have been completed

6. Treatment of development areas adjacent to Liberated African burial grounds and hospital need to be finalised in consultation with Heritage Society, Saint Helena National Trust and LAAC, with focus on a possible exclusion of the No.1 Building within current and future plan boundaries.



Volunteers required for a photo book project, THE WAITING GAME

During July we would like to photograph 220 family portraits, at home, to document the people on St Helena during this historic period of isolation.

Participation is voluntary & open to everyone. A photo book will be published of the project. Contact Darrin or Sharon Henry to take part info@insidesthelena.com Hi, my name is Katie and I am currently a student on work experience. For the next few weeks I will be sharing some of my thoughts here in the Independent, I hope you will enjoy.

## In The Face Of Controversy



Katie-Raye Williams

Undoubtedly we have all experienced some form of controversy in our lifetime. Whether in politics, a family dispute or celebrity culture the matter cannot be described as rare. But what is controversy exactly? Of course the definition states: "a heated discussion, usually concerning a matter of conflicting opinion or point of view", however, in todays society what is termed a conflicting matter? What is the causing of a heated discussion? Indeed what you and I deem controversial may be varying, this is of course results in different opinions, but perhaps more profoundly, different upbringings and societal constructs.

Controversy is relative and has been forever, debating is relevant in each era and we see this clearly in our history. Issues with alcohol and struggles with poverty were extreme in the 1920s along with the various disputes of the "roaring twenties". Additionally conflicting opinions were certainly raised as people searched for individualism in the 70s. Of course trends and therefore issues are constantly changing. Are we more compliant to controversy in 2020?

Being a teenager in today's society can bring about many advantages. We are open-minded, exposed to various opportunities, allowed an enriching education as well as several forms of self expression. These things likely make us more accommodated to "controversy". Naturally this is my opinion of our generation which may indeed be biased, but a notable growth in all of civilisation can't be denied. Certainly, changing a person's mind can be anything but easy but we are all evolving, even without noticing. How we changing and what is altering our ideas of controversy?

A new trait obtained by many in this generation as well as those succumbing to the new age is acceptance. There is an acceptance of new people, ideas, perceptions and personalities. Although on St. Helena we are not exposed to several of these variables, life elsewhere is thriving with difference, and this is accepted. Whether representation is shown in the form of fashion, attitudes or beliefs, everyone is free to be themselves, or at least should be. Truly, years ago certain types of expression were considered uncouth, leaving people repressed and unsatisfied with life. Although judgement can never be escaped, it is certainly increasingly ignored in 2020.

On the other hand, whilst uniqueness is celebrated, insensi-

tivity is denounced. Social normalities years ago which involve discriminations and thoughtlessness are rightfully condemned. This is a large cause of today's controversies. Is it that we are becoming better people? Or are we just more aware of our own injustices? With our current climate it almost seems that we will never learn. This raises a question, is controversy good or bad? In today's society is it difficult to draw a line between the two? Indeed it seems this topic consists of many questions, to which there it appears there are no correct answers. But surely we can learn from our mistakes.

So, to conclude, mankind might have some things to consider. How should we react in the face of controversy and what is that exactly? It might be time to accept change, in whichever appearance it displays.



### JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020 At 8 PM.

### AGENDA:

Committee must be formed.

	Welcome.
	Chairperson's report.
	To read the minutes of the last Annual General
	Meeting, and if approved, confirm.
	To receive the audited Accounts of the past year.
	To dissolve the Committee.
	To elect Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and
	Members to serve on the Committee for the
	ensuing year.
	Any other business.
	To close the meeting.
oen	able the Centre to continue functioning, a

## Big Bicentenary Bash in the Balance

Before Covid, the plans to mark the bicentenary of Napoleon's death were big and impressive. Plans were well advanced for two cruise ships to call a St Helena just before the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Napoleon's death and a range of events was lined up to commemorate the bicentenary and keep the passengers on the two ships interested and entertained. Since Covid swept across the world the bicentenary commemorations joins everything else in every country where nothing is certain and even medium term planning is impossible.

The latest a decision can be made on opening reservations for the cruise ships, or not, is September. After that it there will not be enough time to make all the arrangements necessary to organise the cruises. The chances of a decision to go ahead with the cruises look poor. As the lockdown restrictions are relaxed in many of the countries affected by Covid-19, the fear is there will be a second wave of the pandemic. There are already signs that this is happening in some countries, South Africa included. If some restrictions remain in place, such as the 14 day isolation period for all new arrivals, any thoughts of a cruise to St Helena are impossible.



Michel Martineau at Saint FM studios explaining the current position with bicentenary planning

The bicentenary of Napoleon's death will still be commemorated; the programme of events is given on the *https:// www.napoleonsthelena.com/en/bicentenary2021/* website run by St Helena Napoleonic Heritage (SHNH), a not—for-profit organisation whose purpose is to preserve the memory of the emperor on St Helena. SHNH was founded in October 2015 and looks after the day to day management of the three French properties in St Helena on behalf of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## SAINT HELENA NAPOLEONIC HERITAGE

The three day event starting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the anniversary of Napoleon's death, is all that can be promised with certainty in the prevailing situation. At 5:15pm on 5<sup>th</sup> May the gardens at Longwood House will be opened. The House will not be open for this occasion, as was the case exactly 200 years previously. The gardens will have floodlights and music and the exact moment of Napoleon's death will be commemorated, first at 5:48pm with a French Armed Forces bugle call, "La Sonnerie aux morts" which was composed for funerals and commemorations of battles or wars. This will be followed after one minute's silence by "The Last Post", also a bugle call which is used by British Forces at military funerals and commemorations. The flag will be lowered to half mast and then readings of contemporary accounts of Napoleon's death will follow.

On 6<sup>th</sup> May a Catholic mass will be celebrated at Longwood House and it is hoped that a bishop will be available to celebrate this mass. This will be followed by a ceremony at the Tomb starting at 10:45am. It is hoped that crews from the French Navy and the Royal Navy will be present but this needs to be confirmed. There will be wreath laying, a minutes silence, a rendering of La Marseilaise and participation by the local Catholic priest.

9<sup>th</sup> May is the last of the three days of commemoration, A special day will be held at the Tomb to commemorate Napoleon's burial. Longwood House will also be open and there will be an exhibition depicting Napoleon's life in exile on display in the General's Quarters at the rear of Longwood House.



