

# THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

Est. 2005

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## ***ExCo Members Questioned at Saint FM***



***“Overwhelming desire  
for change”***  
– Professor Sarkin



***Airlink Want the South  
African High Court to  
Save it From  
Bankruptcy***



***Pages of Fiery  
Letters on  
Several Topics***

## ***The latest on fish, fishing, processing fish and fish sales***

The government have invited the commercial fishermen to yet another meeting today to discuss the arrangements the government have now made for the sale of ice and the processing of fish. One clear bit of information already provided is that ice will cost £2 for a 25kg bag. The usual rule is to carry the same weight in ice and fish if the fish are to be chilled properly. Off-shore vessels can require several tonnes of ice. The government will also re-open the fish processing factory to provide the fish processing necessary before the fish can be sold. While the fish processing will be at Rupert's, the fish landings will be at Jamestown wharf because of the rockfall protection work at Rupert's,

Charges to fishermen for fish processing should be finalised in time for today's meeting at the Canister but it is likely there will be three charges depending on the type of cut used in the fish processing. The charges will not be for the full cost of the services provided but do not include the transport of transporting the fish to wholesalers or retailers; these costs remain with the fishermen and added to the cost of price of fish to the shops.

That's the intention but the practical implementation of the intentions still present problems. As SHG will now be responsible for fish processing at the Rupert's factory a new Fish Processing Licence will be needed and it is hoped the licence will be issued sometime next week. As fishermen go into another week with no income earned and the rest of us continue to get by with no fresh fish, it was revealed that SHG could have transferred the existing licence from the St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC) to SHG at no cost. However, as the licence was allowed to lapse a new licence had to be issued, at a cost of £5,000. Thus oversight and extra cost is yet another in a long list unexpected delays which appears ever more strongly to be due to an almost complete lack of planning when the decision was made to close down SHFC.

### **Exco councillors shield mistakes made by government officials**

An hour-long radio discussion on Saint FM yesterday spent the first 30 minutes at least talking about the fishing industry we do not have at the moment with efforts made to try to find out how government got us all into the mess we are in. Direct answers to clear and direct questions were few and far between but eventually a better understanding of how the fiasco was allowed to happen started to be revealed. The revelations came as much from things that were not said and comments made on different subjects later on in the discussion. The first question pitched to councillors was, why was it decided to close down the fisheries on the 31<sup>st</sup> January? Lawson Henry volunteered to be the first to reply and started with, "we have to put a bit of background to this". Five minutes later the question was asked again in a different way. There does not seem to be much of a plan to put another fisheries organisation in place after the 31<sup>st</sup> January was the question. The reply, again from Lawson was, "Exco is adamant there is continued support for fisheries in three key areas; fuel subsidy, ice-making and fish processing. That was a policy decision" Things started to become a little clearer; or at least the rea-



son for the disconnect between question and answer started to be understood. Councillors were talking about policy while the questions thrown at them were about plans and practicalities. Tony Green admitted "Things did not pan out exactly as we wanted" and Lawson Henry added, "A lot overlooked and a good few mistakes". Derek Thomas said "Things could have been done better and differently".

Later when discussing the recent second visit by Professor Sarkin all councillors said they favoured a ministerial system but there is still much to be sorted out before anything happens. Tony Green said the current committee system is past its sell-by date, cumbersome and gives places for people to hide. Crucially, he added, there is little connection between policy decision and policy implementation. The bad connection, if any meaningful connection exists at all, between policy and implementation is the underlying reason why the SHFC closure has turned out to be such a mess.

Councillors are concerned with policy decisions only. Government officers declare themselves to be the ones responsible for implementation. The councillors feel sure they made a good and correct policy decision aimed at reducing the subsidy to fisheries which had got out of control and in continuing financial support to fishermen against the background of a reduce subsidy in general to fishing and fisheries.

Implementation of the new approach to fisheries was and is in the hands of government officers; the Investment Enabling Group appears to be involved in this. But no doubt many other sections of government are too. The plan, or lack of it, is down to the government officers involved; whoever they may be. Remember Tony Green said the committee system we have at the moment gives too many places for people to hide. The people who implement the policy are saying little or nothing in public. For some reason best known to themselves, the councillors are facing the public as they did during the hour-long radio discussion. During that time they shielded the government officers who have made such a mess of implementing the policy agreed by councillors; for what reason is unclear. It is fairly certain that if councillors attempt to have an input into the implementation of policy the government officers chase them off. Why should councillors feel it is necessary to shield officers; why don't they let the officers dig themselves out of the hole they have made for themselves? If the fisheries fiasco has taught us anything it is the present system of governance has got to go.



# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Editor,**

It is difficult for anyone to claim that it is easy to ignore the decisions being taken by our Government that are impacting our ability to access fresh fish at present. Moreover, it is also becoming extremely sad to note that it is our very own people that are causing this turmoil.

Let's consider the following:

1. The St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC) was established in 1979 to engage on a commercial basis in the business of fishing and fish marketing in St Helena and overseas.
2. The SHFC was governed by a Board of Management which was created to exercise the functions and powers of the Corporation, and would operate by directions given by the Governor in Council.
3. Upon the withdrawal of Argos, it was SHG's decision to amalgamate the Coldstore Operations (Fish Processing) with SHFC in November 2015.
4. It was SHG who agreed to provide a subsidy for operational activities, but refused to provide capital investment, to enable SHFC to purchase replacement equipment or to renovate the existing building. Remember the Coldstore had been operational for some 16 years under Argos.
5. We are told by SHG, that in four years, £1.3m has been provided to SHFC for operational costs.
6. We are then told that due to the increasing amounts of funding required, SHG have decided they can no longer afford to subsidise SHFC, and therefore SHFC will no longer exist. Closure took place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020.
7. In September 2019, SHG formed a Fisheries Task Group, consisting of SHG officials to compile a business model to act as an interim measure, which at the very least would help to mitigate the losses incurred by SHFC.
8. In October 2019 the revised Investment Prospectus was launched, whereby it was highlighted that SHFC was available for sale.
9. In December, SHG advised that all proposals would need to be submitted

by the 10<sup>th</sup> January, this was then extended until 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

10. On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020, SHFC issued their final services to the fishers i.e. ice, fuel and processing facilities.

11. On 30<sup>th</sup> January, we are told by SHG that four proposals were received and a preferred investor has been identified.

12. Numerous press releases have been issued by SHG to advise how fish can be landed, however to date **none** of these suggestions have reached fruition, as they are simply not practicable.

In summary, decisions in respect of the management and operations of SHFC have always been under the command and scrutiny of SHG.

Now onto the concerning elements:

- SHFC Board compliment during the four years have consisted of at least two elected members, 2 or 3 government officials, at times ESH representatives. Making the Board heavily driven by SHG. On occasions there were one and at most two representatives from the fishing sector. Since April 2019 however, there has been no fishing sector representatives.

- The Fisheries Task Group, whose composition was decided by the Chief Secretary, consisted of all Government personnel with assistance from an FCO member of staff, who was also the Ex-General Manager of SHFC.

- The investment prospectus 2019-2020 was launched in October and was a document compiled jointly by Enterprise St Helena & SHG.

- All investment interests are managed by Enterprise St Helena and they are responsible for arranging and assisting with all investment visits to the island.

- Investment Proposals are the evaluated by the Investment Enabling Group who are:

- Chair - Chief Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Chief Economist
- ESH Director of Investment
- ESH Private Sector Development Manager/Investment Manager
- Head of Property
- Director of Environment Natural Resources & Planning

- Immigration Officer
- Bank of St Helena Ltd Rep
- Head of IT
- Chief Planning Officer

Once again it is SHG with their counterpart - ESH - who is now making decisions on the future of the fishery. Is this a fair and impartial process?

In my opinion, SHG and ESH have been actively involved/influential within the industry over the years and most certainly over the past four years. They have contributed to the situation we now find ourselves in. Yet, they are the same people, at every level, being given the power to decide the best way forward for the industry. This process needs to be independently investigated.

How can individuals/groups be so prominent in every step of the decision making process and more importantly who out of those position holders mentioned above have any expertise and understanding of private sector qualities and more importantly fisheries knowledge?

Quite frankly, I believe the decision to trade off our fishery, which has been traditionally associated with the island for generations, is to cover-up the lack of good management and bad decisions that have befallen us, simply because SHG and their partners were in the driving seat.

For our local experts (fishermen) to be given the opportunity to prove that if managed properly, the industry could well be in a better position, would be somewhat damaging to the egos of those who have assisted in killing off our locally owned industry. How sad!

I firmly believe, this calls for an independent inquiry of the entire process (i.e. SHFC Management over the years) to include financial management/expenditure, the investment tender and evaluation process and of course scrutiny of what information is being presented to Executive Council, the so-called decision makers.

**Regards,**

**Agatha Christie**

*(Letters also on pages 8-11 and 34)*

## For Sale

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Email: independent@helanta.co.sh  
http: www.saint.fm

# Editorial

There is a lot of attention being given to government subsidies at the moment; the now defunct Fisheries Corporation took most of the heat but the push to reduce subsidies will soon put other state-owned organisations and subsidised non-government organisations in the firing line. One point made during Thursday's Exco radio discussion on Saint FM was that directors of subsidised organisations will not be able to pay themselves a bonus any longer without having the payment confirmed by SHG.

Right now we seem to be a long way away from the policy which I assume still exists to reduce untargeted subsidies. A subsidy which offers the same financial benefit to everyone means people get subsidised who don't need it and wouldn't miss it if it was taken away. Connect St Helena is a good example.

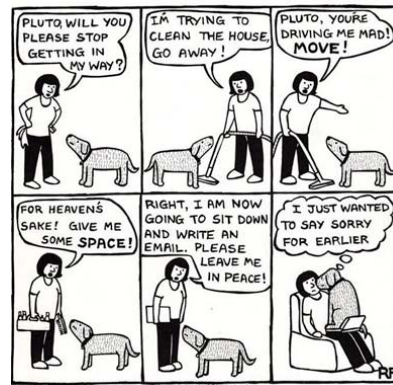
Connect are subsidised to the tune of £681,000 at the moment, we get the same benefit from it whether we are filthy rich or dirt poor. While the subsidy continues at that level DFID immediately point out how much subsidy Connect get when they put in a bid for £4million for another reservoir. Connect CEO, Barry Hubbard, readily admits he can pay more for his water and points out there are many more who earn enough to pay more. Most people use around 15 cubic metres of water in three months and one cubic metre costs £1.39. It will be costing 14p more from 1<sup>st</sup> April; that will put

around £2 on the quarterly utilities bill and the subsidy will remain about the same. With the way prices are going up in all directions Mr Hubbard thinks that's a joke. From 1<sup>st</sup> April Connect will be charging more to people who use more. The highest water tariff is for users who take more than 25 cubic metres from the system in a quarter year. The cost of one cubic metre jumps from £1.84 to £3.97, the same as the business or commercial rate. That change in pricing follows the line of 'use more-pay more' but doesn't do much for the 'if you can afford it, you don't get a subsidy' principle. Some well heeled residents can be using 24 cubic metres of water in a quarter and only paying an extra £4.32 as they just squeeze into the mid-range tariff. Two double gin and tonics cost around that price.

Untargeted subsidies mean slashing the subsidy by something like half and then using the already existing welfare payment systems to help those who really need help with the increased charges. At a rough estimate this would add about 20% to the water bill but DFID would look more favourably upon paying £4 million for another reservoir. Do you think that's a good idea?

People who are weighing up the pros and cons of better governance with bring to mind accountability and responsibility for elected representatives and immediately frown upon the external influence exerted by an unaccountable and unrepresented organisation such as DFID on very sensitive domestic island affairs.

