

# THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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## Saintel

***A Community-Run  
Non-Profit Internet  
Service Provider  
Designed for St Helena***

## ***Successful Calibration Flight This Week***



***Over Hundred Discontented  
People in Half Tree Hollow***



## ***Carnival 2020 in Pictures***



## ***The Public Service is Changing....***

“Good public services are vital for an inclusive economy, a fair society and for people to live fulfilling lives.”



# Over Hundred Discontented People in Half Tree Hollow Community Centre

Mike Olsson

The meeting at Half Tree Hollow Community Centre on Wednesday night attracted 113 people to discuss the perceived unfair treatment when it comes to quarantine requirements for people arriving from the UK. The meeting was told that Executive Council had approved exemptions from quarantine for staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office and their family members. They are only required to home – isolate and not to be quarantined at Bradley's.

The public at the meeting found this arrangement unfair and discriminatory. It was also said by the panel in the meeting, Legislative Council Members, Jeffrey Ellick, Christine Scipio and Gavin Ellick, that Legislative Council was never informed about the decision to be taken by Executive Council.

There was a profound but calm rejection of the decision taken by the Executive Council members and Governor Rushbrook, who was said to bully the ExCo members to making the decision.

On the question of what should be done about the behaviour of Executive Councillors the floor unanimously tasked the Legislative Council members on the panel to put up a motion declaring no confidence in the Executive Council members in the next formal meeting of Legislative Council in the beginning of December, alternatively call an emergency Legislative



Council meeting do deal with the non-confidence. The Legislative Councillors undertook to put this motion forward.

There were also calls for writing a complaint to the Secretary of State about the behaviour of Governor Rushbrook, but this was not carried forward to any action.

It is highly unlikely that a vote of no confidence in the members of Executive Council would get enough support to carry, and the only other way to remove the Executive Council members would be for enough Legislative Council members to resign to force a new general election.

The meeting was lively but well organised and orderly.



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## Editorial

On Wednesday an email from Governor Rushbrook was received, he objected strongly to a piece on the Editorial page written by Mike Olsson. His Excellency asked for a prominent retraction of "erroneous and inflammatory reporting" which included "multiple incorrect assumptions and alleged facts" and further, "it is disappointing the Independent editorial controls are so lax that their reporter resorts to printing "rumours" and "informal information" and purports to pass it off as fact. "

There is more to include from the Governors complaint however at this point it is appropriate to point out that the Editorial page (page 4) is reserved for the expression of personal opinions. In the absence of required official information the *Independent* often refers to 'the word on the street' which amounts to rumours and informal information. Occasions often arise when the free press has to resort to 'the word on the street' in the absence of information from official sources. It is strongly believed the official sources remain tight lipped when they choose to in the hope that an article referring to the information sought will not be published. Mike Olsson made clear most of his personal comments were based on "rumours" and

"informal information" and, as such, was not attempting to pass them off as fact.

Returning to the Governor's complaint, he makes clear the "member of the Governor's Office mentioned" did not leave Bradley's Camp because they did not go there; they went immediately into home quarantine. The reason for this was on health grounds and at the direction of the "Proper Officer". The release of this piece of information is with the permission of the "member of the Governor's Office mentioned". Without specific permission the reason why home quarantine was judged necessary would have been withheld.

Confidentiality of medical records certainly needs to be respected. However, if an individual is well known or holds a position of some importance it is generally the case that it is announced the famous or important person has entered hospital or whatever the case maybe. The UK Prime Minister made no secret of his coronavirus infection, nor did his opposite number across the pond. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh do not expect that any instance of medical atten-





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# Editorial

tion they are receiving will be kept secret; nor does anybody living in this small community of ours. Citing medical confidentiality as a reason for withholding the reason for home quarantine is not entirely to the point; the details of the medical condition can and should be withheld, but not the simple fact that a medical treatment or condition is the reason for quarantine at home is perfectly acceptable elsewhere. Without this simple explanation Mike wrongly assumed that home quarantine was not on medical grounds.

His Excellency then goes on to say, "It is untrue the 'St Helena Executive Council had approved the exemption from the rules' for this member of the Governor's Office." This information conflicts with information received from a usually reliable source who is in a position to know whether or not Executive Council discussed this particular case. The over-abundance of confidentiality at Exco meetings leaves the free press dependent upon informal sources.

His Excellency then passed on to Diplomatic Immunity. He said, "Governor Rushbrook has not claimed diplomatic immunity for his member of staff. However, ExCo discussed the request from FCDO in London for FCDO staff posted from the UK (and families), as Crown Servants, to quarantine at home. They will still be subject to a legal obligation to quarantine and stringent home quarantine requirements as set by SHG. This request from the FCDO in London, subsequently acknowledged by ExCo on a case by case basis, would equate to similarity between the arrangements on St Helena and the other South Atlantic islands and elsewhere."

Personally, I was not certain Mike Olsson was on the right track when he wrote about diplomatic immunity. My unsubstantiated and so far unresearched assumption was that diplomatic immunity was enjoyed by an official when acting as a representative for his country when in a foreign land. As all the people concerned in this situation are British and are employed in a British Overseas Territory I was under the impression diplomatic immunity did not apply. However, as Mike was writing an opinion piece on the Editorial page I had to let him give his opinion, I suppose. It is a free press after all. The Governor's communication did not say that diplomatic immunity is inapplicable in this case which leaves us to assume it is. As for me, I need to add the details of the Vienna Convention to my list of research.

An enquiry was made with the 'Proper Officer' about the relevance of diplomatic immunity in this situation. To pull apart the veils of secrecy I will say the proper officer in this case is the Head of News, Kerisha Yon. No response was received to our enquiry when the print deadline was upon us, so we ran with what we had. Kerisha Yon is nothing if not co-operative and diligent. She is invaluable as the Head of News.

Most responses to my enquiries are prompt; often exceedingly so. I am aware Kerisha has to pass on enquiries from the local media or anyone else to the most appropriate person dealing with the subject in question. Sometimes there are delays to enquiries sent to Kerisha but I'm certain the delay is due to 'the most appropriate person' not responding in a timely manner. A response to the diplomatic immunity enquiry was received on the day after last week's *Independent* was published. While the response was too late to be included it should be noted that according to time on the email Kerisha was working on a Saturday afternoon.

Finally on this subject, the Governor asked why no-one in the Governor's Office was contacted in order to gain first hand information. The prevailing process is for local media personnel to contact the press office as a 'one-stop shop' for all enquiries. As outsiders neither Mike nor myself are to know that someone in the Governor's Office will have all the answers. Kerisha on the other hand, will know that and field the enquiry appropriately. We try to observe SHG processes where possible when SHG is involved.

The next point made in the letter of complaint from Governor Rushbrook was, "Governor Rushbrook did not ask and has never asked for TC officers to be exempted from quarantine. Regrettably, this appears to be a shameful statement generated by the author designed to ridicule the essential and dedicated work of TC professionals. Other, equally incorrect and inflammatory statements are noted in the article." Firstly, His Excellency has now informed us that the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office requested that 'Crown Servants' be allowed to quarantine at their own accommodation rather than at Bradley's Camp. For the avoidance of confusion a crown servant is described as "a person employed by the Crown". Although the term is not consistently defined, generally speaking the term encompasses all executive officials and their staffs, civil servants, police, judicial officials, and members of the armed forces. While the term is used in other Commonwealth countries such as Canada, it has the most predominant use and is the most well-defined with the United Kingdom. It can reasonably be assumed, I think, that Technical Co-operation Officers are included in that definition. Also, how can it be shameful and inflammatory to mistakenly attribute the proposal for 'Crown Servants' to quarantine at home to the Governor when in fact the Governor informs us the FCDO originally put forward that proposal?

It appears the exemption from quarantine at Bradley's Camp was distorted to exemption from quarantine per se in the transmission of informal information. This is regretted.

I cannot agree that Mike's opinion piece was inflammatory either in expression or effect. The public meeting on this

*Continued on NEXT PAGE*



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# Editorial

## Continued FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

issue is reported as well attended and the discussion was calm and reasoned. Everyone who attended perceived the situation to be unfair. On the basis of what is now known the reasons given for home quarantine for the two people involved may be considered acceptable by some of those attending. The biggest regret is that this situation was not foreseen as a sensitive issue and a prior or quick explanation was published to quell rumours and gossip.

Why it is I do not know, but I have always found that the SHG economists have the ability to speak and explain in language we all understand and express views without resorting to quaint but inexplicable expressions such as Proper Officer or Crown Servant. One previous government economist stated more than once in my presence that SHG should attempt to manage the media instead of ignoring it, hiding from it or passing out selected bits of information. Part of the managing process is to pre-position the reporter concerned so what is printed is something like government officers would like to read. Whether a reporter allows his or herself to be pre-positioned is up to the individual; but the sure outcome is the reporter will have heard the government's side of the story, the reasons, the aims and the motives. If such a situation should ever materialise, misunderstandings and mix-ups would reduce significantly.

In closing I will say the second part of the Governor's radio announcement yesterday afternoon contributed most to a better understanding of the quarantine situation. The Governor stated, "The Governor's Office would welcome a decision from elected members to re-consider their present position, take on board the advice of their own Health Directorate and officials, and permit home quarantine for all arrivals. The evidence available now encourages home quarantine as a more satisfactory approach that ultimately lessens the risk of disease transmission and increases the wellbeing of those in quarantine."

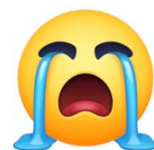
It appears the Governor and senior government officials are in conflict with Elected Members on Exco. Elected Members are probably reflecting the widespread public opinion that if arrivals are allowed to quarantine at home the risk will increase because people in quarantine will be tempted to make a quick shopping trip or visit a nearby friend. It is assumed no-one will be around to stop it happening and any infection will spread like wild-fire. This opinion is reasonable on the basis of the information available.

However, if it is realised the lack of social distancing in Bradley's Camp is ignored to the extent that parties are frequently held and communal drinking sessions are often underway to pass the time it can readily be concluded that Bradley's Camp is a higher risk than any home quarantine arrangement. If one

person in Bradley's has coronavirus, by the time 14 days are up there will be a major incident which the Health Department will have to deal with – at the risk of health service staff, their families and friends. Add to that an effective system of security which is specifically designed to deal with home quarantine then we all have to ask why Exco has not forsaken the very expensive but high risk Bradley's Camp in favour of home quarantine. Why those quarantined at Bradley's Camp are allowed to ignore coronavirus protection measures is another enquiry that will soon be heading Kerisha's way.

To put it another way, if the whole situation is explained to everyone it is likely the Elected Members on Exco will not be looking over their shoulders listening to public opinion and will make a well reasoned decision. Likewise, public opinion will support the move from Bradley's to home quarantine after having all the facts explained in a straightforward and adult manner.

Another aspect of the wider considerations of these issues leaves me with the problem of not knowing whether to laugh or cry.



At the Legislative Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October councillors were asked to vote on whether to proceed to the next stage of the Governance Review. Just to remind those at the back who are not paying attention this is about making a choice between a ministerial system of government or attempting to improve the committee system we now have. Cllrs Christine Scipio, Jeffrey Ellick and Gavin Ellick voted not to proceed to the next stage. This must mean they are content with the system of government we now have. If this is a mistaken assumption it is because councillors (with one exception) never think it necessary to explain their actions to those they will be asking to vote for them next time around. This week, at the public meeting on quarantine arrangements we find they are leading the charge for a vote of no confidence in Executive Council. I'm still trying to square this no confidence vote with the satisfaction they expressed at the last Legislative Council meeting for the way we are governed.

## Question

Which councillor does let you know at least some of what is happening behind the Castle walls?

## Answer

Cyril Leo

**Have a great weekend  
Vince**

## Successful Calibration Flight this Week

Mike Olsson

This week, the Flight Calibration team were back on St Helena for 3 days to conduct flights to check the calibration of the navigation aids at St Helena Airport. The accuracy of these aids is essential to safe flight and therefore they need to be flight checked to ensure they remain correct. This particular aircraft was the first ever fixed-wing aircraft to land at St Helena Airport, in September 2015. Thereafter it has been making regular trips back to the Island with staff from Flight Calibration Services Limited (based in the UK) to check the nav aids and ensure they remain correctly calibrated.

The plane and calibration team arrived on Tuesday and left again for South Africa yesterday. Yesterday afternoon it was confirmed that the visit had been successful and that St Helena Airport had been certified for operation for another 12 months.



## Star Gazing, Dark Skies and Dark Sky Island Status

Vince Thompson

This time next week many people across the world will be commemorating the importance of dark skies, bright stars and the wonders to behold in the universe. This time next week the International Dark Sky Association's (IDA) will hold its annual conference. Due to the pandemic it will be a virtual conference with people attending on-line while sitting at home or in the office.