Death mask of Napoleon at the Musée de l'Armée, Paris

Another form of commemoration will be a St Helena Distillery brandy which has been maturing in oak casks since 2015, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Napoleon's arrival in St Helena. It will be bottled in 2021 and a limited edition of 1,821 bottles will be available for sale. The brandy will be available on island as well as for export.



## **Black History Matters**

Peggy King Jorde is a Cultural Projects Consultant combining more than 30 years of experience in architecture and historic preservation projects in New York City and beyond. In 1990, King Jorde was thrust into the limelight as a pivotal figure in the fight to protect a 17th century African Burial Ground for enslaved and free blacks that was rediscovered during the construction of a federal office building.

When Peggy visited the island in February 2018, she was astounded by the size and significance of the African Burial Grounds in Rupert's Valley, which unambiguously places the island at the centre of the Middle Passage, tethering the British Empire to the institution of slavery in the US and the Caribbean. Peggy was then quoted saying, 'this history is tied to my history, so I am here to bear witness...You cannot erase people, and you cannot erase who they are and the contributions that they make.'

With the situation that has arisen in the US and UK surrounding the global campaign of 'Black Lives Matter', the Saint Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission reached out to Peggy for advice on how the events unfolding internationally are just as pertinent to Saint Helena's unrecognized Black and Saint Helenian history as opposed to its celebrated colonial history.

### BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

P. King Jorde



"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." John Donne, London 1623

Never truer words were spoken, and which is why St. Helena and I share a bond, even as an African American.

I have spent the better part of my career in the public and communities defending histories marginalized by race and creating cultural spaces for them. I am a product of the American south, a descendant of enslaved people, where cotton was King, and vestiges of plantation culture still linger. Where during my childhood, racist terrorism, segregation, and the Civil Rights Movement shaped my life. And so it is no surprise that I stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter Movement.

In the wake of the racialised murder of George Floyd, the global community has responded with a bold willingness to demand justice, pull back the veil of white privilege and confront racial disparities that oppress and diminish the dignity of black lives, past and present. In the case of Great Britain, the demand for change has turned to home. Following cues from the U.S., Bristol's removal of symbols of slavery and racial oppression has taken center stage sparking critical conversations around integrity, truth-telling, and history.

I thought about my visit to St. Helena a few years ago. Nothing struck me more than the realization that I was on the ground where the British East India Company had headquartered in the cradle of the international slave trade. I was keenly aware that I was a descendant of survivors of the Middle Passage, standing at an intersection of legalized human bondage and the Atlantic economy. If I wanted tangible reminders that offered a meaningful opportunity for truth and reconciliation surrounding the trans-Atlantic slave trade, I found it in St. Helena. Still, I wanted to see something of my history profoundly represented in the landscape.

And I thought about Napoleon Bonaparte, St. Helena's most celebrated figure who was not without his contributions to the legacy of slavery, oppression, and terrorism, which shaped the lives of Africans on the continent and in the colonies. Bonaparte dared to reinstate the brutal slave-based plantation society in France's most profitable island colony, San Domingue. Still, he had not anticipated defeat by the black resistance under Toussaint Louverture's leadership. Slave owners turned refugees fled the island for the U.S. to join other plantation colonies stateside. Meanwhile, Haiti, the new republic, set the standard for black resistance and the price of dignity and freedom. Nearly 100 years later, the Zulu people who had sought nothing less against the British suffered imprisonment in St. Helena for their acts of resistance against unfair treatment.

Finally, I thought about the "Liberated" African Burial Ground and the extraordinary opportunity to honour the humanity of the African children, women, and men who rest there, not to mention the 325 souls who have yet to be laid to rest. Some say slavery never ended, it has only evolved. Which is why the burial ground is an important cultural heritage site with the power to move us all to say "never again." Yet the threat looms large for this sacred place as much needed support falls desperately short of considerable financial and moral commitment by governing authorities. In consideration of the enormous wealth of colonial powers built on the exploitation of enslaved people and their descendants, a world-class monument is deserving, at the very least.

### What will it take?

The exploits of privilege have rendered history written and rewritten so as not to acknowledge uncomfortable facts. Some say, "change never comes when it is comfortable and convenient, and equal treatment can't prevail without a willingness to challenge the system."

The practice of silence has gone far too long, and it's an excellent time to get comfortable with the uncomfortable. Be a cultural custodian. Defend the sites of conscience that uphold the humanity of black lives, culture, and history. Commit to confronting systemic racism and the legacy of slavery & the Middle Passage. Never fear striking down the injustices and omissions affecting all humanity along the way.

We are all a piece of the continent and a part of the main...... BE THE CHANGE!

## National Insect Week

National Insect Week (UK), run by the Royal Entomological Society, returns this year from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June. It is only fitting as a UK Overseas Territory that we get involved as well. The week encourages people of all ages to learn more about insects.

Love them or loathe them, there's no denying insects are an essential part of the ecosystem. They can be beneficial like bees, or slightly irritating like mosquitos, but, nevertheless an important part of the food chain. Creepy crawlies are fascinating little critters to study, and make up the largest group of animals on Earth. Our understanding of them is important for conservation, medicine, and ecology and food production. By learning more about these amazing creatures, we can protect all of the good they do.

We know the general characteristics of an insect. They are invertebrates, which mean they have no backbone. They generally have six legs (3 pairs), two pairs of wings, antennae, and three parts to their body. There are between six and ten million different types of insects. They can eat plants, other animals, and even blood.

Did you know? There are over 1,400 of terrestrial (land) invertebrates on St Helena, of those about 420 are endemic!

Sixty-eight of St Helena's endemic invertebrates are listed as threatened (Vulnerable or higher) on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species<sup>™</sup>, meaning further decline in their population might cause the species to go extinct! Many of these endemic invertebrates are threatened by predatory invasive invertebrates, as well as habitat decline.

During past Darwin Plus projects the Trust's Invertebrate team have worked on the creation of the Invertebrate Education File, which is specific to St Helena. The team has also worked on cataloguing all invertebrate species on St Helena and assessing species for the Red –List, and contributed to scientific papers on new species.

So, what's next? The Trust was successful in applying for an invasive invertebrate control Darwin Plus funded project; "Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive invertebrate control".