**Have a good weekend**  
**Vince**



**KINGSHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE**



## SKITTLES PRESENTATION

**Knock Out Final**  
**Rusty Pistols V Extractors**

**7:30pm Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Followed by presentation of prizes and

**Live Music by**

**Good Vibez**  
*All Welcome*



**Entertainment at Silver Hill Bar for this Weekend**

Friday open from 4.00pm till late mix tunes by DJ Shavon

Saturday open from 5.00pm till 8.00pm country tunes  
from the bar 8.00pm till late mix tunes by DJ Kimmy Boom Bang

Sunday open from 5.00pm to 8.00pm



## **“Overwhelming desire for change” – Professor Sarkin**

The last thing Jeremy Sarkin did before going to the airport on Tuesday to take the plane home was to hold a press conference. One of the first things he said to the press was “there is an overwhelming desire for change” in St Helena and that “almost everybody says the present committee system does not work”.

Moving away from the current committee system - which relies on everybody agreeing on every issue without a vote being taken and little direct involvement from elected members in how policies are developed – could take one of two directions. Either the committee system is changed to take account of the need for more transparency from all branches of government and more responsibility vested in elected representatives or the entire government structure moves from committees to a ministerial system. Whichever way it goes, a chief minister is needed to ensure the move is made towards more transparency and accountability with more responsibility taken by elected representatives.

Dr Sarkin said his second report will be ready before the end of this month. He said one of the main reservations about making a clean break and moving to a ministerial form of government were doubts as to whether government had the ability or ‘capacity’ to effectively deliver an entirely new system. Sarkin was keen to point out that the choices for change should be considered and debated in a logical order. If some changes are considered first it helps with making decisions on other changes when they are considered in their turn. To start with, moving from decisions by consensus to individual responsibility needs more discussion and more understanding in depth. On the practical side, the existing committees can be aligned properly with the government directorates to help make decision-making a little easier. Discussions Dr Sarkin has had with people in the street as well as in conference rooms shows clearly there is a lack of trust, credibility, understanding and commitment between the governed and those that govern. Building responsibility, accountability and transparency into a new governance system will need to have the effect of reversing the present situation and close the trust and credibility gap between the electors and the elected. Exactly what is decided and why needs to be understood by everybody if the new system is to be trusted; moving to a system where it is clear who is doing what will go a long way to building up the trust and credibility which is lacking at the moment.

Jeremy Sarkin’s discussions with a range of people in various situations has convinced him there are enough “young dynamic people” and “experienced older people” available in St Helena to carry through the required changes and take on the responsibilities envisaged for elected representatives. Sarkin also made it clear there are many other details which need to be considered before any new structure can be put in place. The consultation policy should become law, there should be a Freedom of Information Act and the relationships between the Chief Auditor, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Public Accounts Committee and others, with government need reviewing. The relationship proposed between the chief minister and the chief director (or Chief



Secretary) and between the political and administrative heads of each directorate need to be agreed and understood. As pointed out by Dr Sarkin, a director who does not do what it is intended should be done can be subject to warnings and ultimately dismissal. The political decisions of the elected representatives will lead the way. Sarkin also envisaged the current island-wide constituency remaining but each councillor would have responsibility for representing constituents in particular areas.

Dr Sarkin closed the press conference saying that further public discussion and debate is not only expected but required as the process of deciding what changes should be made to our system of governance moves towards a final decision.



St Helena  
Government



### **WATER CONSUMPTION BELOW 1000 CUBIC METRES**

During last week, the average daily water consumption rate fell below 1000 cubic metres – the rate required to maintain a safe level of stored water volume on the Island. This level of water preservation must continue to improve our current situation and the community is praised for their efforts.

There has been no increase in surface flows to the Island’s reservoirs which remain dangerously low at around 37%. It would still take at least a few weeks of heavy rainfall for surface flows to increase and stocks to replenish.

The community is reminded that we are currently under an Island-wide hosepipe ban. If you see anyone using water irresponsibly or notice a burst pipe or leak, then please inform CSH on tel: 22255 immediately.

Every drop counts, every action counts - Everyone must save every drop of water possible.

**St Helena Resilience Forum  
5 February 2020**

## Follow Ups



Dan Snow's plan to post three online videos on his HistoryHit TV website is fast coming to reality. Dan told the *Independent* this week that all three videos will be available online in a few weeks time. It was intended there would be one podcast (audio only) available when Dan was here to research and film St Helena's history recently. Now, there will "probably be more podcasts in the future".

Another addition to the original plans is to hook up with another TV channel to make a longer film of St Helena. Dan Snow said, "it's such a wonderful island with a rich history, everyone I have told about it has been absolutely fascinated...."



### Extreme E

Extreme E spent last year developing the Extreme E car and finalising arrangements for the Extreme E race locations. With all but the fine details now completed on those important aspects, the Extreme E organisation is now turning its attention to making the RMS St Helena the number one priority. The *Independent* is informed an update on the RMS and its new role at the frontiers of new technology and taking the entire Extreme E race organisation around the world to the remote, climate change endangered locations which are now lined up for Extreme E racing.

Senegal, threatened with rising sea levels will be the venue for the first ever Extreme E race in January next year. That is called the Ocean Stage. In March the Desert Stage takes place in Saudi Arabia before sailing off for the Mountain Stage in Nepal. The RMS will anchor in Mumbai for that one. After that it is off to Greenland for the Arctic Stage before finishing the Extreme E 2021 season in Brazil for the Amazon Stage in October.

Alejandro Agag, founder of Extreme E and the concept to use the races to raise awareness of the dangers of climate change, told Top Gear recently, "We have these five fantastic locations that make up our calendar, and all of them are completely interconnected. We were in Lac Rose in Senegal last week and the people there are feeling the rise of the sea level – houses near the coast have been destroyed. However, we also saw the ice caps melting when we were in Greenland, and that is what causes the problems in Senegal, and then the deforestation and the fires in the Amazon are partly causing the rise in temperature that melts those ice caps. Everything is one."

Extreme E told the *Independent* this week there will be an update on the RMS St Helena "in the coming weeks". When the update is ready we will hopefully get some photos of the RMS as she is now; preparing for a unique and very special service to some of the most remote places in the world. No sweat there then; the old girl is used to doing exactly that.

### Inter-Island Trade warming up?

One month ago the Ascension Island organisations that sponsor the interisland charter flight announced that fresh produce air-freighted on a business to business basis between St Helena and Ascension will be conveyed free of charge. The special offer starts this month for a six month period. Also starting this month is the build up of contract workers for the Wideawake runway repairs. It will be interesting to know if Ascension experiences a 'Basil Read Effect' to the island economy.

It is reported a number of individuals expressed an interest in exporting fresh produce to Ascension and one or two plan to do so. Maybe the one or two who plan to do so will be lucky enough to get in on the ground floor as demand for fresh produce builds up in line with the Wideawake runway project getting underway.





# Thank you letter to the St Helena Emergency Services

At the top of Diana's peak the clouds were slowly encompassing us, it was a very calm and serene landscape. Something out of Lord of the Rings, we were lucky; not many people got to come here. Then on the way down, right near the bottom in a completely ordinary level patch of grass I slipped. I slipped and my left foot bent backwards. With a crack it went limp. I fell backwards and just lay there in immense pain. In seconds things were not so calm and serene.

My husband (Saad), brother-in-law (Sameed) and my two young children (Yusuf and Zainab) travelled on three flights across three days to visit Saad and Sameed's parents. My father in law recently moved to St Helena Island to work as the Chief Planning Officer and we had come to visit them in this beautifully stunning place. A week in I dislocated and fractured my ankle and was stranded at the bottom of Diana's peak. Because our phones didn't work on the Island we never took them on our walk. Sameed had to go to the car, drive home and get some help. Saad stayed with me. While we waited the longest time imaginable it started to rain. Saad cut up some plastic bags to help shield us from the rain. Finally, we could hear my father-in-law, Ismail climb up.

As he came up, he asked what was wrong and said lets go it is probably nothing. He was laughing, thinking it was nothing, just me being dramatic as usual. I said we should call the ambulance and you should have brought painkillers. I was so disappointed we would have to wait longer out here in the in what felt like the icy cold. Saad and his dad tried helping me up to support me down but there were still some steep bits and I just couldn't manage. We then decided to call 999 and explained our situation, by this time Sameed had also arrived and we waited for the ambulance. The three men tried making jokes to pass the time, I tried to blank out all noise to block out the pain.

In the distant I could hear sirens and after about ten minutes we heard people coming up. Maureen, Donna, Danielle, and Martin had come to save the day. They asked me what had happened, all I said is where are the painkillers!!! The pain was unbearable and so they tried to give me an injection of morphine before looking at my foot. I wasn't sure then what was wrong, only that it felt out of shape. After several failed attempts of putting a canular in mostly due to my non-existent veins, they decided to give me an injection in the muscle and some normal painkillers. After that they had a look at my foot and realised they needed more help to me down the rest of the slope. I was wondering if I could just roll down.

The fire service followed shortly after and my foot was put into a splint. As the foot was dislocated this made the pain worse than it had ever been. I could hardly breathe. The kind nurses provided me with some gas and air which made it all seem fluffy and calm. While I was like this, around eleven lovely fire-fighters helped lift me down to the ambulance. I don't remember the journey to the hospital, all I remember was that my foot was going to fall off and Saad making occasional bad jokes! Finally we arrived and Dr Sergio came to



**The Mountain Rescue Team**

see me. He asked what had happened and while I was explaining he relocated my ankle. It was a blessing he did it without warning because it was blindingly painful and then suddenly everything felt right again.

My foot felt fine and I wondered whether I could now go home!

Dannielle, the nurse, said we should just check if there are any fractures. I relaxed, of course there wasn't and I could probably go home. As I was led into the x-ray which was straightforward and quick we waited for the results. Dr Sergio and the nurses came and had a look. I had three fractures! I would have to have surgery the next day. I was so shocked, with two children under two how could I possibly manage. I was taken back to the room and told I can go home for the night as soon as the physiotherapist has been to see me.

Crutches? How would I ever manage those. I am the most uncoordinated person in the world. I can barely do normal tasks, let alone doing tasks while hopping everywhere. The kind physiotherapist, Sheila, showed me a few options to get around. They also put my foot in a huge moonboot to protect it from further damage. Sheila showed me how to use the frame and crutches, I was really nervous but I managed and then I got to go home.

The next day was surgery day, I was nervous but still in shock about what had happened. Saad was very reassuring and the kids had been well looked after by their grandparents. So much so they didn't even miss me!

*Continued on NEXT PAGE*

## Thank you letter to the St Helena Emergency Services

My turn was in the middle of the day so I waited with visits from family and friends to pass the time. Dr Waleed put me under general anaesthetic and it was over within seconds! I kept asking the nurses if it was done because I couldn't comprehend how much time had passed.

My foot was back in a moon boot and I was taken to the ward. I stayed the night in the hospital with Saad and my little one, Zainab and had lovely caring nurses attending to me. Zainab got to sleep on a whole bed all by herself! The next day after a x-ray to check if all those plates and screws were in the right place I got to go home.

The next few days were full of mixed emotions. It was hard to mentally accept I would not be able to run after the kids for a few months and the pain was an adjustment. We had lots of kind visits from all the friends we have made on the Island and it was nice to have good company. As the time has passed I am now pain free and getting more confident at moving around on one leg!

I'd like to say big thank you to everyone involved in my care. My rescue, treatment, and recovery was of the highest quality, no long queues and kind, caring and understanding staff who are not in a rush and don't treat you as a number! When we first came to St Helena Island I never imagined that this would happen. It has certainly been an adventure I can tell the kids about when they are older. We are definitely going to come back again, to this welcoming stunning island to tackle Diana's Peak once again.

I am now back in the UK and making good recovery.

**Yours faithfully**  
**Saba Anwar**



St Helena  
Government

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION REMINDER

### REVISED MAP FOR ST HELENA

A revised map for St Helena, to replace the Ordnance Survey map previously produced in 1990, is out for public consultation until Friday, 14 February 2020.

