

# THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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

## ***Festive international evening at Plantation House***



## ***Lord Ashcroft: Special Report: St Helena – the island of fading hopes and dreams***

***Lord Ashcroft***



## ***OH WHEN THE SAINTS..... MEET UP AGAIN!***

***Sharon Wade***



## ***Barry and Bernard are back!***



## ***How others see us – more important, figure out how you see them***

***Vince Thompson***



# How others see us – more important, figure out how you see them

Vince Thompson

A report taken from the UK Daily Telegraph newspaper is re-printed in the *Independent* this week (see page 12). The headline screams out about a “health time bomb” in St Helena, or as the Daily Telegraph describes us, a “remote British island”. No-one expects to read an academic paper on the general health of the population in a newspaper but the general tone of the article is definitely inclined towards sensationalism and the information used in the article, while not wholly inaccurate is selectively used.

Our own Health Department are fully aware of the momentary attention the Daily Telegraph have given to the general state of health among Saints and were “disappointed that they did not use the up to date factual information they were provided with, but used a lot of old information and quotes, and ignored the huge response that SHG has had over the last year in starting to change things”

Apart from ignoring the most recent figures and information given to them they also carefully avoided any mention of the fact that the UK also has a short fuse connected to the same health time bomb. Most of the main figures used in the Daily Telegraph time bomb article can be found in a 10 page St Helena health promotion strategy document published in May last year. While the Health Department is keen to point out that health promotion and the beneficial results from it have moved on pretty fast since May last year, the figures used can be compared with those in a House of Commons briefing paper published in March 2018. The briefing paper is called ‘Obesity Statistics’ and gives a 20 page assessment of the number of people carrying surplus weight in the UK.

## Statistical Groups

	St Helena	United Kingdom
Obese/Overweight – whole population	70%	64%
Obese/Overweight - schoolchildren	42%	
boys aged 10-11		36%
girls aged 10-11		31%

The obesity problem in the UK is almost as bad as in St Helena. There is no sign the situation is improving in the UK however our own Health Department told the *Independent*, “St Helena is now doing some innovative things on prevention (of chronic diseases) and ones that are starting to show some positive results – more evidence when we have data in the middle of the year. Numbers will help show that things are evolving.”

The World Obesity Federation defines obesity as a chronic disease while diabetes and hypertension (blood pressure) are generally accepted to be chronic diseases. Blood pressure is a big problem in the UK but it affects about 30% of the population whereas in St Helena it is 50%. Diabetes is where the biggest difference lies. In the UK it affects 6% of the population but it's 20% in St Helena. Smoking has also reduced more over time in the UK due to health promotions and

social marketing.

While waiting for our Health Department to produce figures later this year on the first year of the Health Promotion Strategy we can look a little closely at Sarah Knapton who glories in the title of Science Editor for the Daily Telegraph. She's the one he is rather keen on time bombs.

Writing about time bombs in St Helena is not her only claim to sensational journalism. Earlier this month she informed her readers of a report that claimed “overweight people have smaller brains”. Ms Knapton then used 550 words to explain that no-one knew if there really was a link between being overweight and brain size or brain size in some way causing obesity. Some health charities such as Alzheimer's Research UK did say there was growing evidence of obesity causing neurological problems but at the bottom of it all Knapton's report is about nothing much, but there is the eye-catching headline, “Overweight people have smaller brains”.

Another of Knapton's articles this month is headlined, “Drug to clear ‘zombie cells’ from body could be first anti-ageing treatment”. She explains there are cells in the body which are not dead but damaged or past their sell-by date in some way. These cells grow in number as you get older but because they are not genuine dead cells the body does not get rid of them. It is accepted that the accumulation of these cells is linked to ageing symptoms such as frailty and arthritis. The drug has been successfully tested on animals but until recently, never on humans. Fourteen pensioners in the United States volunteered to be the guinea pigs and it was found the unwanted cells cleared the body within 24 hours after taking the drug and the guinea pig pensioners walked faster, got out of a chair quicker and did better in ability tests. As is so often the way, the article ends by saying this is the first step in testing the drug for human use and there is still a long way to go. There never seems to be follow-up reports saying this or that drug tested ten or twenty years ago has cleared all the regulatory hurdles and is now being used – never! One Daily Telegraph reader suggested it is all a massive conspiracy aimed at getting more funding for more and more research. The final answer is never found because it would mean the funding would end.

So, why are we printing the Daily Telegraph time bomb article if we think it is misleading and a bit sensationalist. The reason for printing any article from overseas media is to let people be aware what others say about St Helena and what it is about St Helena that interests them.

Now seems a good time to repeat something from the last Editorial of last year, “There are two rules to remember when reading or hearing anything about anyone. The first is, don't believe everything you read or hear. The second rule is, DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ OR HEAR.” This is especially true of social media which is a free-for-all where anyone can join in. Remember – anyone! A UK mental health charity explains that 1 in 4 people (25%!) in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year. Mental health



## How others see us – more important, figure out how you see them

Vince Thompson

problems can be minor as well as major so keep in mind that some person on the other end of your social media 'conversation, someone you do not really know, may need some special consideration.

And finally; there are many Christmas Special items in shops right now which have been reduced in price in an attempt to clear unwanted stock. One such is Fentiman's Ginger Beer wit Muddled Lime. I bought it. I like ginger beer and I like the way Fentiman's make it but I was in a muddle about the muddled lime. I'm sure I'm not the only one in this position, so, as a public service I have researched the meaning and purpose of muddled lime. It is, simply, crushed lime. It is crushed in a specially shaped dish called a mortar (so the crushed mush does not spill out everywhere) and the tool used to crush it is called a muddler. The crushed lime or other fruit is usually used in cocktails. Fentiman's ginger beer with muddled lime

makes a very refreshing drink on these hot days. Drink it straight from the fridge.



**A 500 ml bottle is £5.99 on Amazon and £2.60 in The Star**

## Barry and Bernard are back!

Barry Burns and Bernard Mabbett who are both Philatelists are back on St Helena – their task is to catalogue the stamp collection being held at the Castle, the stamps date back as far as 1884 and they have the unenviable but interesting task of sorting out and remounting the Castle's collection of postage stamps. Barry said *"There is a certain amount of artistic choice into what you do"* each item is different so there is a certain treatment and layout on each page according to the stamp sizes, Bernard reminded us that this is their fifth visit to St Helena! It was in 2013 that they actually uncovered the archived post office records under the Cellar which were taken out, archived and re-stored. Through a St Helena Heritage society grant Barry and Bernard are back for six weeks and according to Bernard *"Hopefully to re-write and re-mount the collection, so that anyone who comes to the island on holiday can have a look at the stamps"*

A local mini antiques road show could be in the pipeline – time to get those old stamps out.





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<http://www.saint.fm>

# Editorial

The *Independent* this week has many column inches about yachts and yachting for the third week running. No apologies for this, yachts and yachties are just about the only lively economic activity we have at the moment. By the end of this month the activity will be back to its usual pace. As we've tried to point out on previous occasions, yachties do spend money while they are here. Owning and running a yacht takes a considerable wedge of cash and while they are here yachties love to eat, slake their thirst and sleep in a comfortable bed on dry land. They also need to stock up on provisions for the next leg of their voyage. The World ARC Rally event manager said crew on the 18 boats coming this way from 21<sup>st</sup> January can normally be expected to leave about £70,000 behind when staying about a week for things they have bought. In St Helena it may not be as much as that because the opportunities for spending cash are limited. There is message for us in that statement.

Bill and Jill Bolton's Rosemary Gate plantation has produced a good crop of beans this season. Hopefully the sale of coffee both domestically and for export will increase a notch or

two. Presumably Solomon's coffee bean production has been equally good. And then there is the tuna. The Fisheries are cranking up through the gears to get fresh tuna exports flown out to South Africa once more now the fish are running. The trouble is all of that does not get us very far. We need more; we need something different and something effective and valuable. Whatever that might be is not clear and simple and it is not appearing on the horizon just yet.

To change the subject, we were out west earlier this week visiting family. Of course the dogs came too. They loved it when they got out of the car; new smells, new fields and different air. The cows in the field next to the house, we were told, did not like dogs and over on the other side there are fowl. What could I do? The dogs were pleased at the prospect of running the length of the neighbouring field and back and discovering new smells and maybe a rabbit or two. Eventually I put them on their leads and walked them into the field. There were no cows in sight. I walked the dogs a bit further and still no cows. It was a big field, maybe they were a long

*Continued on PAGE 6*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF SHAPE (St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise)

Under Section 77 of the Companies Ordinance 2004 ("the Ordinance") and  
Articles 77 and 78 of the Articles of Incorporation

**NOTICE is hereby given of an Annual General Meeting of Members of SHAPE (St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise) to be held on 26 January 2019 at SHAPE Head Centre, Sandy Bay at 10:00 am**

### Agenda:

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Chair of Directors Report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Appointment of Directors
8. Any Other Current Business



Note: Any member or representative of a corporate member, except an employee member, who wishes to be considered for appointment as a community or corporate member at the annual general meeting must lodge with the company secretary a written notice of his/her willingness to be appointed, signed by him/her, at least seven days before the date of the annual general meeting.