Miomantis Caffra

With the appropriate approvals and agreements, the project will facilitate endemic invertebrate recovery and re-establish their associated ecosystem functions through testing and establishing invasive invertebrate control methods with collaboration with SHG and other partners. This will focus on the high impact invasives with voracious appetites; the European wasp *Vespula vulgaris*, key ant species (e.g. *Pheidole megacephala*) and the Springbok mantis (*Miomantis caffra*). The project will provide evidence for invertebrate controls, with long-term and island-wide benefits for St Helenian endemic species and their habitats, as well as species beneficial for crops, such as biocontrol invertebrates.

The Trust will be engaging you, the public, on this project with citizen science and events to promote invasive control, and we look forward to your participation and support.

Learn more about this exciting and innovative project in future newspaper articles and social media or participate in our Insect photography competition.

Happy Insect week!

#NIW2020 #insect #sthelenacreepycrawlies



Apis Mellifera



Lunate Ladybird (Cheilomenes Lunata)



The St Helena Independent Volume XV, Issue 29, Friday 26th June 2020





The damage appears to have been a deliberate criminal act. The public is reminded that traffic mirrors are located around the Island at traffic blackspots and the damage/removal of these mirrors can compromise the safety of road users. There is also significant cost attached to replacing them.

Police are keen to speak to anyone with information, regardless of how minor they consider it to be, including if they have seen someone acting suspiciously in the stated area between these times. Members of the public are asked to contact the Investigating Officer, Police Constable, James Venning, on tel: 22626 or via email: james.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh, quoting reference HEHN6175. Alternatively, you can speak to a Police Officer of your choice.

23 June 2020 http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh



St Helena Government

• Airport Directorate exploring options to organise further charter flight in the next month or two

 Health Directorate continues to seek other options to facilitate medical referrals

Social/Physical Distancing advice
suspended

IEG agrees short term changes to enable St Helena to re-engage with the rest of the world

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

### ST HELENA PREPAREDNESS UPDATE

St Helena Government (SHG) continues to monitor possible threats to the community and to prepare control arrangements for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The preventative measures on the Island are under constant review by SHG to ensure that they are working and new information is taken into account. At Monday's monthly meeting of the Incident Executive Group (IEG), members discussed the Island's preparedness, the latest travel developments and St Helena's physical requirements in the coming months.

### **Arrivals and Quarantine Arrangements**

South Africa has relaxed their lockdown restrictions to level 3, which allows limited domestic flights within the country. International flights are not expected to resume until the country moves to level 1 or 0 – when this will happen is currently not known. It was considered by the IEG as reasonable to assume that scheduled commercial air services to the Island will not commence within the next three months.

IEG was advised several people on-Island and in the UK have registered with the Tourist Office as having an essential or necessary requirement to travel. Accordingly, IEG decided it was becoming necessary to arrange a further charter flight in the next month or two. The Airport Directorate was tasked with looking into affordable options. An update with more details will be issued as soon as practicable. If you are concerned about departing or returning to St Helena and have not yet registered with the Tourist Office please contact: <a href="mailto:christina.plato@tourism.co.sh">christina.plato@tourism.co.sh</a> or call: (00290) 22158 to register your details.

All new arrivals to St Helena will continue to be subject to legally required 14-day quarantine at Bradley's Camp or another suitable location as directed by a Proper Officer. New arrivals are tested for COVID-19 after the 14 days quarantine as an extra reassurance.

Three passengers arriving on the MV Helena from Ascension Island on compassionate grounds have been given an exemption by Executive Council from quarantine at Bradley's Camp due to having been in quarantine for an extended period of time on Ascension Island. These passengers will be tested for COVID-19 on arrival to St Helena. Ascension Island, like St Helena, does not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19.

There is currently one resident in quarantine at Bradley's Camp having arrived on the last call of the MV

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Helena from Cape Town. Bradley's Camp continues to operate well.

### Medical Referrals

South Africa continues to accept only urgent and life threatening medical evacuation cases and no accompanying family members.

The Health Directorate is still seeking other options to facilitate medical referrals and the public will be kept updated when more information is known.

### Social/Physical Distancing and good hand hygiene

There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on St Helena. With capacity to now control arrivals, provide increased medical care and specialist testing for COVID-19 on-Island, the IEG has agreed that current Social/Physical Distancing advice can be suspended. If in the future a case of the virus (outside of Bradley's Camp) is identified on the Island the IEG will be able to re-introduce the measure.

Organisations may now resume their normal activities or social events.

The IEG still strongly advise that the community continue with good hand hygiene practices. Remember:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty
- When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue to prevent the spread of germs and viruses. Discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water
- Hands touch many surfaces which can be contaminated with a virus. If you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer a virus from the surface to yourself
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.

IEG noted that there has been information received that good personal hygiene has contributed towards reducing the incidence of regular colds and flu.

### Re-engagement with the rest of the world

Currently, entry to St Helena is restricted to Saints and residents. No one sector of the economy or public service is immune from the downturn in income to the Island, with the tourism sector the most visibly impacted at the present time. Many countries around the world are now beginning to find ways with precautions to re-open their borders to business and non-resident visitors.

Taking this into account the IEG has agreed to the following short-term changes:

- Entry requirements to St Helena will be amended to permit any foreign national to be allowed to
  enter St Helena, subject to the established immigration rules, quarantine regulations and testing
  requirements
- Marine vessels will be allowed to enter port and the crew subsequently permitted to enter St Helena after they have completed 14 days quarantine, display no COVID-19 symptoms and as an extra reassurance have tested negative for COVID-19 on the fourteenth day of quarantine
- The 14 days quarantine period for those arriving on marine vessels will now be defined as the absence of COVID-19 for 14 days. The 14 days will be counted to include days spent at sea (based on official ship's records), days spent quarantining on a vessel in St Helena waters or days spent quarantining at Bradley's Camp or another suitable location. This is similar to arrangements in some other overseas territories
- The current 14-day quarantine arrangements at Bradley's Camp remain the same for air arrivals for the time being
- A mutual recognition exemption from quarantine may be possible for those countries and territories

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that St Helena recognises as COVID-19 free (e.g. Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, and Falkland Islands). This option will be explored further with at first Ascension Island in the coming weeks. Such an arrangement relies on the other territory (ies) agreeing to recognise St Helena's COVID-19 free status too. This mutual recognition arrangement is foreseen to be for those individuals who have completed a 14-day or longer quarantine period at these territories without any infection. Passengers would still be tested for COVID-19 on arrival at St Helena as an extra reassurance measure.