Key revisions to the revised map include:

- Positions of the three Peaks
- Diana's Peak height changes (correct to the Mean Sea Level height)
- St Helena Airport plotted
- Access (Haul) Road names plotted
- 10 metre and 50 metre contours are more comprehensive due to the one metre accurate Digital Elevation Model
- Ruins and new building locations are now updated
- Roads, tracks and paths are now more accurate to location and type
- 1:10,000 maps four sheets (previously six)
- Public facilities e.g. bus stops, public toilets etc added
- Conservation areas added

If you would like to view this map, please visit the Infrastructure & Transport Directorate's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Office at Essex House. Any comments or suggestions should be sent to the GIS Office by 4pm on 14 February 2020.

Any enquiries can be directed to GIS Manager, Devlin Yon, on tel: 22270 or via email: [devlin.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:devlin.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh).

# Your Opinion Counts

## A housewife's Lament

Gone are the days of tuna and wahoo  
The poor housewives don't know what  
to do

There's chicken, pork, lamb or beef.  
Oh! Thank goodness, what a relief.

"What's cooking today, Mary Jane?"  
"I guess it'll have to be corned beef  
again."

There's no 'tatoes or cabbage to make

it go round

The bugs and the worms have gone to  
town.

The tourists won't have our lovely  
fishcakes

All we can offer is Cod or Hake  
There's some calamari of sea-food mix  
I'll tell you luvey, we're in a real fix.

I wonder what Lily and Mogee would  
say!

Yah gawn luvey, back in the day  
we had Jack, Mackerel, Cavally, the lot  
Everyday we had something for the  
pot.

There's mince, chutney or round the  
mast

We had no ice, but the fish would last  
The old corn jar was all we had  
We salted our fish, it never went bad.

The conger was hung in the chimney  
to smoke

We helped and shared with the other  
folk.

No fridges and freezers to keep it  
fresh  
only a 'safe', made from wire mesh.

So if you've never had to eat tinned  
fish

Thank God! Now please make a wish  
That things will get better, let's hope  
and pray

That we'll eat fresh tuna again some  
day.

So now with Britain out of the E.U.  
Things may get worse for me and you  
With no stamps on our frozen meat  
who is to know if it is safe to eat?

**- Anonymous.**



# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear editor**

I remember when there was no private sector on St Helena and government ruled over everything and everybody, I', just wondering if they are trying to go back to those days, coz it seems they are now hell bent on killing of the all the sectors out there.

Reading the press release on the closure of Betrands cottage make me realise the incompetence of our leaders, it took them a few years to realise they were in competition with the private sector, I could have told them that from day one and I don't own any kind of certificate, now I understand why they continue to keep their government owned Mantis hotel opened, will it take 2 years before some dozy fellar wakes up and realise they are also competing with the private sector?

Well let me tell you now you are in competition and killing the hospitality sector real fast, like the AMP wrote in last week's paper government no longer believes in funding subsidies, so why is this place still open? I don't know how good you fellas is at maths down there but I just done couple sums in my head and I can tell you'll that you'll Mantis is up the creek, it hit rock bottom of the ocean long time ago. Close the place and use our money wisely

Then we have SAMS radio station again fully subsidised by government, we have a private sector radio station that is doing just wonderful and bringing new money into the island, why are you competing against them? Again could that money be put to better use, I can go on but now our government and 12 wise men know what is right from wrong, so please do right by your people and start making the right choices.,

How can the private sector ever make it when government is always stabbing us in the back, it will be interesting to know where all the people that is coming for the conference will be staying....any bets?

Anyway after all the anger and frustration of this week there was a light at the end of the tunnel for me, I brought my-

self a GOSSIP magazine and that brought a smile to my face

**Mr Hospitality sector**

**To whom it may concern,**

Since a young age I have always dreamed of owning my own boat and aspire to become a local fishermen. About six months ago with support from my family and Enterprise St Helena, this was made possible.

After a long and hard decision I decided to invest thousands of pounds into this business venture, thinking it was the right thing to do and bought Boat No. 85, The Swordfish; previously owned by Mr. Dorian Caswell.

You always hear that there are not enough young people within the fishing industry and young people are always encouraged to take this up in order to help build a future for our island. Now, I'm one of the youngest fishermen with a sitting boat and a most uncertain career, since the decision was to shut the doors of St Helena Fisheries. How sad is that? It seems that behind any proposal put before St Helena Government, they've already made their decision before hand anyway.....so why waste precious time, setting unrealistic deadlines only to be shut completely or not responded to? What's with the secrets? The public deserves to know, we fishermen deserves to know.

Unlike most of these decision-making people we can't just sit around and know that at the end of the month we have a salary to support our family. Unfortunately fishing DON'T work like that! Your wage is what you catch and it takes a hard day's work to achieve this...much easier said than done.

This decision had made a great impact on our livelihood, one which some find harder to see than other, or simply choose not to. Just like anyone else we have families to feed and bills to pay. But without hearing what's going to happen next, who's gonna pay my bills? Who's gonna support my growing family? With today's economy no family of four can survive on one person's salary, especially since most of our salaries on island are pocket change.

In conclusion there's no point covering anything up because eventually the truth will come out. But more importantly we have a right to know what's going on.

**Michael Sim**  
**Owner Swordfish**

**Dear Editor,**

I refer to SURE SA Ltd CEO's open letter to the community of St Helena in Independent on 24 January 2020. I apologise for the lengthy submission but I'd like to get my points over.

Reading the letter it is hard not to see this is SURE's way of attending to justify themselves to the community because of the imminent fibre optic cable to St Helena - a very rare occurrence in terms of written information despite criticisms and complaints.

There is no doubt been some positive changes, but there has also been some negative ones for customers. *Bad experiences are remembered more easily, longer and in more detail rather than good ones.*

SURE SA Ltd succeeded Cable & Wireless in 2013 as the telecommunications provider for St Helena, Ascension, Falkland Islands and Diego Garcia. The CEO says SURE has got the monopoly because they have an exclusive licence with the St Helena Government. Maybe right now BUT is that likely to change and DO WE WANT CHANGE to our telecommunications provider?

In the letter the CEO says the Licence does not give them the freedom to price and deliver services as they wish. In this respect as the only telecommunications service it is a critical part of St Helena's infrastructure and if there weren't controls in place there could possibly be threats to the continuity of the service or it becoming unaffordable. However the controls in place must surely benefit SURE as well, who has the monopoly after all.

Prior to the opening of the airport other competitors might not have been interested but maybe this could now change. If St Helena has to achieve its 10 year plan whereby it becomes safer, healthier, wealthier, greener and beer for children and young people, then our telecommunications provider ought to be able to keep the costs of the services available at reasonable prices, making it accessible for everyone and not creating a divide between the more wealthy and the less well off.

After all people have a right to freedom of expression and the internet is one way in which it enables people to do so. School children, young people and most folk who cannot afford the cost of a more reasonable internet package, have to

**Continued on NEXT PAGE**

# Your Opinion Counts

stay up to access the free night time window from midnight to 6am because the packages available are so expensive for ridiculously small amount of internet. Recently some people have commented on social media that they were told they had used megabytes which they could not account for.

When Paul McGinnety from SHG was promoting the benefits of having a fibre optic cable linked to St Helena, it was an exciting prospect about having affordable access to the internet FOR ALL and THERE IS STILL THAT EXPECTATION. In relation to the limited customer base this is common on small islands. The population of St Helena at the last census in 2016 was 4534 and when compared to the Falkland Islands their population from their 2016 census was 3168. Looking at what internet packages are available on the Falklands one cannot help but wonder why is there such disparity between these two islands with similar populations and provided by SURE.

Albeit the Falkland Islands are wealthier, but what is it that they are able to offer such generous amounts of internet at reasonable prices? If SURE on St Helena were able to offer the same internet packages would there be a need for a fibre optic cable right now?

For those who are not aware of the disparity in internet packages between the two islands or don't have internet access, you might find the information taken from both islands websites an eye opener or jaw dropping effect.

Falkland Islands

Packages Price per month:

XSML 4000 mbs £15.00

SML 13,000 mbs £37.00

MED 38,000 mbs £82.50

LRG 52,000 mbs £110.00

XL 95,000 mbs £198.00

PRO 158,000 mbs £330.00

St Helena Island

Package Price per Month:

LITE 800 mbs £13.31

BRONZE 1,600 mbs £20.23

SILVER 3,800 mbs £40.51

SILVER+ 5,500 mbs £54.34

GOLD 11,000 mbs £82.00

GOLD+ 24,000 mbs £160.06

In terms of services, SURE doesn't provide a callout service after hours or at weekends. Telephone or TV faults have to wait until Monday to be seen to.

If a customer wants a new service and the first of the month falls on a weekend, the customer has to wait until Monday to be connected. Yet the payment starts from the first of the month therefore the customer is paying for a service that was not accessible!

There has to be more flexible working arrangements by SURE to suit St Helena in the 21st century if we want to develop the island. Elsewhere essential services don't shut for the weekend. One can only imagine what would happen if for example other critical infrastructure services weren't available at the weekend if customers developed a fault with for example, their electricity or water.

SURE as the only telecommunications service provider has to offer more flexible working arrangements to suit customers needs. It cannot continue to be an 8 to 3 Monday to Friday service.

I'm sure people would be willing to pay a reasonable fee depending on how desperate they were for their fault to be rectified.

The telephone customer service number 22222 could do with some improvement. The music that is played while waiting for customer services to answer is deafening and stressful to listen to. SURE please adjust it.

The mobile phone service is a very useful and beneficial service. However, it's not without its flaws when people don't always get text messages, or sometimes you ring someone's number and it says the person has either travelled outside the coverage area or are unavailable at this time... you hang up and immediately call again and get connected even though the person one is calling hasn't moved or travelled elsewhere.

The recent change to the TV Set Top boxes was not without huge negative

concerns for customers.

Firstly, customers were given prior warning that it would change and the glossy promotion of being able to record programmes. However, what customers were NOT told was that they cannot record a programme and watch another one at the same time...WHAT'S THE POINT if we cannot do so with the change in a piece of equipment in 21st century?? Secondly, only when the set top boxes were ready to be issued did SURE tell customers the price - £24 each. An expensive mini box that one cannot record and watch a different program on. Maybe having SURE's logo on it cost one third of the price. What's has to happen to the old set top boxes other than being sent to the tip...more to go into landfill. After all customers had paid for them and now they have become extinct through no fault of customers. Couldn't SURE not take them back and see if they could be recycled from whoever they brought them from originally.

Thirdly, the set top box wasn't capable of linking up a number of TV's without a specific cable which the old boxes were able to do. SURE did not think to tell customers about it previously or make the cable available when they issued the boxes.

Fourthly, the change in the type of set top boxes was not something that customers requested so it became a TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT SERVICE!! Why weren't customers given the full facts from the beginning, that surely cannot be classed as good customer service from a well-established business....certainly not from customers point of view. This unfortunately is what customers have to put up with when there is no competition on small islands.

FROM SURE.COM WEBSITE: *Sure Business supplies world-class communications services to businesses and public-sector clients. Our combination of local knowledge and global expertise makes us the perfect communications partner for companies in the islands that need high quality, reliable connectivity so they can do business throughout the world.*

Are St Helenians getting world class communications services with the issues highlighted above?

When it comes to internet packages it SURE looks like the Falkland Islands are.

Having raised these concerns about SURE, SHG and our Councillors (whom I hope will read this) should take into



# Your Opinion Counts

account that with whomever they contract the telecommunications service to after the fibre optic cable is delivered, that it is the best one in the interest of St Helena and its people including that it **IS ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL** that is what the SHG wanted for its people was it not?

**Customer of SURE SA Ltd**

**Dear Editor**

After hearing a load of complaints from people on the streets about their water supplied by Connect St. Helena in their homes. We thought it would interesting to see in what areas were the complaints were coming from. It was astonishing to find out that the problem were Island wide. The main complaint was the taste and smell of chlorine in the mains water. The second complaint regarding discolored water, this was found in small areas especially in Half Tree Hollow. There were few complaints from consumers in areas such as Thompsons Hill, Blue Hill, Horse Pasture as their water supply comes from bore holes without any treatment. Some of the residents in Sandy receives treated water from Level wood treatment plant whilst some receive untreated water without any treatment very few consumers made complaints.