In April the IDA organised its annual Dark Sky Week. In 2018 St Helena joined in with Dark Sky Week with a visiting astronomer, the formation of a stargazing club and Derek Richards opening his lawn to all comers so anyone who wanted to could get a close up of the stars through the powerful telescopes owned by St Helena Tourism.

Some small effort is still being made to achieve Dark Sky

Island status but it is not enough. Achieving this status is seen as a means to attract a few more tourists (pandemic permitting) as well as to conserve the wildlife, keep the night sky pollution free and preserve the night environment we have in St Helena as ever more construction increasingly lights up the hillsides.

Unfortunately, achieving Dark Sky Island status is something the IDA demands should be taken seriously. To get the award an applicant has to demonstrate events have been held at least once a year, preferably twice, to raise awareness of the importance of dark skies to our environment and to our own wellbeing. Since 2018 there has not been a programme of public events to raise awareness. This is just one of several activities which are required on a permanent basis if an application for Dark Sky Island status is to be successful. Also required is appropriate legislation to protect the dark sky from light pollution. That bit of 'action' is showing no movement either. At present we still have the first consignment of dark sky compliant streetlights fixed at the wrong angle and remaining permanently bright instead of dimming when the sensor detects no movement and becoming bright again as a vehicle approaches.

## CONTROLLED ROCK REMOVAL

**THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2020**

**The public is advised that Barnes Road (from Constitution Hill Road to the entrance of Heart Shaped Waterfall) will be closed between 9.30am and 3pm on Thursday, 12 November 2020. This closure is to allow the Rock Guards of the Infrastructure & Transport Directorate to carry out a controlled rock removal near Mr Raymond Green's residence. The Rock Guards would like to thank the public for their cooperation.**

**SHG**

**4 November 2020**



**St Helena  
Government**



# I am the President...hear me roar!!!

Comments from the Internet on Election Day Tuesday 3rd November.....

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

To think we began 2020 supposing the US presidential election would be the foremost news event of year in the USA: the story that would monopolise journalistic attention; the travelling carnival or democratic spectacle that would see Americans clocking up tens of thousands of miles. As they entered election year, the main health story to intrude on the campaign was the cardiac condition of Bernie Sanders, the 78-year-old candidate who had suffered a heart attack while campaigning in Las Vegas. Then there was the question of whether Joe Biden had the stamina to cope with the relentless schedule of the round-the-clock campaign. In a field crowded with 70-something politicians, the mortality of the leading candidates became a legitimate subject for discussion. Back then, though, no-one had any inkling of how the deaths of more than 225,000 Americans would overshadow everything.

They all sensed they would be covering an epoch-defining election—maybe the most important of the past 50 years, but few of them foresaw how history would be so epic and so deadly. Nostalgia has become a driver of modern-day global politics, but rarely anyone has witnessed such a yearning for the immediate past. The days only 10 months ago when few of us had heard of Wuhan; when the handshake was a gesture of amity rather than menace; when t-shirts, bumper stickers and yard signs were the most obvious markers of your politics rather than whether you wear a mask. For some, American greatness was found in the Reagan years of the 1980s, the era of resurgence after the long national nightmare of Vietnam, Watergate and the Iranian hostage crisis. For many it was the Fifties, before African-Americans had been granted a full menu of civil rights; before the women's liberation movement challenged what had always been a male-dominated society. In the final weeks of this campaign, however, Donald Trump has been more specific. He has pin-pointed a date and told the American public where to travel back in time. America was great "before the plague", he keeps on telling his campaign rallies - when the United States had what he reckons was the strongest economy in the history of the world. Before the coronavirus, the political vital signs for Donald Trump were strong. He had survived his impeachment trial and his presidential approval rating was the highest it had ever been. He could boast a strong economy and benefit from the advantages of incumbency, a combination that usually yields a first-term president four more years. Then, of course, everything changed - Covid-19 granted Joe Biden a cloak of invisibility, a useful concealment for a candidate often so fumbling and frail. Donald Trump wrapped himself in the mantle of a wartime president, but in a battle that America quickly started to lose.

Trump is now the incumbent rather than the insurgent. He's got a record to defend. His opponent is not a hate figure, but a genial grandfather - a likeable old man. Biden's radiant smile has become a valuable political weapon, so, too, his long personal experience of grief. Four years ago there was an underlying brilliance in Donald Trump's ability to articulate the grievances of his supporters; to say things that were once considered unsayable. But what's been noticeable about this election is how he's given voice more to his own frustrations: venting, often in a self-pitying tone, about having to contend with "the China virus"; lashing out against public health officials; targeting Democratic governors whose state shutdowns have paralysed the Trump economy; complaining, as ever, about the press. Trump succeeded in 2016 because he presented himself as an anti-Obama and an anti-Hillary. Part of the reason Joe Biden is leading in the polls is because he so easily fits the role of the anti-Trump.

**Contributed**



## Recognition for Non-Saints who do “Sterling Work”

Vince Thompson

At Tuesday's Exco meeting this week the proposal put forward by the Chief Secretary for recognition of outstanding contributions to the public life of Saint Helena by Non-Saints and/or non-long term residents was agreed. The Non-Saint recognition system includes a Badge of St Helena which is pitched to run alongside the existing Badge of Honour which is awarded only to people born in St Helena or long-term residents. A second way proposed for recognising exceptional service is Honorary Citizenship. Both forms of recognition already exist in other Overseas Territories or sovereign countries. Honorary Citizenship does not carry with it any citizenship rights it is purely a title but is normally issued only on rare occasions for exceptional achievement.

At the Exco meeting councillors gave their support to the proposal. Tony Green said he had “warmed slowly” to the

proposal but now recognised that some Non-Saints and short term residents had done some “sterling work” to support St Helena at community level. Derek Thomas declared “support for the principle”. Clint Beard raised the issue of minor expenses mentioned in the memorandum to Exco explaining the proposal and asked for more details. The memorandum does explain, “There are likely to be some minor financial implications associated with the design of a Certificate and Badge of St Helena, as well as minor recurrent budget financial implications. This will not be significant.” Lawson Henry and Cruyff Buckley referred to bad behaviour and recordable offences being part of the criteria for selection and possibly de-selection. In summing up the Chief Secretary pointed out the procedure for getting these two new honours in place will be lengthy.

## Massive Iceberg Threatens South Georgia Wildlife

An iceberg, 34 times bigger than St Helena, is now just a few hundred kilometres from South Georgia, the British Overseas Territory which lies as near to the Antarctic as it does to the Falklands. The strong currents of the South Ocean bring many icebergs to South Georgia where they come aground and stay put until they break up or melt. The iceberg now threatening South Georgia is big, but it is also thin and has been heading for South Georgia for three years. Being thin means it will go aground closer to the Island and the ice giant will cause a big threat to the thousands of penguins and seals that make South Georgia their home.

usual iceberg grounded offshore at South Georgia in 2004 thousands of dead penguin chicks and seal pups were found dead on the beaches. The 2004 iceberg broke up and parts of it drifted away in 2005.



### **Time to wake up and make an emergency evacuation plan**

The iceberg is about the same size as South Georgia. If it gets stuck just offshore the normal foraging routes for the seals and penguins could be blocked and prevent them from properly feeding their young. Widespread damage will be caused to the ocean floor and the marine life living there. It is estimated it could be 10 years before the iceberg breaks up or melts. Ecosystems can usually be expected to recover but the 10 year effect of this iceberg on the land and sea animals will have a lasting and damaging effect on the South Georgia wildlife populations. When a previous larger than



# LAND FOR SALE

**The Property Division of the Infrastructure & Transport Directorate has one residential site for sale:**

Parcel Number 638, within the Scotland registration section, measuring 0.23 acres.

Location: Upper Cleughs Plain, St. Paul's.

Closing date for bids are 12 noon, Friday 8th January 2021.

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



# A community-run non-profit internet service provider designed for St Helena

Vince Thompson

A new communications business is being launched which is tailored to St Helena's specific needs; the aim is to bring the Island's communications capability into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the benefit of all telecom users, from Facebook users to island businesses to international conference organisers.

Set up as a non-profit organisation by Christian von der Ropp, a leading expert on global telecommunications who has for many years campaigned for better communications for St Helena and Karl Thrower who has helped several small internet businesses over the years in a professional capacity. Christian and Karl have published an investment prospectus; an important stage in the formation of any new company. Already they have attracted the involvement of two important companies. One of them is De-Cix the world's largest operator of internet exchange points; De-Cix will provide the Saintel connection required at Lisbon, the European end of the Equiano cable. The other is Hurricane Electric who will provide internet connectivity from Lisbon to St Helena. Both companies have offered their support at no cost.

Saintel will need to develop their own island communication network. The communications network we have is owned and operated by Sure South Atlantic and is not developed to take full advantage of modern high capacity, high speed communications. The best solution is for the island telecom network to be owned by a separate utility company with customer interface communications providers sharing the network. This arrangement is not available in St Helena so any new communications company has to set up its own network. Saintel's development plan shows they intend to cover up to 80% of the Island's communications users within 12-18 months. They also propose to share their network with any other users who want to test equipment or developing technologies.

Saintel will not be laying cables all over the Island. Microwave wireless technology will be used, using highpoints to erect the masts needed for communications transmission. Several landowners have already indicated they are willing to provide the sites needed for the masts. Development permission to erect the masts will, of course, be required.

Saintel's aim is to set up a communications system which gives Saints the communications facilities which exist in the rest of the world and are now taken for granted. Their investment prospectus points out that in terms of broadband connectivity St Helena is still isolated despite the recent airport and the temporarily suspended weekly air service. They also state that telecom charges in St Helena are 314% higher than the United Nations Broadband Commission's target and restate the European Commission's assertion that "St Helena's development is hampered by having some of the most expensive telecommunications in the world." Saintel also emphasise the severe drawbacks of the communications system we now have.

- Slow and unreliable service at prohibitive prices and



**The new communication network will connect up to 80% of the population within 12-18 months**

- limiting Internet access
- Tariffs which pose financial risk to subscribers (exceeding data volume 300-749% more expensive than underlying subscription)
- An outdated business model based on low volume/high pricing for Internet, phone and TV
- Unwillingness to test demand elasticity (even shows resistance to provide unlimited broadband plans after cable's arrival)
- Businesses banned from operating Wifi hotspots and Internet cafés
- A current lack of government oversight through a competent and independent regulator

Saintel points out these restrictive practices and punitive charges discourage Internet adoption by islanders with widespread socio-economic impacts. Personal use is severely restricted, the advantages of modern communications enjoyed in all developed countries and many developing countries is absent. St Helena is denied an expanded range of facilities to improve education and health-care as well as supporting businesses in a multiplicity of ways. All of this significantly limits the opportunities available elsewhere which can support development of the Island's economy.



# A community-run non-profit internet service provider designed for St Helena

Vince Thompson

Saintel's investment prospectus lists their objectives which are aimed at removing the obstacles to development and improvement. They point out the Equiano cable offers the opportunity to remove these obstacles and that is their purpose.

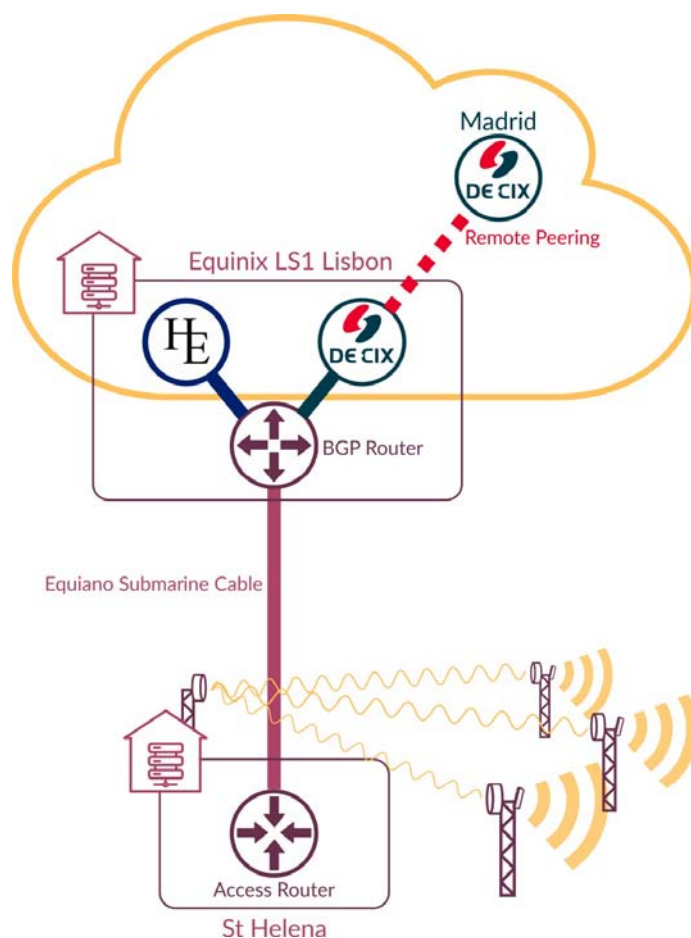
Saintel's objectives are:-

- To provide affordable, reliable, fast, unlimited and discrimination-free Internet access to people and businesses on St Helena through a non-profit entity.
- This will be based on equitable, transparent and sustainable corporate governance
- Provide support to the island community in embracing the digital transformation
- Give help in mitigating the issues arising from St Helena's remoteness exacerbated by Covid-19 through the many new possibilities offered by the Internet
- Assist in Increasing digital literacy and developing local skill sets by training islanders in digital technology
- Encouraging local entrepreneurship in, but not limited to, the Internet economy
- Stop capital outflow (a key economic problem of St Helena) caused by monopolist's dividend payments to its overseas parent. Instead, help to create more local circulation of money.
- Invite and support the global Information and Communications Technology industry to trial new technologies, applications and products (e.g. wireless equipment, financial technology, health-care technology, online learning etc.) on St Helena
- Collaborate with potential satellite earth station operators (infrastructure sharing) to unlock synergies and make St Helena more attractive to earth station operators.

It is clear from Saintel's objectives they intend to follow a community focussed business plan and to work beyond the normal business boundaries to help bring maximum benefit to the community by exploiting the benefits of modern technology and the application of it. The governance of the company is intended to embed this focus into the legal and cultural aspects of Saintel.

Saintel will be incorporated under the laws of St Helena as a non-profit Private Limited Company by Guarantee. Charitable status is not possible because telecoms services is not defined as a charitable purpose, despite some of the community aims having a clear charitable motivation. However the articles of association will enshrine the non-profit character of the company. A supervisory board will oversee the management of the company and the larger sponsors of this enterprise are invited to become guarantors to provide overall control of the company; this will include the right to appoint director(s) and supervisory board members.

Saintel anticipate the initial 'roll-out' scheduled between 2023-25 will cost up to £250,000. Over this period the minimum 80% communication network coverage of the Island will be completed and the financial position of this developing com-



pany should reach break-even point. The cost of covering the entire Island with a wireless network is estimated to be between £385,000 and £770,000. Saintel will be campaigning for funds through philanthropic donations and crowd funding. Saintel will continue to fund future growth from excess earnings after the break-even point has been reached. Saintel say further details will be worked on once the level of support for this enterprise becomes clearer.

The closing comments in the investors prospectus reminds potential funders that Saintel will enable one of the most isolated communities in the world to join the global Information Society and to leapfrog into the broadband age and contribute to closing St Helena's digital divide. It is an ideal opportunity "to showcase corporate philanthropy, particularly for Internet and telecoms companies".

It is also pointed out that broadband on St Helena, compared to other underserved parts of the world has much greater potential as the island is politically stable, has a well established and respected rule of law, a high level of literacy and English is the native language. Saintel say they will also grant funders preferred access to a unique test bed for new technologies and applications.

  
**Saintel**

# Communications Networks and Services Policy Clears Hurdle

Vince Thompson

On Tuesday Exco put their stamp of approval to the final draft of the Communications Networks and Services Policy. This new policy is needed as the first step in preparation for both the connection to the Equiano cable and the process for choosing the Public Electronic Communication Networks and Services Provider/s (PECN&SP) when Sure's current exclusive licence runs out in January 2023.

Cllr Lawson Henry proposed the motion to approve the final draft which had been revised in parts following the recent public consultation process. Lawson also commented the new Communications legislation will need to be in place before the PECN&SP licence award process starts. The aspiration was to have a draft Bill ready by mid 2021. This was watered down slightly by the Attorney General who hoped to have a draft Bill ready by the time the process for awarding the new PECN&SP licence(s) was ready to start. Lawson was also keen that the required data protection legislation should be drafted in time to fit in with the licence renewal schedule. Discussions on the law required as the foundation for data protection has been kicked around for several years. Lawson Henry, along with other councillors were keen to follow an 'open book' approach to the selection of providers for the new licences. Lawson said he knew there is interest out there. The principle should be followed so that the market should decide how many and what type of communications companies apply for a licence; SHG should not dictate by imposing its own preferences or views on what is feasible and what they think is not. The Governor made the closing comment saying the policy has now been decided; now it is time to start implementing the policy.

Turning the words of the policy into plans for action requires some clarification on practical points. The application of the Universal Service Obligation is one such point of detail. Under this obligation all public network providers will be required to provide access to their services to everyone on the Island, no matter how remote they may be. Will this obligation take into consideration the limitations on a new communication company which will need to establish itself before extending the services it offers to the outer reaches of St Helena? A rigorous application of the Universal Service Obligation, where immediate connectivity across the entire Island is demanded, will mean some new and innovative communications companies will decide not to get involved with St Helena. Offering flexibility on the timing of the Universal Service Obligation is entirely in line with the spirit of economic development policies; without that flexibility an unknown number of development opportunities will very likely be lost. The number is unknown because technology is developing at an ever increasing rate and the opportunities which will become available in the medium term cannot be envisaged now; but the policy framework as well as the legal and regulatory structures can be designed to be flexible enough



to accommodate the innovation concomitant with future and unknown technological developments.

While one island-wide provider is focussed on the traditional and familiar phone, email, internet and television services, the application of the policy and the new legislation should accommodate new, more specialist providers of services that are multiplying with the expansion and development of new technology. The basis for compliance with the Universal Service Obligation for a new and innovative techno-company must be that it will need to have the ability, at some agreed time in the future, to be able to connect with any customer who wants to be connected to the service offered. There are clauses in the recently approved CS&NP which suggest that innovation, and the economic development opportunities that go with it, could be limited by additional charges and broad-brush restrictions which tend to reveal the notion that only the traditional services are expected to be offered and no opportunity for future development needs to be considered.

Another unnecessary burden is the requirement in the policy for a licence for the importation of electronic communications apparatus. Retailers need a licence to sell any kind of electronic device from mobile phones and headphones through to a 20 metre high 'radio ham' aerial. SHG do love to have licences for every conceivable thing but it adds to the bureaucracy, increases prices and restricts competition.

Another drag on opportunity and competitiveness is that Sure own the island telecom network. As happens in many places elsewhere, the main telecom network is owned by a utility company or the government. Access is available to the main network for any public electronic service provider so that links can be taken from the main network to customers' homes or businesses. Leaving the network in the ownership of Sure is certain to discourage interest from other public electronic service providers and means networks will be unnecessarily duplicated if another network provider does receive a licence. There are still some important parts of the now approved policy which create overly restrictive situations and will deny St Helena the opportunity to take full advantage of the opportunities available with the Equiano cable both now and well into the future.





# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Editor,**

With reference to the elimination of mynah birds and rabbits, I am saddened yet again that these defenceless creatures are being targeted. I wonder if the general public knows what RSBP stands for; ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS. Isn't the Mynah a bird? The reason for their intended destruction is only significant up to a point. They are not venomous snakes or man-eating sharks. I suppose if they were, they'd be protected. In the wider world the eagles and falcons are allowed free reign.

The idea of involving the public in destroying them is shameful. For those people who are directly affected by the habits of the mynah and the rabbit, let them deal with them individually. I expect the mynah helps get rid of insect pests. The cost of the operation (almost one-third of a million pounds) will surely outweigh any gain. As much as possible there should be reverence for life. These are God's creatures, they never asked to be here. They could wish their names were Spiky Yellow Wood Louse, Giant Earwig or Mole Spider. Please have a heart!

Yours sincerely,

**Delia Huxtable**

## THE CONSTITUENT

**Dear Electorate,**

*Not long after being elected to serve on Legislative Council, I became aware of the weaknesses in the local governance system. Basically, the people of St Helena are apparently living in a democratic society, but in reality democracy is not leading local government. Clearly, the weaknesses in the current governance system had to be addressed; the status quo could not continue. To start with, the working partnerships between politicians, SHG officers and DFID officials were somewhat disjointed and the roles of the various stakeholders needed to be clearly defined. Simply put, the roles of the stakeholders at the highest levels of the local governance system*

needed to be clearly defined and properly structured according to sound democratic procedures and processes. Improving the current governance system is required to maximise successful outcomes in the best interests of the people of St Helena.

The serious concerns on the current governance system were conveyed to the DFID Minister and visiting officials by elected representatives. Consequently, a governance review was supported and funded by the UK Government.

Following visits by Professor Sarkin and public meetings held with the governance and democracy expert, a Governance Commission was set up by Governor Rushbrook. The Governance Commission members were asked to undertake a wide-ranging public engagement exercise to seek public views and comments on improving local governance by adopting a Revised Committee system or a Ministerial system.

The work of the Governance Commission has now concluded and Legislative Council recently approved the formation of the Progress Committee to progress the next stage of the local governance review.

Formal details and the objectives of the Progress Committee will be made public.

The people of St Helena will soon have the opportunity to decide and thereby establish the governance system that will best serve the island community now and for future generations. Such a decision must be recognised as an immense responsibility with no room for any form of apathy. The need for positive and constructive public engagement on the future governance of St Helena cannot be over emphasised.

St Helena has exciting potential. Elected representatives, through democratic processes and procedures, should ultimately be deciding the future development of St Helena and the community must be empowered to take ownership of positive objectives for community enhancement.

Through democratic process, eligible members of the community will decide on the form of local government that will make the ultimate decisions. These decisions will directly impact the community, protect the interests of future generations of Saints and exact the development of the island.

The Progress Committee will endeavour to engage with members of the community and use various communication platforms to reach out to the public. Each individual member of the electorate is encouraged to recognise the significance of their personal role in establishing an improved system of governance for St Helena.

You are encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunity to have an input into the important decision-making process for improved local governance. Revised Committee system or the Ministerial system?

C Leo  
(LegCo)



**Dear Editor,**

I feel compelled to write following the reports last week, that the incoming Deputy Governor backed by the full support of the Governor, has evaded the COVID quarantine procedures i.e. not spending the required mandatory 14 days at Bradleys Camp. Accepting there are provisions in place for exceptional circumstances such as on medical grounds and families with children etc, in this case it seems there was no other tangible reason, than an arrogant and irresponsible misuse of assumed privilege and power.

It is even more worrying that our Governor, in an attempt to divert ownership and responsibility of this situation has cited the **1961 Vienna Convention** through claiming that his Deputy has Diplomatic Immunity.

How odd it is, that as the Prime Minister announces stricter rules for the UK, with even our own Queen cutting short her autumn break and returning to Windsor Castle to observe these restrictions, that on St Helena we have a mere Civil Servant conjuring-up a story/excuse to defy the mandatory rules that have been put into place to keep the population safe from a global pandemic.

Having read all 53 articles that form the above referenced treaty, I have found nothing that precludes anyone when entering a country under the same flag (in this case a British Civil Servant entering a British Territory) from any such immunity and the fact that even our Queen has chosen to observe the UK quarantine rules, must

**Continued on PAGE 25**

# NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR A SPACE PARK AT WHITE HILL, LEVELWOOD

The public is hereby notified that in terms of the Land Planning and Development Control Ordinance, 2013, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is being undertaken for the development of a Space Park for the location of satellite earth stations at White Hill (Figure 1) in Levelwood.

With the landing of the sub-sea fibre-optic Equiano cable on St Helena in the third quarter of 2021, it will open up the possibility of hosting satellite earth stations on St Helena. The location of St Helena in the mid-Atlantic provides a number of advantages for satellite telemetry due to its position near the equator, its remote location, weather conditions, political stability and security. By hosting Earth Stations in St Helena, we can increase the Island's use of the fibre-optic cable capacity and spread the costs of internet connectivity more widely.

An earth station is a terrestrial radio station designed for extra-planetary telecommunication with spacecraft or reception of radio waves from astronomical radio sources. Earth stations communicate with spacecraft by transmitting and receiving radio waves in the super high frequency or extremely high frequency bands (e.g., microwaves). A principal telecommunications device of the ground station is the parabolic antenna.

The Space Park site needs to meet a number of technical criteria: the site needs to be relatively flat (between 0-10° slope), large enough to set out the satellite array (11 acres or 4.5 ha), with good access to the existing

road, power and fibre-optic cable networks and a good 'view' of the horizons. The land should also be under government ownership, not be currently used or zoned for productive purposes and with low levels of night time light. However, given the Island's rugged topography, there are only a few suitable sites fitting all these criteria. Following an alternatives assessment, the site at White Hill was shortlisted for further investigation and feasibility studies. It is expected that the first phase of the proposed Space Park at White Hill will be similar to the one proposed at Horse Point, comprising approximately seventeen 3.5 m diameter antennae, set out in three lines 50 m apart with each antenna situated 45 m from each other along each line. The land between the antennae, with the exception of pathways, will not be disturbed. Depending on the business case, there may be a second phase expansion with the installation of additional satellite dishes on the same site.

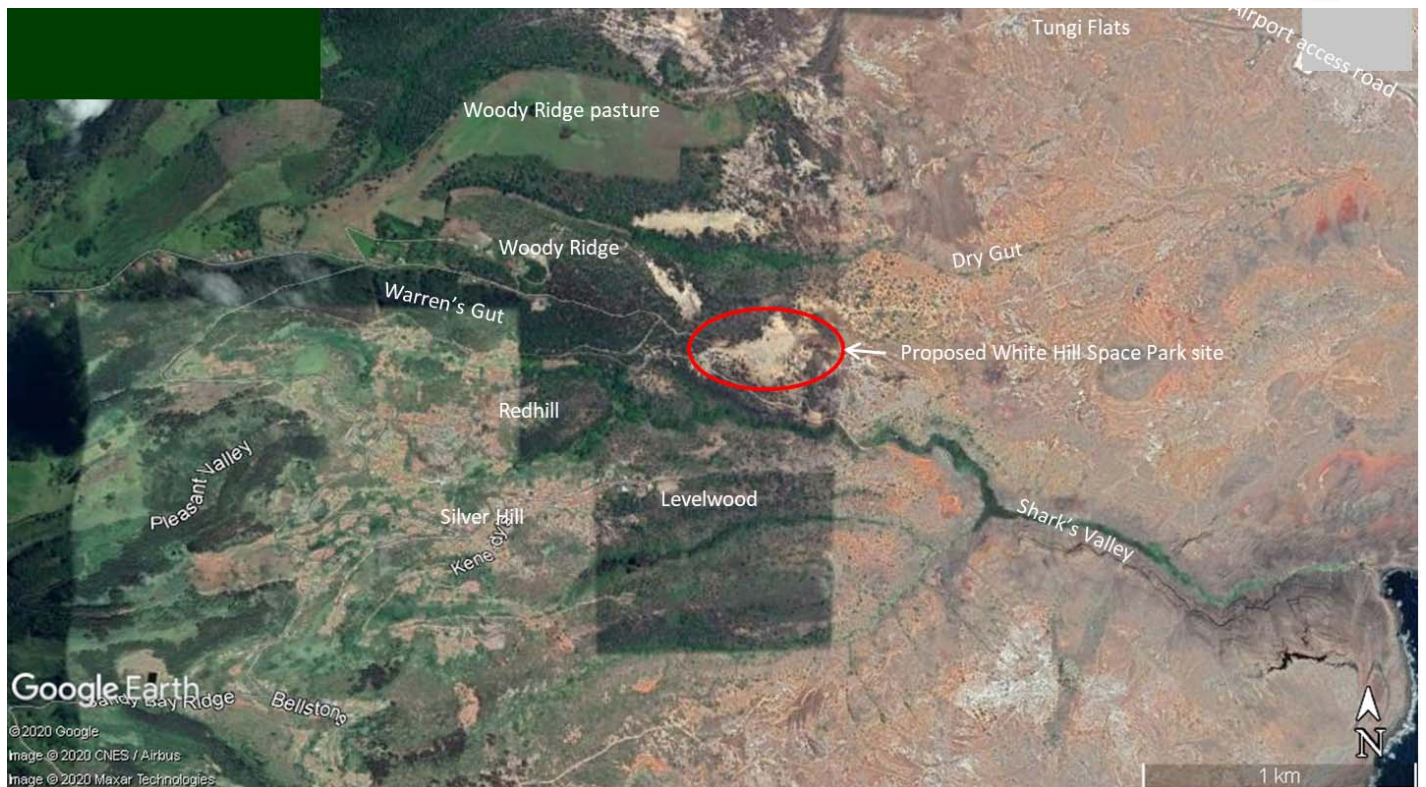
The EIA, being undertaken by Bryony Walmsley and Associates, will follow the prescribed process set out in the St Helena EIA Regulations. One of the key principles of the EIA process is that the issues and concerns of the public should be obtained as part of the impact identification phase. Any comments or concerns from the public may therefore be addressed to Ms Bryony Walmsley via the following:

Email: [bwa@saiea.co.za](mailto:bwa@saiea.co.za)

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS  
13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.**



**Figure 1:**





## HUMAN REMAINS UNCOVERED DURING CUSTODY SUITE BUILD

During the build stage of the new Custody Suite at Coleman House, Jamestown, workers uncovered some fragmented bones which have since been identified as human remains.

Whilst it was not expected, there was always a possibility of uncovering human remains as the location of the build is at the edge of a former burial site and on ground which has had previous extensive work carried out. As a result of this, an archaeological watching brief was ordered as part of the planning permission stipulations.

When the small fragments of bone were unearthed, all works were halted. The Project Manager contacted Museum Director, Adam Sizeland, who made a site visit. Adam confirmed that the bones were human, but that they appeared to have been severely disturbed and disrupted during previous building works.

Adam said:

"While we didn't expect to find human remains, it was always a risk with the unfortunate fact that this known graveyard site had been heavily disturbed in the past, with most of the damage having already been done. The uncovering of human remains is always an emotive and sensitive issue, but I am happy with the process followed and that this has been handled with care and diligence by the team involved.

"To keep the remains in situ and to disturb them no further is the most appropriate and respectful outcome. This will also prevent any further damage to them and ensures that they remain where they were buried."

Prison Manager, Heidi Murray, is overseeing the construction of the new Custody Suite. She said:

"After seeking advice, it was agreed that because the remains were in such a poor state with only very small fragments being unearthed, it would not be possible to relocate them to another burial ground. It was felt that the most appropriate course of action to follow would be to leave the remains in situ and that any further work should be carried out meticulously to ensure no further damage to them during the build. As previously, the team will continue to work under the archaeological watching brief whilst this part of the build continues."

The former burial ground had been disused since December 1853, and was deconsecrated in August 1951 for the construction of the Jamestown Infant School (now Coleman House).

Heidi concluded:

"I have been in contact with The Right Reverend, Bishop Dale Bowers, to arrange for a service of remembrance to be carried out on the site as soon as possible. Once the building has been completed, we will also have a dedication service for the whole site, to commemorate the people who were laid to rest in Middle Grave Yard. There will also be an unveiling of a plaque dedicated to their memory and a service to mark the occasion."

#StHelena #NewCustodySuiteBuild #HumanRemains

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

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

SHG

30 October 2020



St Helena  
Government

## -From Ascension Island- UK to Provide Overseas Territories with COVID-19 Vaccines

AIG are pleased to announce that confirmation has been received that UK Overseas Territories will be provided COVID-19 vaccines by the UK government.

Minister for the Overseas Territories Baroness Sugg wrote to elected members of the Ascension Island Council on 27 October confirming that the UK government has secured agreement with the UK's Vaccine Taskforce to supply the OTs from the COVID-19 vaccines that it procures.

The UK government has taken a leading role and has made significant investments in global efforts to develop, produce and distribute effective vaccines to combat the spread of COVID-19. At present several vaccines are undergoing clinical trials.

Following the news Administrator Sean Burns said:

"Work remains ongoing to determine which vaccines the UK government will deploy and when. However, this is nonetheless a welcome indication of the UK government's ongoing commitment to the Overseas Territories and to support us in

our fight to protect our communities from the threat posed by COVID-19.

In addition to the PPE and testing platforms already provided by the UK government, a future vaccine will be very much welcomed by all in Ascension."

AIG will be providing more information on this matter to the public as and when it becomes available.

**Office of the Administrator 30 October 2020**



# **DRAFT IMMIGRATION POLICY 2020 OUT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**The draft Immigration Policy 2020 is currently out for public consultation until Friday, 11 December 2020.** The consultation is being led by the Immigration Working Group chaired by Councillor Derek Thomas.

The Strategic Aims of the draft Immigration Policy are to:

- o Increase the overall population of St Helena to secure our social and economic future
- o Attract persons with St Helenian status to return to St Helena with their families to live and work
- o Attract investors and new residents from other places who can contribute positively to the future development of St Helena
- o Address local labour market shortages
- o Ensure the immigration process promotes fair, consistent, prompt and transparent decision making
- o Ensure border security is robust and border control risks are well managed.

## **CONSULTATION POINTS**

**Members of the public are invited to provide their views and comments on the following key points for discussion in the draft Policy:**

1. It is proposed that persons in service of the Crown and their partners/dependents will become subject to the full range of entry controls. Currently, these individuals are exempt from specific entry controls
2. It is proposed that individuals seeking to work on St Helena be required to acquire a Work Permit or sponsorship by an employer or approval to participate in a temporary employment scheme. This would replace the current arrangements where work for up to six months can be undertaken on a Short Term Entry Permit
3. It is proposed that foreign nationals seeking work from any employer on St Helena, including SHG, hold a Work Permit or be sponsored by an employer. Future SHG employers would no longer be exempt from the requirement to obtain an Immigrant Employment Certificate
4. It is proposed individuals who have lived on St Helena for four years be eligible to apply for Permanent Resident Status. This is consistent with the goals of the Labour Market Strategy
5. It is proposed that a path to Fast Track Residency scheme be made available for high net worth individuals making contributions to the SHG treasury. This contribution will help SHG pay for public services. SHG is seeking feedback on the introduction and details of this scheme, including whether there should be an upper limit of participants approved each year
6. It is proposed that partners of St Helenians be eligible to apply for St Helenian status after two years residency on-Island and all other applicants for grant of St Helenian status be eligible after six years of residence. Currently, partners of St Helenians are eligible to apply for St Helenian status after three years residency and all other applicants for grant of St Helenian status are eligible after five years
7. It is proposed the Immigration Control Board is dissolved and professional Immigration Officers are responsible for immigration decisions. In the event a decision is challenged an appeal process would be undertaken by a judicial tribunal under the auspices of the Chief Magistrate
8. It is proposed a small number of annual opportunities are provided through a further category of residency to encourage sustained investment in productive economic activities on St Helena.

Please check local media for dates and times of upcoming public meetings and drop-in sessions. Members of the public are encouraged to attend these meetings and drop-in sessions to discuss and provide feedback. Also listen out for radio interviews and view posters in key locations.

The draft Policy is available in hard copy at the Customer Service Centre, Public Library, from the Castle Reception in Jamestown and can also be obtained from Nicole Plato via the below email address or on tel: 22470. An electronic copy is available on the Public Consultation page of the SHG Website: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-consultation/>

Anyone wishing to make any comment on the draft Policy may do so in writing to Nicole Plato, at the Castle, Jamestown, or via email: [nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than Friday, 11 December 2020.

#StHelena #DraftImmigrationPolicy #PublicConsultation

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**SHG**

**3 November 2020**







**Join Us: Thursday, 12 November 2020, 9am to 3.30 pm**

**St Helena Community College, Education Learning Centre, Jamestown**

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Presentation Title
09.00	Susan O'Bey, Chief Secretary	St Helena Government	Opening Address
09.10	Angie Benjamin	SHCC	Welcome from Lifelong Learning & the St Helena Research Institute
09.15	Cherilee Thomas- Johnson	SHCC	House-keeping & programme for the day
09.20	Rebecca Cairns-Wicks	SHRI	The St Helena Research Institute: One year on
09.35	Michel Dancoisne-Martineau	St Helena Napoleonic Heritage Ltd	Behind the scenes of historical research
09.45	Adam Sizeland	Museum of Saint Helena and St Helena Heritage Society	The anatomy of a graveyard – raising questions of preservation and progress
10.00	Question & answers session		
10.05	BREAK - Tea, coffee, water and light refreshments will be available.		
10.30	Zedella Young	Bank of St Helena	Incorporating the Photo and Video-elicitation method in Tourism Marketing Research through Social Media Imagery
10.40	TBC		
10.50	Question & answer session		
10.55	Edward Whitton	ENRP	Trials and tribulations of small scale farming
11.05	Joe Hollins	ENRP	The Tortoise and the Bee
11.25	Shayla Ellick	Saint Helena National Trust	Habitat creation and restoration under the LEMP (Landscape & Ecology Mitigation Programme)
11.40	Question and answer session		
11.45	Dr Kamar Tanyan	Health Directorate	Global Action Plan - St Helena update
11.55	Dr Tara Murphy	Mental Health Team, Health Directorate	Psychological well-being in remote context: an update on the Saint Teenage Resilience and Well-being study
12.05	Question & answer session		
12.15	LUNCH – Lunch will not be provided but you are most welcome to bring your own packed lunch		
12.45	Liza Fowler	Saint Helena National Trust	From a fly to moths
12.55	Natasha Stevens	Saint Helena National Trust	Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through invasive invertebrates control
13.00	James Fantom	Saint Helena National Trust	Community supported multi-species invasive vertebrate control on St Helena
13.10	Murray Henry	Meteorological Station, ENRP	Climate change and drought warning network
13.20	Question & answer session		
13.25	TBC		
13.35	TBC		
13.45	Kenickie Andrews	Saint Helena National Trust	Our Bone Shark Paradise – The exciting unknown
13.55	Question & answer session		
14.00	BREAK - Afternoon tea, coffee and cake		
14.30	Panel group discussion	Various	What is the role of Science, Research & Innovation on St Helena?
15.30	Wendy Benjamin	Education & Employment Directorate	Closing remarks

Please note that this programme will be subject to change.

For further information contact [rebecca.cairns-wicks@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:rebecca.cairns-wicks@sainthelena.gov.sh) or [Juliet.Williams@tourism.co.sh](mailto:Juliet.Williams@tourism.co.sh)



*St Helena Island*  
SECRET OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC



# The Public Service is changing....

Good public services are vital for an inclusive economy, a fair society and for people to live fulfilling lives. We are at the start of our journey to create a Public Service on St Helena that is equipped to deal with present and future challenges, provides a solid foundation for a fair economy and society, and is able to make the most of potential opportunities.

As part of this we are rearranging our functions from directorates into larger 'portfolios' to ensure we have a more streamlined structure, with services and functions that have a shared or similar purpose grouped together under one senior manager. This means moving some functions and reducing from eight Directorates to five Portfolios plus a Central Support Service.

The graphic attached shows the new portfolio areas, all led by a Portfolio Director reporting to the Chief Secretary, and briefly explains their purpose and focus. Most of the portfolio areas are based on one of the current Directorates; some have a couple of services or functions added or moved elsewhere.

## Benefits include:

- More joined up ways of working through having functions with a shared or similar purpose working together
- A reduction in silo-working and improved customer service for customers or service users
- Increased opportunities for resource sharing between similar functions
- Increased opportunities for multi-skilling
- Clearer career progression pathways through the Public Service
- A better ability to flex and respond to changing demand
- A smaller, more focused Senior Management team



- better able to collaborate across Portfolio areas
- A focus across all Portfolio areas on sustainable growth and development; and
- That we are fit for the future and whatever that may bring.

## We welcome feedback:

If you have feedback, including comments, concerns, alternative ideas or questions, you can provide feedback via email. Please send feedback to: [fftf.portfoliofeedback@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:fftf.portfoliofeedback@sainthelena.gov.sh). All feedback needs to be received by **Tuesday, 17 November 2020**.

## What next?

Creating the five Portfolio areas plus the Central Support Service now, will allow the Portfolio Directors to lead on full functional reviews of their Portfolio area during 2021. This is Phase Two of the Fit for the Future Programme and will commence in early 2021.

This work is vital to ensure that the Public Service can positively respond to the opportunities and challenges we will face during the coming years. Our focus will be on ensuring the Public Service becomes more efficient in its processes, including how it uses its resources, to maximise service delivery and achieve our mission to improve the lives of all within our community and help the Island thrive.

**SHG**

**4 November 2020**



## PUBLIC MEETING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR SIDE PATH AND FIELD ROAD (R2 ROAD PROJECT)

The Planning Service has received the Development Application for the road widening and upgrade of Side Path and Field Road and is now seeking the views of the Island community, businesses and all other interested parties.

**There will be a public meeting at the Museum of Saint Helena on Monday, 9 November 2020, at 7.30pm.** This is the formal consultation on the proposed development to improve road safety and accessibility for all road users.

In preparing this Development Application the Programme Management Unit held a public meeting and site visit to seek the views of the wider community. The views expressed at these events have been incorporated into the design proposal. The meeting on Monday, 9 November, is now your opportunity to view the detailed proposal and make the Land Development Control Authority aware of any concerns or support for the proposal.

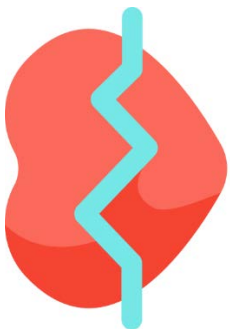
The Planning Officers will explain the details of the proposal at the meeting and this will also be your opportunity to view the plans and supporting documentation.

To enable the wider community to express their views on the proposed development following the public meeting, the closing date for comments is 4pm on Friday, 13 November 2020.

**SHG, 2 November 2020**







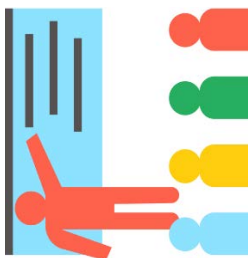
## Health and Social Care Portfolio

Placing health and social care within one portfolio puts clients and patients at the centre of the design and delivery of care with the aim of improving client and patient outcomes, satisfaction, and value for money.

Health and Social Care will remain as two directorates within the portfolio, with a Service Director responsible for the delivery of each service. But being part of the same portfolio, led by one Portfolio Director, will overcome boundaries that can form with separate services.

Probation Services will move from the Police Directorate to Social Care.

The strategic focus of Health and Social Care is to ensure healthy lives, promote wellbeing for everyone at all ages, and to work together to prevent, provide early help, or appropriate intervention to stop longer term impacts through un-met need.



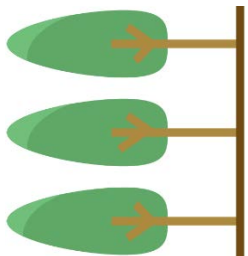
## Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio

This portfolio area retains all of the current functions of Education and Employment.

Education, Skills and Employment works to ensure St Helena residents can experience the wellbeing and economic benefits that quality education, skills and employment provide.

Activities will remain centred around delivering a high standard of education and training that meets the needs of all St Helena residents and supports economic development, with additional policy responsibility for sports and leisure.

The strategic focus of Education, Skills and Employment is to provide opportunity for all to access education, training and skill development, employment, and sports and leisure to positively benefit the community and holistic development of St Helena.



## Environment, Natural Resources and Planning Portfolio

This portfolio area retains all of the current functions of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning.

Activities will remain centred around the management of natural resources, environmental management and protection, and land planning and building control, with additional policy responsibility for heritage, water and energy.

Work will continue to ensure that the natural environment is managed in a sustainable manner and is providing for the needs of the Island, that food production is increasing and that the development of the natural and built environment remains central to a vibrant economy.

The strategic focus of this portfolio is to protect and enhance the Island's natural assets within the core principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability.



## Safety and Home Affairs Portfolio

The current Police Directorate will transition into the Safety and Home Affairs portfolio.

This portfolio will be at the front line of keeping citizens safe and the Island secure and will play a fundamental role in the security and economic prosperity of St Helena.

Working closely with Health and Social Care will help to tackle social issues that can eventually lead to an emergency response.

St Helena will prosper significantly from being open, engaged and connected to the rest of the world. Engagement with the world creates tremendous opportunities for individuals and the Island's collective prosperity.

The strategic focus of Safety and Home Affairs is to identify and proactively attend to the vulnerabilities that come with global connectedness, and to ensure Island and community safety.



## Treasury and Sustainable Development Portfolio

This portfolio is created through Corporate Finance joining with some areas from Corporate Support. Along with 'Infrastructure' from Infrastructure and Transport, and Air Access, this combines all project management and infrastructure activities together in one area.

Sustainable development is pivotal to achieving SHG's strategic aspirations during the next 30 years and while tourism is expected to form the backbone of our economy, diversification is vital if the Island is not to suffer from tourism downturns in the future.

This portfolio will ensure central coordination of the functions and activities which are the key facilitators for investment and economic growth.

The strategic focus for the portfolio is sustainable growth of the Island's economy.



## Central Support Service

Central Support Services are those functions which ensure the full range of 'organisational administration' is undertaken and which provide support to the five portfolio areas to ensure the delivery of services.

The Central Support Service works closely with portfolios to understand their needs and to provide everyone with the organisational support needed to deliver their frontline services.

The Service will be shaped by the outcome of the review of Administration Services and will be agile and flexible to respond to the changing demands on the portfolios.

The Central Support Service is an integral part of the Public Service, providing specialist support, advice and guidance.

## DISPOSAL OF SHG VEHICLES & ITEMS

The Transport Section of the Infrastructure & Transport Directorate wishes to dispose of the following vehicles & items by public tender:

VEHICLE TYPE	FORMERLY REGISTERED
Land Rover Defender 110 Pick-up	SHG 219
Vauxhall Brava Van	SHG 288
Vauxhall Brava Van	SHG 124
Vauxhall Brava Van	SHG 119
Ford Focus Estate	SHG 66
Toyota Hilux Double Cab Pick-up	SHG 144
Ford Everest	SHG 91
Ex Ambulance Box Unit	- A
Ex Ambulance Box Unit	- B



St Helena  
Government

These vehicles/items will be sold on an "as is" basis; viewing will be at the Garage Complex, Donkey Plain on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020, between the hours of 11am and 2pm and also on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 between 1.30 pm to 3.30pm. Tender forms will be available on the days of viewing.

All tenders must be submitted in a plain sealed envelope marked Tender Reference SHG Vehicles and placed in the Tender Box, at Essex House by no later than 4pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**Nicholas George**  
**Senior Transport Manager**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

## WILLS AID MAKE A WILL WEEK IN SUPPORT OF OF ST HELENA THIS WEEK ONLY NOVEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>



### MAKING A WILL – WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

It's easy to put off making a will. But if you die without one all that you own (your assets) may be distributed according to the law rather than your wishes. This could mean that your partner receives less, or that the money goes to family members who may not need it.

It is important for you to make a will, whether or not you consider you have many possessions or much money, because:-

- if you die without a will, there are certain rules which set out how the money, property or possessions should be allocated. This may not be in accordance with your wishes.
- unmarried partners cannot inherit from each other unless there is a will, so the death of one partner may create serious financial problems for the remaining partner. There is no such thing as a 'common law wife or husband'.
- if you have children, you will need to make a will so that arrangements for the children can be made if either one or both parents die.
- if your circumstances have changed, it is important that you make a will to ensure that your money and possessions are distributed according to your wishes. For example, if you have separated and your ex-partner now lives with someone else, you may want to change your will. If you are married this may make any previous will you have made invalid.

Wills Aid has been running since 1988. Wills Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and charity. The idea is that, instead of paying a solicitor's fee, clients are invited to make a donation to charity for the cost of the will. **The Public Solicitor Office is supporting Wills Aid and has nominated.**

If you would like further information about making a will or updating your existing will please contact the Public Solicitor office. Based on current charges, the donation will be £15 for a simple and straightforward will. For a more complicated will, charges will be between £20 and £50.

For an appointment please contact: [papublicsolicitor@helanta.co.sh](mailto:papublicsolicitor@helanta.co.sh) or by telephone 23008



## ROAD CLOSURE IN HALF TREE HOLLOW

Connect Saint Helena Ltd are continuing to upgrade the water network upgrade in Half Tree Hollow. As a result, the road from Mr Timothy Sim's residence up to the junction near Mr Chris George's residence will be closed to the public from Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 to Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from 9am to 3pm on weekdays only.

Only residents who live along this road will have access to and from their properties, and emergency vehicles. Drivers are asked to drive carefully and expect some delays.

Signage will be in place to notify pedestrians and vehicular traffic of the road closure.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd thanks the public for their cooperation during this road closure and will be kept updated.

**04 November 2020**



## ROAD CLOSURE GORDONS POST TO THE DUNGEON

The Highways Authority has given approval for the road from Gordons Post to the Dungeon to be closed between 9.30am and 12.30pm on Tuesday, 10 November 2020. The closure is to allow the Forestry Section to remove a tree at Hunt's Bank.

During this closure, only residents in the affected area and emergency services will be granted access. The diversion route will be via Hutt's Gate. Appropriate signage will be in place.

The Forestry Section would like to thank the public in advance for their continued understanding and cooperation.

**SHG**  
**3 November 2020**



## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING

**MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2020**

The following is a public announcement from the St Helena Public Accounts Committee:

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place at 9am in the Council Chamber on Monday, 9 November 2020.

The programme of business includes:

- Enterprise St Helena 2018/19 Financial Statements and Annual Report
- Saint Helena National Trust 2018/19 Financial Statements
- Equality and Human Rights Commission 2018/19 Financial Statements and Annual Report.

Members of the public and interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1.  
**SHG**  
**3 November 2020**





## End Date Bespoke Agricultural Grant Scheme

### Calling all farmers!

Please note that the Bespoke Agricultural Grant Scheme that has previously been advertised will end on 30 November 2020. This means that no applications will be accepted after this date.

This funding is being offered on a non-contributory basis, however terms & conditions will apply.

For further information please contact Delia Du Preez, Business Development Co-ordinator on 22920 or on email [delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh](mailto:delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh).

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Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc  
are looking to recruit a Part-Time

## Driver

Within the Bakery

### Job Outline

To carry out delivery of bakery products, and ensure completion in a timely manner providing excellent customer service at all times

Interested Persons Should:

- Be able to perform manual handling & physically demanding duties
  - Have Health & Safety Awareness
  - Be knowledgeable in Food & Hygiene practices
- Be in possession of a clean, valid driving license of Class D
  - Have a good standard of Maths & English
- Be able to demonstrate high level of attention to detail

Hours of work will be 24 hours per week

Salary will be £5,100.36 per annum

For further information,  
including the Company's  
attractive benefits package,  
please contact  
Dean Okali  
General Manager (Production)  
on telephone number: 22380  
or via email address:  
[gm-productions@solomons.co.sh](mailto:gm-productions@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](mailto:hradmin@solomons.co.sh)  
and should be completed and  
returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human  
Resources Officer,  
Solomons Office, Jamestown,  
By 10 November 2020.



## **Vacancy for General Maintenance Assistant**

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a full-time **General Maintenance Assistant**.

The post holder will form part of the team that is responsible for the Maintenance of HV Diesel Engines for Electricity Generation, Water Production & Distribution and other mechanical maintenance related duties under the Power Station functions.

This post will be offered either on a single or accompanied status, fixed-term contract, with single en-suite room and shared catering facilities or bungalow accommodation, depending on personal circumstances.

Any offer of employment will be conditional on passing a medical examination.

### **Essential Qualifications & Experience**

- Good understanding of Safety procedures and Safe Working Practices, particularly in the Mechanical area.
- Competent in the use of hand tools, power tools and workshop machinery within the Mechanical area.
- Basic Knowledge of Vehicular maintenance.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to role.
- Knowledge of working with hazardous substances used as part of function.
- Strong self-motivation and ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours and be available for call-outs and faults outside of working hours.
- Possession of current driving licence up to B category.
- Basic Computer/Keyboard skills.

### **Desirable Qualifications / Experience**

- Experience of Power Stations' operations and maintenance work.
- Experience in Diesel Generators Engines overhaul and maintenance.
- Knowledge of Power Generation Systems, using large diesel engines and wind-turbines.
- Basic working knowledge and understanding of RO Plants Operation and Maintenance.
- Understanding of Water Testing and Sampling.
- Ability to work at heights with reference to maintenance of Wind Turbines.
- Operation of vehicles such as Cranes or Fork Lift Trucks.
- Competent in corrosion control
- Use of Email, Microsoft Word and Excel at Basic Level.

Further Qualifications/Experience requirements are detailed in the **Job Description**.

Please contact the Administrative Officer on + 247 66800 (Extn 102) or email [glen.yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:glen.yon@encompass.co.ac) for a **Job Application Form**, **Job Description** and for further information regarding the post.

Applications to be sent to:

Admin Officer  
BBC Atlantic Relay Station  
English Bay  
Ascension Island (or email [glen.yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:glen.yon@encompass.co.ac) )

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

## **Vacancy for Electrician**

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a full-time **Electrician**.

The post holder will form part of the team that is responsible for the Electrical Maintenance functions of the Power Station and other Electrical work related duties under BBC Atlantic Relay Station's portfolio.

This post will be offered either on a single or accompanied status, fixed-term contract, with single en-suite room and shared catering facilities or bungalow accommodation, depending on personal circumstances.

Any offer of employment will be conditional on passing a medical examination.

### **Essential Qualifications & Experience**

- Excellent timekeeping
- Good understanding of safety procedures and safe working practices, particularly in the Electrical area.
- Electrician qualified to City & Guilds level 3 or equivalent, in a relevant subject.
- Consistent application of Electrical skills & developed experience in an Electrician's role.
- Must be capable of achieving HV Authorised Person status under Encompass Safety rules.
- Willingness to work flexible hours, at short notice, when required.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to role
- Proven experience in fault-finding, rectification and repair of faults.
- Basic knowledge of instrumentation
- Good interpretation of Electrical diagrams.
- Knowledge of High voltage Power Generation Systems, using large diesel generators and wind-turbines.
- Experience of electrical installation and maintenance.
- Basic Computer/Keyboard skills: (IT Literate, particularly in use of Email, Microsoft Word and Excel at Basic Level)

### **Desirable qualifications and experience**

- BS2391 Electrical Inspection and test certificate
- Authorised to climb Wind Turbines or have experience of climbing
- HV AP (AP15) authorisation
- BS7671 18<sup>th</sup> Edition wiring regulations trained
- Experience on Allen Diesel control and Excitation system

Further Qualifications/Experience requirements are detailed in the **Job Description**.

Please contact the Administrative Officer on + 247 66800 (Extn 102) or email [glen.yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:glen.yon@encompass.co.ac) for a **Job Application Form**, **Job Description** and for further information regarding the post.

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Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.



# Golf Report for the SHGC 2020 Open Championship and Sunday 1st November 2020

Contributed by: SHGC



Out of the initial 45 players who started the first round of the SHGC 2020 Open Championship only 34 players finished the 72 holes. We were privileged to have our governor HE Dr Philip Rushbrook who graced the occasion and presented the prizes to the winners.

## **The overall results were as follows:**

**Overall winner of the Open Championship 2020 - Mr Scott Crowie**

The Open overall Runner-up Mr Jeffrey Stevens  
 Winner of Open - ladies Mrs Anita Robbertse  
 Open ladies runner-up Mrs Helena Stevens  
 Winner A Flight Mr Martin Joshua  
 Runner-up A Flight Mr Nicholas Stevens  
 Winner B Flight Mr Ron De Reuck  
 Runner-up B Flight Mr Philip Francis  
 Winner C Flight Mr Ian Johnson  
 Runner up C Flight Mr Jeremy Clingham

In the two-ball pool category the winner for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> was Arthur Francis, Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> balls were shared between Arthur Young and Peter Bagley both on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Bramwell Lumukwana on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all the qualifiers and the winners of the Open. For those who didn't win any prizes, not to worry next year is just around the corner. We wish to extend our gratitude to HE the Governor for agreeing to present the prizes. We also thank all the individuals who participated in making the event a success.

While some members took the day off from golf on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 others decided to usher in the new month on the golf course by taking part in the Turkey and Ham Stableford competition. Mr Paddo Johnson and Mr Pat Henry tied with 36 points. On a countback Paddo took first prize (turkey) and Mr Pat Henry had to settle for the ham. The two-ball pool was shared between Mr Norman Thomas on the 7<sup>th</sup> and Mr Jeff Ellick on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The next competition will be sponsored by our new corporate sponsor Zedcore. It will be a 36-hole stroke play competition which will be played on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Normal tee off at 12:00. 14 names are already

registered. Don't be left out. Parents and guardians are reminded that juniors training will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 16:30 to 17:30.

***We wish you all a great weekend of fun.....!***



**SHGC 2020 Open Winner and Runner up**



**Ladies Open Winner and Runner Up**





# Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

It was another case of one step forward and 2 steps back for Manchester United on Sunday. Man United on the back of a good performance against RB Leipzig in the Champions League put up a lame performance against Arsenal.

Arsenal totally deserves the victory as they create more chances, although both goal keepers were hardly called into action. It took a clumsy challenge by our prancing star Paul Pogba to gift Arsenal a penalty which Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang duly score from, ending his 5 match drought and gave Arsenal their first win at Old Trafford since 2006.



**Aubameyang gave Arsenal their first away win against the so call 'Big Six' in 29 matches**

After match week 7 the Champions Liverpool are top of the league after they beat West Ham 2-1 and Everton loss 2-1 away at Newcastle.

Liverpool's match winner was Diogo Jota. In Jota Liverpool has found another gem as he is in great goal scoring form both domestically and in Europe.

With so many injuries to key players Liverpool normal fluent football is not evident in the League but they are picking up the wins. In fact they have won all their matches since Van Dijk injury.



**Diogo Jota Liverpool's man in form**

Leicester City has now hit top form and sits in 2<sup>nd</sup> place after beating Leeds 4-1 on Monday night. Jamie Vardy put in a brilliant performance having a hand in the opening 3 goals and scoring the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Tottenham Hotspurs currently lies in 3<sup>rd</sup> after Gareth bale scores the winner against Brighton. This was Bale's first goal for Spurs since returning to the club on loan from Real Madrid.

Aston Villa loss ground on the leaders after they suffered a 4-3 lost to Southampton at home.

Southampton were 4 nil up after 58 minutes; Villa stage a late comeback but it was a case of too little too late.



**Southampton's Ward Prowse score two direct free kicks in the first half**

In other matches Chelsea put up a dominate performance against struggling Burnley beating them 3-0. Chelsea fans would be happy to see Hakim Ziyech score one and set up one.

Burnley has not won in the Premier League since July. Kyle Walker scored the only goal as Man City beat Sheffield United 1-0.

Last Friday Wolves beat Crystal Palace 2-0. On Monday Fulham beat fellow strugglers West Brom 2-0. This was Fulham's first win of the season and this was enough for them to climb out of the relegation zone.

The bottom 3 West Brom; Sheffield United and Burnley are the only teams who has not register a win this season.

## Premier League Table

Team	P	GD	Pts
1 Liverpool	7	2	16
2 Leicester	7	8	15
3 Tottenham	7	9	14
4 Everton	7	4	13
5 Southampton	7	2	13
6 Wolves	7	0	13
7 Chelsea	7	7	12
8 Aston Villa	6	6	12
9 Arsenal	7	2	12
10 Man City	6	1	11
11 Newcastle	7	-1	11
12 Leeds	7	0	10
13 Crystal P.	7	-3	10
14 West Ham	7	3	8
15 Man Utd	6	-4	7
16 Brighton	7	-3	5
17 Fulham	7	-7	4
18 West Brom	7	-10	3
19 Sheff Utd	7	-7	1
20 Burnley	6	-9	1



Match week 8 fixtures will see Brighton host Burnley 5.30pm and Southampton play Newcastle 8pm on Friday.

On Saturday Everton will play Manchester United at 12.30; Crystal Palace play Leeds United at 3pm, Chelsea play Shef-



# Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

field United at 5.30pm and West Ham will host Fulham at 8pm.

On Sunday West Brom play inform Tottenham Hotspur at 12 noon; Leicester play Wolves at 2pm, Manchester City host the Champions Liverpool at 4.30pm and Arsenal will play Aston Villa at 7.15pm.

In the Champions League; Liverpool put in a brilliant performance against Atalanta beating them 5-0 with Diogo Jota scoring a hat trick. Manchester City defeated Olympiakos 3-0.

On Wednesday Manchester suffered an embarrassing defeat against Turkish side Istanbul Basakshehir. Chelsea beat Rennes 3-0

Manchester United's performance has certainly put question marks over whether Ole Solskjaer will keep his job at Old Trafford.



Spot the defensive error

## Sat 7th Nov

9.15am 9 aside Yellow Devils v Predators

Ref: Nick Stevens

10am 9 aside Blue Arrows v Ranglers

Ref: Owen Richards

9.15am

Rastabouts v Fugees

Ref: Gareth Johnson

## SHFA District Results:

### Jamestown 3 v HTH 3

G/S Jamestown: Jace Williams 1; Rico Benjamin 1 & Dane Wade 1

G/S HTH: Tyler Brady 1; Andrew Yon 1 & Julian Henry 1

### Longwood 4 v St Paul's 3

G/S Longwood: 2 own goals; Matthias Young 1 & Alistar Buckley 1

G/S St Paul's: Brett Isaac 2 & Joe



## Saturday 7th Nov

1pm HTH v Longwood

Referee: St Paul's

3pm Jamestown v St Paul's

Referee: HTH

## What's happening at New Horizons?

This afternoon we see the start of the 2020 Bank of St Helena Youth Games. There will be a short opening ceremony prior to the 16th Youth Games kicking off with the Basketball Tournament sponsored by Isaac's contractors.

All are welcome to watch all Bank of St Helena Youth games events.

Please note New Horizons operate a No Smoking and No Alcohol policy at all sporting venues during the Youth Games.

## Junior Football Results and Fixtures

### Predators 7 v Ranglers 0

G/S Predators: Lebron George 3, Levi Williams 1 & Riley Yon 3

POM: Lebron George & Dirk Peters

### Yellow Devils 8 v Ranglers 0

G/S Yellow Devils: Joshua Crowie 1, Zac Francis 1 own goals 2, Aden Thomas-Stevens 3 & Ryan Stevens 1

POM: Aden Thomas-Stevens & Laine George

### Predators 4 v Blue Arrows 1

G/S Predators: Riley Yon 2, Lebron George 1 & Tyler Anthony 1

G/S Blue Arrows: Louis Thomas 1

POM: Riley Yon & Louis Thomas

### Rastabouts 3 v Galacticos 2

G/S Rastabouts: own goal 1 & Macoy Williams 2

G/S Galacticos: Musa 1 & Callum Young 1

POM: Macoy Williams & Callum Young



## Youth Games 2020

Date	Event	Venue	Time
Friday 6th Nov	Opening Ceremony	New Horizons	5pm
Tuesday 10th Nov	Basketball	Jamestown Rifle Club	5pm
Friday 13th Nov	Volleyball	New Horizons	5pm
Monday 16th Nov	Shooting	HTH Rifle Club	5pm
Friday 20th Nov	Football	New Horizons	5pm
Tuesday 24th Nov	Table Tennis	New Horizons	5pm
Wednesday 25th Nov	Pool	New Horizons	5pm
Friday 27th Nov	Badminton	PAS Hall	5pm
Tuesday 1st Dec	Swimming	Swimming Pool JT	5pm
Friday 4th Dec	Pool	New Horizons	5pm
Tuesday 15th Dec	Pool Finals	New Horizons	5pm
	Athletics	Francis Plain	9am



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**Total Cost:**  
**£121.14**  
**So, Pay £40.38 now**  
**and Pay £40.38**  
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**next 2 months**



Hi Bae, Workin 18 2nite  
but don't 4get we rly  
need 2 get da outside  
painted b4 Xmas.  
LULT x

**Total Cost:**  
**£231.47**  
**So, Pay £77.15 now**  
**and Pay £77.16**  
**over the**  
**next**  
**2 months**



EXAMPLE...

EXAMPLE...



Christmas Present List  
Mum  
Hubby  
Sis Jane  
Bro John  
Niece Elizabeth  
Lil Coz Freddie  
Sam's Baby

**Total Cost: £332.33**  
**So, Pay £55.38 now**  
**and Pay £55.39**  
**over the next 5 months**

EXAMPLE...



# Your Opinion Counts

Continued FROM PAGE 9

unpin the recent decision made by officials on St Helena, as being morally wrong.

From my findings, the provisions of 1961 Vienna Convention are centred around INTERNATIONAL relations and not DOMESTIC ones. That said, assuming that the Governor and his deputy considers St Helena as being international, the core provisions as I find them (but I stand to be corrected) are as follows:

- Maintaining international peace and security, and the promotion of friendly relations among nations.
- To contribute to the development of friendly relations among nations, irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems.
- Privileges and immunities are not to benefit individuals but to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of diplomatic missions.

In my opinion, none of the above makes any reference to PRIVILEGE, POWER, EGO or IGNORANCE and nor do they imply that they are applicable to a subject of a host or mother country arriving at a dependant territory. On the contrary, the use of such phrases such as "maintaining friendly relations / not to benefit individuals / irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems" portray the absolute opposite to the privilege that has been exercised herein.

Therefore, the only conclusion one can reach and given it is also rumoured that this is a precedent set-out to allow the Governor's wife the same 'immunity' when she returns to the island later this year, is that this is the 'sticking up of two fingers' to the indigenous community or in other words a "don't do as I do, but do as I say" situation.

In closing, I would also like to express my personal concerns regarding the elected councillors who have allowed themselves to be 'bullied' into agreeing to this... Your reluctance to take onboard

and action the views, thoughts and rights of the wider island community in-order to maintain their safety (whilst instead opting to bow-down to pressures from above), puts the responsibility of whether or not the island remains COVID free, firmly in your hands and should this dreaded virus reach our beloved St Helena, you will ALL as a collective, be responsible for the almost certain, bereavement and family heartbreak, that is proven to follow in the wake of this terrible virus. You are the current elected guardians of the islands future and I urge you all, not to let your place in the island's history books be recorded as the "the people who enabled Corona virus to reach and destroy the way of life on St Helena".

**MGW.**

**Dear Editor,**

On reading the St Helena News report on Friday I was more than shocked to learn that the deputy Governor was taking up his fourteen days quarantine at his residence, when clearly he should have been at the Bradley's estate where everyone has to do their time in quarantine. How can he be claiming diplomatic immunity!! Yes, diplomatic immunity, because he works for FCO. It's like saying that I'm more important than everyone else, who came to the Island on last weeks' flight. What kind of message is this sending out to the people, if we have people like him in the 'so called' top jobs getting this kind of privilege? And to think that the Governor allowed this to happen ... of course another FCO employee.

During the lock down here in the UK when Dominic Cummings travelled many hours to his parent's home and then to a local beauty spot. That did not go down at all well with the people of this country. Is this another example of someone in a position of privilege and responsibility saying 'I can do what I want but you must do as I say'? How on this planet earth

do we get equal rights if such people feel they can do as they please? It's time that we re-evaluated all our priorities, and take fair outlook on the current state the world is in. Because if you think who you are and who you work for makes you more important than others, then you are still living in colonial times and no one will ever respect you.

**Yours sincerely**  
**Karen Hill (Constantine)**

**Dear Editor,**

I write in full support of Teeny Lucy's letter to the editor published in last week's Independent and Sentinel newspapers. Residents here are not scared silly; but they are generally aware of what is now happening from covid-19 following relaxation in the big world. St. Helena's isolation is often a serious negative, but it is a wonderful positive for protecting the island residents from the threat of this deadly virus. Thanks to the island's isolation, plus the expensive and timely financial support from Britain with Bradley's Quarantine Station, chartered flights from the UK, additional medical professionals, equipment and tests, St. Helena remains free of this dreadful scourge. Let us not blow it! There should be no relaxation or loopholes in our fully supervisable quarantine in Bradleys. Any exceptions deemed necessary to isolation in Bradleys should only be applied with the full agreement of the senior medical team. Our vital protection depends upon keeping covid-19 out as long as possible, hopefully until medical science can contain it!

As for the island economy; let the virus in and St. Helena could rapidly become a covid-19 hot spot. Who then would come here and strengthen our economy? Who would survive to manage it?

**Sincerely,**  
**Cliff Huxtable**

**Keegan's Homebuilding** is advertising to the public the following: Building construction, plastering, masonry works, painting, home repairs, tiling and many more services that you might need.

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# Among Us: What's the point?

by Mic-kail Harris

For those that know me well, one of the things that I am passionate about is playing video games (the other is producing videos) and for a while now I've actually been debating on whether to start a game review article or not. Thankfully, with the help of my mates, I've now gained the confidence to start a game review article about either recent games or games from the past (my treasured memories).

So my first article is about a game called Among Us which was launched in 2018 but has been trending online only recently.

***Before I continue, if you and your friends or work colleagues are looking for something to do during your lunchtime or during your social moments I highly recommend downloading this game for your mobile phone. It is fun, fast and free!***

So if you don't know what Among Us is, it's essentially a game that you can download for PC or mobile where there are two factions (crewmate and impostors). The impostors have to eliminate all the crewmates before they can finish all their tasks. What makes this game interesting though is that the crewmates have no idea who the impostors are, and as the game requires all players to not communicate at all during the actual game play but only during discussion time (it has a huge SSSHHHH!!! Sign that appears before the match starts) it means that the crewmates have to pretend to be Sherlock Holmes to identify who the impostors are and vote them out during discussion time. If a body is reported or if a player calls an emergency meeting there is a certain amount of time to discuss with all the players in the session and identify who are the impostors. However that also can lead to people believing that one of their fellow crewmates is an impostor and vote them out. Like I said before, it's basically a game of Sherlock Holmes. The game is won when the crewmates finish all their tasks, the impostors eliminate a certain number of crewmates in the session or if the impostors get voted off.

The thing about this game is that there are no in-game rewards, so no matter whether you win or lose you don't receive any cosmetics for your characters (but cosmetics are available by default).

So now you're probably wondering "what's the whole point of playing this game?"

Well, there are no in-game rewards but you do get a special reward that is really unique.

You see, I've played many games during my spare time and some games give you the benefit of gaining in-game customizations and rewards. People who play Halo and Call of Duty (online for new Call of Duty games) can gain the benefit of customizing their characters and guns to make them to what the player wants. In racing games like Forza, the more you race, the more money you get and the more money you get, the more cars you can buy and the more upgrades you can apply.



Among us though, does not give us cash or cosmetic rewards. Instead it improves our problem solving skills and increases our awareness of our surroundings as well as many other skills that is needed in reality.

You see – as I mentioned before – you don't know who the impostors are. You could be following a player that IS the impostor. So you need to identify if the person who you are following is acting suspicious, not doing their tasks or – once discussion time takes place – tries voting someone without evidence (which happened to me few times). Or if you are the impostor, you have to plan your kill accordingly so that the crewmates don't have enough evidence to suspect you as the impostor but you also have to be prepared to have an alibi when discussion time happens. It's all about reading people's minds and tactics and once you've played the game a lot, you will eventually pick up some investigation skills along the way.

Let me give you an example. Say you are hanging out with your friends and you decided to buy a packet of chips. You left it for a moment to quickly do something elsewhere but when you returned you found that the chip packet is nearly empty. Before Among Us came out, if people don't own up, they usually blame someone in that group just for the sake of it, but with a bit more experience you can now "sus" (a terminology in the game to either suspect or be suspicious) out your friends more easily based on their response and body actions.

Or in reverse, if YOU ate their chips you have to keep a straight face and try to blame your friend using "factual" evidence that could lead the person who owned the chips believing you. This game prepares you for such an event.

This is truly a game where it benefits the skills of the player both virtually and in reality and if you are still skeptical about "wasting" your time downloading and playing video games just remember: research shows that playing video games makes you smarter and gaming is linked to an increase in brain matter. And with a game that involves a lot of problem solving with no in-game reward, it's really something that is both entertaining and "educational". So I would highly recommend getting this game if you are thinking of becoming a bit smarter and are looking to increasing your skills a bit further. To see examples of this game, it can be watched on YouTube either by searching for it or going straight to TEAM BUGZ GAMING.

# COUNCILLOR THOMAS DISCUSSES KEY ISSUES WITH BARONESS SUGG

SHG, 3 November 2020

Councillor Derek Thomas held a teleconference with Minister for Overseas Territories and Sustainable Development at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Baroness Sugg, on Monday, 26 October 2020.

The call allowed Councillor Thomas to raise current Island issues with the Minister.

Councillor Thomas said:

"I am grateful to Baroness Sugg for the opportunity to discuss key issues of importance to St Helena. We discussed COVID-19, NHS charges for medical referrals to the UK, UK air charters to St Helena and the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP).

"After setting out the financial challenges SHG is facing, particularly in Health and Children and Adults Social Care with increasing demands mainly from an aging population, I was reassured the UK understands the financial pressures on St Helena Government. However the Minister pointed out she expected tough times ahead for the UK economy which is likely to lead to difficult decisions on budgets going forward.

"We also discussed next month's Joint Ministerial Council with the UK Government, where St Helena holds the Chair of the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA), and I look forward to further discussions with the Minister on internationally important topics affecting our Island such as climate change, environmental improvement and social issues."

## TELECOM EGYPT SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ST HELENA GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE IT WITH ITS FIRST SUBSEA SOLUTION

*Submitted by St Helena Government*

**Cairo, 2 November 2020:** Telecom Egypt and St Helena Government (SHG) have signed an agreement to connect the Island to Telecom Egypt's subsea system over the Equiano submarine cable system. Telecom Egypt will be the first to provide St Helena with a fibre optic connection to the rest of the world, which is a crucial step towards the Island's economic growth. The cable, along with the associated high speed internet, is planned to be delivered to the Island by early 2022. The branch that connects Telecom Egypt's system to St Helena will be 1,140km long. The cable itself will run from the West Coast of Africa and provide St Helena with access to both Lisbon, Portugal and Melkbosstrand, South Africa, with scalable connectivity ranging from a few hundred gigabits up to multiple terabits, as demand varies. It, therefore, provides the most cost effective solution to the growth in the Island's bandwidth needs.

In light of its vast experience in the subsea connectivity business, Telecom Egypt, in conjunction with SHG, will provide a Dynamic Circuit Network functionality, which will ensure that SHG's communication partners have access to fixed bandwidth. Telecom Egypt will also support SHG in the design, installation, and configuration of the submarine and network equipment.

SHG's Fibre Optic Project Manager, Jeremy Roberts, said: "From an operational perspective, this is a key milestone for the Fibre Optic Project, as we now have an association with an international partner of high repute who will ensure that all the necessary technical prerequisites are installed in readiness for the arrival of the Equiano System."

Telecom Egypt's VP for International & Wholesale, Seif Mounib, commented:

"We are delighted to have signed this agreement with St Helena Government as this cooperation is part of the initiation of Telecom Egypt's endeavor in Western Africa and is a step

forward in Telecom Egypt's plan to expand its services beyond the MENA region and fortify its global presence by providing subsea solutions to global partners. This solution will enable entities within St Helena to access large capacities that will certainly improve the quality of service and enhance customer experience."

### **Notes to Editors**

Telecom Egypt offers the global telecom community access to abundant international capacities with the lowest latency over the shortest and most efficient protected path from Africa and Asia to Europe, capitalising on the company's continuous and extensive network revamps and Egypt's distinct geographic location at the heart of the world. Its advanced and futuristic infrastructure capabilities led Telecom Egypt to become the partner-of-choice for many international telecom players over the years.

Additionally, Telecom Egypt is working on multiple layers of its infrastructure diversity by establishing new subsea landing stations and crossing routes and investing in new subsea systems and solutions that will cater to the new global wave of international capacities. To maintain the high level of service availability, Telecom Egypt has developed its mesh network solutions spanning the Mediterranean Sea, crossing Egypt, and extending to Singapore.

### **About Telecom Egypt**

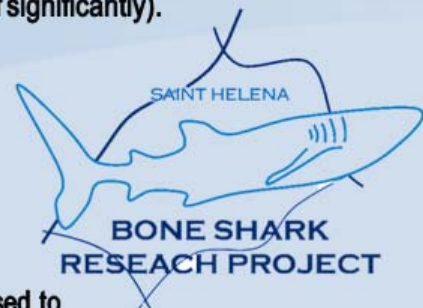
Telecom Egypt is the first total telecom operator in Egypt providing all telecom services to its customers including fixed and mobile voice and data services. Telecom Egypt has a long history serving Egyptian customers for over 160 years maintaining a leadership position in the Egyptian telecom market by offering its enterprise and consumer customers the most advanced technology, reliable infrastructure solutions and the widest network of submarine cables. Aside from its mobile operation "WE", the company owns a 45% stake in Vodafone Egypt.



The St. Helena National Trust (SHNT) Marine Team warmly welcomes expressions from all interested persons' for tenders of a boat(s) to help facilitate research and data collection during the 2020/2021 Bone (whale) shark season.

Tenders should consider:

- Boat trips to and from Whale shark aggregation spots around the Island, (including (but not limited to) Barn Cap, Barn Ledge, Dawson's fishing grounds, Flagstaff Bay, Egg Island and Speery Island).
- Start date of Dec 2020, (However, date can be postponed until sightings has increased significantly.)
- End date of 31st March 2021, (or when sightings has dropped off significantly).
- Half (3/4 hours) and full (5/6 hours) day trips.
- Minimum of 2-3 trips per week.
- Maximum of 4-5 trips per week.
- Deck space on board capable of storing research equipment.



Interested persons should place all EOI's into a sealed envelope, addressed to Kenickie Andrews, Marine Research Coordinator, SHNT, no later than 16:00, Friday 27th November 2020.

For further enquires, please contact the Trust Marine Team on 22569 or email: [kenickie.andrews@trust.org.sh](mailto:kenickie.andrews@trust.org.sh)

## Serena's Gift Shop

Quad Copter  
w.Camera



Phone : 22792

£45.90



£51.90



£38.50



£11.50



£6.80



£9.60



£10.50



£12.95



£45.90



£12.50

Connect  
SAINT HELENA LTD

## TIP OF THE WEEK

Use microwaves and toaster ovens to cook or warm leftovers.

You'll use less energy than cooking with a conventional oven.





# SUPERHERO FAMILY FUN RUN



**WHEN: SAT 14TH NOV 2020  
10AM - 4PM**

**WHERE: ST HELENA AIRPORT**

**JOIN US FOR A SPONSORED RUN, NOVELTY GAMES, FOOD,  
CINEMA & MORE....**

**Sponsor forms available from our SHAPE shop at the Market or via  
email [SHAPE@helanta.co.sh](mailto:SHAPE@helanta.co.sh)**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## Thank You

The Dubbs family and friends would like to thank all the community who supported their Stall and Raffle on Carnival day 2020. Also, thank you those helped out in the stall.

Profits raised were £870 which were donated to the Cancer Awareness charity.

### Prize winners of the raffle were as follows:

- 1st IOTA 360 Windows 10 Notebook - Pat Fuller
- 2nd Power fix 45 Piece Toolkit - Mary Jenson
- 3rd Apeman 4K Action Camera - Melvin Benjamin
- 4th Cello Water Resistant Speaker - Alex Richards
- 5th JBL Bluetooth Headphones - Pinkie Hove
- 6th Logik 1.7ltr Kettle - Lucas Moyce
- 7th Duvet Set - Patsy Henry
- 8th Glass Ornaments - Alan Lawrence
- 9th Pillows - Miranda March
- 10th Towel Set - Jaelego Phillips
- 11th Mattress Cover - Owen Thomas
- 12th Dessert dishes - Audrey Johns

### Small Raffle

- 1st Iced Fruit Cake - Patsy Henry
- 2nd Chamdor & Chocolates - Kim Francis
- 3rd Cake - Trevor Crowie
- 4th Chamdor & Chocolates - Eileen Crowie

Please contact Zena Peters to collect prizes on telephone no. 22938

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2020

Remembrance Sunday falls on 8 November 2020. On this day The Right Reverend Lord Bishop of St Helena Dale Bowers will conduct a Divine Service at the Cenotaph. His Excellency the Governor will attend.

All persons wishing to take part in the Divine Service are asked to assemble at the Cenotaph by no later than 10.40am.

It is on this day that we not only remember with gratitude those persons who fought and lost their lives in the violence of War but we also honour and pay tribute to those who served and survived these Wars.

A special place will be reserved at the Cenotaph for serving and ex-servicemen and women and also St Helenians who served on the old RMS St Helena during the 1982 Falklands War. It is hoped that many will attend the Service.

There will be a First Aid Station on the deck of Donny's Place and those participating in the parade including spectators are welcome to make use of these facilities if required. You are also reminded to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water before and during the Service.

Please contact Fiona Duncan at the Castle on telephone number 22470 for further information.

**SHG**

**3 November 2020**



## LONGWOOD WALKWAY PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) will be holding a Public Meeting at the Harford Community Centre on Wednesday, 11 November 2020, at 7pm, to provide an update to the residents on the Longwood Walkway Project.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

**SHG**

**2 November 2020**



## Invitation to Tender

The Saint Helena Government (SHG) wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the construction of a covered way over the Hospital Emergency Entrance. Copies of the tender document can be obtained from:

Miss Shelley Thomas, Executive Assistant, Programme Management Unit, The Castle, Jamestown  
Telephone No: 22470 or  
Email: [shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh)



A site visit regarding the works will take place on Friday 06<sup>th</sup> November 2020, at 10am, meeting at the emergency entrance at the General Hospital, Jamestown.

It would be appreciated if those attending, would avoid parking in the immediate Hospital areas.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after the 06<sup>th</sup> November will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

If you require any further details, please contact Project Engineer, Mr Kyle Shoesmith, on telephone number 25805 or email [kyle.shoesmith@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:kyle.shoesmith@sainthelena.gov.sh)

A hard copy of completed tenders should be submitted in the tender box located in the main Castle Foyer, Jamestown by 12 noon on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

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

**SHG, 02 November 2020**



# JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

## SKITTLES SEASON – 2020/21

### RESULTS

DATE: 26<sup>th</sup>. October:

Parttimers - 501			Bt	Extractors - 493	
Lady's H Sc	Sophie Peters	54		Kimmy Thomas	52
Gent's H Sc	Denny Leo	67		Luke Johnson	62
Ladys Sp.				Kimmy Thomas	13
Gent's H Sp	Denny Leo	13		Luke Johnson	15

DATE: 14<sup>th</sup>. October:

Never Readys - 502			Bt	Young Alcoholics - 439	
Lady's H Sc				Anisa Moyce	49
Gent's H Sc	Fabian Peters	79		Steve Benji-Johnson	62
Gent's H Sp	Fabian Peters	16		Steve Benji-Johnson	14

Up-coming fixtures:

Monday – 9<sup>th</sup>. November: Never Readys v Super Shots  
Wednesday – 11<sup>th</sup>. November: Parttimers v Young Alcoholics



# MOONSHINES

**The proprietors of MOONSHINES would like to advise the public that the establishment will be closed for private functions on Sunday 8th and 15th November 2020.**

~ ~ ~



**VARIOUS FLOWER PLANTS FOR SALE.....**will be available on a regular basis and in mixed colours. **Also coming soon...exotic plants not often seen on St. Helena!**

**CALL DAVID ON 64419 / 24855**

## REGISTRY OF LANDS, ST HELENA

6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

NOTICE is hereby given of an application by Byron Knipe of Levelwood, for registration as proprietor of an area of Crown land namely Parcel 311 in the Registration Section for Silver Hill. 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**

# For Sale



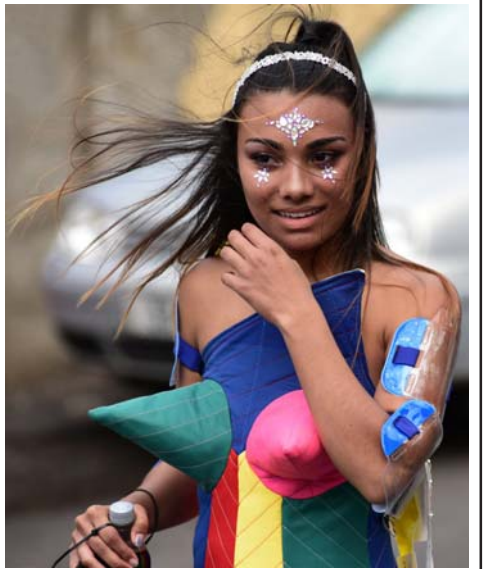
is a unfurnished house in Sapper Way, the house comprises of the following Three Bedrooms, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Toilet, Living Room, Laundry Room, Patio, Garage, and a Cloak Room.

For further information please contact Cyril George on telephone number 24501 or email [cath.cyril@helanta.co.sh](mailto:cath.cyril@helanta.co.sh)



# ***Carnival 2020 in Pictures***

***Ed Thorpe***





# ***Carnival 2020 in Pictures***

*Ed Thorpe*







**PLANTATION HOUSE  
CHRISTMAS FAIR  
SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2020**

Fund Raising for local charities from 1pm to 5pm

Various traditional crafts, confectionary & Christmas stalls, including Sweet Nest, Ice Cream Van, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies and much much more .....

Photo Shoot with Santa

Bouncy Castle

Amphibians Bar and Music to entertain you throughout the afternoon

Hot Food will be on sale

Entrance fee – Adults £1.00 and children under 11 years free

If you would like to book a stall, please contact Debbie Yon on tel No: 24453 or 61883 or email: [ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh](mailto:ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh)



**Friday,  
6 November 2020  
Sundowners from 4pm**

**Saturday, 7 November 2020  
Open from 1pm**

THEN...

Join us for a **BOOMBANGTASTIC** night with DJ Kimmy from around 9pm

**Sunday, 8 November 2020**

Following the Remembrance Service, the Mule Yard will be open and will pay tribute to those who fought and lost their lives.

A selection of 'Old Time Songs' will be played in their memory.

Families are always welcomed at the Mule Yard!

For up to date information on events, please check our Face Book page @ The Mule Yard



The Sunflower Creche would like to thank all the Sunflower Kids and their family and friends for their amazing support at the Sunflower Cancer Awareness disco. We are thrilled to announce that through your generosity we made £500 which has been donated to the Cancer Awareness Society



Thank you to Sandra and Joy for coming to see us and accepting the cheque on behalf of the Cancer Awareness Society



**CHRISTMAS IS COMING.....**

**St Helena Singers and Friends**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 4pm**

**CAROLS AT THE CCC AT 4PM FOR CLIENTS & FAMILIES**

**FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7pm**

**CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE.  
CATHOLIC CHURCH, UPPER JAMESTOWN  
FREE ENTRY. DONATIONS WELCOME**

**WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 7pm**

**CANDLELIGHT CAROLS  
& CHRISTMAS SONGS AT THE CONSULATE  
TICKETS £8 INCLUDE CHRISTMAS TREATS  
BYCHEF ROY (FROM 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER)  
CONSULATE CHRISTMAS PUNCH ALSO ON SALE**

**ECUMENICAL CAROL CONCERT ON THE COURT HOUSE STEPS  
SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 7.30 PM**



23988 [creativesainthelena@gmail.com](mailto:creativesainthelena@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Creative Saint Helena