At present, there are no flights and potentially only a very small number of visiting marine vessels. Opening up in this limited way to arrivals with proportionate, preventative measures in place is regarded as a manageable, practical measure and signals that the Island is still engaged with the wider world. For further details on St Helena's COVID-19 preparedness please visit our online FAQ: <u>https://</u>www.sainthelena.gov.sh/coronavirus-COVID-19-live-qa/.

#StHelena #Coronavirus #COVID-19 #AltogetherHealthier

https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/

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SHG 24 June 2020

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## **RESERVOIR VOLUMES AT RED HILL 100% FULL**

Connect Saint Helena Ltd are pleased to announce that as of Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, the reservoir volumes at Red Hill are at full capacity!

There are four reservoirs that serve the Red Hill water distribution system, they are Scotts Mill, Harpers 1, Harpers 2 (Earth dam) and Harpers 3. In total, these four reservoirs hold an impressive volume of 64,332m<sup>3</sup>.



The St Helena Independent Volume XV, Issue 29, Friday 26th June 2020



June is Pride Month

• Thousands of people around the world celebrate Gay Pride to champion and promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people

### CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

June is now with us and we see the weather turn that little bit colder, many of our young people have just completed schooling and are moving on to the next phase of life, and we in Education are preparing for our final term before we start all over again in September.

June is also the month when thousands of people around the world celebrate Gay Pride with marches and festivals to champion and promote the rights of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual) people. This year many of the celebrations will be online to allow for social distancing. Gay Pride has its origins back in the late sixties in New York. At this time LGBT people were suffering discrimination and police persecution which came to a head when police raided a bar called The Stonewall Inn. The LGBT community fought back, resulting in six days of unrest known as 'the Stonewall riots'. Since this time peaceful marches have been held every June to commemorate this occasion, which is seen as the birth of the LGBT Rights Movement.

Unfortunately, despite the passing of 50 years since the first march, LGBT people across the world are still facing significant and daily discrimination. In 72 countries homosexuality is still against the law, and in eight of them it is punishable by death. Even in more progressive and socially liberated countries, discrimination is still widespread. Figures from the UK\* report that almost half of young people who are, or think they may be, gay are bullied regularly. Most of these young people do not tell anyone about this bullying and report not having anyone they can talk to. For many young people this results in missing school and failing to get the qualifications they are capable of. Young people may be bullied on the basis of their own sexuality or perceived sexuality, or that of their family members. A culture that does not celebrate diversity and challenge discrimination also creates the conditions for significant mental health problems. Research shows that 61% of lesbian, gay and bi young people, and 84% of trans young people (people who wish to live as the opposite gender to that which they were assigned at birth) use self-harm as a way of managing. Even more concerning, 45% of trans young people and 22% of lesbian, gay and bi young people and 22% of lesbian, gay and bi young people and 22% of

In response to these distressing figures, we can try to build a culture in which we celebrate diversity, rather than view it as a challenge to our own beliefs or way of life. Schools and organisations which explicitly state that homophobia is wrong have significantly lower rates of bullying and members who feel happier and safer. Within Inclusion Services our role is to ensure all children and young people are able to fully access education, regardless of the gender, race, religion, or sexuality of them or any of their family members, and without discrimination. Only then can we be sure that when our young people leave school each June they will all be happy, safe and achieving their potential, and so able to contribute to building a successful future for all Saints.

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If you would like to know more about any of the issues above, the following websites are good sources of information and support:

www.youngstonewall.org.uk www.stonewall.org.uk https://lgbt.foundation

If you would like to address personal issues of bullying or mental health on-Island, you will always receive a warm response from the Inclusion Service at Olive Cottage on tel: 24543 or the Mental Health Team on tel: 22593.

\*Figures taken from School Report (2017) Stonewall.

Some positive and negative comments from young people in a UK survey:

"Since I can't come out at home I can't talk to them about the problems at school. I'm afraid that if I make one wrong move I will end up outing myself to everyone." Dale, 13, (South East England)

"My anger at bystanders who I knew were good people, as well as at staff who didn't intervene, was what particularly ached. I felt isolated, alone, and like the whole world was against me." Luke, 17, (South East England)

*"I was bullied which made everything harder. I was so ashamed of my sexuality that I thought about taking my life because I didn't know how to feel normal again and accept it."* Amber, 19, now at university (Wales)

"Seeing healthy and positive LGBT+ people on the Internet saved my life. Seeing people being genuinely happy with their life and being LGBT+ gave me hope." Zach, 16, (Scotland)

*"The first person I came out to was my church youth leader who was so helpful and supportive."* Jacob, 19, now at university (South East England)

*"My teachers. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, they support me the most."* Gabriel, 15, secondary school (North West England)

School Report (2017) Stonewall.

### #StHelena #PrideMonth

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SHG 23 June 2020

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Anthony Thomas Appointed Chairperson of ESH Board

Enterprise St Helena is pleased to announce that Mr Anthony Thomas has been appointed by HE Governor Phillip Rushbrook as Chairperson of the ESH Board of Directors with effect from Monday, 15 June 2020.

Anthony's appointment follows Councillor Lawson Henry stepping down as Board Chairperson in August 2019, at which time Mr Brian Deadman was appointed as interim Board Chairperson. Anthony Thomas sits on the ESH Board as a Private Sector representative and has been on the board since 18 June 2015. Having an existing private sector member of the ESH Board take on the Chairmanship role is positive news for ESH, as this adds a measure of continuity, whilst the organisation continues to deliver against its objectives outlined within the SEDP and DfID Project Programme.

Enterprise St Helena would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Anthony on his appointment and we look forward to working with him in his new role. We would also like to thank Brian for acting as the interim Chairperson over the past few months. Brian will continue on the ESH Board as SHG representative.

SALE

EASE





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### FOR SALE

Site 1: Parcel Number 424, within the Longwood South registration section, measuring 0.12 acres.