*Andrea Timm*

*Company Secretary*

*SHAPE, Head Centre*

*Sandy Bay*

Head Office

St Helena Island

Tel: +290 24690

E-mail: [shape@helanta.co.sh](mailto:shape@helanta.co.sh)

Sandy Bay

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Fax: +290 24690

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

Registered No 38 under the Companies Ordinance – Registered No C00011 under the Charities Ordinance



# OH WHEN THE SAINTS..... MEET UP AGAIN!

Sharon Wade

Once again the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre was a hub of activity when last night a public meeting was held to discuss concerns from residents surrounding the current cost of living on St. Helena. The meeting was hosted by the Unified Saints group, comprising Jeffrey Ellick, Mark Brooks, Nicola Essex, Julie Thomas, Robert Ellick, Cyril George and Earl Henry. Attendance was slightly lower than expected, but there was good representation from the various districts and industries, and included a few Councillors. Jeffrey Ellick welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to hear concerns and suggestions from the public as a first step towards planning how to go forward.

Mark Brooks then gave an overview of the results from the last meeting held by the Unified Saints group to address the increase in water rates. He gave a summary of the questions that were put forward to authorities, and the responses which appeared to have a low success rate.

Jeffrey then continued with a slide presentation, beginning with an overview of increases since 01 April 2018 and these were (in no particular order) Utilities, Bread, Fish, Telephone & TV, SHG Directorate Annual Increases, Freight charges (BAF & CAF) and Waste Management Services. The presentation outlined anticipated increases from 01 April 2019 suspected to take place to balance SHG budgets, and proposed new revenue streams for SHG, which could include property tax, inheritance tax and National Health insurance. A slide then asked, should there be further increases and do you think St Helena has a good economy, based on the facts that tourist numbers are low, the island has not yet attracted big investors and the lack of capital funding. Much shaking of heads and muted no's indicated a general reply.

At the question, what action do you think should be taken, the floor was open to those attending to voice their concerns. A very polite air surrounded questions and comments from various members of the community, and many good points were raised, including some with reference to Lord Ashcroft's comments in a radio interview with Saint FM last December. After some lively discussion, everyone agreed that the plan of action will be first to compile a list of suggestions to be sent to elected members and officials along with an invitation to a public meeting to directly answer the concerns enclosed. Some of these suggestions and concerns include the Income



amine inefficiencies and expenditure, with a view to them being held accountable for their actions, in particular, members of Executive Council. The general consensus was that if Councillors are responsible for £30+ million and they cannot answer questions from the St Helenian community, then whoever holds the purse-strings should know about it.

After presenting the document containing the issues to elected members and officials, enough time will be given for formulating responses in anticipation of another public meeting to be arranged for discussion. It is hoped that Councillors and officials will honour the invitation to a public meeting, with a view to laying the groundwork for solutions.

The meeting lasted for 2 hours.

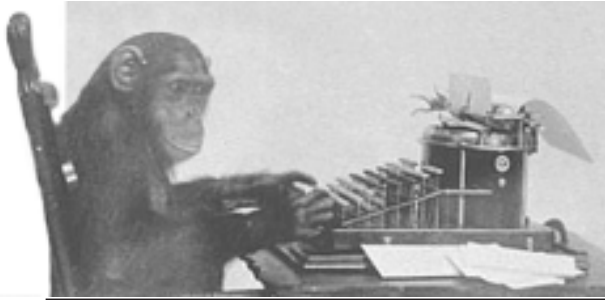




TIP OF THE WEEK

Place washing machine on a shorter cycle – most clothes only require refreshing.





*Continued*

# Editorial

way off as well as out of sight. The dogs were looking at me wondering why the hell I still had them on their leads. I unbuckled their collars and let them roar off. Across the field and back they ran. Up the field too and back again. The space and the freedom was intoxicating for them. After running across and then up they decided to run down. That's where the cows were.

The body language from the cows was not promising and whole herd was of the same mind. The dogs are used to cows and know to keep their distance from them. That way a peaceful relationship is maintained; dogs ignore cows and cows ignore dogs; except for the lovely old bull which used to be at Woodlands. That gentle beast used to put his head over the same bit of fence to watch us pass every time we did so. But now we are out west - the wild west.

The dogs came to me as soon as the cows expressed their displeasure at the site of dogs and I took evading action. With the whole herd involved there was a danger of being encircled by them even though they did pause for a short while when I shooed them. My main worry was the cows trampling the dogs. My evading action took to a place between some trees and by a boundary fence in a higher piece of ground. The cows did not advance but they did not go away either. I waited, hoping they would get bored and wander off. I waited, they didn't wander off. Eventually I got bored. I needed a Plan B and it involved getting over the boundary fence right beside me. On the other side of the fence was some sort of tree plantation. Plan B was to get through the trees to a clear piece of ground and then back to where I started. I got the dogs over the fence one by one after tying them to the fence before lifting them over and tying them again when they were on the other side. Lastly I got over.

The tree plantation had furze in it. Lots of furze, it was thick with furze. About half of it was dead and was not to be brushed past. The branches had to be broken off; carefully avoiding getting half-a-dozen thorns in the hand each time. One of the dogs seemed to get the idea of what I was trying to do and started to lead the way. For a dog it's easier because they can get under all the branches whereas I had to get between them. Eventually phase one of Plan B was completed after much huffing and puffing and continually unwinding dogs and their leads from the furze stems and branches.

The clear piece of land was in front of us now but so was another fence. I had to start the tying and untying and lifting over the fence once more. Half way through this a calm and gently smiling neighbour of the people we had come to visit slowly walked towards me. "You saw what I'm doing?" I asked. "I heard you" was the reply. He must have heard me swearing at the two dogs who had not got the idea of what I was doing and were far more interested in investigating the many new smells they came across. The dogs had been on their leads ever since the cows showed their grumpiness; As well as trying to get through dead furze without losing all my skin I was pulling two dogs back from the temptations they yielded to in all directions.

After the dogs were over the second fence and I was over as well we were directed to the top of the field we were now in to find a gate onto the track and then back to the house and the people we were visiting. It was a sheep field and the sheep started going away from us as we got closer to them. Then, after they had all got into one flock they started to follow us in much the same way the cows did. Sheep that don't like dogs, I wondered. This is definitely not my day. I was gone with the dogs for about two hours. I was desperate for a cup of tea and it was the most appreciated cup of tea I have had for a long while. My explanation for my two hour absence raised a few laughs.



*Cows can live happily alongside dogs – but I don't know where*



**24 year reunions at the  
Standard Bar.  
Ascension to Saint Helena**



# Your Opinion Counts

*Dear Editor,*  
Warm Congratulations to James Herne and family for reviving what was a great tourist attraction for some years and which had died out.

The website records that the first Governor's Cup race was launched in 1996 when Captain Dave Roberts of the first RMS St. Helena, in conjunction with Governor Small man, launched the race and 16 yachts entered. The race was biannual for the next 10 years between 2000-2010, with around 16 entries each time.

I do not know why it was discontinued as it was an obvious tourist attraction, but it is great that islander James Herne, Hannah and family, returning last year from their amazing voyage around the world, have taken the initiative to organise it again.

They do not lack experience of sailing! They have to be commended for their determination and consistent effort in getting it together. Well done James and Hannah for overcoming all the obstacles and promoting the island.

*Yours sincerely,*  
**Barbara B. George**

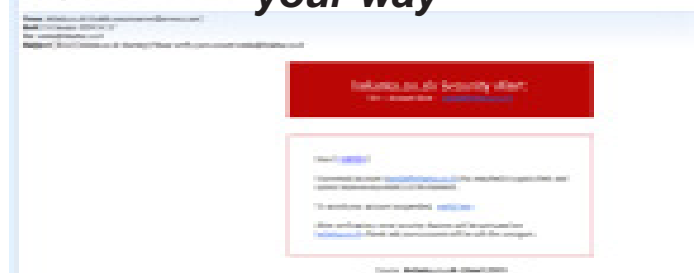


Vacancies exist at  
Philip John's Shop in  
St. Paul's for Full-Time  
Shop Assistants.

Hours of work will be  
from 8:30am to 5pm  
- 5 days per week, and  
9:30am to 12pm every  
other Sunday.

For further information  
please call 24565.

## Email scam could be coming your way



An email from secureserver@servers.com is the opposite of what it claims to be. They send a message headed Security Alert and try to make you believe your email account has reached its limit and no more emails can be received. They then ask you to contact them. DON'T.

One such email was sent to Sure to alert them of a what clearly appeared to be a scam. They confirmed the email is a scam; their response is reprinted below.

"Please be advised that the email you received claiming to come from Helanta.co.sh was a scammer. Please do not click on any links and delete the message asap.

Thank you for flagging this to us.

We have taken action to block the IP address and sender, however if you do get any more emails like that please contact us again.

Thank you again.

Kind regards, Sheldon

Sheldon Grobler

IP Network Systems Administrator

Saint Helena Island"

## Quality Window Blinds



ORDERS can be made for  
Vertical , Venetian , Roller , Roman ,and Bamboo blinds from  
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samples and to suit your Measurements.

Standard Patio slide doors

1.5 , 1.8 , 2.0 , 2.1 , 2.4 , 2.7 , 3.0 metres

10mm thick steel sheet

Non standard Patio slide doors

4 6 8 and 12 light size Aluminium windows

Aluminium Windows

Side and Top hung Sashes or Vertical and Horizontal slide .

Double glaze Top hung Aluminium  
Windows.

Standard Roll garage door

**FOR SALE CONTACT**  
**CHRIS BARGO TEL 23163**

230 mm Diamond Masonary cutting discs.

A Belle 150 ltr Electric Concrete Mixer

Kids Double swing and gliders.