We have traveled abroad, those countries visited have treated water systems in place, which involves chlorine, the water never tastes or smells of chlorine, it therefore seems that there must be excessive chlorine levels introduced into our water supply by Connect at their treatment plants. We cannot understand why nothing has been done to rectify this problem, surely too much chlorine cannot be good for your health. It is ok saying buy filters etc, or drink bottled water, but this costs people money, some people cannot afford. There is water running to waste from springs in Sandy Bay that previously

supplied residents in Sandy Bay prior to the introduction of treated water to residents in Sandy Bay this again is inept management on behalf of Connect, surely they have had enough time to check the Island's water resources thoroughly, and put something in place to retain this type of water wastage on the Island.

We think there now needs to be a change regarding some members of Connect, there are guys from the old St Helena Water Authority, who have the experience and knowledge to help remedy this and other problems Connect are having, the problem with Connect is IT IS WHO YOU KNOW, NOT WHAT YOU KNOW we would like to put forward two proposals; First, why not get in a Hydro geologist to survey the ground water resource on the Island, (this person could be retired) so the cost for the particular could be kept to a minimum. Second, the accusations of some people washing their vehicles at Caissons, if this is true, then a fixed penalty of around £250.00 should be put place while the Island remains in this drought situation.

**Yours Sincerely**  
**Paul Leban**  
**Cyril George**

**Dear Editor**

## In SHG we Trust

Readers might like to know that there are several basic elements that a government seeks to be if it's to be worthy of trust by the people:

1. This means governments will have to be less hierarchical and interact more with the public
2. Public trust in government is one of the most important foundations upon

which the legitimacy, credibility and sustainability of governments are built.

3. Public trust helps to lower the transaction costs in any social, economic and political system, for instance, by improving compliance with rules and regulations.

4. It is also necessary for the fair and effective functioning of the government in service delivery and the provision of infrastructure for the citizens.

5. Particularly in times of crisis, public trust empowers the government to act decisively. Bitter medicine is more easily swallowed when there is public trust.

6. It helps to resolve tensions over emotionally-charged issues, such as resource sharing, distribution of benefits, and perceptions of free-riding.

7. Oppositions to governments are fuelled by people who have lost their trust in government and its institutions, who are deeply disenchanted by corruption, elitism, economic inequality – and by the inability of governments to deal with them.

8. It is critical that the Government manages fear, in this regard, the dissemination of trusted information proves to be vital.

9. Governments must be better prepared to function in and adapt to an environment where they are contested and scrutinised, in which the balance between public trust at the focal point of government and its institutions is shifting to the many – the people.

10. In such an environment, there is a need for more consultation and greater interaction between the public sector and the people sector.

What do readers think? How does SHG score?

**Contributed**

## St Helena Magistrates' Court 30th January 2020

**Donald Dzaro (33) of St Paul's**, pleaded guilty to failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis. He was fined £100 and disqualified from driving for the extended period of 15 months. He was also ordered as to pay £15.00 costs.

**Kevin Youde (58) of Seaview, Alarm Forest**, pleaded guilty to careless driving, failing to stop after an accident had occurred and failing to report an accident. He was fined £50 for each of those

offences and ordered as to pay £15.00 costs.

**Mike Caswell (24) of Ropery Field, Longwood**, pleaded guilty to careless driving. He was fined £40.00 and ordered to pay £15.00 costs. He was also disqualified from driving for a period of 12 months.





St Helena  
Government

## VACANCY TEMPORARY TEACHING ASSISTANT – FIXED-TERM

The Education & Employment Directorate is seeking to employ suitable persons who enjoys working with young people to join a committed team of teachers within St Pauls Primary School of the Directorate, as a Temporary Teaching Assistant for a fixed-term period of two months in the first instance, starting on or about 01st March 2020.

The purpose of the post is to provide assistance to the class teacher by supporting teaching and learning in the school/classroom environment. Plan and prepare programmes of work under the direction of the class teacher to cater for the learning needs of groups of pupils and or individuals

Salary payable will range from Grade TA1 – TA2, ranging from £7,226 to £7,562 per annum.

For further details about the post and a full job description, interested persons can contact Mrs Patricia Williams, Head Teacher St Pauls Primary School on telephone number 24737 or e-mail: Patricia.Williams@primary.edu.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies) and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Friday 14 February 2020.

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.



St Helena  
Government

## VACANCY SENIOR PAYROLL EXECUTIVE

### **Looking for a new challenge? Corporate Finance has an opportunity for you!**

Corporate Finance is seeking to recruit a highly-motivated person to join their team as Senior Payroll Executive in their Payroll function.

The post holder will be responsible to the Business Support Manager, for the day to day management of the Central Payroll function and processing of all SHG payrolls.

Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of Finance and Accountancy. The starting salary for the post will be £8,613 per annum, and will be reviewed on the achievement of competencies in line with the Finance and Accountancy Cadre.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Miss Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: [sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies) and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

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.





## ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

### Hydroponics Manager

(Two month short-term cover contract – between March to May 2020)

The Ascension Island Government (AIG) is looking for an experienced individual to provide cover to the existing Hydroponics Manager for a two month period beginning in March 2020. The successful candidate will be responsible for overseeing crop production at our small-scale hydroponics farm site. This is an important role for both AIG and the island, as the site provides the only supply of fresh produce between supply ships.

The Hydroponics Manager is therefore responsible for ensuring the regular supply of consistently high quality vine and leafy green variety crops. You will also be responsible for managing the relationships with local retailers. You will need to be practical and able to deal with day-to-day maintenance of the facility as well as manage the supplies and equipment to keep the site operational. You will be working with an experienced youth trainee to maintain current output levels of around 175kg of vine crops and 150 bags of leafy greens per month.

We are offering a short-term two month contract with a benefit package including a salary of £13,000 and:

- Food allowance of £3,089 pro rata
- Return journey to the country of recruitment/residence
- Rent free housing, with electricity and water allowances
- Free primary medical and dental care

To be successful you will be experienced growing a range of crops for commercial sale and familiar with food safety and hygiene standards. You will be sufficiently experienced with identifying and overcoming issues related to pests and disease, and familiar maintaining profit and loss accounts. This is a physical role and you will need to be fit and like outdoor work in all weather conditions.

This is a single status role. As such you will not be able to bring family to live with you, although they may be able to visit on a tourist visa.

To find out more about the role, or for an informal discussion, please contact:

Operations Manager, Siobhan Stewart, [siobhan.stewart@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:siobhan.stewart@ascension.gov.ac), or  
Assistant Director of Human Resources, Carolyn Nutkins, [Carolyn.nutkins@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:Carolyn.nutkins@ascension.gov.ac)

To apply visit: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/vacancies>

Closing date: **Wednesday 19 February, 12midday**

Interviews: **TBC, between 20 and 24 February via Skype**

**Please note that because of flight arrangements, the successful candidate would be required to arrive on Ascension on Saturday 14 March and depart on Sunday 10 May.**



**St Helena  
Government**

## **VACANCY BUSINESS SUPPORT EXECUTIVE**

Corporate Finance has an exciting opportunity for a Business Support Executive to join their team. The post holder will be responsible to the Business Support Manager and will provide administrative and accountancy support to the Business Support Unit, through achieving efficiency of operations, delivering a customer focused service and supporting Corporate Finance in meeting its statutory responsibilities.

Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of Finance and Accountancy. The starting salary for the post will be £6,722 per annum, and will be reviewed on the achievement of competencies in line with the Finance and Accountancy Cadre.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Miss Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: [sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies) and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

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.*



**St Helena  
Government**

## **LADDER HILL ROAD CLOSURE**

**The Highways Authority has given approval for Ladder Hill Road to be closed between 9am and 3pm (Mondays to Fridays) from Monday, 10 February 2020, to Friday, 20 March 2020.**

This closure is to allow the installation of rockfall protection measures above Ladder Hill Road.

As normal, only emergency service vehicles will be granted access. Other drivers needing to travel in and out of Jamestown during this time must travel across country via Side Path or Constitution Hill Road.

The public is thanked in advance for their continued understanding and cooperation.



**St Helena  
Government**

## **CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS**

The public is advised that the constituency meetings originally scheduled to take place throughout February have been postponed until March.

These meetings are an opportunity for members of the public to meet with their Councillors and raise any issues they might have. You are encouraged to attend the meeting in your district.

Constituency meetings will take place on the following dates and times:

Venue	Date
<b>Kingshurst Community Centre</b>	Monday, 2 March
<b>Harford Community Centre</b>	Wednesday, 4 March
<b>Blue Hill Community Centre</b>	Thursday, 5 March
<b>St Mary's Church, The Briars</b>	Friday, 6 March
<b>St Michael's Church, Rupert's</b>	Monday, 9 March
<b>Jamestown Community Centre</b>	Tuesday, 10 March
<b>Levelwood Venue (TBC)</b>	Wednesday, 11 March
<b>Sandy Bay Community Centre</b>	Thursday, 12 March
<b>Half Tree Hollow Community Centre</b>	Friday, 13 March



# SAINT SUMMER SALE NOW ON



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

## *Internal Audit Assistant*

Within the Internal Audit Department

### Job Purpose

To assist with making independent and objective recommendations that add value and improve the Company's Operations.

### Interested Persons Should:

- Have knowledge of computerised accounting/audit record keeping systems
- Have the ability to gather, analyse and evaluate facts and prepare and present concise oral and written reports
  - Ideally have Grade C or above in GCSE Maths, English & Accounting
- Desirably have at least 2 years of financial experience, through accounting/auditing
  - Be willing to work towards an Internal Audit Certification

Salary will start at **£8,322.24** per annum, (£693.57 per month)

For further information,  
including the Company's  
attractive benefits package,  
please contact  
Priscilla Joshua,  
Internal Auditor  
on telephone number: 22076  
or via email address:  
[internalauditor@solomons.co.sh](mailto:internalauditor@solomons.co.sh)

Application forms may be  
collected from Solomons  
Reception Desk, in the Main Office  
Building, Jamestown or  
alternatively an electronic copy  
can be requested via e-mail  
address: [hradmin@solomons.co.sh](mailto:hradmin@solomons.co.sh)  
and should be completed and  
returned to Anya Thomas, Human  
Resources Development Officer,  
Solomons Office, Jamestown,  
By **17 February 2020**

## VACANCY- PROCUREMENT OFFICER, PHARMACY SECTION

The Pharmacy Section of the Health Directorate is looking to recruit a highly motivated candidate to effectively and efficiently lead on all of the Health Directorate's procurement requirements in accordance with the St Helena Government's Procurement Regulations.

He/she will be responsible for assisting the relevant Senior Managers with the procurement, ordering, which has to be placed in the budget limit agreed beforehand. receiving and reconciling of stock as appropriate. This includes reporting any discrepancies between the stock received and the invoice to the relevant senior manager.

The duties of the post includes:

1. providing forecasts for the healthcare directorate's procurement needs in consultation with Senior Managers in order to prevent overstocking and running out-of-stock (OOS);
2. consulting with the relevant Senior Manager, producing the relevant procurement documentation, providing advice on the timescale and processes to enable the procurement of medications, medical devices and equipment and, ensuring that the Directorate adheres to Procurement Regulations and any other relevant regulations;
3. ensuring records on all procurement are kept up to date and easily accessible electronically to include regular reports to the Senior Medical Team as and when required through/by conducting monthly stock take and reconciliation of stock;
4. issuing purchase orders to replenish goods and tracks delivery and to maintain a register of suppliers for future references;
5. overseeing storage of products in accordance with the local legislation and to ensure First Expiry, First Out (FEFO) is applied in order to minimise any stock losses due to expiry by providing regular reports to improve losses from expired products;
6. through benchmarking and marketing testing, ensure best value and efficiencies are achieved by the directorate when procuring goods and services and, to obtain feedback from section heads on the quality of goods and services purchased.

Essential qualifications for this post are:

- .GCSE qualification or equivalent in Maths and English; at grade C or above;
- .Excellent written and good verbal communication skills to communicate at all levels Intermediate analysis of information or basic statistical analysis; Good IT skills in Access Dimensions and all Microsoft applications;
- . A valid drivers licence

The successful candidate should have at least two years' relevant experience in procurement and/or stock management.

Salary for the post is at Grade C commencing at £8,613 per annum.

Interested persons requiring further details regarding this post can contact Mr Vlad Cucuiu, Pharmacist on telephone no 22500 or email [vlad-dorin-cucuiu@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:vlad-dorin-cucuiu@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 Mrs Brenda Thomas, Human Resources Officer, Health Directorate or email [brenda.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:brenda.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Monday, 17 February 2020.

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.

*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.*



## VACANCY INCLUSION MANAGER

Everyone has a right to an education including children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The Education and Employment Directorate's vision is to provide inclusive schools which offers excellent support for the wellbeing of their students.

The role of the **Inclusion Manager** suits an individual with a strong presence and a desire to support students to reach their full potential. This rewarding and challenging role gives you the opportunity to promote, direct and oversee high standards of teaching and learning, pupil achievement and progression through effective inclusion for pupils with special educational needs.

The **Inclusion Manager** will provide strategic direction and help set the vision and ethos for all aspects of school life relating to children with SEND. You will play a major role in contributing to the raising of standards for all children with SEND ensuring inclusive practice and equality of opportunity for all.

Responsible to the Director of Education and Employment, the key tasks of the role include:

- To develop and lead on the implementation of policies and strategies within the Education and Employment Directorate in regard to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Inclusion and Safeguarding
- Lead and manage the Inclusion Service focusing on improving outcomes for children and young people
- Support head teachers in ensuring that schools effectively implement policies and procedures for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Inclusion and Safeguarding in line with Directorate guidelines
- Represent the Directorate in working with agencies such as schools, early years settings, voluntary organisations, other directorates and other external organisations in order to support and promote inclusion
- Provide strategic leadership to improve outcomes for all children with SEND and to meet targets relating to narrowing the gaps in achievement

Applicants must be in possession of

- A degree in relevant subject area e.g. Education, Psychology, Special Needs
- Local or UK Qualified Teacher Status
- At least 3 years recent experience of working in a teaching profession.

The ideal candidate must be innovative and creative in responding quickly to changing and varied needs of children and of the Education system, the ability to generate novel solutions to often complex problems that arise and ability to apply objective judgement. To note is that all shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake an online psychometric test.

Salary for the post is at Grade E, £14,138 per annum.

The Education & Employment Directorate is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to uphold these principles. 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.

For further details about the post or to arrange an informal chat, interested persons can contact Mrs Wendy Benjamin, Director of Education and Employment on telephone number 22607 or e-mail [wendy.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:wendy.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh) A copy of the job profile can also be obtain from the Education and Employment Directorate or Corporate Human Resources.

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies) and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Clare O'Dean, Senior Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [clare.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:clare.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

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# 'Treasured Saints'

A Pop-Up Exhibition

From 3pm-6pm  
Sunday 16th February  
ONLY

Along The Colonnade at  
Ladder Hill



A Series of Portraits  
by Michel Dancoisne-Martineau

£1 Entry Fee (50p Kids)

Refreshments Available

Raising funds for the  
Arts & Crafts Association





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

Over the last year, Connect Saint Helena Ltd have been carrying out a programme of water network upgrades at Bottom Woods. The Bottom Woods water network was in poor condition, inefficient and had passed its lifespan. As a result there was high water loss and thus a high cost of water production.

This project consists of two phases for a new treated water supply network in Bottom Woods. Phase 1, which consists of replacing the infrastructure in the lower section of the Bottom Woods water network is now complete. Phase 2 will include upgrading the remaining upper Bottom Woods water network.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd saw it as a priority to replace this network in order to provide an adequate, secure, reliable and sustainable water supply to consumers. The installation of fire hydrants at strategic areas for fire security is also part of the installation.

The connecting of consumers from the old to new network will be carried out over the next month. If there is a need to turn off the water at any time, consumers will be informed of this in advance.

The new network is buried, has pressure control and much more robust than the old network. So our Bottom Woods customers should receive a more reliable water supply.

**04 February 2020**



**AUDIT ST HELENA**  
External Auditors

### **TEMPORARY STOCK TAKERS REQUIRED**

Audit St Helena requires temporary personnel to assist with year-end stock verification

Audit St Helena is interested to engage suitably competent candidates on St Helena to assist with year-end stock verification at various local entities on the Island. Candidates must be numerate and computer literate and ideally have some working experience in performing stock taking procedures. This position will be paid at a rate of **£35 per day** on an as and when required basis. On the job training will be provided to the successful candidates.

**The stock takes will generally take place from 9 March 2020 and through to 13 April 2020**, actual dates will be confirmed to successful candidates.

For more information please contact Cassidy Beard on email: [cassidy.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:cassidy.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh) or Tel: 22111. Applicants can submit a copy of their CV to Cassidy Beard on the above email or at the Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown by 4 pm on Friday, 14 February 2020.



**St Helena  
Government**

## **SHY ROAD CLOSURE 10 FEBRUARY – 20 MARCH 2020**

**The Highways Authority has given approval for Shy Road to be closed from Monday, 10 February 2020, to Friday, 20 March 2020.** This closure is to allow the installation of rockfall protection measures above Shy Road.

Shy Road will also be closed to pedestrians and emergency services during this period.

The public is thanked in advance for their continued understanding and cooperation.



St Helena  
Government

## Invitation to Tender

The Saint Helena Government wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contract-

### Installation of Solar Street Lights

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

**Miss Tiffany Lawrence**  
**Procurement Officer**  
**Essex House**  
**Jamestown**

**Telephone No: 22270 or email**  
**tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh**

Should you require further details regarding this contract, please contact the Roads Manager, Mr Deon Robbertse, on telephone number 23765 or email roads.manager@helanta.co.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Thursday, 13 February 2020.

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

The Victoria shop has powerful portable air-conditioning units for sale 14000BTU's @ £658.80ea



Stay cool, shop at the Victoria!!



### Tender - Freelander

The St Helena National Trust has for tender a Land Rover Freelander 5 Door 1951cc (2001), sold as seen. Requires a new rocker cover, tyres and minor repairs.

Interested persons can contact Amy-Jayne Dutton on 22307 between 08:30 –16:00 hours, Monday to Friday, or email amy-jayne.dutton@trust.co.sh to arrange viewing and for any further information .

All tenders must be submitted, in writing, to the Director, Broadway House, Jamestown by no later than 4pm on 20th February 2020.





## **Vacancy for Senior Communications Engineer - Transmitting Station**

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a full-time **Senior Communications Engineer** at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island.

The post holder is expected to fulfil a leadership role within the Engineering Team, who are primarily responsible for transmitting programmes for the BBC and other customers.

Duties will also include maintenance and fault-finding on transmitters and associated equipment.

This post will be offered either on a Single or Accompanied status fixed-term contract, depending on personal circumstances and with bungalow accommodation.

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

### **Essential Qualifications & Experience**

- Engineer qualified to BTEC National Certificate Level or equivalent in a relevant subject.
- Consistent application of Engineering skills and developed experience in the role of Communications Engineer.
- Comprehensive knowledge of safe working practices and safety procedures.
- In depth knowledge of HF propagation and transmission, Electronic, Electrical, Data, RF and Power Engineering.
- Ability to analyse difficult technical problems.
- Able to demonstrate an in depth knowledge of electronics and fault finding.
- Consistent and developed practical experience of transmitter station's operation and maintenance work.
- Ability to communicate well, both verbally and in writing with both internal and external customers.
- Ability to maintain accurate technical and administrative records.
- Workshop skills, specifically hand and power tools.
- IT Competent, particularly in the use of Microsoft Office.
- Strong self-motivation and the ability to work with a degree of autonomy.
- Full driving licence.
- **The Ability and willingness to work flexible hours and to be available for call-outs and faults, outside of normal working hours.**

### **Desirable Qualifications / Experience**

- Experience of antenna systems.
- High Voltage Authorisation.
- People management experience.

Please contact the Senior Engineer, on +247 66800 (Extn 108) or email [Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac) for a **Job Application Form**, **Job Description** and for further information regarding the post.

Applications to be sent to:

Senior Engineer  
BBC Atlantic Relay Station  
English Bay  
Ascension Island (or email [Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac))

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by **Friday 14th February 2020.**

## **Vacancy for Electro-Mechanical & Transmitter Technician**

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for an **Electro-Mechanical & Transmitter Technician** at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island.

The post holder will form part of the Electro-Mechanical Team, responsible for the efficient, effective maintenance and repair of air-conditioning plant of all Encompass and customer sites, across the Island. Other responsibilities include maintenance and repair of electrical, mechanical, pneumatic and hydraulic equipment.

This post will be offered either on a single or accompanied status, fixed-term contract, with bungalow accommodation. Any offer of employment will be conditional on passing a medical examination and obtaining relevant security clearances.

### **Essential Qualifications & Experience**

- Certification/experience of air conditioning maintenance & repair.
- Competent/experienced in the use of hand tools, power tools and workshop machinery.
- Good understanding of safety procedures and safe working practices, particularly in the *Electro-Mechanical* area.
- Manual Handling Training and other Statutory Safety Training specific to the role.
- Good interpretation of electrical and mechanical diagrams.
- Be industrious, proactive and work to a high standard.
- Strong self-motivation and ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Basic computer skills.
- Full driving licence.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours.

### **Desirable Qualifications/Experience**

- Electrician qualified with City & Guilds 2330 Level 3.
- City & Guilds 2391 Inspection and Testing.
- Recognised mechanical craft qualification or equivalent.
- Qualified welder.
- Installation of household solar panels/water systems.
- SC level security clearance.

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

Please contact the Senior Engineer, on +247 66800 (Extn 108) or email [Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac), for a **Job Application Form**, **Job Description** and for further information regarding the post.

Applications to be sent to:

Senior Engineer  
BBC Atlantic Relay Station  
English Bay  
Ascension Island (or email [Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac))

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**



### **Vacancy for Rigger or Trainee Rigger**

Encompass Digital Media has a vacancy for a **Rigger or Trainee Rigger** at the BBC Atlantic Relay Station on Ascension Island.

The post holder will form part of the Rigging Team, primarily responsible for antenna maintenance of the Transmitting Station and other rigging & aerial maintenance related duties.

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

Any offer of employment will be conditional on passing a medical examination.  
Candidates short-listed for interview will be expected to pass a mast climbing test.

#### ***Essential Qualifications & Experience***

- Good knowledge of Safe Working practices and Safety Procedures, especially relating to Working at Heights.
- Physically fit, able to pass a climbing medical and climbing test.
- An understanding of paint systems and preparation of surfaces.
- Good mechanical/electrical aptitude, with an understanding of basic mechanical/electrical systems.
- Competent use and operation of hand, power tools and workshop machinery.
- Be industrious, proactive and work to a high standard.
- Able to prioritise tasks and work without supervision.
- Basic computer skills.
- Full driving licence.
- Ability and willingness to work flexible hours.

Further Qualifications/Experience requirements are detailed in the **Job Description**.  
(If necessary, the successful candidates will receive complete training to fulfil the above requirements.)

Please contact the Senior Engineer on + 247 66800 (Extn 108) or email [Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac) for a **Job Application Form**, **Job Description** and for further information regarding the post.

Applications to be sent to:

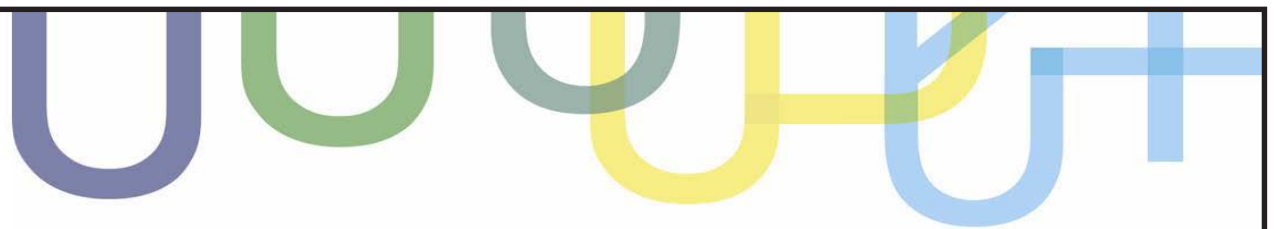
Senior Engineer  
BBC Atlantic Relay Station  
English Bay  
Ascension Island (or email [Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac](mailto:Linda.Yon@encompass.co.ac) )

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

### **PROPOSED ELECTRICITY AND WATER TARIFFS COMMENCING 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020**

Connect Saint Helena is proposing revised tariffs commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Whilst there has been good progress in reducing operating costs we still require a sizeable subsidy from SHG to remain solvent putting pressure on Connect to increase charges to the consumer. We are proposing to keep electricity tariffs at their current level and to focus increase on water and sewage charges. The combined effect for most people will be less than inflationary increase on their Connect bill. A high user tariff is proposed for units in excess of 25; this is to discourage excessive usage and is set 5 units above average domestic consumption. The Minimum Income Standard will be adjusted to take into account this increase and qualifying agricultural customers will receive payments directly from Saint Helena Government to offset this increase. Water charges have not increased since July 2018 & electricity charges have remained static for the last 4 years with the last increase in April 2016.

	<b>CURRENT TARIFF</b>	<b>PROPOSED TARIFF</b>	<b>Increase</b>
<b>ELECTRICITY TARIFF CHARGES</b>			
<b><u>Usage Charges</u></b>			
Domestic Band 1 (first 1,000units)	£0.30	£0.30	Nil
Domestic Band 2 (units over 1,000)	£0.46	£0.46	Nil
Commercial and 3 Phase	£0.46	£0.46	Nil
<b>WATER TARIFF CHARGES</b>			
<b><u>Quarterly Standing Charges</u></b>			
Domestic	£10.33	£11.36	£1.03
Commercial	£31.00	£33.10	£3.10
Agricultural	£10.33	£11.36	£1.03
<b><u>Domestic Use</u></b>			
Treated Water first 15 cubic metres	£1.39	£1.53	£0.14
Treated Water 16 – 24 cubic metres	£1.84	£2.02	£0.18
Treated Water over 25 cubic meters	£1.84	£3.97	£2.13
Untreated	£0.92	£1.01	£0.09
<b><u>Other Use</u></b>			
Commercial	£3.61	£3.97	£0.36
Agricultural treated	£1.84	£2.02	£0.18
Agricultural untreated	£0.92	£1.01	£0.09
<b>DRAINAGE TARIFF CHARGES</b>			
Domestic Standing	£18.00	£19.80	£1.80
Commercial Standing	£28.42	£31.26	£2.84



CURRENT TARIFF	PROPOSED TARIFF	Increase
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#### ELECTRICITY OTHER CHARGES

Disconnection	£40.56	£42.18	£1.62
Reconnection	£40.56	£42.18	£1.62

#### WATER OTHER CHARGES

Connection	£35.15	£36.56	£1.41
Disconnection	£35.15	£36.56	£1.41
Reconnection	£35.15	£36.56	£1.41

#### DRAINAGE OTHER CHARGES

Empty private septic tank (domestic)	£71.38	£78.52	£7.14
Empty private septic tank (commercial)	£114.65	£126.12	£11.47
Unblock private sewer line (domestic)	£71.38	£78.52	£7.14
Unblock private sewer line (commercial)	£114.65	£126.12	£11.47
Connection	£35.15	£38.67	£3.52
Disconnection	£35.15	£38.67	£3.52

Anyone wanting to understand more how the tariff changes will affect them are welcome to call Connect on 22255 or email [enquiries@connect.co.sh](mailto:enquiries@connect.co.sh)

Any comments you might have regarding the proposed tariffs can be forwarded to:

*The Utilities Regulatory Authority, The Castle, Jamestown marked for the attention of Yvonne Williams or by email to: [yvonne.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:yvonne.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh)*

All comments must be received by 12:00 noon on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.





**AUDIT ST HELENA**  
External Auditors

## **AUDIT ST HELENA invites applications for the following job vacancies**

### **ASSISTANT AUDITOR**

**Salary range £8,067 to £9,904 per annum**

#### **Established position**

The Assistant Auditor will assist with financial and performance audits across the public sector and will support other business processes.

Candidates are required to have good GCSE grades in English and Mathematics. As an entry level career position candidates will study the ACCA Foundations in Accountancy programme leading to Certified Accounting Technician.

Key skills include efficiency in business processes, good communication skills, and an aptitude for figures. IT proficiency including Excel, Word and Outlook is also essential.

### **PERFORMANCE AUDIT MANAGER**

**Salary range £28,430 to £34,392 per annum**

#### **24 month fixed-term contract commencing April 2020**

The Audit Manager will plan and manage the delivery of performance audits to report on value for money in the use of public resources.

Candidates will be educated to degree level and hold a professional or master's qualification appropriate to the role. A minimum of five years experience in performance audit, ideally in a public audit office, and three years managerial experience is required.

We are looking for a team manager with excellent people management skills who can plan, prioritise and project manage workflow and develop their team. In addition to subject matter expertise candidates will have effective stakeholder management and communication skills.

### **BUSINESS SUPPORT OFFICER**

**Salary range £8,613 to £10,765 per annum**

#### **Established position**

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

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

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

### **PRINCIPAL AUDITOR**

**Salary range £21,737 to £26,690 per annum**

#### **24 month fixed-term contract commencing April 2020**

The Principal Auditor will lead the planning and delivery of financial audit engagements across SHG and other public entities in accordance with auditing standards.

Candidates must be a qualified accountant with a minimum of three years experience in financial audit, and at least one year in a supervisory capacity in an audit environment, together with knowledge of recognised financial reporting frameworks.

We are looking for a team leader with good communication and people management skills who is able plan, prioritise and project manage workflow and use their own judgement. Excellent analytical abilities and IT skills are also required. Working knowledge of CaseWare is desirable.

Job Profiles and Application Forms are available by calling 22111 or emailing [cassidy.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:cassidy.beard@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Applications should be submitted by hand or by email to Audit St Helena, First Floor, New Porteous House, Jamestown no later than 4pm on Friday, 14 February 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and police clearance. St Helena Government 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.

# East Coast Update - Addie Thomas

May I firstly pay my sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones since I last wrote. I am very sorry. Indeed, my sincere thoughts go out to all who continue to struggle with ill-health at this time. Whenever I return to the island, it makes me sad to think about the faces I will no longer see. I miss the many characters in our society, yet, there are many tales of these folk that still regale us. For that I am thankful.

Well folks, we seem to have rode 'gun slingin' into 2020. I've been keeping an eye as events have unfolded with our precious fisheries and I've also been taking a little initiative and attended the New York Times Travel Show this side.

Since the day I could understand, I have had fish on my plate and fishing discussions around the dinner table. I got my first fishing rod at the age of 8 I think, and my brother was always there to break my line when I got it trapped in the rocks off The Eye. I remember begging Dad one morning to let me go fishing on the Westerdam with Waylon and him, he said "no you'll get sick!" I didn't.....I did my bit in plucking fish out of the nets whilst Waylon lay sea sick in the bunk. Ha! Fishing isn't just an industry on St Helena, it is a vein running through the island's fabric. I hope that as the preferred supplier of fish processing is integrated, the Fisherman's Association will be incorporated in discussions. If we want people to work with us, we need to lead by example. Synergy will only be achieved by continuing to empower the fishermen of today and tomorrow. Let us move forward without fear and learn lessons from other successful economies. I wish we could be that little more considerate to people's time and state of mental health based on how intimate our population is. We can't keep expecting the islanders to pick up our short-fall.

On a rain-drenched morning, I and thousands of other people from all around the world descended on the Javit Conference Centre in Mid-Town Manhattan. The world (including a nosy St Helenian) had come to walk the colourful and informative aisles. I've certainly made good use of my island outfits. It's nice reminding people that my accent is something more than British. Talking about St Helena and all that I remember as a child and now know as an adult fills me with pride. We have so much to offer the traveller. Even if our political and financial governance needs some working. I've handed out a few USB's don't you know. I am meeting a luxury travel lady (friend of a friend) in Toronto too, so I'll ask her to consider what we have to offer. I'll do my best, that's all I can do right?

I spoke to performers, chefs, whiskey connoisseurs, half dressed gay men (with beautiful bodies may I add mmmmmmm), Vietnam war veterans, etc.... The highlight of the show for me was seeing the South Africans perform their tribal singing and dancing. It resonated with me due to the book I am reading at the moment. What their colleagues didn't say, whilst sitting cosily on the stands, they said in action and flare. It reminded me that authenticity is indeed the only way to really get our message across. This for me, is the real South Africa. I enjoyed seeing what Canada has to offer too. There were a large number of Caribbean, Central / South American and Canadian stands which may be the primary difference with Europe / UK travel shows?



I read with interest the bottom notes on the Sarkin Report, I would like to read this report in detail and especially note the omissions of transparency and accountability. Two words I have often used in my own communications in an effort to build trust. One thing is for certain, the time for a lack of both is through. The Government have a duty to get their house in order. Too much time I suspect has been 'lost' in previous years and not enough time has been spent on improving our legislation and housekeeping. Playing catch-up is vital, lest they be caught 'napping' further and the results be more financial strain on an already creaking system. As the island opens up to the world, due-diligence and legislation will become vital. Re-training no doubt will be paramount and this all takes time, time which is already in short-supply.

I am reminded just how people are struggling the world over with Governments. I watched Anti-Trump parades in Washington DC's China Town (they hold nothing back on their placards), I spoke to pro-Trump bartenders in Philadelphia and I've seen money focus tighten it's grip on the lives of people in NYC. One thing is for sure, people do not trust Governments. Where trust has been given, it has been abused too many times. I've had similar conversations with people in the UK, Australia, South Africa, Canada ....and so on. The vote not to call witnesses in Trump's impeachment trial they say is a foregone conclusion. They suggest that the 2 republicans who voted 'for' were probably briefed to do so knowing full well that there would not be 4 voting. (Have to have 4 in order for the vote to be successful along with more votes than nay).

"The House of Trust takes a very long time to build, but only a day to bulldozer to the ground".

I'm reading "Long Walk to Freedom" at the moment by Nelson Mandela. It is interesting to see how many say "we learn from our mistakes" but .....some never do. Some sins against humanity will never be forgiven and will definitely never be forgotten. We can try but some cuts are too deep for some people. Why? Not everyone changes their thinking. What is ingrained in us as children sometimes lives through with us till the day we die. A perfect world would see us all forgive, forget and live in harmony, I'm afraid mankind will not achieve

**Continued on NEXT PAGE**

# East Coast Update - Addie Thomas

this. We can at least try to get someway there. We see the past as wrong and bad, instead of seeing it as a lessons / experiences which brought us to this very day. If only we could accept what is (now), we could work forward from there.

I am very keen to learn how life will change under the new banner of Brexit (indeed I must also do my own research too). I see various travel and funding notifications in the Independent but the key question for me is "how will it affect OTs human rights?" Perhaps the Human Rights department could update us? Apologies if I have missed already printed information. Whilst we already have a very limited amount of information available to us due to St Helena not being part of the Freedom of Information 2000 Act, I would like to know as the island progresses through tricky change, how will this affect our values which have helped to maintain an unprecedented level of peace for hundreds of years?

Whatever investors we welcome to our shores, I do hope that these investors are not allowed to spin a web of part ownership of multiple industries thus creating once again a monopolistic approach. I urge islanders not to sell land or homes to outward investors but to consider your islanders first and foremost. Now is the time to work the land and the sea for the benefit of our children of the future. Encourage our children to be educated in both life and academia. And read..... read what little you can asking others you trust, if necessary, for further explanation. It is the duty of every St Helenian to be in possession of knowledge important to our peaceful co-existence with others.

One day, when our lives are over, we will ask the question "what legacy have we left?" We cannot take wealth and material gain with us, but to leave a legacy where we considered the entire community alongside of our own personal fortunes would be something to have engraved on our tombstones hey?



I love that Sadio Mane, Liverpool's striker carries around a cracked phone and speaks of what is the need for many nice cars, watches and phones when he can use his wealth to build hospitals, educate those who alas would get no education, build important infrastructure etc. He's become my favourite footballer. Just for that reason.

I've seen so much kindness on our island, people helping those who are struggling, whether it be funeral arrangements, support whilst on medical abroad, or just a plate of food. Let's never lose that because it is so rare in this day and age. I'd rather have just what I need and see another have what they need than have more than I need and see others struggling so much. There are so many people who have come to live on the island from abroad who have contributed much to the development and prosperity of our island folk. Thank you to those people who do not segregate yourselves but have embraced our community.

Keeping up with island changes is a full-time job indeed in-between travelling, I have tried my best to visit places of solace to seek alone time so that I may play catch-up. (Today I am in the Chelsea Market in Houston). Unfortunately, I shall have to provide official time and responses to a few emails I have on the laptop when I get back to the UK as, being 'here' is vital to my learning. I am enjoying my freedom. One of my favourite places to work is the New York Public Library with it's beautiful high ceilings, old wood paneling and rows of hardback books on shelves below mid-height balconies. It's right on the corner of Bryant Park in Midtown, amongst the hustle and bustle of Times Square, yet when you walk in, you forget that outside is bedlam.

The metro continues to fascinate me. It really does reek of urine most of the time and you do get some interesting characters travelling. A lot of begging and the trains (especially on the weekend) are most unreliable. The excuse is, "its a huge network". So is London's network yet I applaud London's underground after enduring the NYC metro. I like using it, I just never know what to expect when I get there. Lots of face masks being worn, I don't know, I don't rate that method of protection too much. Chinese New Year was a blow out by all accounts.

I walked The High Line today and by it is a 'Vessel' Staircase, I call it the Honeycomb. A young man of (19) flung himself off this weekend and died. It got me thinking again about the point of no return that some people find themselves in. I often talk of our family's story because we have lived and grown from this tragedy to tell the tale. Accepting where we are in life and knowing that life has its peaks and troughs may help to combat fear of a bleak future. No one said that life was going to be easy, yet if we can muster the strength to manage a tough life, if those around us can show us unconditional love, kindness and compassion, we have a chance. I too have been in the pits of darkness throughout my life. I always believed that things would be better in the morning, and they were. I always remembered that someone out there loved me and would be sad, and someone out there also had a tougher existence than me. I'm not a specialist, I can't pretend to know the darkness that envelopes



# East Coast Update - Addie Thomas

someone who sees no hope at all. I can only share my story of hope (and emotional growth), after the fact.

The smell of marijuana still follows me wherever I go. The other night I came home and thought I'll have a nice cup of tea in the lounge before calling it a day. The place stank of the stuff. I protested my discomfort to my flatmates only to find that the potency was coming from a floor down. The buildings are old and perhaps not insulated that well, so if someone is having a massive spliff (or 20) we can cancel our own order for the evening. I managed to avoid the vomit on the stairwell on Saturday evening though. Oh the joys.

The weather has been strange. We did get a dusting of snow a few weeks ago but generally, the days haven't been very cold. Today has been exceptionally warm. I've walked so many wonderful neighbourhoods (including Harlem one night as I took the wrong train and it was a little bit 'interesting', lets just say, I didn't hang about in the area for too long). My favourite area so far is Williamsburg. Every time I think I've seen all the amazingness of the East and West Villages, I turn the corner and there's just another amazing eatery / bar to check out. I'm putting on a lot of weight, oh dear.

I've been in bars where an absinthe cocktail is being made in St Mark Place in the East Village, I've sent recordings home from New Yorkers wanting to say hello to the Islanders. It's such great fun. I have however found that the fellas can be a bit tiresome when it comes to having a friendly conversation and leaving it at that. I was told by one guy that ladies come to live in NYC and very quickly learn to be 'fierce' about unwanted attention. Guys (and girls) don't sometimes appreciate how dated and tiresome this can be, especially when it also comes with alcohol. I guess I also chat to anyone who wants to chat so I have to manage how the conversation goes early on. I had one old (enough to be my Dad) fella offer to take me out to some of the finest restaurants (but not before showing me his Rolex - thank God that was the only thing he showed me) and was perturbed when I said that I'm all fine-dined out from London. Gordon Bennett! Bit insulted really, do I really look that old?

The craziest thing. I was in a bar and my friend from the UK, her ex GF walked in Lea Delaria (she used to star in Orange is the New Black - big scary butch lesbian). I'd actually seen Lea perform in the Hipperdrome in London (jazz and stand up comedy) but she wouldn't have remembered little insignificant me. I had just been to see Janette (my friend) play piano at a Bond Night a couple of months before. So I sidled up and said "do you by any chance know Janette Mason?" To which she issued a foul mouth rant about how she knew her very well ...including my friend Linksi who had invited me to the Hipperdrome evening. Small world or what?

Philadelphia is another amazing city on the East Coast. I took the Greyhound Bus (2 hours) from NYC and spent the night there. It's a smaller NYC I think. Beautiful back streets where quaint brown stone townhouses stand side by side. Running up the steps to the Art Museum as 'Rocky' did in the film was a childhood wish. I wished my family could have been there. If you go to DC, don't miss Philly folks. Its a



great place to visit.

Folks may know that the old capital of America was Philadelphia before being moved to Washington DC. Therefore, the original cracked Liberty Bell is in Philly and the Constitution was signed here in September 1787. My favourite part of Philly was Queen's Village and South Street, off the beaten track and quaint little side streets with fantastic eateries. I ended the evening playing country music on the jukebox in a quaint little bar with locals and travelling business people alike. One of the guys said "oh I have 2 queen-sized beds in my room if you want to take one instead of going all the way back to your bnb". Good one! No thanks.

Washington DC is like a modern day Rome. The main Government buildings are built in Sandstone and what with their MPs called Senators, I suppose you could really say it is. I was chanced to meet a few chaps from CBS News filming people at the House of Senates and so had an interesting conversation about what they thought of Donald Trump. They suggested that "all of their politicians are crazy fools", but they had to be careful what they said out loud as one of the cameras was rolling 'live'. With 17 hour working days out in the cold they were sharing coverage with other media companies. I have never seen so many black SUVs in my life. I'm going to write to them and ask if the've ever heard of 'car sharing'.

I've been so lucky with the weather and captured some beautiful images along the way of memorial / iconic locations in DC. There are so many museums and sadly, I did not leave enough time over the two days to get around to even a few of them. I was quite disappointed by the White House though, I guess I expected it to be larger for some reason. (Big, Big, Big and all that .....). There were some interesting protestors outside.

It was only when I left NYC that I realised how manic things are in this great city. I'd definitely agree that NYC is the City

*Continued on NEXT PAGE*

# East Coast Update - Addie Thomas

that doesn't and won't sleep any time soon. I still don't (and don't want to) understand American Football. Baseball I can stomach as we call it Rounders.

Next stop .....Toronto via Niagara Falls courtesy of Amtrak. I'll head up to Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City before heading back to NYC for 10 days (and Paddy's Day). I can't wait for home cooking, a warm, fresh bed and 'a home' as opposed to flat sharing with strangers. Some of you may remember my Canadian friend Fiona who travelled up with me 20 years ago to the UK when she and her Mum visited the island (her Mum was looked after by Mrs Grey as a little girl during WW2 - her Dad was a Captain in the Army posted on

St Helena).

Sadly, after that, it will be black to life as we all know it. All good things have a finite lifespan. Even the country singing I endured at the Travel Show. She was dreadful. Don't sit at the front when you have never heard the singer before in case you need to leave mid-flow like I had to do. Unfortunately, at this point in my life, time is precious and I'd rather expect someone to manage being offended than endure 'cat on a hot tin roof'. Or maybe "The Slow Death" by Phantom Limbs might better describe the situation.

Have a great weekend folks.

## Spectacular Cricket T20 Starts at Francis Plain



The RMS T20 Cup got underway in spectacular fashion with the defending Champions Royal Challengers taking a stumble after Jamestown heat came out on top of a low scoring encounter last Saturday afternoon.

Sundays Matches were as equally entertaining. In the morning fixture Ross 'Rabbit' Henry blitzed Woodpeckers bowling attack, leading Allstarz to a comfortable victory. 'Rabbit' smashed 11 6's and 8 4's scoring a stunning 106\*. He took his team beyond the required target of 122 within 8 overs.

The afternoon match brought a welcomed return to form for Western Mustangs who successfully chased down 137 to defeat Lions and pick up their first win of the season.

See below for a Summary of the results...

### RMS T20 CRICKET CUP RESULTS

**Sat 1 Feb 20**

**Heat 123/3**

Scott Crowie 50  
Gavin George 46

Andrew Yon 1/12  
Jordan Yon 1/14

**Challengers 111**

Cliff Richards 30  
Andrew Yon 20

Damian Burns 3/24  
Scott Crowie 3/31

### Performance points

Scott Crowie 3, Gavin George 2, Damian Burns 1



## Spectacular Cricket

### T20 Starts at Francis Plain

**Sun 2 Feb 20**

9.30am

**Woodpeckers 122**

Perry Leo 34

Gary Benjamin 19

David Francis 4/21

Ross Henry 2/22

**Allstarz 127/0**

Ross Henry 106\*

Gareth Johnson 8\*

**Performance points**

Ross Henry 3, David Francis 2, Gareth Johnson 1

1.30pm

**Lions 137**

David Pryce 24

Kurt Jonas 24

Mark Williams 4/24

Eddie Duff 3/8

**Mustangs 139/5**

Makyle Fuller 32



Shane Williams 31

Dan Marlow 3/32

Kurt Jonas 2/30

**Performance points**

Eddie Duff 3, Mark Williams 2, Dan Marlow 1

**FIXTURES**

**Sat 8 Feb 20**

1.30pm

Pirates V Mustangs

Umpires: Lions

**Sat 8 Feb 20**

9.30am

Lions V Challengers

Umpires: Allstarz

1.30pm

Heat V Woodpeckers

Umpires: Mustangs

**SHCA**



## Golf Report - Sunday 2nd February 2020

The Solomon's sponsored annual golf competition is one of the biggest events on our competition calendar. Last Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February the first round of the 36 hole strokeplay compe-

tion got underway at 12:00. This event attracted 22 golfers. The top 5 finished as follows;

Player	Nett Score
Leeroy Caswell	61
Peter Johnson	65
Hensil Beard	67
Arthur Young	69
Donald Bowers	70
Arthur Francis	70

There was only one two ball pool winner Mr. Arthur Young. Final round will be played on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Tee off time is 12:00. Plenty of prizes to be won.

Members are reminded that the biggest social event on our club's Calendar The Annual Dinner Dance will take place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7:30pm. Remember to sign up at the club house. The AGM will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 preceded by a 10:00am tee off Texas scramble competition.

We wish you all a great weekend...!

**SHGC**







**St Helena  
Government**

• St Helena's current risk assessment is low for our community

• St Helena Health Directorate is liaising with multi-agencies to monitor the spread of the Coronavirus

### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

The St Helena Health Directorate continues to liaise with Public Health England, the World Health Organisation and key on-Island stakeholders to monitor the spread of the Coronavirus globally and take protective action for St Helena.

The current risk assessment is low for our community.

In place is a questionnaire which must be completed for those arriving by air, with heightened vigilance for those who have been to or interacted with people particularly from China where the virus has originated. The Health Directorate is on alert for those with flu-like symptoms who are travelling to St Helena.

The virus symptoms are flu-like but a person can be a carrier without symptoms for up to two weeks. Many recover from the virus but the elderly and those with comorbidities are at a higher risk. Infection is also airborne and can be passed on to others who are in close contact (within two metres).

There is no vaccination at present and the Health Directorate currently has test kits on order that will rule out other illnesses for those showing flu like symptoms.

Director of Health, Ted Rayment, said:

*"We recommend that our people avoid non-essential travel to China. Travelers who get ill while travelling in China may have limited access to timely and appropriate health care."*

*"We have a good inventory of personal protective equipment ordered during the Ebola concerns. Our advice to the general public is to ensure infection control with hand washing and disinfection solutions. Avoid close contact with people suffering from respiratory infections. People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing and wash hands)."*

*"We will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates."*

**#StHelena #Coronavirus #AltogetherHealthier**

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

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

**SHG**

**4 February 2020**

1

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## Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

As the Premier League teams go into their winters break Liverpool has opened up a 22 point lead at the top of the table after Leicester City drew with Chelsea 2-2 and Manchester City loss to Spurs 2-0.

Liverpool experiences a tricky start against Southampton who had chances to take the lead in a scoreless first half. However once Oxlade Chamberlain opened the scoring 2 minutes into the second half Liverpool ran riot as they added 3 more goals in a 4-0 win.

With 13 games to go Liverpool just needs 6 more wins to secure the Premier League title.



**Liverpool Captain Jordan Henderson only weeks away from lifting that elusive Premier League Trophy**

Man City created chances in an ill tempered match against Spurs and even had a penalty saved. Spurs then went on to score from their first shot on target and then increase the lead with their second shot on target.

Young Dutch star Steven Bergwijn marked his debut with a superb volley in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute and 8 minutes later Son Heung Min made the game safe for Jose Mourinho men. By then City was down to 10 men after Zinchenko was sent off for two yellow cards.

This result moved Spurs up to 5<sup>th</sup> place 4 points behind 4<sup>th</sup> place Chelsea.



**Bergwijn the 250<sup>th</sup> player to score on his debut**

Out of the other teams chasing the European places only Sheffield United manage to pick up all 3 points as they defeated Crystal Palace 1-0. Manchester United drew 0-0 with Wolves at Old Trafford and Arsenal drew 0-0 away at Burnley. Watford threw away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 against Everton. Watford slips back into the relegation zone. West Ham too let a 2-0 lead slip against Brighton as the match ended in a 3-3 draw.

As we head into the Premier Leagues first ever winter break; fear not as there will be Premier league football on our TV. Unlike other European Leagues where all football stops in their winter break the EPL has staggered the teams' time off.

12 teams are already on their break and the other 8 teams break will start from next week.

First weekend:

Saturday 8 February: Everton v Crystal Palace 12:30 GMT, Brighton v Watford 17:30 GMT

Sunday 9 February: Sheffield United v Bournemouth 14:00 GMT, Manchester City v West Ham 16:30 GMT

Second weekend:

Friday 14 February: Wolves v Leicester 20:00 GMT

Saturday 15 February: Southampton v Burnley 12:30 GMT, Norwich v Liverpool 17:30 GMT

Sunday 16 February: Aston Villa v Tottenham 14:00 GMT, Newcastle v Arsenal 16:30 GMT

Monday 17 February: Chelsea v Manchester United 20:00 GMT



6<sup>th</sup> February 4 minutes past 3pm 1958 is a date and time no Manchester United fan will ever forget as this was the day one of the most talented football team ever put together was destroyed in the Munich air disaster.

The team had been travelling back from a European Cup tie against Red Star Belgrade when their aircraft stopped in Germany to refuel. The first two attempts to take off from Munich airport were aborted; following a third attempt, the plane crashed.

**Lest we forget.** The stats tell us of the brilliance of this team. Average age of 22, had just won back to back league titles, in the semi finals of the fairly new European Cup. This team would have undoubtedly won so many more trophies. Duncan Edwards, Roger Bryne, Tommy Taylor, Mark Jones, Liam Whelan, Geoff Bent, David Pegg and Eddie Coleman; the immortals. RIP flowers of Manchester

The Munich Air Disaster is an indelible part of United's history, as is Sir Matt overcoming his crash injuries to work alongside his assistant Jimmy Murphy and build another great team which won the European Cup 10 years later.

# THE ROCK

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON  
SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> February @ 11 am FOR  
PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

At No 3 Unit Longwood Enterprise  
Park

Guest Speaker Regina Ebner from  
Arocha UK

*Transport is available from  
Jamaatown, HTM  
Contact 23249*

## PRAISE & WORSHIP



# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Editor,**

I write to share my complete surprise to discover that St Helena in a short period of time has now adopted the term Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

In July/August of last year International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) was asking about this very concept and at the time we were advised by the Senior Fisheries Officer (SFO) that he was unable to provide a theoretical TAC for Yellow fin Tuna (YFT) and Big Eye Tuna (BET) within St Helena's EEZ as there is no such information. He did however state that a TAC should become clearer once the ICCAT tuna tagging programme is complete.

In September 2019 when the Fishing Licensing Policy for St Helena was being consulted, there was no inclusion of TAC, which is acceptable, given the reasoning provided by the SFO. Yet, when I attended the Economic Development Committee (EDC) meeting that took

place last Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, I was taken aback to observe that TACs are now live and kicking and at quite a substantial and perturbing rate.

I appreciate that the ICCAT regional limit for Yellowfin Tuna is 110,000mt and for Big Eye Tuna it was 1575mt last year, however this may well have decreased to the current status of stock to 1250mt; but this provides no evidence as to why St Helena has all of a sudden suggested that we can have a TAC set at 900mt (inclusive of both species 450T respectively).

I applaud legislative members of the EDC who questioned these figures and other sections of this policy, as a decision has been withheld for now, until evidence can be provided as to how this level was set.

It was however interesting to hear the Marine Conservation Officer claim that this had been recommended based on historical data, scientific information and then finally information presented for the investment prospectus.

It is worth noting that:

- Tuna Tagging Programme is still ongoing and the report is still to be finalised
- Historical Data will not confirm that St Helena has ever caught 450T of BET

Nor do we have data that suggests that we can sustain regular catches of YFT at this rate

It therefore raises an important question: was a TAC introduced, primarily, to accommodate the investment prospectus and dare I say it, possibly the now received investment proposals?

If so, I believe this to be a dangerous and irresponsible approach to determining such critical status of our stocks, as it will entice and encourage the exploitation this tonnage, without knowing what potential detriment this could place on our fishery in the short-term but most definitely for the long-term.

From the information being received from the Tuna Tagging Programme, it demonstrates that St Helena has an unusually large percentage of residential stock; therefore I had envisaged and anticipated that a more precautionary approach would have been taken. Unfortunately this was not the case, therefore I urge the EDC to approach this with sensitivity to ensure that we do not venture down the road of increasing our catches today for a brighter tomorrow, which could result in overfishing our EEZ today and hence destroying our stocks for tomorrow.

**Kind regards,  
Julie Thomas**

## Tree in the moat falls on to parked cars

A tree in the moat alongside the Coffee Shop fell in the direction of the cenotaph and is reported to have fallen on cars parked in the area. Police were called and work began cutting up the tree for loading onto a truck transported to Horse Point. No injuries or serious damage was reported.



## Family Night Out

Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> February  
2020

Time 8.30pm ~ 1.30am

Music by DJ Rat

Bar & Refreshments

Entrance Fee: Adults

£1.00

5-15yrs 50p

All are Welcome



# Airlink want the South African High Court to save it from bankruptcy

Airlines in South Africa are well known for suing each other, going bankrupt, or both. South African Airways (SAA), the country's national airline, has gone the same way as Basil Read and is now in the middle of the business rescue process. Airlink, who rely on SAA's passenger reservation system for all their flight bookings as well as the collection of the money paid in fares claim SAA owe them R700 million (£36 million) in fares collected by SAA but not handed over to Airlink. Airlink fear there is a real risk they too will face bankruptcy if the money owed is not paid.

SAA has been in business rescue since 5<sup>th</sup> December last year and so cannot simply be taken to court by Airlink. South African law protects companies in business rescue from law suits. Airlink had to get permission from the business rescue practitioners (BRPs), the administrators trying to save what they can of the airline, before they can go ahead with a claim for the money owed. The story drags on because the BRPs have not responded to Airlink's formal request to go ahead with their claim for money. So, Airlink have gone to the High Court in Johannesburg, asking the court to order the BRPs to pay what Airlink claim is owed.

Airlink's CEO Roger Foster told the South African *Moneyweb* online news, "Without this cash being paid, Airlink may not be able to continue operations in the very near future". This of course is of special interest to St Helena because if the risk to Airlink becomes reality the only passenger link we have to the rest of the world is the four berth cabin on the MV Helena. The jobs of 1,700 Airlink employees are also at risk.

prices. Last year Airlink also took SA Express to court in a dispute over additional air routes handed to SA Express by the SA Government. It seems the winners in the South African aviation industry are the lawyers.

## The new water fountain, not quite like the old one

The original Jamestown water fountain, more properly known as the Rockfall Memorial Fountain erected to commemorate the loss on nine lives in April 1890 when about 1,500 tons of rock fell from the valley side onto Jamestown, has a replacement which still languishes on a pallet awaiting a permanent home. It was originally expected to be received on-island from the UK manufacturers in February 2017 and be erected a little to the south of the original fountain's position. Unfortunately the fountain has gone the way of many St Helena projects and has bitten the dust.



The replica fountain would be a welcome addition to the used and abused Main Street scene, but even so, the replica is a mere shadow of the original. The original had a very impressive canopy supported by four columns. It appears the budget for the replacement could not be stretched to include the canopy.

Maybe whoever it is who sorts out the fishing industry could then turn his or her attention to getting the replica Memorial Fountain (part one) in position. Will it be connected to the water supply or does health and Safety object to that. If so a water fountain with no water supply could be reduced to a laughing stock. It was a good idea, a very appropriate gesture but unfortunately there are too many *jobs worth*\*\* knocking around for anything worthwhile to be achieved.

\*\* *jobs worth* - officials who uphold petty rules even at the expense of humanity or common sense



The original memorial fountain complete with canopy



**Despite legal disputes Airlink continues to expand its route network. Airlink now has 44 destinations on 64 routes**

SA Express is another South African Airline placed in business rescue recently after receiving a series of bailouts from the South African Government and also suffering from non-payment of debts by SAA. Airlink are also suing Air Namibia over a price dumping dispute. Air Namibia is accused of charging fares on the Windhoek-Cape Town route at below cost



## Miss St Helena 2020

Saturday  
9 May



Contact Darrin or Sharon Henry for more info,  
or visit the Miss St Helena Facebook Page

Calling all young ladies  
(16 - 30yrs) interested in  
joining the Miss St Helena  
2020 event.  
Come along to an informal  
information and Q&A meeting  
at the Half Tree Hollow  
Community Centre on  
**Tue 11 Feb, at 5.45pm**

The 4-week programme for  
2020 is going to be another  
amazing, not-to-be-missed  
experience with a few  
brand new surprises!!

We are dropping the swimsuit  
round and introducing the:  
**'Attention Seeker'**

You won't want to miss this!!



## THE INSIDE ST HELENA BUSINESS CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE BANK OF ST HELENA

Wednesday 19 February, 2020  
Blue Hill Community Centre, 9am - 3pm  
£2 fee on the door, includes lunch & refreshments  
Cash Bar available throughout the day  
Exclusive event for members of the **Inside St Helena App**

Contact Darrin or Sharon Henry for more info  
[www.insidesthelena.com](http://www.insidesthelena.com)    [info@insidesthelena.com](mailto:info@insidesthelena.com)

**SATURDAY**  
8th February

# COUNTRY CURRY NIGHT

At the Godfathers Rock Club In aid of the Ageways Charity

**Music by:**

**Bobby Goose**

➤ **Multi Raffle**

➤ **Prize Dances**

**Best Dressed Country  
Male & Female Prize**

## Menu:

- ❖ *Beef Curry*
- ❖ *Chicken Curry*
- ❖ *Lamb Curry*

All served with Rice, Mix Vegetable & Condiments

- ❖ *Dessert (included)*



**Tickets cost £8 (per person)**

Call Melvin Benjamin 23395 or Jeremy Johns 61483

**The meal will be served @ 7:30pm, following public  
opening from 9pm with a £1 entrance fee**

Book now or come along after and support the Ageways Charity, a Charity who's mission is supporting the elderly community