### FOR LEASE - QUALIFYING LOCAL RESIDENTS

Site 2: Parcel Number 345, within the Silver Hill registration section, measuring 0.473 acres.

Site 3: Parcel Number 135, within the Deadwood registration section, measuring 0.40 acres.

Closing date for bids are 12 noon, Friday 17th July 2020

Please contact: Gina Henry, Crown Estates Officer on email address: gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh, or on telephone number: 22270, or you could collect particulars from Essex House, Jamestown.

TIP OF THE If you accidently drop ice cubes, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.



### St Helena Island receives International Trail Accreditation

St Helena Tourism is pleased to announce that the island's 21 Post Box Walks and 11 recommended Footpaths has received official Green Flag Trail accreditation.

Early this year representatives from Green Flag Trails visited St Helena to undertake accreditation for the island's Hiking and Walking product, working with the Tourism team and the Walks Maintenance Contractor, Martin Buckley.

Green Flag Trails is an accreditation programme that seeks to offer trail users all the information they need to ensure the trail meets their expectations. **Providing the assurance** that a trail is safe and under responsible management.

Melissa Fowler, Tourism Manager said "St Helena Tourism would like to thank auditors' Leon and Gerhardt (Green Flag) who showed us tremendous support throughout and not forgetting our very own passionate Post Box Walks maintenance team lead by Martin Buckley who strived to make this project become a reality."

Following this accreditation news St Helena Tourism received "Congratulations" from Mr Galeo Saint, International Chair of the World Trails Network.

"Congratulations to St Helena and the team behind adopting the Green Flag Trails system. This remarkable island in the middle of the Atlantic is now flying the flag for sustainably managed and marketed trails and is also in good company. Islands seem to be driving the momentum for Green Flag Trails at the moment. In October 2019 Kythera Island in Greece began the process of certifying their trails and was also the venue for an international team from 16 different countries, who gathered for a training course in Green Flag Auditing. Taiwan Island looks like it is next, having recently reached out to us to implement the system on their trails.

As Chair of the World Trails Network, although we are still in the process of acquiring Green Flag Trails as a system, I am thrilled that Green Flag Trails continues to grow and develop. We look forward to being able to take this valued system forward in the years ahead. I see all Green Flag Trails as essential partners in the system, the stronger each trail destination is in keeping to the Green Flag Trails principles, the more the entire trails industry benefits, not least the trail users and tourists who will enjoy the trails we are fortunate to be custodians through our respective organizations and projects.

Wishing St Helena all the best. I look forward to one day visiting and experiencing first hand the trails of your island."

The Green Flag Trails accreditation system ensures sustainable trail development, where the trails accredited meet strict criteria. The system is based on Four Pillars: Accurate Information, Risk Management, Environmental Responsibility and Effective Management. Trails with Green Flag status ensures the best possible trail experiences to trail users. Trails are not graded subjectively from 'good' to 'bad'. Instead the system centres on the concept of allowing trail users to make their own informed decisions about the trails they'd like to walk by supplying detailed information.

If you would like further information on Green Flag Accreditation please contact Melissa.fowler@tourism.co.sh or alternatively call 22158.



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### **FIREFIGHTER VACANCY**

The St Helena Airport is looking to recruit an experienced professional in firefighting/aircraft ground handling.

The successful applicant will be a member of the Rescue and Fire Fighting Service and will be trained in the use of Aircraft Ground Service Equipment to support aircraft turnarounds at St Helena Airport. Applicants will be expected to work at height and achieve a rope rescue certification of Level 2 or higher within the first year of employment.

Other duties will include Environmental tasks such as:

- → Wildlife monitoring
- → Maintenance of the Airport precinct gardens
- ✤ Inspections of Airport buildings and surrounding areas
- → Inspection and maintenance of the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Other duties will include maintenance tasks such as:

→ Corrosion control of various machinery and buildings

Applicants must be of a professional manner and achieve the following:

- → A full medical assessment
- → Pass a narcotic and Alcohol test
- ✤ Pass a fitness assessment and agility test
- → A clean driving license (J4)
- → Able to pass a Criminal Background Check and Employment verification Check in accordance with the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirement (OTAR) 178.

All applicants will be viewed with preferred experiences and certifications in the following:

- → Experience within a firefighting service
- → Experience within an airport environment
- → Fire fighter 1 and 2 or equivalent
- → Driver/pump operator.

The aviation environment is primarily driven by safety; as such, applicants must be:

- ✤ Safety conscious
- → Willing to undergo and actively participate in continual training
- → Able to work as part of a team and support their colleagues
- $\rightarrow$  Have a professional and level-headed demeanour.

If you think you have the relevant qualifications and skills to suit this role, or you would like more information, or to receive the job description and application form please contact Elaine Hopkins at the St Helena Airport on Telephone number 25180 Ext 0 or email address <u>recruitment@sthelenaairport.aero</u>

The closing date for this position is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. Interviews will take place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

# **Road Closures**



St Helena Government

# FAIRHURST

## ACCESS (HAUL) ROAD



The Highways Authority has given approval for a section of the Access (Haul) Road – from the junction at the Bulk Fuel Installation (BFI), Rupert's, to the junction near Fox Motors, Deadwood, – to be closed from Monday, 29 June, to Friday, 3 July 2020, between 7am to 4.30pm (weekdays only).

This closure is to allow CAN France to install rockfall protection measures above the hairpin bend overlooking the BFI.

During this closure only Emergency Services will be granted access.

SHG / CAN France / Fairhurst 23 June 2020 http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh

## CARDINAL DRIVE, HALF TREE HOLLOW

The Highways Authority has given approval for Cardinal Drive, Half Tree Hollow, to be closed from Monday, 29 June, to Friday, 3 July 2020, between 9am and 3pm. This closure is to allow the Roads Section to upgrade an existing storm drain.



During this closure, only residents in the affected area and Emergency Services will be granted access. Appropriate signage will be in place. The diversion route for this closure will be via Lantana Drive, Wirebird Drive and Evergreen Drive. **SHG** 

23 June 2020 http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh



### **INVITATION TO TENDER**

The Trust wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contract:-

• Completion of Stone Cottage renovations (internal and external) at Deadwood

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from: Amanda Constantine Office Manager Broadway House Jamestown Tel: 21900 Email: Amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm meeting at Stone Cottage, Deadwood. If you need directions to the site, or are unable to attend the site visit during this time, please contact our Office Manager to arrange another date and time. Completed tenders should be sealed in an envelope and given to our Office Manager

in Broadway House by 12noon on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020.