White aluminium Windows - 1750 x 1270, 1800 x 900,

1800 x 1200, 1525 x 1225, 740 x 1220

1525 x 970 Sidelights . ETC .

450 mm Sewage Inspection chambers ,Covers and Risers.

Small quantity of 1997 Ford Lazer /Mazda 323 Car parts

# Your Opinion Counts

*Dear Editor,*

## **Edith Timm**

We would like to pay tribute to Edith as a colleague and friend. She will be remembered as a person who made a lasting contribution to the island community through her dedication and commitment in helping people, especially young people. This was particularly evident in her work in education on the Island.

As many young people did in those days, she went to the UK as a domestic worker. She always wanted to be a teacher. After completing her initial contract, she studied, gained a teaching qualification and did several years teaching in the UK. She returned to St Helena having married Cecil Timm. They both entered the education service on the island and together worked for the welfare



of young people, both during their work time as well as outside. They were involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. An islander taking part in the scheme remembers Edith taking a group of them on an expedition for a day, returning for an evening meal prepared by Cecil.

Edith with her energy and enthusiasm also took part in producing plays through SAPS, South Atlantic Players. Her major contribution was through her work

in education. She upgraded her original teaching qualification, gaining a Master degree, the first Islander to do so. She was the first local head teacher of Prince Andrew School and also served as Director of Education. One of her important roles was being part of the small team of tutors who ran the local Teacher Education Centre, the centre for training local teachers. Over the years, the centre laid foundations on which local staff could build and develop.

An indication of just how successful and influential were the small team of tutors is shown in a local radio interview a while ago. Two of the people interviewed had started their careers along this path. When asked what helped them most, they both independently said it was attending the Teacher Education Centre and the courses and advice given by the tutors. They both mentioned Edith Timm.

Today Edith's legacy of enthusiasm, care and giving up so much of her time for other people, lives on.

*Yours sincerely*  
**Basil and Barbara George**

# Your Opinion Counts

*Dear Sir,*

**Airlink passengers to St Helena 12 January 2019**

We would like to draw your attention to the utter fiasco that occurred at Johannesburg airport on 12 January when we attempted to check in for our flights to St Helena.

Unfortunately the check-in assistant, Rose Mohlakaa, was most unhelpful refusing us permission to board the flight. This despite the fact that we advised her that Anthony George Mercury was born on the island, has a property on the island, and we had all provided the correct documentation.

She questioned Miss Lisa Mercury's insurance details and was advised that this document was in fact accepted for travel to St Helena the previous year! We were then requested to leave the

check in area. We refused to do so, asking to see a supervisor. However this supervisor, Rehlee Michwebere, was very dismissive and rude and totally unconcerned regarding our situation, merely saying "I can't help you" and promptly walked away. This surely is her job - (A clear example of the lack of professionalism of Airlink).

Miss Mohlakaa was then asked if she could contact Immigration in St Helena on our behalf but she said she had no contact details.

All this time the clock was ticking and boarding time was only half an hour away.

Finally, Ms. Mohlakaa received a phone call and we were allowed to board the plane. No explanation or apologies were given.

The staff at Airlink check-In obviously need further training and better liaison with St Helena is needed.

By making it extremely difficult for returning Saints to visit friends and family or even those who live here by refusing them permission to travel is an utter disgrace. Without a better service it is doubtful if St Helena will even ever have a thriving

tourist industry.

Please may we have your comments.

**Anthony, Irene and Lisa Mercury.**  
**Oaklands**  
**St Paul's**  
**St Helena.**



**St Helena**  
**Coffee Shop**  
**Looking for**  
**full/part-time staff.**

**Please call Lorraine**  
**on 63268**  
**or Jill on 61692**



## Royal Cape Yacht Club will organise the 2020 Cape to St Helena Race

John Levin announced at the Plantation House trophy presentation evening last Friday that the Royal Cape Yacht Club had been chosen to organise the next Cape to St Helena race in 2020. John, who was chairman of the race committee for the 2018 race, will not take on this leading role for the next race. John is 77 and is ready to pass the responsibility on to someone else.

He is very pleased to have finalised the arrangements for the 2020 race two years ahead. Certain aspects of the race organisation do take time to finalise, including finding the main sponsor for the event. Race entrants also say they need more time than was available for this race to make sure their yachts are maintained to peak racing condition. There is already plenty of enthusiasm for the next Cape to St Helena race in 2020 and hopes that it will be a bigger and better race.



**John Levin announcing the Royal Cape Yacht Club will be organising the 2020 Cape to St Helena Yacht Race**

## Most tourists during January arrive by sea



**The Norwegian barque in James Bay this week has more than sixty people on board.**

### Sailing event

### Estimated crew numbers

Cape to St Helena Yacht Race	57 (exact)
World Oyster Rally	35
World ARC Rally	60
Norwegian barque	62
Other yacht arrivals	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>

As visitors leave the Island after Christmas from the airport, James Bay has been very busy this month and will remain so until the crews in the World ARC Rally leave next Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> January. The numbers of tourists arriving in James Bay this month would fill three planes.



## Searching for their Roots

The Yon Family who are currently on island from Norway are researching their roots and St Helenian connections

If you can assist please get in touch with them by calling 22734  
Thank you!



## Festive international evening at Plantation House

The Governor hosted the presentation of the Cape to St Helena trophies at Plantation House last Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> January. It was a refreshingly informal international occasion where the camaraderie among the competing crews was very evident. The overall winner was the crew of Indaba, owned and skippered by John Levin who was also the Chairman of the Race Committee at the Royal Cape Yacht Club. John was the central figure in the organisation of the race. Together with his two crew, Ken Bosenburg and Ivan Shamley, John was presented with the Governors Cup and the Waterman Trophy. The final race times are calculated using a handicap system which puts all yachts, whether racers or cruisers, on an equal footing. The Waterman Trophy is for the overall winner while the Governor's Cup goes to the winner in the monohull class.



**Billy Leisegang accepting the Patrick Taylor Cup on behalf of the crew of the Compromise who were the winners in the multihull class.**



**Ivan Shamley (left) holds the Waterman Trophy as Governor Lisa Honan presents the Governor's Cup to John Levin. Ken Bosenberg is holding one of the engraved platters which were presented to people who had helped make the Cape to St Helena 2018 a resounding achievement.**



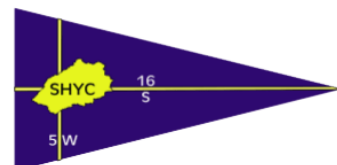
**The Herne family receiving their race certificates after bringing home St Helena's first entry in the Governor's Cup/ Cape to St Helena yacht race.**



**The crew of Banjo, the trimaran which was first over the finish line to take line honours won the Bellows Plate. Brad Stemmett (left) and Keith Webb (skipper) were present to accept the trophy. Not present on the evening was the third member of the crew Sarel Van Der Merwe.**



**Neil George the official timekeeper for yacht finishing times accepts an engraved platter from John Levin. With Neil are some of the other yacht club volunteers who put in many hours to make sure everything ran smoothly.**





## ***Tenth visit of the World ARC Rally is arriving now But this year is the first official visit***

As the crews in the memorable Cape to St Helena yacht race fly back to South Africa the organisers and helpers at the St Helena Yacht Club turn their attention to the approaching World ARC Rally and at the same time offer a welcome and the yacht club facilities to the crews in the 2017-19 Oyster World Rally who have arrived here during this week.

Seven yachts in the Oyster World Rally had arrived by Wednesday with three more closing in on the Island and a further three following. After stopping in St Helena for a few days the crews will continue to Ascension or to Salvador, Brazil and then on to the Caribbean.

The first World ARC crews are expected to arrive over the weekend. In previous years the stop at St Helena has been optional and limited to 72 hours. Now St Helena is an official stop the crews stay for up to a week. The rally crews are scheduled to depart for Brazil next Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> January. There are 18 yachts in this section of the World Arc Rally with sixty yachties heading this way.

Because St Helena is now an official stop there is a new approach by the ARC Rally organisers to how St Helena fits in the overall race organisation. The first difference is that an Event Manager arrives in St Helena ahead of the yacht crews to handle administrative matters and organise social events for the World ARC crews during their weeklong stay.

Handling administrative aspects includes completing in advance the customs, harbour master and immigration forms for each of the crews and having them ready on arrival for the crews to check and sign. This cuts down the time taken and the boredom suffered through form-filling. World ARC crews can get down to relaxing, eating and exploring the Island a little quicker.



Galen Salgado (right) is the Event Manager in St Helena for the World ARC Rally. He is assisted by Manuel Lima (left). The airport is the reason why St Helena can now be an official stop with a longer stay for the rally crews and a series of social events organised for them. Galen and Manuel flew in last Saturday. In the days of the RMS it was not possible for the ARC Rally organisers to send people in advance to St Helena due to time taken to get here. The organisers were told by rally crews they liked St Helena and would like to spend more time here. Now we have an air service, they can. Events on the social calendar include the usual island tour, the option to go diving or fishing and to play golf. A visit to the distillery is also fixed and a possible pub crawl. Next Thursday is pizza night at the Mule Yard and for next Friday a fish-

fry at the yacht club has been organised.

The World Cruising Club, based in Cowes, Isle of Wight organised the first ocean going ARC Rally from Gran Canaria (Mediterranean) to the St Lucia (Caribbean) in 1986. The ARC Rally continues as an annual event and now attracts about 300 entries with around 1,500 crew. In addition to the original ARC Rally there are now eleven other rallies including the World ARC Rally. The rallies range from routes within UK coastal waters to inter-ocean sailing. The routes and schedules for the next two World ARC Rallies have been published and St Helena will host the rally crews in January 2020 and 2021.

Galen told the *Independent* that St Helena was easier to deal with than some other locations. The unavoidable bureaucratic bits and pieces were dealt with in a very friendly, easier way. St Helena Tourism at the Canister is involved now the St Helena rally stop is official. They have produced a welcome pack for the yachties giving all sorts of information. Galen and Manuel pointed out that people who own yachts and can afford to take them on extended sailing trips around the world are not just exceptional people they have achieved something significant and benefitted from it. A world yacht rally costs a considerable amount of money to take part in and the sixty yachties participating in the Rally can normally be expected to spend around \$100,000 (£78,000) between them when they stop for a week at a location on the rally route. In St Helena the opportunities to spend money are limited so the total amount spent by the crews is expected to be less than normal but even so, a useful contribution to the economy.



***A new parking problem; nearly all moorings are occupied during a busy January for yacht arrivals.***



## Health time bomb on remote British island where 75 per cent of population are overweight

The remote British island of St Helena is facing a health time bomb with seven in 10 adults now overweight or obese while half of its young people still smoke regularly.

The volcanic outpost in the South Atlantic, has a population of just 4,534 yet many people suffer from chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

According to the island's Health Directorate, 75 per cent of adults and 40 per cent of children are now overweight or obese, 30 per cent have high blood pressure and 25 per cent have diabetes - in contrast to just six per cent of the British mainland population.

The problem lies in St Helena's isolation with islanders dependent on imported processed food which can survive the long journey from South Africa. Although an airport opened last year, until then locals relied entirely on the Royal Mail boat for supplies which arrived every three weeks.

Lisa Niemand, the Health Directorate's Nursing Officer, said: "The intertwined issues of geographical isolation, low resource base, dearth of specialist skills and lifestyle risk factors are a toxic challenge for the health sector here.

"There are large number of smokers - particularly young smokers, prevalent harmful alcohol use, and the global obesity epidemic has been intensified by the lack of fresh food available on the island and the dependence on imported long-life produce.

"The consequent high incidence of cancers and cardiovascular diseases are a major financial burden on the health sector as we have to offer treatment for many overseas at high cost."

Last year St Helena's Director of Health

Services Akeem Ali set out the growing health problems that the islands was facing, saying he was concerned that the poor health of islanders would lead to blindness, limb amputation, cancer, heart attacks, stroke and early death. Health experts are also concerned about the growing risk of kidney failure and liver disease on an island where it is virtually impossible to offer organ transplants.

Mr Ali wrote an open letter to public health organisations asking for help in tackling the growing public health crisis, saying: "If you were in my shoes, what would you do next?"

One of the companies to respond was PatientSource, which has created a system which pulls together all the island's health records together then uses artificial intelligence to track symptoms, spot diseases, detect deterioration and prevent illnesses from getting worse.

The programme which went live in November uses data from pharmacies, laboratories, hospitals, GPS, and community and mental health services.

PatientSource's co-founder, former NHS doctor Michael Brooks said: "St Helena will build up a rich repository of patient data covering symptoms, signs, test results and treatment outcomes.

"Doctors in St Helena will be able to track progress in real time and will be able to identify where best to direct healthcare resources. The island will jump decades ahead of where they are now."

The island has also begun a new campaign called Saints Together where a distinctive heart symbol is placed on healthy food and drinks and has organised running competitions and health awareness days.

The government is also cracking down on tobacco sales, reducing advertising, bringing in plain packaging and limiting access to flavoured cigarettes.

The island has also set up outreach programmes such as Chronic Disease Management Clinics and Workplace Wellbeing Clinics designed to encourage islanders to take ownership of their health and make informed decisions about their lifestyle choices.

Deputy Director of Health, Helen Lawrence, said: "We hope the future brings a scenario of full community engagement whereby our population are self-managing their health as far as possible as a result of the diagnosis and preventative technology data we will receive from PatientSource.

"Health care is an integral part of the community and will always be needed. It is rewarding to know that working in health services, regardless of our role, makes each of us personally a contributor to the positive well-being of our island community."

### The Telegraph



**A reminder that  
advertising on  
Saint FM will  
increase from  
1<sup>ST</sup> February to  
£6 per day**

**WEEKEND SPECIAL**  
**ALL FROZEN DESSERTS**  
**IN OUR GROCERY OUTLETS**  
**SHOP WHILST STOCKS LAST**  
**THURSDAY FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY ONLY**

**10% OFF**



# 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.sthelenagmail.com](mailto:community.sthelenagmail.com) or alternatively call Kirsty Joshua on  
Tel: 23999 after 5:00pm.

**Community Development Organisation**  [community.sthelenagmail.com](mailto:community.sthelenagmail.com)



**SEAFISH CHANDLERY LTD** is currently looking to recruit a **Warehouse Operative** for their Ascension Island operation. Preferably candidates will have previous experience working in a warehouse environment. It is essential that applicants have a full clean driving licence and experience with the operation of forklifts would be an advantage. Customer Service skills with a friendly nature is essential. Previous knowledge of EPOS systems would be an advantage although training will be given.

This is a single status role and we are offering a two year contract with benefits including:

- Rent free accommodation comprising electricity and water allowance
- One return passage home during your contract
- Annual food allowance
- Medical & Primary dental care

Applicants are expected to be able to work well within a small team, have the ability to effectively follow procedures and flexibility of being able to work on a shift rota basis that will include weekends and public holidays.

For more information, job description and application form please contact Natalie Sim or Carine Young on tel: +24766320 or Email [office@chandleryminimarket.co.ac](mailto:office@chandleryminimarket.co.ac) closing date for applications is **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019**.

All appointments will be subject to employment references & satisfactory medical clearance.



## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE GRANTS

Enterprise St Helena is offering funding to support Social Enterprises. Grants will be offered at 75% of the project cost to a maximum grant value of £7,500.00.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Social Enterprises, Non-government Organisations, Associations and Charitable Organisations with a business approach and a social aim, or provide products and services that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the local community and/or enhance the local tourism product.



**This grant is subject to eligibility, policy and terms and conditions**

**\*Skills Development Grants are offered at 75% of total cost of course / training project, with the minimum amount of £500.00 up to a maximum of £5,000.00.**

For more information please contact Mandy O'Bey on telephone 22920 or e-mail [mandy.obey@esh.co.sh](mailto:mandy.obey@esh.co.sh)



Enabling Tourism and Economic Growth

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Visit us online Business and Investment: [www.investinsthelena.com](http://www.investinsthelena.com)

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



## VACANCY FOR HEAD OF FINANCE

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a finance professional to join the St Helena National Trust's team in a leadership role. We are looking for a Head of Finance to join the team and play a central role in guiding the Trust's financial activities.

This job will present the successful candidate with the opportunity to join a leading charity organisation doing great things for St Helena and her people. Work will be office based but there will be opportunities to join our field teams as they go about their work.

Applicants must be exceptionally organized, highly motivated, and have a proven track-record of leadership in a finance role. Experience working with SAGE 50 accounting software and preparing accounts for annual audit will be strongly favoured.

The Trust is an independent non-governmental organisation driven by a passion for St Helena and our built, cultural, and natural heritage. We have a strong emphasis on team-work and collaboration and believe that our staff are the greatest asset that we have.

If you feel you could contribute to the Trust and would like to join a team passionate about seeing good things happen on St Helena then we want to hear from you. The salary for the post is £12,138 per annum.

A full job description can be obtained from Amanda Constantine at the St Helena National Trust office at Broadway House, Jamestown. Alternatively email [amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh](mailto:amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh) or call 22190. Applications should be in the form of a CV and Cover letter indicating how you meet the requirements of the job description.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January @ 16:00**



### **BOTTOM WOODS WATER NETWORK UPGRADE**

Connect Saint Helena Ltd are continuing with a programme of water network upgrades to ensure a reduction of water loss through leaks and pipe bursts.

For the next several weeks, Connect Saint Helena Ltd will be working along several main roads in Bottom Woods, as well as in close proximity to the junction adjacent to the bus shelter and surrounding areas.

Motorists and pedestrians are asked to approach these areas with extreme caution and Connect Saint Helena Ltd apologises for any inconvenience caused.

Consumers are assured that these upgrade works will not have any negative impact on their water supply. If there is a need to turn off the water at any time, consumers will be advised of this in advance.

**January 2019**





## Vacancy – Billing Administrator (Metering)

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ a Billing Administrator who will work within the Finance section of the business reporting to the Finance Manager. The Billing Administrator will work closely with Meter Readers relaying work instructions and will be responsible for associated metering administration. Duties include liaising route lists with Meter Readers and ensuring readings are submitted within specified timescales; importing metering data into spreadsheets and into billing documentation; carrying out monthly billing analysis; producing reports for unread meters and exceptions reports to illustrate anomalies; assisting and working closely with other members of the Billing function.

The successful applicant must have good computing and organisational skills; be able to work independently as well as part of a team; exhibit attention to detail and be able to communicate effectively, both written and orally. They should also be able to work to deadlines and encourage others to meet deadlines.

### Qualifications & Experience

Essential qualifications are: GCSE's at Grade C or above in English and Maths; 2 year's experience in relevant clerical work; experience with data collection; strong computer literacy in Microsoft Word, Excel and email; Experience and knowledge of Access Dimensions or similar accounting software is preferred but not essential.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary dependent on qualifications and experience. Other benefits include a 15% of base salary pension contribution and 25 days annual leave.

For a full job description and application form, please contact Kerry Lane on 22255 or email [kerry.lane@connect.co.sh](mailto: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 12:00 noon on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



Enterprise St Helena (ESH) has two units available for rent to local entrepreneurs for non-industrial / clean business at the ESH Business Park, Ladder Hill. The units are now available for occupancy.

Applications should be submitted to Emma Peters, Receptionist/Administrative Support in the form of an extended business brief with a 3 year cash flow, detailing your planned business and intended opening hours via email [emma.peters@esh.co.sh](mailto:emma.peters@esh.co.sh) or in hard copy to the Enterprise St Helena Office, ESH Business Park by close of business on Friday 25th January 2019.



For further information please contact Michielle Yon, Director of Resources on 22920 or e-mail [michielle.yon@esh.co.sh](mailto:michielle.yon@esh.co.sh)

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## VACANCIES WITHIN CORPORATE FINANCE

Are you looking for an employment opportunity in Finance and Accountancy? Corporate Finance has the following vacancies in their Central Finance team:

### SENIOR ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

An opportunity is available for **two** Senior Accounts Executives.

The post holders will be responsible for the effective management of the Accounts Payable and Receivable functions of the financial management system, ensuring all Government revenue and expenditure is accurately recorded.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above
- ACCA Certified Accounting Technician Level 2 or equivalent
- At least 3 years' experience in a similar accounting role
- At least 2 years' experience in supervising staff

Salary for the post ranges from £8,613 - £10,765 per annum.

### ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

An opportunity is available for an Accounts Executive.

The post holder will be responsible for the accurate and efficient entry of data and monitoring of all St Helena Government's financial transactions, and to contribute to the effective operation of the financial accounting systems of the Government of St Helena.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above
- GCSE Accounts at Grade C, or ACCA Certified Accounting Technician Level 1 or equivalent
- At least 1 years' experience in an accounting role

Salary for the post ranges from £6,722 - £8,402 per annum.

Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of finance and accountancy. The salary ranges for these positions reflect the pathways designed to reward professional development and technical competence.

For further details about the post, interested persons should contact Emma Thomas, Business Support Manager on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: [emma.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:emma.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh).

Application forms can be obtained from Corporate Human Resources and Corporate Finance and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Gemma Lawrence, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail [gemma.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gemma.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Monday, 21 January 2019.

*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.*

**Corporate Services 7 January 2019**





## ***PRISON COOK (Fixed-Term to 31 March 2019)***

The St Helena Police Directorate has a vacancy for a Cook to work within the St Helena HM Prison. The successful applicant will be responsible for menu planning and the preparation of nutritious balanced meals for prisoners.

The main duties of the post include:

- Responsible for creating and planning menus that are varied, nutritionally balanced and appetising. Cook quality meals and bakes that take advantage of foods in season and local availability, as well as show an understanding of dietary needs, within the required budget.
- To work alongside prisoners assigned to kitchen duties.
- To be proactive in anticipating and identifying stock issues and responsible for preparing good orders within budget to ensure adequate supplies of stores are available at all times to meet the dietary requirements of prisoners for meal planning.

Applicants should ideally be able to demonstrate the following:

- Functional Skills Level 1 in Numeracy and Literacy (equivalent to GCSE Grade D-G)
- Food Safety Level 3
- At least 3 years' experience in cooking for multiple people
- Have good stock control skills
- Be 18 years of age or over



The salary for the post is at Grade B Entry Level commencing at £6,722 per annum.

For further details regarding other duties of the post interested persons can contact Linda Fuller (Deputy Prison Manager) on telephone number 22541 or e-mail [linda.fuller@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:linda.fuller@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application packs are available from Corporate Human Resources and should be completed and submitted through Directors where applicable to Clare O'Dean, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or email [clare.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:clare.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

If you are looking for a rewarding but challenging career **come and join us in the Police Directorate.**

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.*

**Michael Miskell, Acting Director of Policing, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

## **HEALTH DIRECTORATE VACANCY- Trainee Dental Technician**

The Health Directorate has a vacancy for a Trainee Dental Technician. The purpose of the role is work closely with the Dental Technician assisting in the repair and fabrication of dentures.

Some of the **key duties** of the post are:

- Casting of models and acrylic denture repairs
- Fabrication of special trays and bite blocks
- Articulation of study models and to set up of teeth in occlusion on an articulator
- Waxing up of a denture, flasking, packing and finishing of dentures
- To undertake training (from present UK qualified dental technician) including mandatory training as outlined in the organisations training policy.
- Work as part of the multidisciplinary team to deliver high quality work and to work within standards, procedures, protocols and guidelines of SHG.



The successful applicant must have GCSE qualifications in Maths, English, Science and one other subject at Grade C or above, or equivalent, have good hand-eye coordination, good communication and basic IT skills. Previous experience in Health care setting or setting with transferable skills is also desirable.

Salary for the post is at Grade B commencing at £6,722 per annum.

All appointees are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, medical check, vetting or DBS Disclosure and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified. Interested persons requiring further details regarding this post can contact Miss Heather Crowley, Dentist on telephone number 22500 or email [heather.cowdry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:heather.cowdry@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms and a job profile are available from the Health Directorate and should be completed and submitted, through Directors where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, Health Directorate or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Friday, 25 January 2019.

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

**Akeem Ali (Dr) 08 January 2019**

**Director**

**Health Directorate**

## **HEALTH DIRECTORATE**

### **VACANCY- BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT WORKER (MENTAL HEALTH)**

The Health Directorate is seeking to recruit a Behaviour Support Worker for their Mental Health Section of the Health Directorate.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Mental Health Team Lead under the direction and supervision of qualified staff to provide direct support to clients who exhibit extreme complex challenging behaviour, resulting from mental illness and/or intellectual disability. To support, develop and manage this behaviour, to enable individuals to participate in a wide range of therapeutic interventions, activities of daily life and social interactions.

Some of the key duties include:

- To promote and safeguard the rights of the people we support and alert the appropriate person's if they suspect abuse to be taking place.
- To provide client centred support to people who because of a mental health condition require a high level of support to help them live full and active lives.
- To support clients into the community and be led by them as much as possible in this.
- To contribute to dynamic risk assessment and management on a daily basis including monitoring any increased safety risks to clients, colleagues and the community, and to report these to the appropriate person.
- To be responsible for maintaining consistent and professional boundaries in order to support best outcomes for our clients.
- To be a champion in breaking down barriers around Mental Health in the course of their work

Essential qualifications and experience for this post are:

- GCSE in English and Maths or equivalent at Grade C or above
- Valid Driver's licence Class A
- NVQ level 2 in Care, or a willingness to obtain qualification is also desirable

Experience in working with people diagnosed with Mental Illness or those with various disabilities is a preference and/or a commitment to ongoing training to gain experience in working with vulnerable adults.

Salary for the post is at Grade B commencing at £6,722 per annum.

However, staff will qualify for a competency based salary enhancement when they are able to successfully and consistently demonstrate competency in accordance with the competency levels relevant to their post. The competency based salary enhancement is pensionable and has been mapped to competency level B9-£8,067 pa.

All appointees 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.

Interested persons requiring further details regarding this post can contact Mrs Sherilea Curzon, Mental Health Team Lead on telephone no 22500 or email [sherilea.curzon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sherilea.curzon@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms and a job profile, which are available from the Health Directorate should be completed and submitted through Directors where applicable to Miss Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, Health Directorate or email [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Friday, 25 January 2019

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

**Akeem Ali (Dr)**  
**Director 08 January 2019**  
**Health Directorate**





# CLOSED SEASON FOR SPEARFISHING

1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2019 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019

**DURING THIS PERIOD SPEARFISHING IS NOT ALLOWED AT ANY TIME OR PLACE IN ST HELENA'S WATERS.**

The Spear Guns (Control) Ordinance states that during a closed season, no person shall have a spear gun in his possession on or within twenty meters of any tidal water or upon any beach or foreshore or while swimming or while in any vessel.

During this time most fish are at the spawning stage and it is therefore necessary to put measures in place to allow marine life a chance to breed and to grow into sustainable resources. The aim of the controlled season is not to stop people from enjoying the sea and its life but to respect our oceans and its resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION, ESSEX HOUSE, JAMESTOWN



Bertrand's Cottage Limited, a training facility that also operate as a restaurant and accommodation establishment, is seeking to employ a suitably qualified and experienced individual to fill the role of House Manager.

The successful candidate will have overall responsibility for the management of the Cottage and must have:

- 1) Experience of working in a similar establishment
- 2) Good people management and leadership skills
- 2) Knowledge and experience of health and safety procedures
- 3) A understanding of marketing, budgeting and financial controls
- 4) Excellent Administration Skills

A copy of the Terms of Reference and an application form can be collected from Enterprise St Helena reception and formal applications should be submitted to the Human Resources and Administration Assistant at Enterprise St Helena, Ladder Hill by no later than Monday 28th January 2019 at 12 noon.



For further information please contact Sharnell Benjamin on telephone 22920 or via email [Sharnell.benjamin@esh.co.sh](mailto:Sharnell.benjamin@esh.co.sh)

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**Vacancy –  
Board Director  
Bertrand's  
Cottage Ltd**

*St Helena  
Hospitality Up-Skilling*

Bertrands Cottage Limited is a private company limited by shares and is registered under the Companies Ordinance of St Helena 2004. Responsibility for the day to day operation of the Cottage rests with the House Manager however monitoring of the operations including financial performance and setting the strategic direction lie with the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is seeking additional Directors to strengthen the current membership. The successful applicant(s) must have experience in working in a similar role with skills in either of the following areas

- Marketing such as campaigning and promoting the business,
- Legal and/or financial and risk management.

If you are interested a copy of the terms of reference can be collected from Enterprise St Helena reception and a copy of your CV should be submitted to Michelle Yon, Chairperson, Bertrands Cottage Board, Enterprise St Helena, Ladder Hill by no later than Monday 28th January 2019.



**For further information please contact Michielle**  
Yon on telephone 22920 or via email  
Michielle.yon@esh.co.sh.

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

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**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

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



## REMOTE BANKING JANUARY 2019

Bank of St Helena would like to advise the public that Remote Banking for December will take place as follows:

Location	Date	Time
Scotland	Monday, 21 January	09:30 – 12:30
HTH Supermarket	Wednesday, 23 January	09:30 – 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Friday, 25 January	09:30 – 14:30

*Save yourself the trip into Jamestown*

**Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St. Helena · South Atlantic · STHL 1ZZ**

Tel: +290 22390 · Fax: +290 22553 · e-mail: [info@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:info@sainthelenabank.com) · web: [www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)

Established and regulated in St. Helena under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008 the Company Ordinance, 2004 and the Company Regulations, 2004



# Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

A penalty in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute earns Liverpool a hard fought 1-0 win over Brighton on Saturday. This win can after back to back defeats for the league leaders and for 24 hours moved them 7 points clear at the top of the league table.

At the Amex, Liverpool demonstrated the efficiency and control of a side capable of winning while not at their best.

Salah - who had just 13 touches in a quiet first half - produced a single moment of game-defining trickery to tangle with Gross, and it proved enough as Liverpool eased to a 13th clean sheet of the season.

Next up for Liverpool will be a home game against Crystal Palace.

Declan Rice first Premier League goal earn all 3 points for West Ham against Arsenal. This was a first win for the Hammers over the Gunners since 2015.

Arsenal are now without a win in five league games away from the Emirates Stadium and are playing catch-up in the race for a Champions League place.

Only leaders Liverpool and Manchester City have found the net more than the Gunners, but against West Ham they failed to score in the league for only the second time this season - and have not kept a clean sheet since 8 December.

In other matches Burnley came from behind to beat Fulham 2-1 without registering a shot on target. Both their goals were own goals. Cardiff and Huddersfield played out a goalless draw. Huddersfield was awarded a penalty only for the Referee to change his mind after consulting his assistant. This decision is rarely seen in Football. This proved to be the last game for Huddersfield's manager David Wagner as he left the club on mutual consent.

Watford came from behind to beat Crystal Palace 2-1. Tom Cleverly scored a spectacular winner.

Southampton picked up 3 valuable points away at Leicester despite playing 45 minutes with just 10 men. In the late game on Saturday Chelsea secured a 2-1 win against Newcastle. On Sunday Everton scored two second half goals to beat a now struggling Bournemouth side.

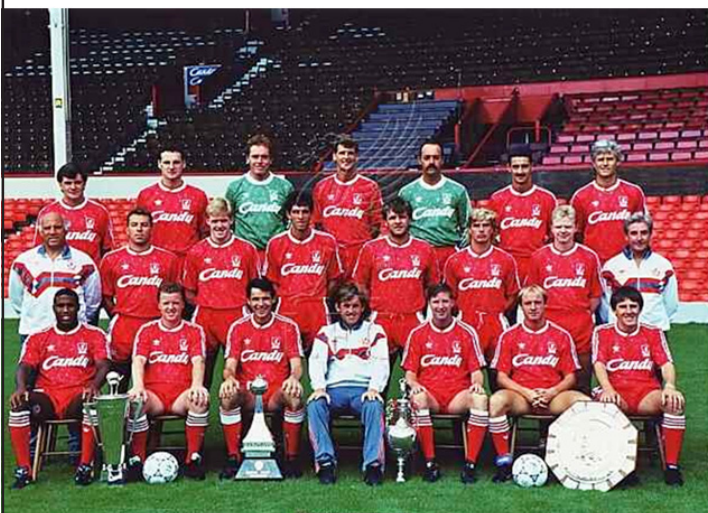
The game of the weekend was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer big test as Manchester United played Spurs at Wembley. Marcus Rashford's low finish from Paul Pogba's superb pass on the stroke of half-time stretched Solskjaer's faultless start - but the Norwegian had De Gea to thank for a brilliant display as Spurs laid siege to United's goal after the break. Time after time De Gea denied Spurs making a total of 11 saves in the match. To be fair to Spurs their second half performance deserved something from the game; but this was not to be as Solskjaer stretch his winning run to 6 matches.

This result damage Spurs quest for a shot at this seasons' title. Equally damaging is the fact that Spurs will lose Son Heung-Min for up to four weeks as he goes off to the Asian Cup and Harry Kane picked up an injury which will see him miss up to 11 matches.

On Monday Man City cut Liverpool's lead to 4 points as they beat 10 men Wolves 3-0. It was surprising that the score was only 3 goals especially after Wolves was reduced to 10 men after just 19 minutes.

The early match on Saturday will see Wolves host Leicester. In the 3pm games Bournemouth will play West ham at home; Liverpool host Palace, Man United will play Brighton at Old Trafford, Newcastle will host Cardiff, Southampton play Everton and Watford host Burnley. In the late game on Saturday Arsenal host Chelsea.

On Sunday Huddersfield will play City at 1.30pm and Fulham host Spurs at 4pm.



**Name this 1993 Manchester United team**

## **Names for last week's photo:**

Back Row: Ray Houghton; Alex Watson, Mike Hooper, Gary Gillespie, Bruce Grobbelaar, Ian Rush & Glen Hysen

Middle Row: Ronnie Moran; Ronnie Rosenthal, Steve Staunton, Gary Ablett, Jan Molby, Barry Venison, David Burrows & Roy Evans

Front row: John Barnes, Steve Nicol, Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish, Ronnie Whelan, Steve McMahon, Peter Beardsley



## GOLF REPORT FOR SUNDAY 13th JANUARY 2019

Another beautiful day. Another cruise ship. Another competition. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the second competition of the year got underway at 12:00. The format of play was 18 Hole Bogey which means par is zero, over par is minus and under par is a plus. Our seasoned golfer and former captain Mr Lawson Henry emerged tops on the leader board with all square followed in second place by Mr Douglas Augustus who beat Eileen Wallace on a count back to take second place with a minus one score. It was all smiles for Mr Gerald George who collected all the balls in the two ball pool by scoring a birdie in the 11<sup>th</sup> hole which is no mean feat. Congratulations to our winners.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 will be the Monthly Medal Competition. Tee off time 12:00. Registration ongoing through the usual channels. Add your name to the list on the clubhouse noticeboard, leave a voice mail on 24421, or drop a message to our Facebook page @SGHC.org.sh Members who have



not paid their 2019 subscriptions are kindly reminded to make their payments to SHGC bank account or at the clubhouse when it is open.

Happy swinging....

**Contributed by;  
SHGC**

## VACANCY FOR SENIOR STATISTICS ASSISTANT (Fixed-Term until 31 January 2020)

The Corporate Policy and Planning Unit is seeking to recruit a Senior Statistics Assistant to join the Statistics Office. This opportunity is on a Fixed-Term basis until 31 January 2020.

The successful applicant will be responsible for collecting, collating, analyzing and presenting data to enable evidence based decision making, monitoring and planning on St Helena. Also, to support the Statistician in the collection and publication of statistics from administrative sources, regular surveys and bespoke data collection exercises.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- A Level Maths or equivalent
- GCSE in IT at Grade C or above or ECDL covering at least MS Word, Excel and Dimensions
- Accredited Foundation Level Statistics Qualification or A Level Statistics
- Accredited Foundation Level qualification in Project Management
- At least 5 years' experience working with data collection and statistical analysis
- Proven experience in developing and presenting survey materials

Salary for the post is £8,613 per annum.

For further details about the post, interested persons should contact Neil Fantom, Statistician on telephone number 22138 or e-mail: [neil.fantom@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:neil.fantom@sainthelena.gov.sh).

Application forms can be obtained from Corporate Human Resources and Corporate Finance and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Gemma Lawrence, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail [gemma.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gemma.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Friday, 25 January 2019.

*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.* Corporate Services, St Helena Government, The Castle, Jamestown, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ Telephone: +(290) 22720 Facsimile: +(290) 22450 E-mail: [lindsay.shankland@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:lindsay.shankland@sainthelena.gov.sh) [www.sainthelena.gov.sh](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh)

*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.*

**Corporate Services 11 January 2019**





# SHCA League 2019

## Results Week 2

**Sat 12 Jan 2019**

**Levelwood Allstarz 445/6**

Ross Henry 157  
Gareth Johnson 80  
Clayton Leo 3/8  
David Francis 2/1

**Mustangs 30**

Makyle Fuller 14  
Andy Williams 3  
Liam Adams 2/52  
Travoy Stevens 2/81



### Performance Points

Ross Henry 3, Gareth Johnson 2, Jerry Thomas 1

**Sun 13 Jan 2019**

**Sandy Bay Pirates 175**

Ian Williams 51  
David Young 29  
Austin Fowler 2/15  
David Young 2/16

**Woodpeckers 94**

Gary Benjamin 20  
Adrian Bowers 19  
Adrian Bowers 3/39  
Trystan Thomas 3/46

### Performance Points

Ian Williams 3, Cormac Crowie 2, AJ Bennett 1

**Jamestown Heat 395/6**

Dax Richards 110  
Damien O'Bey 106  
Christian George 3/20  
Jason Thomas 3/23

**Lions 105**

Frazer Stone 19  
Christopher Herne 15  
Alan Thomas 2/25  
Rhez Crowie 2/73

### Performance Points

Damien O'Bey 3, Dax Richards 2, Scott Crowie 1

## Cricket Fixtures

**Sat 19 Jan**

1.30pm  
Pirates v Royal Challengers  
Umpires: Mustangs

**Sun 20 Jan**

9am  
Lions v Mustangs  
Umpires: Pirates  
  
1.30pm  
Woodpeckers V Heat  
Umpires: Allstarz

## APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2019/03:** FULL Planning Application for **Construction of 2 x 3 Bedroom Split Level Dwellings**, Clay Gut on Parcel 0458 New Ground, adjacent to David John. Applicant: Nigel George
2. **Application 2019/04:** Full Planning Application for **Construction of Animal Shelter**, Guinea Grass on Parcel 0073 New Ground, adjacent to Guinea Grass Community Centre. Applicant: Environment & Natural Resources Directorate (SHG)

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be inspected by prior appointment with the Planning Section, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown, Monday to Friday, from 8.30am to 4pm. Appointments can be made with the Secretary on Telephone 22270 or email [Karen-Isaac@enrd.gov.sh](mailto:Karen-Isaac@enrd.gov.sh) stating the Application Reference Number they wish to inspect.

Any person who wishes to make Representations on the above Application should make them in writing within 14 days, to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email [shane.williams@enrd.gov.sh](mailto:shane.williams@enrd.gov.sh)

Public Review Commencement Date : 18 January 2019  
Public Review Closing Date : 1 February 2019

**Andrew Chawora**  
Locum Chief Planning Officer



# St Helena Attempting To Make International Debut

## World Soccer

The island is looking to raise funds to compete in the Island Games, due to take place in Wales in June.

Few footballers are as isolated as St Helena's but with a link to the outside world finally available, they are trying to raise £74,000 to make their international debut.

Stranded in the South Atlantic, the British possession is 7,250-km from London and 2,700-km from Cape Town. Until 2016, the only link was a Royal Mail ship that made the trip every three weeks in a voyage that took three weeks.

A new £285 million airport has now opened and the islanders are raising money to send a team to the Island Games football tournament at Yns Mon in north Wales next summer.

The actual Island Games are in Gibraltar but for the first time since 1989 football will not feature due to lack of pitches, so Yns Mon – known in English as Anglesey – will host a one-off football tournament from June 15-22.

The Faroe Islands and Gibraltar have used the tournament as a springboard to becoming a FIFA member and the St Helena Football Association wants to follow suit.

Founded in 1900, the SHFA runs a flourishing local league with nine teams with the current title held by Harts, but apart from games against passing ships the island has never fielded a representative team.

After the island's government drew up a new social policy plan in 2013, the SHFA approached FIFA, but were knocked back and told to affiliate to their governing body's association.

Nick Stevens, who will be St Helena's team manager in Wales, says: "FIFA said we would need permission from our governing country's FA. We approached the FA and they stated that we need to be an EU member."

The FA encouraged St Helena to explore other opportunities and a second application was submitted this year.

FIFA funds six Dutch and French Caribbean islands that are not in the world body so they can take part in the CONCACAF Nations League, but offered no help to St Helena.

In a letter emailed to SHFA treasurer Happyman Makura, FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura wrote: "St. Helena is not an independent state recognised by the international community. Therefore, it appears that SHFA would not be in a position to fulfil the required criteria."

Potential new FIFA members need to be a member of a regional confederation first, so the SHFA has now contacted the Confederation of African Football about membership.

The SHFA want to take 25 players and officials to Yns Mon. The team would fly from the new airport via Windhoek in Na-

mibia to Johannesburg then on to Wales.

Stevens adds says: "Although this is a long shot the SHFA is determined to make this happen. We have already started to contact potential sponsors."

A kit sponsor has pledged £7,000 and the SHFA had raised £34,000 by the start of January.

If the islanders do get to Wales, where they are due to face Guernsey and the Shetland Isles in Group C, they have no idea how they will fare but the experience of the only representative side from St Helena at international level was better than expected.

A team of cricketers from St Helena took the mail boat to a T20 competition in South Africa in 2012 and won three of seven games. This year the cricketers took part again, flying to Botswana, where they also posted some wins.

Some Saints have already gone to the Island Games, such as Jeremy Henry and Adam Glanville, who emigrated to the Falkland Islands team and represented their new home.

The Falklands have a smaller playing base than St Helena but have managed a few wins over the years and Stevens is hopeful of emulating the island's cricketers with at least one win in Wales – if they make it that far.



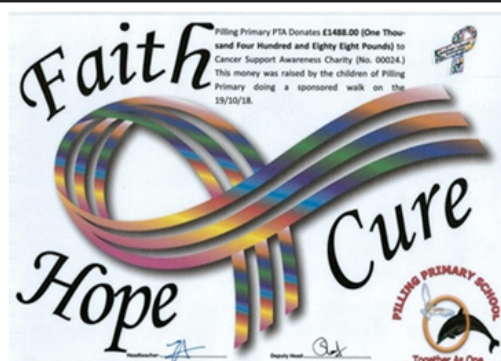


# Cancer Awareness Fundraising



Contractors of Interserve on the Falkland Islands recently organised a 'DRESS DOWN DAY' and a 'BAKE AND SELL' function, to help raise funds for CANCER CHARITIES. The amount raised was split between the Falkland Island Cancer Charity and the St Helena Cancer Support & Awareness Charity. On behalf of Lisa Phillips, Interserve Office Manager, Laura Oliver presented the sum of £285.50 to two members of the St Helena Charity Group, Olive Williams and Marlene Yon.

The Charity Committee would like to express their grateful thanks for this donation and to thank all concerned in helping to raise this amount which is very much appreciated.



The St Helena Cancer Support & Awareness Charity extends their grateful thanks to Pilling School PTA for their donation of £1488.00 (One Thousand Four Hundred & Eighty Eight Pounds) which was raised by the children of Pilling Primary doing a sponsored walk on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

A big thank you and a message to all INVOLVED - WELL DONE!! The donation is very much appreciated.



Thanks to everyone for their donations we have received in to our bank account since August 2017 when we published out last thank you's. Some might have been thanked by the Working Group already. Again, some of you don't want their names published so they are grouped together under DONATIONS. Thank you all for your valued help and support.

Bank of St Helena	£500	Elsie Hughes (Card sales)	£100	Moonshines Bar Dance)	£420
Donations		Police Dir (Mofti Day)	£25	Mantis Hotel (Pink Tea)	£1000
Magma Way Ltd	£50	Di Williams (Boiled Pud)	£49	Brook's O/T Dance	£752.60
ESH (Mufti Day)	£26	Corporates Services	£133.00	McDaniels Complex	£50
Penspen	£50	Connect Staff	£21.50	Donny's Place	£338.17
Serenas Gift Shop	£25	St Pauls Primary Schl	£101.40	Interserve (Asc)	£2332.18
St Hel Yacht Club	£74	R&C L/wood Sup Mkt	£20.90	PA School/Edu (MD)	£255.96
BOSH (Donations)	£84.02	Blue Hill Community	£128.00	AIG (Asc) Cake Bake	£505.80
Health Dept	£31.65	Moonbeams Ltd	£27	P Bennett	£10
Solomon's Staff	£271.90	V2 Paradise	£30	Volcano Club (Asc)	£647.50
ENRD (Donation)	£97.58	Salvation Army (EC SER)	£400	B Joshua (Donation)	£100
Various Cheques from uk		Shirley Crapper Mem	£1218.92	Various donations	£380

# Jacob's Ladder Cash Builder

Help St Helena's talented Footballers reach their target and allow them to showcase their talent on the international stage in Ynys Mon 15-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019.

- **Join the St Helena FA on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 5.30pm for a Jacob's ladder Challenge with a difference.**
- Each competitor is asked to kindly place a **Pound Coin** or **more** on at least one step.
- Our target is to have coins on each of the 699 steps.
- We want all Footballers; Junior Footballers, Football fans; Mums and Dads of Footballers & WAGS to join us.

Ynys Mon 2019 is the start of future international Football for St Helena. Help us to help the world find the next Ronaldo or Messi from here on St Helena



## ***Paul O'Sullivan's big property bet with a connection to Napoleon and Boers***

When the definitive book is written on a band of hardy individuals who shielded South Africa from being overwhelmed by State Capture, Paul O'Sullivan's name will feature prominently. Courageous, direct and gifted with an analytical mind, O'Sullivan was the nemesis of two Police Commissioners and an army of other bad actors.

What makes his efforts even more remarkable is that Paul and his colleague at Forensics for Justice, Sarah-Jane Trent, did their amazing work on a shoestring. Or, more accurately, by subsidising their sleuthing and court actions from their own savings. Some, including members of the Biznews community did help, but donations only covered a fraction of the total costs.

With that background I'm sure you'll join me in wishing O'Sullivan the luck of Irish forebears in his ambitious property development on the island of St Helena, Imperial Britain's favoured destination for enemies including Napoleon Bonaparte (who died there) and 6,000 Boers. O'Sullivan, who made his fortune in property development before chasing crooks full-time, is developing a 162 hectare golf estate on the tropical island.

His plans are spearheaded by a proposed Mackenzie & Ebert-designed golf course. He is already the island's largest private investor and is determined to be what he calls "the principle catalyst to create a sustainable economy with high value,



low income tourism." St Helena was already on my bucket list. It has just moved up a few places.

# BizNews.com



**Note: Lord Michael Ashcroft, together with his team, visited St Helena in early December last year. This visit was extensively covered in the St Helena Independent and on Saint FM. What Lord Ashcroft said to Saint FM when he was on the Island is still quoted on the Island (see page 5). We are therefore publishing Lord Ashcroft's blog post about St Helena on [www.conservativehome.com](http://www.conservativehome.com) over**

## **Lord Ashcroft: Special Report: St Helena – the island of fading hopes and dreams**

**Lord Ashcroft**

The breath-taking view during the last half-mile of the short taxi ride from St Helena Airport to the heart of Jamestown is one that I will never tire of admiring.

On each side of a steep valley are cliffs that soar to more than 600 feet while, at the bottom, the streets of the island's capital are full of charm and character as they lead down to the sea. Beyond the promenade are scores of boats of all shapes and sizes bobbing in the usually sheltered waters of James Bay.

The view is also a signal that I am about to meet arguably the world's friendliest local people: "Saints", as the islanders like to be known, are warm-hearted, hard-working and family-orientated.

However, last weekend, on my third visit to the island, the numerous locals that I met were not their usual cheery selves. In fact, I detected an overwhelming mood of weariness, frustration and, at times, even burning anger.

"The island is at an all-time low. There are no tourists, no money. Morale is not good: everyone is feeling the pinch and hurting," said Patrick Henry, 53, who along with his partner, Lucille Johnson, 44, owns V2 Taxis, which I use for my shuttles to and from the airport.

They, like other islanders, invested their life-savings into businesses on the basis that the new airport, built with £285 million of taxpayers' money and which finally opened to passenger flights 14 months ago, would bring unprecedented numbers of visitors to St Helena and, with them, economic prosperity.

The couple now have three businesses: an 18-vehicle taxi fleet, a pub, and a café – but not enough customers to justify the "huge amount of money" that they have invested.

St Helena, about a third the size of the Isle of Wight, is a British Overseas Territory that became famous as the location where Napoleon Bonaparte, the defeated French emperor, spent the majority of his exile until his death in 1821.

As a volcanic island that erupted out of the South Atlantic 15 million years ago, it is one of the most remote places on earth: some 1,200 miles from the African mainland and 1,800 miles from Brazil.

The island has a population of less than 4,500 who earn an average wage of little more than £7,000 a year. Yet inflation is running at 4.1 per cent and the average cost of goods and services are said to be 14 per cent more than in the UK due to the additional bills that remoteness brings.

The airport was built to replace the Royal Mail Ship St Helena as it reached the end of its life. The "RMS", as it was affectionately known, took five days to reach the island from Cape Town. However, after various flight safety issues, St Helena now has only one regular weekend return flight from Johannesburg, with each flight capable of carrying less than 100 passengers.

The cost of a return economy flight from Johannesburg is typically around £900 and many flights have been delayed, in some cases by several days, due to weather problems. Several potential tourists have even returned home with bills running to thousands of pounds for flights and hotels without ever landing on the island.

I first came to St Helena with my parents when I was a toddler, while I came for the second time in January 2017. The purpose of my third visit, last weekend, was to speak to those who help to run the island, those entrepreneurs investing in it and also the man – and woman – on the street.

The biggest inward investor on St Helena is Hazel Wilmot (pictured, below), who has spent nearly £3 million buying and renovating both the Consulate Hotel in Jamestown and a 17-acre farm inland.

Her spending was based on the anticipation that the airport, originally due to open in 2012 before the opening was delayed twice more for safety reasons, would result in riches for entrepreneurs. Yet, in the run-up to the airport's actual opening in October last year, Ms Wilmot says she went nine months without a single overnight paying guest.

Ms Wilmot, 62, was reduced to tears as she told me of her exasperation during her decade on the island after moving there from Botswana. She says her losses since December 2008 total more than £700,000 – an average of over £70,000 a year.

"Tourism has not generated the income that we were expecting or that we were promised," she said, adding that islanders were even encouraged to invest long after the Department for International Development (DFID) and the St Helena Government (SHG) learned that strong unpredictable winds – known as "wind shear" – would endanger flights.

"We are basically being told 'hang in there, sweetheart, and it'll come right'. Well, I am surprised a few of us haven't hung ourselves never mind just hung in there."

**Continued on NEXT PAGE**

# Lord Ashcroft: Special Report: St Helena – the island of fading hopes and dreams

**Lord Ashcroft**

Before the airport opened, official figures predicted that the tourist numbers to the island would increase from around 1,000 a year to 29,000 a year by 2042. "It's completely pie in the sky," said Ms Wilmot.

"The only way I am going anywhere is if you carry me out in a box," she added. "But I am finding it very difficult at the moment." Then the tears flowed before she added: "I don't see any end in sight." She now plans to seek a judicial review in the UK in order to seek compensation from DFID for its alleged incompetence and deceit.

Lyn Thomas (pictured, below), who has lived on the island all her life, is married with a stepson, two daughters and seven grandchildren. Along with Larry, her husband, and Tara, her daughter, Mrs Thomas, aged 54, owns two companies that operate seven shops and employ 40 people.

She told me of her frustration at waiting seven years for the SHG and the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate (ENRD) to make a decision on whether she can buy or lease a plot of land to build a retail centre that incorporates activities for young children and teenagers.

"I have gone round and round and round. If you don't move your business forward, it starts to slide back. It's the frustration of begging and kowtowing, and I am not very good at it. There are times when I lose my patience, but I will carry on," said Mrs Thomas.

Mrs Thomas, who was formerly the Chairman of the Bank of St Helena, added: "Sometimes subsidies breed inefficiency so I don't like the word 'subsidy' but people can need a hand up to get fully functioning and financially viable."

Many people on and off the island are desperate to have a direct flight link to Europe, in general, and the UK, in particular. Atlantic Star Airlines, headed by British pilot Richard Brown, remains keen to operate such a service but without public and/or private funds, flights to and from the island would be too costly. Furthermore, Atlantic Star could only operate such a service with permission from SHG, which, for now at least,

has only one flight contract, with South African operator Airlink.

Gregory Cairns-Wicks, 54, is a married man with two children, who has lived on the island for 36 years. He owns and/or runs a 275-acre beef farm, three shops, and an importing business.

Mr Cairns-Wicks told me that in recent times taxes, import duties and freight charges have all increased, while targeted subsidies to the island have fallen and wages remain low.

"One way or another, things are not looking good," he said, adding that some islanders are looking to move to the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island and the UK in search of higher wages and the means of eventually being able to afford to build their own house on St Helena. "When we lose young families, then that is a significant knock to the economy," he said.

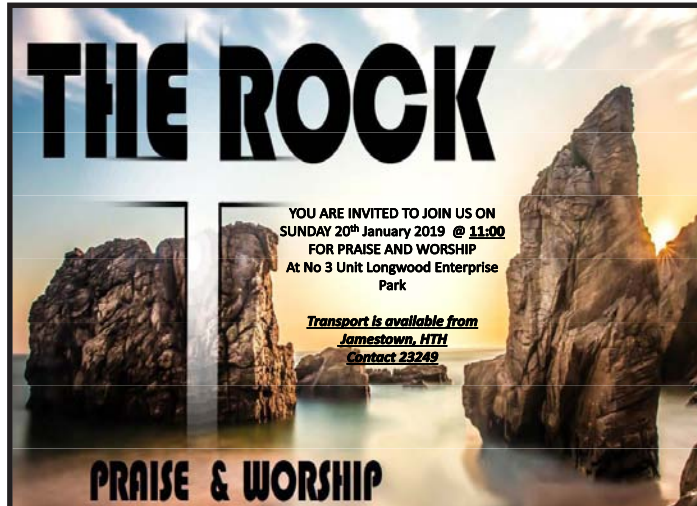
He said that unreliable flights meant that tourists, who have a choice of any number of destinations around the world, would not risk booking holidays on St Helena. "Unless something technical can be done with the airport to improve reliability, it's going to be very, very difficult to build the economy – like trying to light a fire with a box of wet matches."

**Continued NEXT WEEK**

## Thank You

The Ladies Fund Raising Group would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets for their Christmas Raffle and also grateful thanks to Michael Stevens of Saint Trading for donating the prizes. The Group would also like to thank both Michael and Ferdie Gunnell for their support in promoting the raffle. The amount raised was £739.50. The draw took place on Friday 21st December 2018 and the winners were:

1st Prize - Food Hamper - Keith Brinsden, HTH - Tkt 606  
2nd Prize - Chocolates - Cyril Stevens, HTH - Tkt 311  
3rd Prize - Biscuits - Joshuas, Longwood - Tkt 330





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[bluelantern@helanta.co.sh](mailto:bluelantern@helanta.co.sh)

STRICTLY 2X SEATING SLOTS: 18:00- 20:15/ 20:30- 22:30







FRIDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

Rosie's Bar & Restaurant  
will open from 11am

# TECH HOUSE NIGHT

**NEW**

UK DJ

**STEW**

(STEWART BAUGH)

**9:30PM**



SATURDAY  
19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018

Rosie's Bar & Restaurant  
will open from 11am



**ROCKIN**

**9:30PM**

**ALL NIGHT LONG**

**ISLAND POLITICS**



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14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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Champagne



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Candlelit Meal

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14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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