

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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

History Made First Same-Sex Marriage in St Helena



Cape to St Helena Yacht Race First Arrival Last Night



St Helena Yacht Carpe Diem in on Sunday?



All Events of the Festive Season



Vandalism is NOT Acceptable

Banjo takes line honours

At exactly 9:26pm last night Banjo was the first yacht to cross the finish line in the Cape to St Helena Race. The race started at 2pm on Boxing Day, 26th December. Banjo completed the race in eight days and nine hours. This is an improvement on the yacht's previous best time of nine days thirteen hours and thirty-six seconds in 2014. This is the 4th time Banjo has competed in the Cape to St Helena / Governor's Cup race and the 3rd time it has taken line honours as the first yacht to cross the finish line. Banjo is a trimaran, designed for speed rather than comfort and has little to offer in terms of deck space or crew comfort.

Also due to arrive early on Friday morning is Rocket. Neither immigrations officials nor the ferry service was available when Banjo arrived so the crew from Banjo and from Rocket go straight to the moorings after finishing spending the night in James Bay rather than coming ashore to be welcomed by waiting supporters and spectators.



Banjo approaching the finish line last night; the Jacobs Ladder lights are in the background.

Thar she blows!

The lookout on the old whaling ships would shout out "thar she blows" when a whale was sighted but the shout is just as appropriate for the number of torn sails several yachts have had to deal with during the Cape to St Helena yacht race. The first reports from yacht crews came in on 28th December, the third day into the race, when 'Caribbean Soul' mentioned "issues with the main sheet" and 'Banjo' made several changes to the sail set up. Both 'Compromise' and 'Ronin' reported a bumpy ride.

On 30th December 'Carpe Diem' reported a tear in the spinnaker but able to repair it the same day. 'Ronin' said their spinnaker had 'popped' and it was the only one they had. On the 31st Ronin said they were trying to hand stitch their spinnaker. Then on 1st January more bad news from the 'Ronin', a halyard (rope holding sails in place) broke and irreparable.

Also on 1st January 'Asante' lost a spinnaker and 'Banjo' had a torn spinnaker in the middle of the night. By the time the crew got on deck the sail had ripped so much half of it was



Emirates are really flying! A tor spinnaker during an America's Cup race

under the boat and had to be cut free. On 2nd January 'Carpe Diem' said "sewing machine is working overtime". Despite that their report said "all is well" and "looking forward to getting home".

New Year's Eve at Sea, Long Way from Home

Where's the bottle opener and corkscrew

The winds and swells did not stop the crews in the Cape to St Helena race mark the start of the New Year in suitable style. The messages from the crews made it clear no-one went hungry or thirsty.

As early as 28th December the crew of the 'Rocket' were concerned about the dwindling stock of rum they had remaining for the rest of the race. Other crews self-evidently planned things a bit better and made sure there were ample supplies in the stores for New Year's Eve.

The crew of 'Banjo' are blessed with a good cook. Their report on 31st December included, "Brad has made us some awesome meals - breakfast lunch and supper. Fried eggs on toast with onions and baked beans for breakfast, chicken wraps for lunch and spaghetti bolognese for supper, followed by xmas pudding and custard." The menu for New Year's Eve was planned well ahead, "He is planning a 3 course meal tonight, including steak egg and chips, gem squash and salad."

'Carpe Diem' mentioned "Bottle of bubbly on ice" on New Year's Eve and "all feeling tired" on New Year's Day. 'Caribbean Soul' said they had a quiet night with rum on the New Year. On 'Naledi' they had a "nice New Year celebration with fantastic weather".

After reporting on New Year's Eve what they would be eating that night, the report from 'Banjo' on New Year's Day continued on the same theme. "We had a fantastic New Year's eve formal dinner (at the table) as the sun set. Went into the night in mild but pleasant conditions". Then, at 3:30am the crew on watch shouted "torn spinnaker" and suddenly it was back to reality.



**Bloomin' Beautiful" Pot Plants
on sale in the Market on
Thursday 10th January 2019.
DON'T MISS OUT!**

Start of the Yacht Race

Boxing Day 2018



Increased advertising rates with Saint FM



We would like to advise our customers that from the 1st February 2019 Saint FM's daily advertising rates will increase from £5 per day to £6 per day

Saint FM has fought consistently over the past years against any increases however with escalating costs and in order for us to continue to provide the services to the community we have been left with no choice

We look forward to the continuing support of all of our customers and wish to thank you for your custom over the past years

Company Directors of Saint FM

Dr Rhys Cottle

I would like to comment through your paper the news item this morning regarding a petition to keep our very own Dr Rhys.

I'm beginning to wonder if anyone on the island have the knowledge to know that we as saints don't have to be drawing up petitions to keep our best people on island.

We have council members who been elected by the people of our island but in my opinion they are not performing their duties in the correct manner, there is no such issue as a petition to keep a Doctor, the elected members should be strong enough to stand up to the First Lady telling her this is what the people of this island wants, instead they are just a bunch of weaklings.

Elected Members this is 2019 so I'm appealing to you all to serve your community much better than you did in the year 2018, I'm having a bad experience in the UK with my medical situation, the truth will all be compiled and proven when I get the all clear from my Doctors.

May God Bless The People of our Island.

Keith H. Joshua (KJ)
Bournemouth UK.





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Editorial

The first thing I'll do is give my grateful thanks to Adrian Duncan. Last night I was on the landing steps taking photos of people waiting for Banjo to arrive at the finish line and take line honours for the Cape to St Helena race when Adrian put his boat alongside and off-loaded some bait for his next fishing trip. It was no trouble at all for Adrian to take Mike and myself out to see Banjo sailing past Rupert's so we could take photos of the yacht approaching the finish line. People in South Africa and the UK have asked for photos of Banjo as it took line honours, without Adrian's help this could not have been possible.

It was a dark night, no moon and lots of cloud. The only light came from Adrian's boat and it was good enough to take some reasonable photos under such conditions. Several people turned up to see Banjo arrive – that was good to see. The Yacht Club was open and a good number took advantage of the facilities offered in the clubhouse. It's a good feeling when St Helena is part of an international event and joining in with the rest of the world. The cricket team did just that recently and it happens with the Commonwealth Games, Island Games and Commonwealth Youth Games. The next event will be the St Helena football team heading off to Ynyis Mon

for the Inter Games Football Tournament 2019. This takes place over seven days in June and the St Helena Football Association is busy raising the funds to send the team to Wales. They have calculated it will cost about £4,000 per person to participate in this event. They need all the help they can get. The next Commonwealth Youth Games is on the horizon; it will be at Gibraltar or Trinidad in 2021, either way more fundraising will be needed for that. And let's not forget the next Cape to St Helena yacht race in 2020. If all goes as is hoped, the Royal Cape Yacht Club will have a full two years to organise, promote and develop the race into an event which can bring people, money, recognition and publicity to aid our cash-strapped economy.

Anyway, back to the present. The Carpe Diem will probably arrive in James Bay on Sunday, keep an ear to Saint FM for updates on the expected time of arrival. Sunday is a good day for the Herne family to finish the race; it means lots of people can be at the wharf to cheer them home. The next yacht to arrive should be Naledi, maybe on Saturday. After that, the arrivals should closer together.

Go into the weekend in full sail!

Vince

History made on St Helena

In January 2017, a same-sex couple applied to marry in Saint Helena. The registrar was in the process of obtaining legal advice as to how to proceed (the existing Marriage Ordinance 1851 being unclear on same-sex marriage) when two members of the public filed objections to the marriage notice. Subsequently, the registrar referred the issue to the Chief Justice of the Saint Helena Supreme Court for a decision. A preliminary hearing took place in the court on 23 February 2017.[17] The parties in the case were given until July 2017 to submit their arguments.

At the Legislative Council meeting on 22 September 2017, members agreed to notify the Council as to their opinions on the subject at a later meeting. This would allow another same-sex marriage ordinance to be debated before the end of the year, and avoid a full Supreme Court hearing on the issue, which was expected in January 2018.

On 6 October 2017, the Legislative Council decided to conduct a series of public consultations on the Marriage Bill 2017 throughout the month. On 4 December, the Social & Community Development Committee, which conducted the consultations, recommended the Executive Council to approve the draft ordinance with one minor technical amendment, which the Executive Council did the following day. On 19 December, after a failed attempt to remove the same-sex marriage portion of the legislation, the ordinance was approved by the Legislative Council by a 9–2 vote.

It was subsequently signed by the Governor of Saint Helena and took effect upon publication on 20 December 2017. On Monday 31st December 2018 history was made on St Helena when the first same sex marriage was performed in

the gardens at Plantation house

The ceremony was officiated by the registrar Karen Yon and attended by many family and friends

Our congratulations to the couple



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You can now listen to Saint FM on smart devices, on your mobile, via your app including google home devices, your Alexa/amazon echo, and via your smart devices.

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS 2019

'I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen has conferred the award of an MBE to Mr Albert Edward Henry Baldwin for services to the community and local services in St Helena.'

'Mr Baldwin has devoted 23 years of voluntary work with the St Helena Heritage Society and the Museum of St Helena. Mr Baldwin has always had an interest in St Helena, particularly with regard to its history. During his visit to the island in 1995 Mr Baldwin became involved with the plans that were underway to move the Museum from Broadway House in Jamestown to a former warehouse situated at the bottom of Jacob's Ladder. He was closely involved with the development of the Museum Project and in addition to advising on the layout and content of the Museum, he assisted with the ordering of specialist materials to ensure timely arrival on island to enable the works to be carried out as scheduled for its grand opening in 2002. Mr Baldwin has donated some very important objects to the Museum and has also worked to secure donations from other parties which has enhanced the Museum offering. Mr Baldwin's voluntary work, and the donations of these objects, has helped to create a flagship tourist attraction at the Museum. Following the opening of the Museum in 2002, Mr Baldwin continues to work with the St Helena Museum and the St Helena Heritage Society.'

'I am further pleased to announce the award of an MBE to Mrs Anne Violet Green who has been nominated for services to the community in Tristan da Cunha.'

'Mrs Green retired as a Head teacher after spending 43 years in the teaching profession. She started her career in teaching in 1975. During her years of teaching she was promoted to Deputy Head Teacher and Senior Teacher. She was the first female Chief Islander and has served as a member of the Island Council for many years. Mrs Green has also been Acting Administrator of Tristan on a number of occasions. Her voluntary work extends to the tourism sector where she accompanies visitors on island tours. Mrs Green helped to raise funds to build the first Catholic Church and has been instrumental in a number of charitable endeavours. She is a highly respected member of the community and actively helps people in the community, especially the elderly and the less fortunate.'

'I am sure you will all join me in congratulating both Mr Baldwin and Mrs Green on these well-deserved Awards.'

Lisa Honan

**Governor of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
28 December 2018**

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) and the Highways Authority took place on Thursday, 13 December 2018.

The Invasive Plant Specialist, Ludi Kern, presented an update on the 'Namibian Iceplant'. This particular species is a perennial herb with pink or whitish pink flowers about 4-5mm wide. This invasive plant was first seen on St Helena in February 2017 by Mikko Paajanen whilst working as an Ecologist on the LEMP Project. The plant was observed mainly within the boundaries of the Airport. However, it has since been identified outside of this area mostly where some of the imported sand from Namibia was either stored or used. The current control and monitoring actions in place are centred around public awareness, how to identify this species and reliance on the public to inform the Invasive Plant Management team of particular areas where the plant is believed to be growing. To date the team has accounted for over a thousand plants found in locations in and around the Airport, but are also concerned that these plants can germinate as far as 150 metres away from its presumed original propagule source. The plant can produce an estimated 95 to 300 seeds annually. The plant can be eradicated successfully if immediate action is taken and information shared by all. Most of the plants found so far were disposed of through double bagging and/or incineration. If anyone has seen this plant or similar plants please call the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD) Office on tele: 24724 and provide as much information as possible which will assist the team in identifying the plant.

The Acting Marine Conservation Officer, Samantha Cherrett, presented an update on the Marine Interaction Policy.

The 'Environmental Policy for Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*), Devil Ray (*Mobula tarapacana*) and cetacean interaction activities on St Helena Island to minimise risk of injury and disturbance', adopted under the Marine Management Plan (2016) currently provides guidance on interaction with marine species of St Helena.

A recent review of this Policy and associated Environmental Best Practice Guidelines identified gaps in guidance for some interactions as well as grey areas such as rare chance encounters. In consultation with the Marine Management Organisation, local stakeholders and organisations, the policy (renamed 'Policy for marine species interaction activities on St Helena Island to minimise risk of injury and disturbance'), as well as species and activity related best practice guidelines were reviewed and updated to include details for more species and provide guidance for chance encounters with large or rare marine megafauna. It is hoped that these documents will be used as best practice moving forward and incorporated into the Marine Management Plan in the future.

It was also noted that at the special ENRC meeting held on Thursday, 29 November 2018, from a total of 51 applications, 28 were successful in qualifying for funding from the Community and District Roads Project. Those applicants who were awarded funding will need to use these funds by the end of this financial year which is 31 March 2019.

SHG

2 January 2019



**St Helena
Government**

Carpe Diem Crew in last minute rush to prepare for race

The three Carpe Diem trainee crew who flew back to St Helena just four days before the Cape to St Helena race was due to start left a few problems behind them in South Africa for others to sort out. It was explained to them they remained the legal responsibility of the skipper until the skipper had signed a discharge notice releasing them from their obligations as crew members. The race committee chairman and secretary at the Royal Cape Yacht Club reminded them of the importance of the discharge notice, urging them to show they had air tickets for their safe return St Helena so they could be formally discharged from the Carpe Diem.

The returning three never did contact either the Royal Yacht Club or the skipper of the Carpe Diem so the discharge notice could not be signed. As a result, South African immigration officials told James Herne he could not leave South Africa until the discharge formalities has been completed. This of course meant that St Helena's participation in the Cape to St Helena race was badly threatened because the three returning crew members had not completed the required crew discharge procedure. After a tense time with urgent calls between Cape Town and St Helena, the St Helena Immigration Office sent a letter to their South African colleagues confirming the three had returned to St Helena on the Saturday flight. This letter was accepted as satisfactory evidence, leaving James and Josh Herne to reunite with Hannah Herne and their other two children, Sadie and Jacob. The Hernes had decided that Hannah should join the crew to fill some of the gap left by the three who had returned to St Helena. For Sadie and Jacob, sailing from Cape Town to St Helena would be no problem; they had already sailed right around the world. Another South African crew member was recruited for the Carpe Diem to bring the crew up to strength.

On Christmas Day, Hannah reported to the Independent they had been "running around like headless chickens" preparing the yacht and completing the extra paperwork due to the crew changes. Cape Town shops are open on Christmas Day which

NOTIFICATION MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

"The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, 17th January 2019, at 10 am at the St Helena Community College, Jamestown.**

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

Should you require a copy of the Agenda, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 22270. Agendas will be available on **Tuesday, 15th January 2019.**

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting".



The new crew of the Carpe Diem – just before the start of the race on Boxing Day



Jacob Herne checks the sea conditions with his Dad as yachts prepare to move into position for the start.



The yachts assemble for the start in choppy waters

gave the opportunity to buy last minute items for the race. When sailing to Cape Town from St Helena two head sails were damaged. Repairing the headsails was a high priority – probably even on Christmas Day.

Another inconvenience was the three returning crew members did not take all their personal belongings with them. With Hannah and the Herne's two other children plus another South African recruit, space on the Carpe Diem was at a premium. The personal belongings left behind had to be packed and arrangements made for them to be stored temporarily at the Royal Cape Yacht Club.

It was reported in the Sentinel that the three Carpe Diem crew who returned to St Helena in time for Christmas decided to leave the yacht (without properly informing anyone beforehand) because they felt the skipper did not trust them.

It's a crazy world, even at Christmas

The crazy world of UK government

St Helena's purse string pullers, DFID, look very likely to be more than a little distracted from their main job in 2019. The DFID Secretary of State, Penny Mordaunt, has already started to promote herself as the person to take over from Theresa May when she stands down as Prime Minister before the next UK general election. Brexit will also have a heavy impact on her department; it is reported that as many as 600 employees from DFID will be transferred to work on preparing for Britain leaving the European Union. The 'decree nisi' is scheduled for 11pm on Friday 29th March 2019. Whether it will be a soft or hard Brexit or whether it will even happen on the appointed day, no-one can say with confidence. The 600 DFID employees transferred to Brexit duties could reach retirement age before the job is done.

But that's less than half of it. There is about 3,000 staff working in DFID. Pulling out 20% of them, without the required advanced planning, to work elsewhere could be catastrophic with St Helena being one of the unfortunates on the receiving end of the chaos. The omens for 2019 are not good.

The crazy world of Trump

Donald Chump got hot under the collar recently about Californian forest fires. For all sorts of muddled-headed reasons he claimed they should never have happened, the forest fires had nothing to do with climate change, nothing to do with the Republicans and according to some uniquely magical formula, everything to do with the Democrats.

On one occasion he said the Californians should rake the

forest floor, as they do in Finland, to prevent the spread of forest fires. The President of Finland expressed his complete bewilderment at this claim and the Finns took to Twitter to express their amusement, at Trump's expense.

More recently he announced that \$billions of Federal Government money would be spent 'cleaning up' the 'dirty' forests and commercial logging would start in California to create clearings around houses and villages in the forests.

Trump showed complete disgust because rotten trees were not cleared from the dirty forests. The President of the United States is completely unaware that rotting wood is the catalyst for a large part of the wild life and plant life in forests with much of the forest environment depending on rotting wood for countless reasons.

Trump also appears to be completely unaware that almost 60% of the 33 million acres of Californian forest is owned by Trump's Federal Government, not the California State Government. The United States Forest Service (Trump's Federal Government) imposed the current policies on forest management after The Great Fire of 1910 which burnt 3 million acres of forest across three Mid-western states.

Environmentalists fear that creating clearings around houses and villages will provide space for grass to colonise the open space, making the risk of fire even greater. Forest floors remain damp longer because they are shaded by the trees above. Cleared areas become dry quickly and grass fires can quickly start forest fires posing greater risk to people in the vicinity.

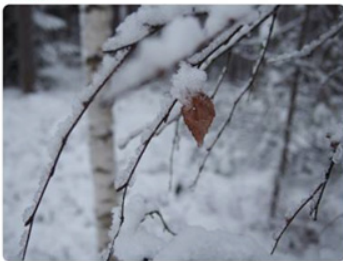
Buy your own South Atlantic Island

Pebble Island is 20 miles long and has been in the ownership of the same Welsh family for 150 years. The current owner now wants to sell it because it is becoming hard to manage. Pebble Island is one of the Falkland Islands and is full of penguins. Within its 20 mile length there is also a small mountain range, lakes and a beach. There are sheep as well as penguins; wool is exported to the UK. There are also lodges to accommodate tourists.

Pebble Island also has an airfield which was the target of a raid by the SAS during the Falklands War. The Argentines had taken over the air field as a small forward air base. The SAS raid was seen as a complete success.



Just waiting for this leaf to drop so I can rake it! Any minute now... #haravointi #raking #Finnish



Bingo for Football

The Rose & Crown hosted a Family Bingo Night at the Jamestown Community Centre on Friday 27 December in aid of the St Helena Football Association. This is one of a series of fundraising events which seeks to send a football team from St Helena to compete in an Island Games Tournament in Ynys Mon (Anglesey) in June 2019.

The Rose & Crown was the sole sponsor for the evening's prizes offering over 170 enthusiastic bingo fans the opportunity to win 8 prizes which included a slow cooker, a campchair and a lava lamp bluetooth speaker. The star prize was a food hamper worth over £60 and was won by Tracey Duncan. During intervals, guests could take a chance at the Tombola Stall or get refreshments from the Tuck Shop.

The event raised £1,202.50 and organiser Tara Wortley of the Rose & Crown had this to say "we are really pleased with the outcome of this fundraising effort. A Family Bingo Night is a

first for Rose & Crown and we are delighted with the response from the bingo players that supported us on the night. A special thank you to the Jamestown Community Centre Committee for their help and support, our entertaining bingo callers: Olive Williams, Gavin 'Jack' Thomas and Jeremy Johns. Thanks also to Nick Stevens and Keith Yon for the 'emergency' PA system".



Recruiting today for the future of tomorrow

POLICE CONSTABLES

Public Service is at the core of all we do, protecting & serving our community & delivering a safe environment for all.

Are you 18 years of age? Have a valid/clean drivers license Class A?

Have GCSE English & Math's Grade C or above or equivalent?

Would you like to make a difference to the lives of those within our community ?

Would you like to be a part of a professional, unique , dynamic and diverse team of people?

If the answer is YES

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Starting Salary:

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Application forms and information packs are available from the St Helena Police Directorate.

The completed forms should be completed and submitted through Directors where applicable, to Gemma Lawrence, Corporate Human Resources at The Castle, Jamestown

Or email gemma.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Friday 4th January 2018.

Follow us on Facebook (link) [st helena police directorate](https://www.facebook.com/sthelena.police.directorate)

and Twitter (link) [@sthelenapolice](https://twitter.com/sthelenapolice)

Want to know more about the role of a constable, speak to an officer during their community engagement or on their beat surgery or make an appointment, telephone email Acting Chief Inspector Jonathan Thomas on 22626. jonathan.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh

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

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

That was the year that was – it's over, let it go

A quick look back at 2018

January

The RMS has a rough time with the weather on its last call at Tristan. Another Plan was published for consultation – The Ten Year Development Plan. Community Action started a cleanup of the Liberated African burial grounds in Rupert's. Legislative Council is asked to approve an additional £1million plus government spending increase and a week later a further £500,000 is needed to prop up St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. Fresh fish are exported by plane for the first time and Virgin Trains in the UK decide not to offer the Daily Mail to their passengers anymore.

February

The month started with news of a burglary at the Post Office. St Helena's first international conference was held at Anne's Place. Chris Duncan visited St Helena for the last time in his role as Chairman of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority. Richard Branson offered St Helena the facilities available through his charity Virgin Unite. DFID's financial aid team finished their doom-laden visit to St Helena. The RMS blows off in James Bay for the last time. Atlantic Star drops their plan to operate charter flights in December 2018. A letter to the editor complains about the poor postal service now the RMS has been decommissioned.

March

Concerns surface about an outbreak of listeria in South Africa spreading to St Helena through imported food. Concerns also start to build up about the effects of Brexit on the Overseas Territories. The MV Helena completed its first voyage to St Helena, one week late. The European Union gives final funding approval for the trans-Atlantic fibre-optic cable connection. The Ladder Hill sewage shute gets outline planning permission. European Union funds ESH for the purchase of an anaerobic digester to help with waste disposable but the machine proves too big for the amount of waste involved and cannot be used. The Buckley family pull out of a proposed investment in a holiday park at Bradleys. The St Helena team at the Commonwealth Games in Australia are proving to be excellent ambassadors for the Island and for the 5th time out of five New Horizons beat the Fire Service in a T20 cricket match.

April

Andrew Mitchell MP, a former Secretary of State for DFID made a flying visit to St Helena, touring the Island while the plane flew to Ascension and back. A report from the Chief Auditor concluded that SHG does not have sufficient oversight and involvement in its wholly and partly owned businesses. The proposal for a St Helena Institute gathers increasing support. The 'Silver Cloud' arrives on Bank Holiday Monday and the cruise ship passengers find the Island is all but closed for the day. St Helena athletes at the Commonwealth Games become favourites with the Aussies and prove to be excellent ambassadors for the Island. News trickles through that the former RMS St Helena is to become a support vessel for armed security ships in pirate infested waters. The Royal Research Ship James Clark Ross spends a week surveying in St Helena waters. St Helena hosts its first Star

gazing event.

May

SHG announce there will be additional flights from December to April. Paul McGinnety leaves his Assistant Chief Secretary job under mysterious circumstances. The first of the popular Green Renaissance films is released on YouTube. For the third time in four voyages transhipped containers from the UK miss their connecting transshipment date with the MV Helena. Several stories surface about people having big problems getting visas to visit St Helena. Gemma Lawrence is crowned Miss St Helena 2018. New Horizons organises another great St Helena Day celebration.



RMS St Helena Leaving in February 2018



Andrew Mitchell, MP, visited in April 2018



St Helena Day - May 2018

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A quick look back at 2018

June

St Helena Fisheries Corporation described as an ailing, failing and deeply in debt as another round of the 'what do we do with our fishing industry' debate gets into gear. Levelwood Allstarz win the league and knockout cricket trophies while St Paul's picks up the District Winners Cup. Lawson Henry complains that SHG's relationship with DFID "could not be worse." Public opposition to increased water charges are voiced at HTH Community Centre meeting. Corinda Essex warns "things are going to be tough" after DFID belatedly decide what budget to impose on St Helena Government. Unsung Heroes Awards are presented at Anne's Place. A wreck-age washed up near Turk's Cap is found to be the Llama Lo, abandoned of East London, South Africa three years earlier. With just six months to go, the Royal Cape Yacht Club announced it had been chosen by St Helena Tourism to organise the Cape to St Helena/Governor's Cup yacht race.

July

Demonstration organised to protest about increase in water charges attracted around 150 people. James and Hannah Herne give presentation at Tourism Association public meeting on the importance of yachties to St Helena's tourism economy. Airlink announce the connection to Cape Town from Windhoek should be reinstated by September. Basil Read bankruptcy means local businesses and individuals will lose money. Airlink flight to St Helena/Ascension is cancelled and rescheduled for a week later. Exco starts another search for an investor in the Fisheries Corporation. SHG subsidies to St Helena Hotel Development Ltd continue to face criticism and questions.

August

The Basil Read bankruptcy continues to cause deep worries for local creditors. The SHG budget which should have been signed off in April is finalised at last by gloomy and reluctant councillors who are deeply dissatisfied with DFID's treatment and attitude toward St Helena. The bank of St Helena joins with Allied Wallet, an on-line payment processing company in a bid to ease the current out-dated banking facilities. Tara Wortley imports live fish by plane. Another cancelled and rescheduled flight upsets private individuals and public schedules. Carpe Diem became the 13th yacht to be registered for the Cape to St Helena race. At one time 17 yachts were registered for the race. Companion airfares introduced.

September

The money lost on missed connecting flights through Airlink flight cancellations due to the weather has many people very angry. MV Helena is delayed in dry dock for most of September. Operational staff at the airport say wind shear has been a non-event, crosswinds are worse but it's low cloud that causes flight cancellations. Proposals for a new prison are back on the table, again. The former RMS St Helena is sold by its new owner after just a few months. The new owners take it to Portland for a two year re-fit. When she starts working once more she will be known as the 'St Helena'. Basil Read survives its financial problems but is cut down to a much smaller business. Creditors agree to be paid 8 cents

for every Rand Basil Read owes them. The South Atlantic fibre-optic cable continues to edge forward but the progress has become very slow. The Governor suggests St Helena and the Isle of Elba should link up to help promote tourism among Napoleon aficionados.

October

Reported that the former RMS has been bought to be used as a support vessel for the increasingly popular Formula E racing calendar. Bishop Richard announces Father Dale Bowers was elected to be the new Bishop for St Helena and Ascension by the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Bishop Dale will be just the 2nd St Helenian Bishop. Ma Flo, who was St Helena's oldest resident is remembered with great affection by many. Report claims marine plastic waste around the South Atlantic Islands has increased ten-fold in ten years. Annual price increases rise above 4%. Seven flights were cancelled and re-scheduled between October 2017 and 2018 causing a total of 25 days delay to affected passengers. These numbers are doubled when the return flight from St Helena to Johannesburg is included. The French Ambassador to South Africa visits St Helena. Governor presents Honorary MBE to Michel Martineau for services to St Helena over a period of 30 years. The St Helena cricket team start the ICC Men's World T20 Africa C Qualifier in Botswana. The 'Spirit of the Sea' carnival was as popular and successful as carnivals are every year.



Demonstration in July 2018



Michel Dancoisne-Martineau Awarded Honorary MBE in October 2018

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A quick look back at 2018

November

A report on the UK Dive Show described Anthony Nails and Craig Yon having a very busy two days describing the diving available at St Helena to a constant stream of enquirers. Paul O'Sullivan's St Helena Corporation took a controlling stake in the St Helena Leisure Corporation (SHELCO). After many years of trying to invest in St Helena SHELCO called it a day. A history of SHELCO is a book waiting to be written. The Open Championship at the St Helena Golf Club was won by Peter Bagley. Dale Bowers becomes St Helena's 16th Bishop at a ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral celebrated by three South African bishops. The 8th flight cancellation afflicts affected passengers, causing them to be marooned in Johannesburg for a week. More information on why flights are delayed, and how delays might be avoided, is published in subsequent weeks. Harts won the 2018 SHFA league Championship. The crew for the Cape to St Helena yacht race leave and the St Helena cricket team return from Botswana having achieved a very creditable 3rd place in the qualifying table.



Paul O'Sullivan took over control of SHELCO in November 2018



Dale Bowers Enthroned as Bishop in November 2018



Lord Ashcroft re-visits the Island in December 2018

Commission publish the findings of their inquiry into the conditions inside the prison. Cllr Derek Thomas tells a House of Commons Inquiry that after Brexit, "We fear a future where the people of St Helena are plunged back into severe poverty". The three trainee yachties leave the Carpe Diem as soon as it is moored at the Royal Cape marina to return to St Helena by plane. The Carpe Diem starts the race with the entire Herne family on board together with South African Rob Winter as crew. The bi-centenary of the beginning of the end of slavery was commemorated. From Christmas Day 1818 the children of slaves were not enslaved.

December

Philip Rushbrook is appointed Governor-Designate and is due to take over from Lisa Honan in May next year. Lord Ashcroft made a 24 hour pit-stop at St Helena, on his way from South Africa to South America. As usual he met with many people and updated himself on the progress St Helena is making towards a self-sustaining economy. Lord Ashcroft, like most busy people, can never spare the time to mince words. A further marine survey is completed in St Helena waters. This time it is the inshore and coastal areas. Fundraising continues to send a St Helena football team to the Inter Games 2019 Football Tournament at Ynys Mon – otherwise known as the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales. Football is not scheduled for the NatWest Island Games in Gibraltar later in the year so football is being staged separately. St Helena is drawn against previous bronze medallists Guernsey and the Shetland Isles in Group C. It will be St Helena's first involvement in this tournament. The Equality and Human Rights



Philip Rushbrook is appointed Governor-Designate in December 2018

Grant Funding for Civil Society Organisations

Charities, Clubs, Community Centres, Associations...

Max £4,000 per Application per Grant Round

Only **2** Grant Rounds as limited funding available.

This is the final Grant Round for this financial year!

Closing date for applications is 25th January 2019

Eligibility

- Based on St Helena and have a constitution that complies with the Charities Ordinance 2005. *However, consideration will be given to applications from organisations that are neither a charity or constituted group. Such organisations will be expected to take steps towards becoming a charity or association.*
- Hold a bank account that requires at least two signatures
- Verifiable Statement of Accounts for the previous financial year
- Has vetted Committee Members (if applicable)
- Has a Safeguarding Policy (if applicable)
- Compliant with any current Grant Agreements held with the CDO

Projects:

- Equipment for day to day activities
- Special one-off events and activities
- Community and organisational development
- Capital works

For an application form or further information e-mail
community.sthelenag@gmail.com or alternatively call Kirsty Joshua on
Tel: 23999 after 5:00pm.

Community Development Organisation  community.sthelenag@gmail.com

Job Vacancy

Commercial Finance Manager

Sure is looking to recruit a Commercial Finance Manager for Sure South Atlantic based in the Falkland Islands.

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- Manage the Sure Finance Units in the Falklands, Saint Helena and Ascension through mature and sound decision making, creative thinking and implementation of best practice philosophy.
- Manage a finance team based primarily in the Falklands
- Drive the growth of the business through leadership and strategic planning.

Requirements:

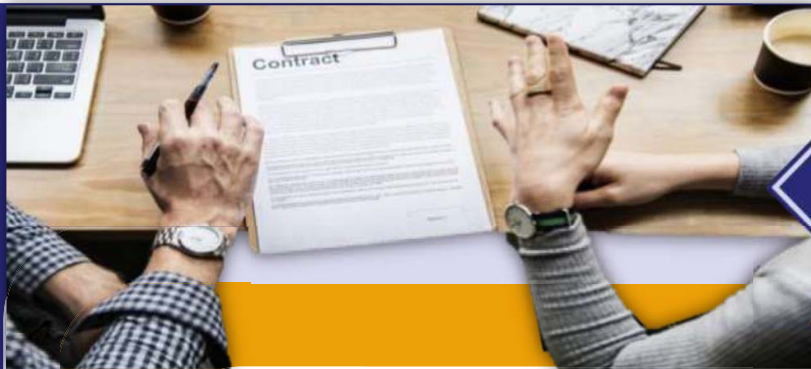
- Candidate must hold a professional accounting qualification and membership of a recognised professional accounting body with experience of accounting within a commercial environment.
- Possess a high level of systems, IT and Excel skills with the ability to analyse, interpret and present financial information to non-financial persons and consider business implications.
- Must have strong project/time management skills with the ability to analyse situations effectively and proactively provide solutions.
- Applicants with experience of working in a telecoms or technology sector, with strong working knowledge of the following systems: Advanced Microsoft Office skills particularly Excel, extensive use of accounting packages (preferably Sage), exposure to VBA & SQL for data management and analysis; are desirable.

Due to the nature of this position, the post holder must hold a satisfactory Basic Police Disclosure.

If this opportunity interests you, please send your CV to recruitment@sure.com by **14 January 2019**.

If you have any questions regarding this role please contact Alan Ibbotson, Chief Finance Officer on E: alan.ibbotson@sure.com or Shara Robinson on E: HR-Admin.Manager@sure.co.sh or T: 22800





For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer on telephone number: 22380 or via email address: hro@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: hro@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned the Human Resources Department, Solomons Office, Jamestown,

By 11 January 2019

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc is looking for a

Human Resources Administrator

to support our Human Resources department

Job Outline

To act as the first point of contact for HR-related queries to internal and external customers. Main administrative duties will include maintaining personnel records, managing HR documents and updating internal databases, as well as developing knowledge in all areas of Human Resources and training and development issues.

Requirements of the role include:

- Minimum Grade C (or level 4) in GCSE Maths & English
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, with ideally 2 years' experience in the administrative field
- A high level of confidentiality and the ability to work accurately, with attention to detail
- Excellent interpersonal and customer-facing skills

Salary for this position is £887.44 per month (£10,649 per annum), depending on qualifications and experience.



St Helena Airport has part time vacancies for:

- *Security Officers*
- *Cargo Processing Agents*
- *Ramp Handlers*

Working hours will be according to flight operations and applicants should have good interpersonal & communication skills, and be willing to undertake the required training and the necessary background and medical checks.

Rate of pay for all posts will be £6.20 per hour

Application forms & Job Profiles may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via email address: agencies.admin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Nicola Essex, Human Resources Manager, Solomons Office, Jamestown, by 9 January 2019

For further information, please contact Miss Anel Hayward, Agencies Administrator, on telephone number: 22523 or via email address: agencies.admin@solomons.co.sh



Country Fair

The 2018/19 Agriculture Programme Working Group would like to advise the public that the postponed Country Fair will now take place on 4 May 2019 at Francis Plain.

Whilst it is appreciated that the postponement of this significant event is disappointing, the new timing will add to the excitement and calendar of events for May 2019, and will further support opportunities for trade, tourism and community engagement. So make sure this is a month marked in your calendar!

Another smaller event will take place during March 2019 and further details will be published in the new year.



If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Delia Du Preez on telephone 22920 or email on delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh

Enabling Tourism and Economic Growth

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



Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelena.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com

Mantis St Helena



New Year, New Job Opportunities:

Part Time Housekeeper / Cleaner
 Waiters (Part Time & Full Time)
 Restaurant Supervisor (Experienced)
 Sous Chef (Qualified)
 Chef de Partie (Experienced)
 Receptionist (Computer Proficient)
 Night Supervisor

For more information call 25505.
 Or email matt.joshua@mantiscollection.com

Vacancy – Accounting Technician

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ an Accounting Technician. The Accounting Technician will provide support to the Senior Accounting Technician and duties include: Project and Contract accounting; preparation of monthly bank and debtor reconciliations, posting of payroll journals and bank payments; checking and processing of payments; maintaining the purchase ledger and ensuring compliance to Financial regulations, Procurement procedures and Company policies and procedures for all payments and receipts.

The successful applicant must have strong financial and commercial awareness and be highly organised and motivated. They should be an effective communicator with excellent organisational skills and attention to detail, and must be able to work under pressure, make sound decisions and meet deadlines.

Qualifications & Experience

Five GCSE's which includes English and Maths/Accounts; 2 year's experience in an accounting environment; experience with Microsoft Office and Access Dimensions or similar accounting software; ACCA qualification (CAT) or working towards qualification.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits includes 15% of base salary pension contributions and support for training and development.

For a full job description and application form, please contact Kerry Lane on 22255 or email kerry.lane@connect.co.sh. Completed application forms should be sent to Kerry at the above email address or delivered to Seales Corner, Jamestown by 4:00pm on Monday, 14 January 2019.



TIP OF THE WEEK

A leaking overflow
can waste up to 80
litres of water in a
day – the
equivalent of a full
bath.



Naafi on the Falklands have
vacancies for customer
services assistants to start
work in Feb 19.

Any persons interested can
contact Delemarie Hopkins on
Island, on telephone number
22956 or email

dhopkins@naafi.co.uk

Why St Helena must be on your 2019 travel bucket list

Excerpt from traveldailymedia.com

In the air

St Helena Tourism has confirmed that the second weekly scheduled flight service to the island, launched in December 2018, will again operate throughout the 2019-20 summer season.

A scheduled service from Johannesburg to St Helena takes place every Saturday throughout the year, operated by SA Airlink. This service is extended to twice-weekly operations on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 4 December 2018, running through to April 2019. This schedule will be repeated between December 2019 and May 2020, meeting anticipated demand and offering greater flexibility in the length of stay on St Helena – making three-, four- and seven-day stays (and multiples thereof) possible at the peak time for tourism to St Helena.

With better connections than ever before, we took this opportunity to find out what St Helena has to offer straight from the horse's mouth. Helena Bennett, director of St Helena Tourism, gives us an exclusive low down and some much needed inspiration for our 2019 travel plans.

"A mix of travellers visiting the island"

HB: St Helena is a unique destination and has plenty to offer visitors. Getting to the island is part of the adventure and with our incredible things to do, coupled with a unique sense of isolation and the warm welcome of the Saints, it is certainly a destination that will never be forgotten.

In 2017 and 2018 we have seen a significant increase in international tour operators working with and selling St Helena, which has resulted in increased tour bookings on the island, broadening our audience from the free independent travellers who previously travelled on the RMS St Helena. One of our key focuses for St Helena Tourism is our marketing and networking strategies – growing and establishing international affiliations and continuously expanding our reach.

The demographics of travellers have also changed slightly in the past couple of years with a mix of travellers visiting the island, including some younger travellers and families choosing to explore the destination.

Why should I travel to St Helena this year?

St Helena's tourism product spans several broad areas, including history and heritage, diving and marine experience, birding and wildlife, nature, and walking and hiking experiences.

The island's build heritage provides a significant legacy of historic buildings, fortifications and monuments, and we are starting to see more visitors drawn by links to stories such as the Boer War prisoners of war, in addition to the world-famous Napoleonic and French affiliations.

St Helena has an incredible range of wildlife and the isolation of the island means it is home to many unique species that are found nowhere else in the world. The South Atlantic Ocean around the island has an abundance of sea life, and visitors can swim with whale sharks, witness roaming dolphins, dive

on historic wrecks and marvel at the many endemic species.

This outdoor paradise makes St Helena a great walking and hiking destination, with rolling hills and a rugged coastline providing prime terrain for exploration on foot.

When is the best time to visit?

The summer season is the best time to visit the island, with average temperatures above 20 degrees, low rainfall and long sunny days. The summer months also coincide with the exciting annual visit of whale sharks, the world's largest fish species, as well as being the best time of year to explore St Helena's spectacular walking routes and historic sites.

November to January remains the most popular time of year, as travellers visit for the summer months and residents return home for holidays but attracting visitors during the off-peak season is a key priority for the organisation, with several initiatives and discount offers developed to seek to increase visitor numbers.

Who is it for?

Destination marketing for St Helena currently focuses on several key markets, notably South Africa, the UK, France and Germany, with the aim to expand this in time to other markets including Asia, particularly China, the United States of America and other European markets. We have a broad target market for St Helena, with aspects such as walking and hiking, history and heritage, and local culture interesting all ages groups.

What's in store for 2019?

For 2019 we are focusing on developing campaigns around some of the exciting new initiatives and lesser-known aspects of St Helena, including astronomy (and our work towards International Dark Sky accreditation), photography, yachting, arts and crafts, plus other seasonal festivals, parades and celebrations.

We are also working towards more regularity of hosting International Conferences, following the success of our first Environmental conference in January 2018, and also developing activities such as voluntourism, wellness tourism and film and video location opportunities.

In the longer term, we are looking ahead to 2021, the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon on the island.

St Helena Tourism is keen to support the growth and development of local tourism products, helping local businesses optimise their digital presence to take advantage of the new opportunities resulting from the new flight links.



Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Going into print Liverpool had a great run of results over the festive period picking up 3 wins from their 3 games. They beat Wolves 2-0; Newcastle 4-0 and Arsenal 5-1. They currently lead the table by 6 points having played a game less than Spurs. A win on Thursday against Man City would have put them 9 points clear which would possibly mean that they would go on and pick up their first league title in 29 years.

Spurs scored 6 against Everton; 5 against Bournemouth and then they loss against Leicester before winning 3-0 against Cardiff on New Year's Day.

Title favourites man City had a difficult Christmas period as they loss to Crystal Palace and Leicester before winning against Southampton. Going into yesterday game against Liverpool they were 7 points of top spot.

Chelsea had an indifferent festive period as they loss to Leicester; beat Watford and Crystal Palace before drawing 0-0 with Southampton on Wednesday.

Arsenal beat Burnley; drew with Brighton and was trash by Liverpool 5-1 before beating Fulham 4-1.

Manchester United's new Manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became only the second United manager to win their first 4 games. Man U beat Cardiff; Huddersfield, Bournemouth and Newcastle; scoring 14 goals and conceding 3. This run of results put United in touching distance of the top four and put the smile back on the faces of a lot of United fans. Manchester United biggest test will be their up and coming game away at Spurs.

Premier League

	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	20	40	54
2	Tottenham	21	25	48
3	Man City	20	38	47
4	Chelsea	21	22	44
5	Arsenal	21	15	41
6	Man Utd	21	11	38
7	Leicester	21	2	31
8	Watford	21	-1	29
9	Wolves	21	-2	29
10	West Ham	21	-3	28
11	Everton	21	0	27
12	Bournemouth	21	-9	27
13	Brighton	21	-5	26
14	Crystal Palace	21	-7	22
15	Newcastle	21	-14	18
16	Burnley	21	-21	18
17	Cardiff	21	-22	18
18	Southampton	21	-17	16
19	Fulham	21	-28	14
20	Huddersfield	21	-24	10

This weekend the FA Cup will take centre stage as the Premier League teams join the 3rd Round.

League One Blackpool will host 13-time winners Arsenal in the third round of the FA Cup after beating non-league Solihull Moors in a replay.

Tranmere will entertain Tottenham after beating Southport in a replay, while Woking will play Watford.

Holders Chelsea starts at home to Nottingham Forest, while

Premier League leaders Manchester City host Rotherham. Liverpool goes to Wolves, and Manchester United host Reading.

FA Cup third-round draw

Walsall or Sunderland

Millwall v Hull

Gillingham v Cardiff

Brentford v Oxford

Sheffield Wednesday v Luton

Manchester United v Reading

Everton v Lincoln

Tranmere v Tottenham

Preston v Doncaster

Newcastle v Blackburn

Chelsea v Nottingham Forest

Crystal Palace v Grimsby

Derby v Southampton

Accrington Stanley v Ipswich

Bristol City v Huddersfield

Newport v Leicester

Fulham v Oldham

Shrewsbury v Stoke

Blackpool v Arsenal

Manchester City v Rotherham

Bournemouth v Brighton

West Ham v Birmingham

Woking v Watford

Burnley v Barnsley

QPR v Leeds

Sheffield United v Barnet

Norwich v Portsmouth

Fleetwood v Wimbledon

West Brom v Wigan

Middlesbrough v Peterborough

Wolves v Liverpool

Aston Villa v Swansea

SHFA Fund Raising for Ynys Mon 2019

Fund Raising continued for the SHFA over the festive period as they strive to make enough funds to send their first ever international Football Team to Ynys Mon in June this year.

On Thursday 29th December 102 walkers took part in the Port to Port Sponsored walk which was a 14km walk from the St Helena Airport to Rupert's Jetty via the Haul Road. So far £1521.90 has been banked from sponsorship collected.

Keith Yon sponsored a fish fry after the walk and with the help of Dane Wade; Craig Yon and Jerry Roberts sold 80 meals making £240.

On Friday the 30th December Rose and Crown hosted a family Bingo for us. Again this was a well-attended event and £1202.50 was raised.

The SHFA wish to thank Rose and Crown for this kind donation; they also like to thank all who assisted during the sponsored walk. Thanks to the Airport staff for their assistance; Johnny Isaac for sponsoring the water, Peter Benjamin and Keith Yon for the Fish and Chips. Thanks also to the Fire Service and Penspen for providing support during the walk. Final thanks to all who took part in the fund raising activities. We the SHFA look forward to your continued support in the next few months.

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

SHFA District Football Results:

St Paul's won 3 games out of 3 to win this season's District Cup. This was a complete turnaround from last season and they lost all 3 games. In the final matches St Paul's scored a late goal through Ronan Legg to win a tough game against Longwood. The final game saw HTH come from 3-1 down to beat Jamestown 4-3 to finish as Runners Up.

Match Results:

St Paul's 3 v Jamestown 0

G/S St Paul's: Ronan Legg 3

HTH 3 v Longwood 1

G/S HTH: Cody Thomas 2 & Andrew Yon 1

G/S Longwood: Clayton Leo 1

St Paul's 3 v HTH 2

G/S St Paul's: Ronan Legg 1 & Brett Isaac 2

G/S HTH: Ryan Benjamin 1 & Cody Thomas 1

Jamestown 6 v Longwood 0

G/S Jamestown: Shane Stroud 2; Jace Williams 1, Rico Benjamin 2 & Liam Yon 1

St Paul's 1 v Longwood 0

G/S St Paul's: Ronan Legg

HTH 4 v Jamestown 3

G/S HTH: Ryan Benjamin 1, Cody Thomas 1 & Tyler Benjamin 2

G/S Jamestown: Rico Benjamin 2 & Shane Stroud 1



St Paul's District Champions



St Paul's and HTH Winners and Runners Up



SHCA League Tournament 2019

7 teams have entered. They are:

Levelwood Allstarz	Captained By Gareth Johnson
Royal Challengers	Captained By Cliff Richards
Sandy Bay Pirates	Captained By Matthew Benjamin
Mustangs	Captained By Luke Bennett
Woodpeckers	Captained By Anthony George
TBC	Captained By Alan Thomas
Jamestown Heat	Captained By David George

Notes For New Season

Start times will be strictly adhered to. Toss for the morning games will be at 8:50am so that the first ball of the match can be bowled at 9am. Toss for afternoon games will be at 1.20pm so that the first ball of the match can be bowled at 1.30pm. **Penalty for lateness; Loss of 1 over for every 5 minutes late.**

Net Run rate will decide winners in the case of a tie, except for Knock Out Competitions.

Wicket Keeper of the season to be decided by Stats Performance Points (3,2,1) will not be based just on the league, but will include performances in the T20 Competition Medals will be awarded for Team Winners/Runners Up and Trophies for individual award winners only

Entrance Fees will increase to £220 per team (£20 per player) and must be paid by the end of January.

Fixtures for Weekend 5th-6th January 2019

Sat 5 Jan 1.30pm

Royal Challengers v TBC

Umpires: Jamestown Heat

Sun 6 Jan 9.00am

Jamestown Heat v Mustangs

Umpires: Woodpeckers

Sun 6 Jan 1.30pm

Levelwood Allstarz V Sandy Bay Pirates

Umpires: Royal Challengers



St. Helena Cricket Association

Marine Protected Areas controversy in the South Atlantic

From MercoPress

In a brief communiqué released the Falkland Islands government takes note of a recent Argentine announcement indicating the creation of Marine Protected Areas to the south of the Burdwood Bank. The Falklands government said it “believes the designation of this area encroaches on our Fisheries Conservation Zone and steps are being taken to address the matter”.

However a recent article from National Geographic sheds some light on the creation process of two marine protected areas, “the size of Hungary”, which apparently had the sponsoring and/or support from the National Geographic's Pristine Seas program Latin American branch, and strong lobbying from the Argentine Flora and Fauna Foundation.

One of the MPA's is called Yaganes and is located just off the southern tip of Argentina—a spot nicknamed “the end of the world.”

The other, Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank II, is in the South Atlantic. According to the National Geographic article portions of these new MPAs have remained pristine by default of their remoteness, and the Argentine government's decision to protect them ensures that the marine ecosystems will stay that way.

Conservationists are hoping this move signals a shift toward stronger conservation measures in the country. Not only because the decision designates more protected territory, but also because it comes with a legal framework to enforce the new restrictions.

“It's much more than creating two national parks,” says Sofia Heinonen, president of the Argentine Flora and Fauna Foundation, an environmental group that led a campaign in favor of the new marine parks. “This also creates the basis for the next one.”

Previously, Argentina's marine parks were managed by the same government department that manages its fisheries, which are open to commercial interests. This left little funding to stop illegal activity in the parks that could undermine bans on extractive activities like fishing there.

An earlier Argentine MPA called Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank I, created in 2013 (Bill 26.875), had weak oversight. A legal framework to manage the park wasn't passed until 2015, and Argentina's National Parks Administration didn't gain control until 2017.

At the same time, “fishing pressure has increased immediately south of Argentina in recent years. So in an attempt to protect Argentina's waters, the National Geographic Society partnered with the Forum for the Conservation of the Patagonian Sea and local governments to survey the region. The goal was to assess the health of the marine ecosystems known for their impressive biodiversity”.

“We wrote very comprehensive scientific reports that supported the immense ecological value of this area and the need for



protection,” explains Alex Muñoz, the leader of the Latin American arm of National Geographic's Pristine Seas program.

“Earlier this year, Argentine Flora and Fauna Foundation and the National Geographic Society received part of a record one billion US dollars donation made by the conservation-focused Wyss Foundation to groups working to create natural reserves like marine protected areas and national parks,

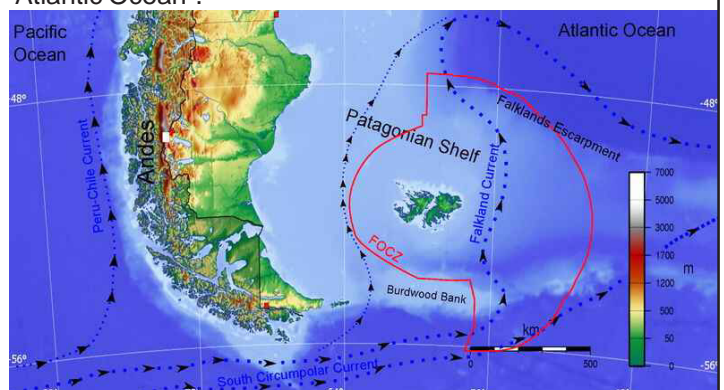
During National Geographic's recent exploration of Yaganes and Namuncurá-Burdwood Bank, researchers and photographers maneuvered cameras more than 6,000 feet below the surface. They found underwater mountain ranges and deep-sea canyons home to an impressive array of diversity. Many of the species identified can only be found in this part of the world.

With the creation of these two new marine protected areas, 8% of Argentina's waters are now protected, bringing the country closer to its goal of protecting 10 percent of its national waters by 2020.

MPAs are a popular tool used by governments to meet the United Nations' larger goal of protecting 10% of the world's oceans by 2020.

“Argentina is catching up on marine conservation,” Muñoz says. “Now it's becoming a world leader in world conservation.”

Finally the National Geographic piece quotes Heinonen saying “her organization's future conservation work will involve talks with Chile, a country that also shares close proximity to Antarctica. They hope to create joint protected areas in the South Atlantic Ocean”.



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS IN BRIEF.....

Saint FM Roving Reporters

Following on from the Festival of Lights held on the 19th December, the street parade continued on Christmas Eve, when a group of approximately 70 merry-go-rounders travelled to various care homes around the Island to greet clients and spread festive goodwill and cheer for the season. A variety of chocolates and candy were presented to clients at the Family Centre and Deason Centre in Longwood, Cape Villa in St. Paul's, Ebony View at Half Tree Hollow and the CCC at Ladder Hill. A rest-stop for the convoy was made at Longwood Green during the journey, which ended at the General Hospital in Jamestown for the traditional, festive procession through the town, and the usual re-fuelling call at the residence of Terry & June Richards in Barracks Square.

Throughout the festive season, both the Salvation Army and St Helena Bands along with the Gettogethers' Orchestra, performed at various locations around the Island. Their unique brass, string and wind instruments provided the music bed for those well-known Christmas Carols and songs that everyone loves to hear. Particularly note-worthy performances came from the Court House Steps on the Grand Parade in the form of a Carol Service and a Christmas Morning Service at the Salvation Army Hall in Half Tree Hollow.

Christmas Morning via Saint FM also pulled at the heart-strings when a number of callers broadcast their Christmas messages via a live phone-in on the 'Shiny Xmas Balls' show. This started the line-up on radio for Xmas Day, when carollers, elves and even Santa himself visited the Station, spreading the festive spirit through song and many requests/dedications. Broadcasts were made of Christmas messages from HM the Queen in London and HE Governor Honan on St Helena. Further overseas requests and dedications were exchanged on Paul Blake's 'Across the Miles' programme on Christmas afternoon, concluding with a most humorous outlook on Christmas from presenters Mike & Bernice Olsson, Tony & Angie Brooks and Janet Henry in the evening.

Boxing Day dawned slightly duller than the previous few days of sunshine, but that did not hinder arrangements for the traditional sports and entertainment on the Bridge in Market Square, Jamestown. Debbie Yon provided hilarious compering during the races, tug o' war and other competitions held during the afternoon. A procession of bikers, quad-bikers and other vehicles took an afternoon cruise to enjoy the beautiful scenery, air and sounds of St Helena Island and they made Jamestown the final stop in their journey.

'Island Politics' band members could be heard reverberating the countryside from their staging area at Rosemary Plain, where they provided the tunes for a fun afternoon organised by Amphibians Bar. 'Island Politics' then joined with the 'Big Easy' for a night of live music at the Mule Yard in Jamestown and this was overwhelmingly attended by the community. It is interesting to note that attendance at most events over the festive season, seemed to be supplemented by many St Helenians with their family and friends who were visiting from abroad for the holidays, taking advantage of reduced travelling time with the St Helena Airport in operation.

On Thursday 27th December 97 walkers took part in the Port to



Continued on NEXT PAGE

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS IN BRIEF.....

Saint FM Roving Reporters

Port Sponsored walk which was organised by the St Helena Football Association. The walk started at the Airport at 9.45am and ended at Rupert's Jetty. Andrew Plato was the first person to complete the course in 1 hour and 16 minutes. Andrew was followed by Kieran Yon, Dane Wade and Damien Burns. Most of the participants completed the walk in just over 2 hours. Everyone was back at Rupert's by 1pm, just in time for Fish n' Chips which were being sold at the Jetty. Thanks to Peter Benjamin and Keith Yon for donating the fish and chips in the 80 meals sold at £3 each and Thanks also to Keith, Dane, Jerry and Craig who cooked and served the meals.

The SHFA would like to thank the Airport Staff for opening Airport facilities prior to the walk; Johnny Isaac & his family who sponsored the water and provided support along the route; along with the Fire service and Dave from Penspen who also provided support along the route.

Many thanks to all participants who registered and completed the course, and there is a small reminder for those who haven't yet submitted their sponsor forms, to please do so in the next few days.

So far, approximately £1700 has been raised and the Association hopes to finalise this figure in the not-too-distant future.

Friday 28th saw more preparations taking place for entertainment events around the Island. That afternoon, St Matthew's Parish held a Fun Afternoon in the grounds of St Mark's Hall in Longwood. There were various stalls, sports and donkey rides for the children, as well as teas, cakes and hot food were on sale. A bingo session rounded off the afternoon which was well-received by those attending.

A Service of Worship was held at St Paul's Cathedral that evening where the St Paul's Cathedral Gospel group provided live musical accompaniment to a number of Christmas Carols and songs. Again this was a welcome change of scenery at the Cathedral to enhance the festive spirit and the true meaning of Christmas.

Also on Friday evening, a Family Bingo Night was held at the Jamestown Community Centre, proudly hosted by the Rose & Crown Ltd, in aid of the St Helena Football Association. Approximately 150 people attended and various callers including Olive Williams, Gavin 'Jack' Thomas and Jeremy Johns entertained the crowd who had a chance of winning items such as a food hamper worth £60, a camp chair, Bluetooth Speaker, Dinner Set and lots more followed by two sets of Bingo games for monetary prizes. The evening was enjoyed by all.

Residents of Blue Hill, former residents, Associate members and their guests, enjoyed a Christmas Social at the Community Centre in Blue Hill the same evening. Reports said there was fantastic music for dancing and everyone enjoyed the event to the full. It is pleasing to note that the Community Centres around the Island made good use of their facilities over the festive period as there were a number of events organised in several districts around the Island.

Saturday 29th December, the Saints Motocross Club hosted their competition at the track below Bradleys in Longwood. Approximately 30 riders participated in the competition and in various races to include junior, youth and senior members of the club.



ENTERTAINMENT NEWS IN BRIEF.....

Saint FM Roving Reporters

The day was well attended by riders and spectators alike who enjoyed some fierce and competitive racing amongst the riders.

A Saint FM reporter commented "it was an action packed day and all riders young or veteran showed their potential and love for Motocross with no fear on the machine"

The last race of the day was the hill climb which put many spectators' hearts in their mouths as riders faced the fear of racing a steep, 350m-high hill. Emerging as the Adult Rider of the day was Gus Williams; Youth Rider was Blaze Baldwin, Junior Rider was Zian Thomas and Veteran Riders were Malcolm Thomas and Adrian John. Full results of the days' events are published elsewhere in this edition of the Independent.

Sunday 30th & Tuesday 1st January, saw the district football games being held on Francis Plain by floodlight. More on this in Nick Stevens article.

Monday 31st December, was New Year's Eve, a rather well-celebrated date on St Helena as it is the evening when Ball Gowns, Suits & Ties, Heels, Bags and Bling comes out in grand style to signal goodbye to the spirit of the old year and a big welcome to the new year coming in. Various establishments around the island hosted the New Years' Eve celebrations and some even provided fireworks for revellers to bring in the New Year with a bang! Music, dancing and celebrations were held at Donnyz Place, the Mule Yard, and the Bridge in Market Square, Jamestown; Rosie's Taste 4 Life and the Godfather's Rock Club at Ladder Hill; the Sandy Bay Community Centre; Moonshines Bar in Blue Hill and V2 Paradise at Longwood.



dise at Longwood.

Rosie's Taste 4 Life hosted a Champagne Breakfast following the celebrations and Mantis STH provided breakfast and brunch options from 7 am. Amphibians filled the gap by selling tasty Breakfast plates from their mobile stop at the Honeymoon Chair just as the dancing was winding down.

After quite a long night, many chose to join St Paul's Parish Council on Francis Plain for a New Year's Fun Day on Tuesday and as the culmination of all the festive events, and in true St Helena style, this was a revival of bygone celebrations ending in success.

Golf Report

Despite the fog and mist, twelve Members participated in the 18 hole stroke play on Sunday 30th December 2018. Ronald De Reuck emerged as the winner with a net score of 64, after a count back Norman Thomas claimed 2nd place and Bramwell Bushuru 3rd. Jeff Ellick braved his first golf competition and claimed the prize of nearest to the pin on 7th; Eileen Wallace was awarded the prize for the ladies. The two pool winners were Ronald De Reuck and Bramwell Bushuru; Congratulations to all.

Masters Chefs Paddo, Foxy and Helena prepared a scrumptious BBQ – thank you and to Members for their generous contributions. A huge thank you is also conveyed to King George and Norman Thomas for the lively entertainment.

On Sunday 6th January 2019, 18 Hole Greensome choose your own partner is scheduled, tee off time 12 noon.

Members are reminded that their annual subscription fee is due to be paid by 31 January 2019; BOSH account number 13270002





Entertainment at Silver Hill Bar for this Weekend.

Friday open from 4.00pm till late mix tunes from the bar .

Saturday open from 5.00pm to 8.00pm Country tunes from the bar 8.00pm till late mix sounds by DJ CJ

Sunday open from 3.30pm Live Tunes with Alex Vanguard and guests sings all are welcome,



Friday
4th January
2019

ROCK & REGGAE NIGHT

DJ JEFF

9:30PM



THE ROCK



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON
SUNDAY 6th January 2019 @ 11:00
FOR PRAISE AND WORSHIP
At No 3 Unit Longwood Enterprise
Park

Transport is available from
Jamestown, HTH
Contact 23249

PRAISE & WORSHIP



2019
BUSINESS
OPENING
HOURS

Rosie's Restaurant:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 4pm - 9pm
Wednesday: 4pm - 9pm
Thursday: 4pm - 9pm
Friday: 4pm - 9pm
Saturday: 11am - 9pm
Sunday: 2pm - 8pm

Rosie's Bar:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 4pm - 11pm
Wednesday: 4pm - 11pm
Thursday: 4pm - 11pm
Friday: 4pm - 1:30am
Saturday: 11am - 1:30am
Sunday: 2pm - 11pm



Saturday
5th January
2019

DISCO PARTY

DJ

KIMMY

BOOM BANG

9:30pm

Christmas Day at Saint FM