### AUDIT ST HELENA External Auditors

AUDIT ST HELENA invites applications for the following job vacancy BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER Salary range £8,613 to £10,765 per annum Established positon

The Support Officer will provide the administrative and business support services necessary for the effective functioning of Audit St Helena and supporting the Office of the Chief Auditor.

Candidates are required to have good GCSE grades in English and Mathematics, with proven experience in administrative support including routine financial transactions. An NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification in business and administration would be desirable.

Key skills include efficiency in business processes with good communication and organisation skills necessary to support a busy professional office. IT proficiency including Excel, Word and Outlook is also essential.

Job Profiles and Application Forms are available by calling 22111 or emailing brendon.hunt@sainthelena.gov.sh

Applications should be submitted by hand or by email to Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown no later than 4pm on Friday, 10 July 2020. Friday 9am -5 pm, Saturday 9am - 2pm, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9am - 5 pm. Or please call Julia 24259. Lots of deals to be had at Newpences, Sapperway.

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See you there



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The St Helena Independent Volume XV, Issue 29, Friday 26th June 2020



The St Helena Independent Volume XV, Issue 29, Friday  $26^{th}$  June 2020

## Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

But the time this newspaper go on sale Liverpool could well be the new Champions of the English Premier League. As a result of beating Crystal Palace at Anfield in a match that the 'Reds' totally dominated and who scored 4 brilliant goals they know that if Manchester City failed to win away at Chelsea on Thursday night, they will be crown Champions for the first time in 30 years.

If Man City does beat Chelsea then Liverpool would need just a point when they play Man City at the Eithad on Thursday  $2^{nd}$  July.

This was Liverpool's 20th win at Anfield in all competitions this season (23rd home match), making them the first club in Europe's big-five leagues to win 20 home matches in 2019-20



Fabinho capped a man of the match performance with a brilliant goal.

In the race for the Champions League place; Manchester United beat Sheffield United 3-0 with Anthony Martial scoring his first ever hat trick for Manchester United and Manchester United's first hat trick by any player since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

Wolves remained level on points with the Red Devils after they defeated relegation threaten Bournemouth 1-0.

Both teams are now just 2 points behind 4<sup>th</sup> place Chelsea and 6 points behind Leicester who sits in 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Hat Trick hero Anthony Martial has now scored 14 league goals this season.

In other midweek matches Aston Villa salvaged a draw against Newcastle as they fight for their Premier League survival.

The bottom club Norwich rested key players as they suffered another loss, as Everton beat them 1-0.

On Tuesday night Leicester drops more points as they could only draw 0-0 with Brighton. Brighton on the other hand has picked up 4 points from 2 matches since the Premier League resumed. It could have being better for the seagulls as they



Kasper Schmeichel saves his 5th penalty of the season

had a first half penalty kick saved by Leicester keeper Kasper Schmeichel.

Spurs picked up their first win in 8 games as they beat relegation threaten West Ham 2-0. Harry Kane scored the second goal, his 18<sup>th</sup> goal of the season.

Despite Pep Pep Guardiola saying his team lack fitness, Manchester City looks the inform team since the Premier League restart scoring 8 goals and conceding 0 in their two matches.

Their latest match saw they defeat Burnley 5-0 with both Phil Foden and Riyad Mahrez scoring twice.

I have certainly been impressed with Phil Foden since the return of Football; he certainly looked like he can fill the departing David Silva's boots.



Man of the match Phil Foden has scored 3 goals in his last two matches.

On Saturday and Sunday of this week there will be both Premier League matches and FA Cup quarter finals. On Saturday Aston Villa will host Wolves at 11.30GMT in the premier league before Norwich play Manchester United in the first of the FA Cup quarter finals at 4.30pm GMT.

On Sunday Watford play Southampton at 3.30pm in the EPL. In the FA Cup Sheffield United play Arsenal at 12 noon; Leicester play Chelsea at 3pm and Newcastle host Manchester City at 5.30pm GMT.

On Monday Crystal Palace will play Burnley at 7pm.

On Tuesday Arsenal play Norwich; Bournemouth play Newcastle and Everton host Leicester at 5pm.

Brighton Play Manchester United and West Ham play Chelsea at 7.15pm.

On Thursday Sheffield United play Spurs at 5pm and Manchester City host Liverpool at 7.15pm.

## Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

## SHFA Results Week 2 by Mike E Williams

Saturday 20th June

### Lakers bounce back:

It was captain Liam Yon with two brilliantly taken goals to see his side take all three points against Harts. The Lakers were two goals up within six minutes with goals from Jace Williams and Liam Yon. Harts pulled one back with a good header from young player of the match Sean Cansick. Just before half time, Liam Yon grabbed his second goal of the game. Lakers were playing some good football in midfield, with man of the match Louie Barnikle at the heart of every attack. In the second half Simon Scipio headed in a corner to put Harts right back in the game at three-two, but Lakers defended strongly to hold on for their first win of the season. Lakers 3 v 2 Harts

### Axis first win:

The second game on Saturday saw Axis pick up their first win of the season with a six-nil win over Crystal Rangers. Joe was the first on the score sheet to put the Axis into the half time break with a deserved one-nil lead, man of the match Liam Adams was having a good game in goal and kept the Rangers in the game. The start of the second half saw Axis went all out attack and where rewarded with goals from Reese Hobbs, Colby Richards, Ryan Backhouse with two, and an own goal.

Axis 6 v 0 Crystal Rangers

Sunday 21st June

### Flight less birds:

The first game on Sunday saw Bellboys play some of the best football of the season so far, with a big win against the Wirebirds. The Bellboys dominate the first half and where two goals up with in fourteen minutes, with two excellent long range efforts from new boy and man of the match Mnqobi. The way Mnqobi linked up with the Bellboys players; you wouldn't hat thought it was his first game on St Helena. Andrew Yon hade it three-nil with five minutes remaining in the first half. The Wirebirds got off to a great start in the second half wite an outstanding goal from Ricardo 'Squares' Williams the preathe life back into the Wirebirds team. Any chance of a pmeback was quickly extinguish when David in a header unmarked at the near post. As Young flicke Wirebirds started to throw men forward, they left space for Andrew Yon p run in behind and pick up his second of the game. To make things worse for the Birds, Clayton Leo tried to clear the Il but only to see it fly into the back of his own doal.

Bellboys 6 v Wirebirds





### Two in a row:

Rovers made it two wins from two as they put eight past a very well organise Saints team, who at half time where only one goal down. It took Rovers forty minutes for them to register their first goal, with a well taken finish by Brett Isaac. Brett would go on to score two more goals to complete his hat trick and scoop up man of the match honours. Rovers captain Rico Benjamin along with Ronan Legg pick up two goals each, with young player of the match Trystan Thomas also scoring a goal. Rovers 8 v 0 Saints

### Fixtures

Sat 27th June1pmHarts v BellboysRe3pmWirebirds v RoversRe

Referee: Lakers Referee: C Rangers

Sun 28th June1pmSaints v AxisReferee: Rovers3pmCrystal Rangers v LakersReferee: Bellboys

The St Helena I ependent Volume XV, Issue 29, Friday 26th June 2020

## Golf Report for Sunday 21st June 2020

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020 the club hosted the final round of the Presidents Cup 36 Hole stroke play competition. There were a few cancellations from the previous round which left 22 players to battle it out for the available prizes. It was another shotgun start at 12:00. The weather was lovely for golf. If the golfers were to have an excuse for poor performance weather wouldn't be one of them. Ladies and gentlemen the prize winners for Presidents Cup 2020 are;

1<sup>st</sup> Prize and winner of the Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner

Lawson Henry Larry Legg Scott Crowie

Nearest to Pin and Longest Drive ladies

Nearest to Pin Gents	
Longest drive gents	
Most golf played	
Two-ball pool winner	

Helena Stevens Keith Joshua Lawson Henry **Blessing Gurure** Martin Joshua

The prizes were presented by the president who was also the sponsor for the event. The club wishes to thank Mr. Ron De Reuck for sponsoring the event for the second year and also for the curry. Congratulations to all the winners.

Next competition on Sunday 28th June 2020 will be 18 Hole



monthly medal stroke play competition. Tee off is 12:00 and it will be a shotgun start. Registration is ongoing through the usual channels. For more details and photos of our events like our Facebook page @shgc.org.sh

Lastly, the committee of management wishes to appreciate and thank all the members who participated in the course clean up exercises on Saturday 20th June 2020. Happy swinging ...!

Contributed by: SHGC

## PILOT CENSUS TO BE CONDUCTED AHEAD OF 2021 POPULATION CENSUS

The St Helena Statistics Office will, tomorrow, Thursday 25 June 2020, begin conducting a Pilot Census exercise to plan and prepare for a full Population Census, scheduled to be carried out in 2021.

The Population and Housing Census planned for 2021 follows the last Census in 2016. Usually conducted every 10 years, a Census forms part of the basic infrastructure of a community. The last census was carried out two years early, to obtain a benchmark count prior to the opening of St Helena Airport. One objective of the 2021 Census is to assess the effects of the Airport and improved access on the demographic structure of St Helena.

This Census will provide a snapshot of the characteristics of everyone on St Helena and their dwellings and is the most important statistical exercise undertaken on the Island - a basis for policy-making, planning, and resource allocation for the years ahead.

As the Census is an important exercise, the Housing Register and the questionnaires will be tested beforehand through a small Pilot Census exercise of around 50 voluntary households.

Statistical Commissioner, Neil Fantom, said:

"The Pilot Census is a very important exercise, since it helps us test whether the questions provide all the information that we're trying to collect, and also whether we've missed any important areas. I'd like to thank everyone who takes part in the Pilot for their help, which is greatly appreciated."

During the Pilot Census and up until September 2020, feedback is being sought from the wider community on the draft questionnaire and relevant forms to be used during the Population and Housing Census 2021.

This draft questionnaire and relevant forms can be found on the SHG Website at: https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/sthelena/statistics/ and any comments can be provided to the Statistics Office via email: statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh, tel: 22138, or by visiting the office on the first floor of the Castle, Jamestown.

#StHelena #StatisticsOffice #Census2021 #PilotCensus2020

SHG, 24 June 2020



### REGISTRY OF LANDS, ST HELENA 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

NOTICE is hereby given of an application by Craig Ian Yon of Evergreen 1, Half Tree Hollow, for registration as proprietor of an area of Crown land namely Parcel 643 in the Registration Section for Half Tree Hollow. Such application is made by virtue of claimed peaceable, open and uninterrupted possession of said land for a period of at least 15 years. A copy of the application and a plan of the said land are available for inspection at The Land Registry, Essex House, Jamestown, during normal office hours. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Registrar of Lands as to why this application should not be allowed must do so within 3 calendar months of the date of publication of this notice.

DUNCAN COOKE, REGISTRAR OF LANDS

## St Mark's Church Re-Painted

The parish of St. Matthew's has recently completed painting the interior of St. Mark's Church at Longwood.

This was made possible by the donation of the paint by the Mittens family in memory of the late Eric Mittens who in fact, had said that he wanted to join the team to do the painting – the week before he was admitted to hospital.

Aubrey Peters, Peter Johnson and George Johnson volunteered to do the painting of the interior and accomplished it in time for services resuming at St. Mark's Church.



## New National Trust Director



The St Helena National Trust is thrilled to be able to officially welcome Mike Jervois as the organisations' new Director.

Mike brings him a wealth of knowledge and 15 years' experience in nature conservation - across both the public and private sectors on St Helena and internationally.

Mike is currently based in the Falklands, working remotely for the Trust due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, but he hopes to arrive soon.

However, having worked as both a Project Manager and as the Head of Conservation for the Trust, Mike is fully versed in the workings of the organisation and its partners, both on and off-island.

Following the fantastic news that the Trust secured both of our Darwin applications, we thoroughly look forward to welcoming Mike back to St Helena once travel restrictions are lifted so that he can lead us through the next exciting chapter for the Saint Helena National Trust.



## What next for Enterprise St Helena

Enterprise St Helena (ESH) is due to come to an end, in its present form at least, at the end of March next year. In the past ESH has been funded by DFID. The fact that DFID will cease to exist in its present form by September this year has nothing to do with the future of ESH. DFID ceased to fund ESH in April this year but said ESH could continue if they had the funds in the Bank to do so.

In a recent Saint FM radio interview Financial Secretary, Dax Richards said "we're now looking at what the future of ESH needs to be and so a lot of work is going on in the background to determine what that future looks like and how do we deliver those services....". Councillor Lawson Henry added, "Dax is absolutely right, we have to look now how we can continue some of those services, I don't think we'll be able to do it all because we'll need to find the money for that.....and sadly it (ESH) will come to an end next year". Chief Economist Nicole Shamier was also being interviewed, her comments were a bit more illuminating, "Over the years we have been subsidising entities and we haven't been necessarily focussing on the outcomes those entities were providing and in a sense the entities themselves are almost irrelevant...it's actually the service that government wants from it....and when the review of ESH goes on this year it will really focus on those services, there's business advisory support, can it be done by the private sector? Could it be done by the bank because that's what they do in other countries....let's see who will actually bid to provide that service..., so that's the process we're going through at the moment when we're looking at Enterprise St Helena".

## Day of the Seafarer 2020



Yesterday, Thursday 25 June 2020, was *Day of the Seafarer* - used as an opportunity for communities around the world to recognise and give thanks to seafarers on the frontline, playing an essential role in maintaining the flow of vital goods, such as food, medicines and medical supplies. This year's theme is: 'Seafarers are Key Workers: Essential to Shipping, Essential to the World'.

On St Helena, *Day of the Seafarer* was recognised with a small ceremony held at Rupert's Jetty, with the MV Helena in Port, to give thanks to the Captain and crew and to extend wider thanks to the many seafarers both on-Island and worldwide today.

The Captain and crew observed the Ceremony from the decks on-board the MV Helena and were able to join in via communication through VHF radio.

The Ceremony started at 11.30am with a welcome by Maritime Compliance Policy Officer, Mia Henry, who remarked that it was good timing to have the MV Helena in Port on this particular day so we could express our thanks and gratitude, and also how fitting it was to include the Captain and crew in the Ceremony via the very conventional means of communication from ship-to-shore.

In a speech from Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook, HE said: "This is the most fitting place, with the MV Helena alongside, to pay a tribute on behalf of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha to all seafarers. We perhaps take for granted the low profile, trusted reliability and massive capabilities of the ships and crews of vessels that 24 hours a day, seven days a week transport cargo around the world. Therefore, it is on special days such as today, the Day of the Seafarer, we take this opportunity to say to the Captain and crew of the MV Helena that we acknowledge every one of you as our very own frontline key workers."

This was proceeded by a minute of clapping for the Captain and crew. The Ceremony concluded with a Blessing from Father Jack Horner.

Members of the public are encouraged to give thanks to the seafaring community, past and present, in their own way on this day.

## The Seafarer's Tale

I've sailed the ocean blue And spent so many months away from you Given up many comforts of life on land To fulfil my role as husband and man. I've heard the thunder roar and seen the ocean crash Listened to the cries of men; seen the lightening flash.

l've watched women put their life on the line For rescue service, time after time. Women who longed for the children they left behind The ones they held in their hearts and minds. The lengthy hours can be gruelling Nothing you're prepared for quite found in schooling.

The ocean itself cannot be controlled So please go forth with confidence. Be bold For with your task will come the night And the strength in you will rise to fight To carry medicine across the waves Or someone life you must save.

Perhaps someday I'll be allowed to retire And my ocean stories some youth to inspire. Who too will want to champion the waves The coral reefs and perhaps dark caves. For the good of man and service to all The seafarer understands the ocean's call.

Written by Colette Braaf as a tribute to all our Seafarers.

## The Independent Issues an Apology

A week or so ago we reported that an RAF Voyager was to be transformed from its usual grey to a red, white and blue livery because it was reported UK Prime Minister Johnson thought the grey looked depressing. We reported the cost of the work to be about £100,000. We lied. We led you (unknowingly) up the garden path. The paint job has now been completed and the cost is put at £900,000. How it could cost that much is beyond the limited imagination of the editor. A spokesperson for the prime minister claimed the new livery "better represents" the UK abroad.

The BBC report sates the work was carried out by Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group, who said the plane was much bigger than ones they would usually work on. In 2015 the RAF Voyager was refitted for use by the Prime Minister and the Royal Family at a cost of £10 million. The UK Government defended to expense, saying it is cheaper than chartering flights.



Prime Minister Johnson's personal air taxi - ZZ336



Join Pilling Primary School for their monthly car boot on **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020** 

Time: **10am – 12noon** Venue: **Pilling Primary School playground** 



Book a table for £3 by calling the school on 22540 or just turn up on the day.





SATURDAY JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>

## UPSTAIRS AT ROSIE'S A SELECTION OF SCENES AND SONGS FROM THE MUSICAL MAMMA MIA!

4pm afternoon performance for under 16 and families. Kids menu available

7.30 evening performance over16 followed by a 70's disco.

DJ: Sharon Wade assisted by Debbie Yon

Free Entry. Donations to CSH Arts Charity

Starring: Debsie-Lou Knipe as Donna Joe Phippard as Sam and Lisa Joshua as Sophie



Taste 4 La

# Kingshurst Community Centre

The Kingshurst Community Centre Association would like to thank everyone who has supported the centre and extend some special Thank You's as a few projects draw to a close. We look forward to your continued support as we work together to provide a multifunctional venue to our community.

## Thank You

Special thanks to ESH & FCO for funding soft play equipment through the Grand Ideas Competition. Thanks also to AW Ship Management Ltd for their generosity and all those who assisted in helping to get the

If you are interested in running or taking part in a playgroup please get in touch!!



## Thank You

Special thanks to the Community Development Organisation for funding an access ramp at the front entrance to the centre. Many thanks to the Technical Section for the design and Ged & Ali's Building & Maintenance Services for the construction.

## Thank You

Special thanks to the Crown Estates team for their help with building maintenance and to the Prison team for grounds maintenance

**To book Kingshurst** call 24349/62877 or email <u>KingshurstAssociation@gmail.com</u> or <u>cgp@helanta.co.sh</u>

## Coming soon:

10:30am — 12:30pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July

# Kids Club



## Save the Date:

