

THE ST HELENA Est. 2005 INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XV ISSUE 21, 1st MAY 2020, PRICE £1

*Earth Station Licences
Ready for Launch*

*Is IEG the Shape of Things to
Come?*



**ST HELENA'S DAY
CELEBRATIONS CANCELLED**



From Ascension Island



Letters

*'Flights to UK'
'Animals and Coronavirus'
'New normal, new model'
and more*

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor

New normal, new model

According to WHO the corona virus is not going to go away. It has fundamentally affected the lives of people around the world showing all sorts of shortcomings, particularly fractures in structures of the global economy, showing also how closely we are globally connected and rely on each other in the supply of goods and commodities, especially essential foods. It also shows how important people are in dealing with a global problem of the magnitude of the corona virus pandemic. It is being said that life will not go back to what has been normal. We will have to adjust to a "new normal" lifestyle.

St Helena is also affected by the corona virus pandemic. In fact our isolation and having to import the majority of what we need makes us even more vulnerable. Yet being an island with a small population can act in our favour. With such limited access, people arriving will have to undergo isolation in the complex at Bradleys, to ensure, as far as possible, that St Helena stays virus free.

With a small population, the size of a UK village, we can manage the change of lifestyle to take the island forward in

a new way centred on people and working together to maximize resources. The conversion of Bradleys camp to be an Isolation complex shows how it can be done involving support from different sectors of the community. . This can provide the model for future development. It will be centred on people as well as maximizing our resources in a sustainable way.

People centred development and engaging all sectors of our community, will ensure we maximize all our resources. Islanders as the major resource, in building family homes alone, have shown how they have contributed to the economy and social housing – 73% of all housing in the 2016 population census. With over 1,330 of these homes, at today's value it amounts to more than £150m, collectively the largest private capital investment since the East India Company left in the 1830's. More than 60% of the adult population have worked in offshore employment supporting the economy in sending home remittances and also acquiring and returning with a range of new skills.

A shift in focus from single high risk aspects of development like tourism in the 2010 MOU to broad-based, people centred development does not require a new road map. Provision is set out in **SHG 10 Year Plan 2017 – 2027**. At present there are shortages on the island and problems with international supply chains particularly in supplying essential foods. The 10 Year Plan tells us the island needs to be "more self-sufficient", mentioning "food security" and increasing "local production of fresh fruit and veg-

etables". The plan draws attention to "water security" and commits that SHG "will have a long term water strategy for the island supported by adequate infrastructure in order to reduce the impact of drought and climate change" The plan says SHG "will continue to invest in agriculture", give "assistance to farmers" and "will continue to invest in the agriculture and fisheries sectors" for "sustainable agriculture and fisheries".

At the beginning of the SHG 10 Year Plan it says

This document provides a road map for long-term planning policy, budgets and legislation. It is the collective responsibility of SHG to deliver on the commitments made in this document. All strategic and operational planning must be aligned to this document. The commitments made in this plan will be delivered by SHG with support from key partners.

This is an incredibly important time for the island and this road map will help us focus our resources and efforts on delivering what the community have told us is important to them.

The Plan also says SHG will

Make sure we are not only concentrating on sustainable economic development but

also supporting inclusive social development

From adversity we have an opportunity to refocus and have a new model for inclusive sustainable development that puts people at the centre, addresses the special circumstances of St Helena, adjusting to meet demands of the "new normal". It's about survival.

Basil George

Coming to an unfortunate end on Sandy Bay Beach....could it be nature, science or plain old global warming?????



Tristan and Ascensions news

Gough project team members return home by sea and air

Reports from Fiona Kilpatrick on Tristan and Sean Burns on Ascension Island

Bringing home members of the Gough Restoration Programme Team from the island after the 2020 project was cancelled by the RSPB in March due to coronavirus pandemic fears has proved a logistical challenge due to the strict lockdown arrangements imposed in South Africa.

Five members of the team who lived in South Africa were picked up by the Ovenstone fishing vessel MFV *Geo Searcher* on 5th April 2020. The ship arrived at Cape Town on Easter Sunday 12th April, but was not allowed to dock until the following Thursday 16th April and passengers had to remain on board for a further period of quarantine and were expected to be allowed ashore on Tuesday 28th April.



Chris Jones' photo shows the *Evohe* at anchor off Gough Island on Friday 28th February 2020.

Meanwhile, another eight team members were picked up by the sailing yacht *Evohe*, which had been used to transport thirteen team members from Cape to Gough in February 2020. As these people needed to return to the UK, the yacht headed north and transported the group all the way to Ascension Island where they arrived on Tuesday 21st April. As they had spent so long at sea they were given clearance to come ashore the same day and spent five nights in guest house accommodation. They departed on the RAF flight on the morning of Sunday 26th April along with other Ascension-based people who needed to return to the UK and elsewhere. Ascension Island Administrator Sean Burns added that 'We are very grateful to the RAF for their help repatriating the team to the UK'. Of the Gough Restoration Project Team members assembled on the island in February 2020, only the three RSPB Field Biologists Michelle Risi, Christopher Jones and Alexis Osborne remain to over-winter ready for the scheduled annual arrival of *SA Agulhas II* in September, which will presumably go ahead.

Note on Sean Burns

Sean Burns is Tristan da Cunha's longest-serving Administrator after completing 6 years and 5 months over two terms on the island. Sean arrived in September 2010 to serve a first term dominated by the MS *Oliva* wreck on Nightingale Island in March 2011. He departed in October 2013 to serve as Deputy, and later Acting Governor, on St Helena. Sean returned to Tristan da Cunha for a welcome second term in November 2016. Sean took up a third South Atlantic post when he became Administrator of Ascension Island in March 2020. It is significant to be able to record how joined-up the UK Overseas Territory of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha is during 2020.



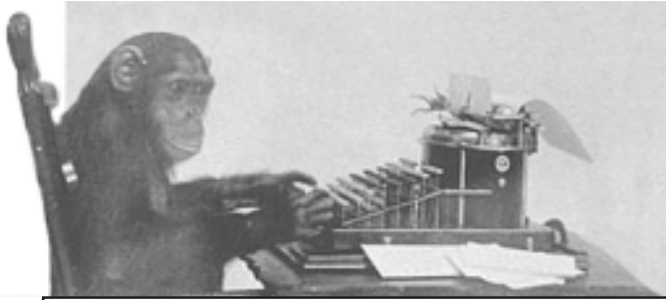
Photo taken at Ascension Island's Wideawake Airport on Sunday 26th April shows Ascension Island Administrator Sean Burns (far left) with the eight members of the Gough Restoration Project Team, Marina Burns (5th from left) Head of Administrator's Office, Xander Halliwell, (just under the tail of the aircraft at the back) and alongside Marina Wing Commander John Kane (Base Commander).



Scene at Wideawake Airport on 26th April showing the RAF plane preparing to take off for its flight to the UK. Ascension photos from Xander Halliwell.

Clap for Our Carers

At 8 o'clock last night, the MV *Helena* sounded its horn with a mini light show for STH's contribution to the 'Clap for our Carers' campaign. She was joined by a substantial gathering of vehicles and people on the Seafront, who sounded horns and flashed lights and people were seen banging on various items they had taken just for the heart-warming occasion. STH Police vehicles with sirens and blue lights, led a lengthy procession up to the General Hospital for everyone to express thanks to those in the health services. It was said that in many other areas of the island, people were seen and heard, clapping, cheering and marking what has become a weekly tradition in the UK every Thursday night. STH joined the campaign for the first time last night at the invitation of Mr Daniel Taylor, Commercial Manager for AW Ship Management, who is no stranger to STH. Captain Adam Williams of the MV *Helena* was pleased to blow the ship's whistle last night, along with other vessels in the AWSM fleet that are already participating. He said it is a token of thanks to all in health services and frontline workers across all sectors of the global community. It is hoped that STH will continue to participate at 8 o'clock every Thursday night. Unfortunately, High Knoll was not seen to be lit up especially for the event.



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Editorial

Welcome to the merry month of May. The sun still shines between the rain showers, the reservoirs are filling up and the Island's closed door has kept out the dreaded disease. I wonder what it will all be like when I write something for the 29th May edition of the *Independent*. It is very likely we will still have no scheduled air service but surely a special flight to bring back people stranded in Jo'burg can be arranged. Logic tells us there is no problem; not for the South Africans at least. It's South Africa that's got Covid-19, not us. This means it is St Helena that is taking the risk not the South Africans. Sadly, when it comes to sticking strictly to the regulations, logic does not come into it. Why do so many people love regulations so much they stick so close they are hugging them?

I noticed a vacancy advert for a pharmacist for St Helena. Closing date for applications is 13th May. It seems Vlad has come to the end of his contract and is leaving us. It had to happen I suppose but he has been excellent in his job and very focused on customer service while keeping his good sense of humour at all times. Vlad will be with us until the end of June, so make sure you stock up on hand hygiene gel before then.

Another report I came across this week still has me puzzled. The report is in a UK local newspaper called the Lancaster and Morecambe Citizen and is about Alan Thomas going to Burnley and Chorley (in Lancashire) for training. This happened after two firemen from Lancashire visited St Helena to give training on rope rescue techniques the year before. The puzzle starts because these visits were in 2001-02; why report them this week? Also, Burnley and Chorley are not exactly 'local' for a local newspaper centred on Lancaster and Morecambe. In between there is Blackburn and Preston as well as the Forest of Bowland. The features editor for this local newspaper made it clear this all happened in 2001-02; he must have been very, very desperate for something to write about.

I heard a bit of Thursday's discussion on Saint FM about the dreaded disease. These chats can be more informative than the more formal press conferences and cover a wider range of related subjects. Director of Health, Ted Raiment, mentioned using dogs to harvest rabbit meat to supplement the uncertain supplies of frozen and local fresh meat during our isolation. Well done Mr Raiment. You and me think alike. Not only can dogs be trained to be effective at keeping down the population of rabbits and putting meat on the table for those who like rabbit meat they can also be used to keep down the rat population. There is plenty of work here for our esteemed dog trainers and it would be using yet another local resource to best effect. My observations of dogs after rats, usually by digging them out of a rats nest at the base of a tree, are that they do not eat them. Once they have persuaded the rats to

make a run for it they get them between their teeth, give them a shake and drop them. Once the rat is dead and therefore motionless, the dogs immediately lose interest and start sniffing out something else of attraction to them.

A group of 170 Dutch academics have caught the attention of many by listing five proposals for a better world after the pandemic is behind us. The first proposal is to use a new way to measure economic growth. They say we should measure growth and investment in critical public sectors such as health and education as well as advances in clean energy. Any growth in the oil, gas, mining and advertising sectors would count against a country using this measurement of economic growth.

The Dutch academics also advocate a universal social policy system which taxes income, profits and wealth but recognises the virtues of reduced working hours, job sharing and the value of healthcare workers, teachers, tutors, professors and so forth. A new look is also given to agriculture so that it becomes based on biodiversity conservation and the promotion of mostly local and vegetarian food production. Fourth on the list is travel. A shift from luxury and wasteful consumption to basic, necessary and sustainable travel is what should be aspired to. Fifth and last is debt cancellation focusing on small business owners and their workers as well as debt-laden countries mostly in the southern hemisphere. These proposals are all based on the dangers posed by climate change and cannot be ignored any longer; but they probably will be.



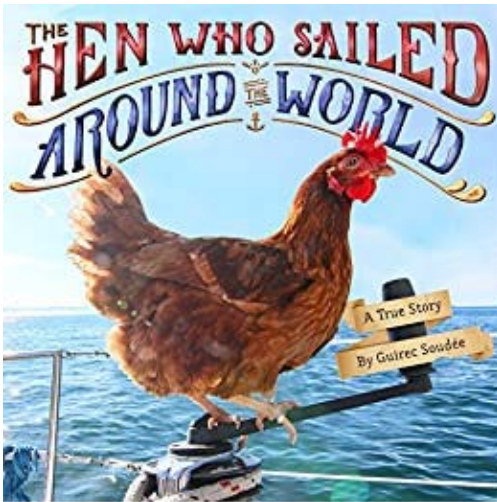
FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

Quick Bits

The hen who sailed around the world

Some will remember Guirec Soudée who is memorable for his sailing partner Monique, his little red hen. Some time back Guirec stopped off at St Helena; he and his hen became well known. Now, he and his hen hit the headlines in the sailing magazines and websites when Guirec won the Cruising Club of America's Young Voyager Award for 2019. It was a 5 year, 45,000 mile voyage from the Arctic to the Antarctic; and it was a solo trip, despite Monique being aboard.

Guirec picked up Monique in the Canary Islands and looked upon her as a source of protein because of the eggs she could supply. The relationship humans often develop with animals won through and Guirec wrote a children's book about Monique's global voyage, not his own.



From the Canaries Monique sailed off to the Caribbean and then went north the Greenland where she spent 130 days of winter. After that it was navigating the North West Passage and then straight down to Cape Horn, non-stop. On the return journey in the Atlantic Monique crossed to South Africa, then to St Helena, Brazil, French Guyana and to the Caribbean once more. Then it was a call at the Azores before finally arriving at Guirec's home on the French coast of Brittany.

Daily Mail Gets it All Wrong Again

The Daily Mail, like Trump, is very good at getting it all wrong, Daily Mail readers, like Trump supporters, believe anything they are told. The exasperation that is felt by some because St Helena gets personal protection equipment when NHS hospitable workers are dying through the lack of it is understandable; but the Daily Mail should expend just a little effort in trying to get their facts right. The gullible and deluded Daily Mail readers are under the impression we on St Helena are now the proud owners of £2.5million worth of paper or plastic masks, gloves and gowns; maybe a few disposable boots too at that price. Pitcairn Island is reported by the Daily Mail to be a neighbour of ours. Who the hell writes this stuff?

Lower tax rates for some businesses

SHG issued an announcement recently reminding business

that either export goods or produced goods which helps to bring down the volume of imported goods that a 10% reduction in corporation tax applies to them. Reductions also apply to the self-employed and 'a person other than a company'. The reduction apply to export of goods and services, fish and fish processing, honey cultivation, growing and roasting coffee, farming and butchering meat, farming vegetables and other local produce, brewing and distilling, traditional craftwork & jewellery and upholstery or clothing.

NATO countries commit to spend 1.7% of GDP on Defence

A business information company in the US has calculated how health services could benefit if some of a nation's defence budget was allocated to the "war of coronavirus"

What If Military Budgets Were Spent On Healthcare?

Healthcare items that could be bought/financed for the unit price of selected military hardware

Virginia class Submarine \$2,800m	Fully-equipped ambulances 9,180
FREMM Class Frigate \$936m	Doctors (general practioners) 10,662*
F-35 fighter jet \$89m	ICU beds 3,244*
Trident II Missile \$31m	Masks 17m
Leopard 2 tank \$11m	Ventilators 440

* Based on OECD's yearly doctor salary & annual maintenance costs per ICU bed. Source: Greenpeace



statista

Covid-19 in the British Overseas Territories

Territory	29th April		
	Total Cases	Deaths	Total Recovered
Anguilla	3	0	3
Ascension	0	0	0
Bermuda	111	6	48
British Indian Ocean Territory	Not known	Not known	Not known
British Virgin Islands	6	1	3
Gibraltar	141	0	131
Cayman Islands	73	1	10
Montserrat	11	1	2
Pitcairn	0	0	0
St Helena	0	0	0
Tristan	0	0	0
Falklands	13	0	11
Turks & Caicos	12	1	5
TOTALS	370	10	213

Data source: Worldometer

Earth Station Licences Ready for Launch

This week Executive Council rubber stamped the draft Satellite Ground Station Policy which is required to regulate and administer the satellite ground station operators who set up a communications centre in St Helena when the link to the Equiano Cable is functioning. It is pointed out in the introduction to the policy that the now the legal and regulatory framework for future satellite ground stations has been set, there is more work to do with regard to the present communications regulation. The policy states, "*The current legislation, the Telecommunications Ordinance (1989) needs to be updated to provide for the type of regulatory framework that consumers and industry have come to expect. A policy for reform of the regulatory framework for Communications will be subject to public consultation during 2020. That policy will look to enshrine principles such as transparency and consistency within it to encourage and support the development of communications on St Helena.*"

It has become clear, as the ground rules developed for exploiting the advantages of the super-fast Equiano cable, that the telecom infrastructure St Helena now needs to be developed to make full use of the Equiano cable advantages which should be available from 2022, if all goes according to plan. The new policy for modernising island communications "*will also address issues such as responsibility for the operational oversight of the regulatory framework and enforcement.*"

Preparations for the landing of the cable and accommodating the new telecoms infrastructure are not yet complete. Chief Economist, Nicole Shamier, said, "*Now that we have the policy framework for licencing, we can move forward with the next stage of the work plan which is to determine, using the planning process, the sites where Satellite Ground Stations can be co-located on the Island.*" The choice of sites for satellite ground stations is limited. On the website *earth station St Helena* which was set up to encourage interest among satellite ground station operators, it is mentioned, "Given the island's rugged topography and land availability the number of suitable sites with a favourable horizon mask is limited." This description has an undertone of 'buy while stocks last' however several ground station operators have expressed an interest. In planning terms the limited availability of sites may mean some compromises have to be made in terms of visual amenity, environmental considerations or established land usage. However modern satellite

ground stations can be much smaller than was previously the case. The new policy does not apply to small satellite receivers for domestic use, VSATs or antennas on moving platforms of any type, such as ships, planes, road vehicles and satellite phones. VSATs include 'not more than 3.8 metres in diameter' in their description.

Ground station licences will have a life of 10 years subject to payment of the annual fees and nothing having changed in the specifications for operating the ground station. SHG has the power to cancel a licence if a breach of the licence conditions occurs. The fee schedule ranges from £8,500 per antenna per band for ground stations taking data from orbiting satellite networks to £25 for an amateur satellite service.



A satellite tracker in the Amazon Web Service programme



An example of a small satellite tracking station; this one appears to be on a roof top

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

When the island was still receiving weekly SAAirlink flights into SHA, and individuals were not required to self-isolate, I expressed my concern about the possibility that an asymptomatic individual could pass the temperature tests at both OR Tambo and SHA airports with negative results, and enter the islands community.

I also said, if this individual visited a few pubs and clubs, a large proportion of the community could eventually be infected before it was realized what was happening. Fortunately, this did not happen.

However, at the time, as the virus was less widespread than it is now, and just starting to enter Europe, I thought asymptomatic individuals were very rare and it was unlikely one would arrive at SHA anyway.

However, the article in the Independent, dated 24 April, on coronavirus, contained some information from various reliable sources, including the BMJ, which does indicate there could be a larger percentage of asymptomatic people than originally thought.

(Going forward, when a lot more data is available, it would be interesting to see what percentage of individuals were/are asymptomatic and the effect they had on the spread of the virus.)

However this would indicate that to reduce the risk and be absolutely sure we don't permit any asymptomatic person(s) into our community; then it is preferable for all those currently in isolation/quarantine should be tested.

In my opinion, this method of quarantine and testing should be mandatory for all other individuals admitted across our borders in future.

Given the fact we have a relatively small amount of test kits, there may be some

reluctance to this method of blanket testing for those in quarantine, but it should be preferable to letting the virus into the community and consequently a lot more testing could be required.

Concerned Old Person

Dear Editor

It would be interesting to know whether this charter flight might lead to a breakthrough with DFID in their dogmatic opposition to UK flights. Their 'only via JNB' policy has strangled our Tourism industry at birth and is based on nothing but ignorance and a determination to reject all the advice from genuine Tourism operators and investors which DFID have been hearing (and Avoiding) since 2006. Shackling the island to Air Access only from South Africa was a strategy put forward by Atkins who desperately wanted to show that they were different from Shelco and Shelco's formula for UK flights which was so glaringly obvious as the way to go. Naturally, once it had been put forward by Atkins, it was enthusiastically endorsed and adopted by Tourism non-expert Nigel Kirby, and nobody else in DFID was qualified to question what they were up to.

I also think Tourism has been a disaster since it was given to ESH with their strong South African bias. Little chance of them admitting the route through JNB is an expensive and inconvenient disaster for tourists. It's just common sense to fly direct from St Helena to UK. No-one in their right mind would have suggested accessing Mauritius or Reunion via Johannesburg but that is the comparison which applies. Once the pandemic is sorted we need a campaign on-island to start again with the Tourist industry following a complete new strategy. DFID should advertise for air operators to bid for a route to London. The Airlink service to JNB can continue in fair competition since SHG claim it doesn't require any subsidy.

There was nothing revelatory about the 'success' of the A318 flight this week. It has been known for years that the smaller Airbus craft (really the A319 rather than the A318 which is a business jet) would be ideal for direct flights from the UK. I don't believe that Titan would be interested in anything but charters but there are other airlines equipped with the A319 who would be interested. If Airlink are

worried about competition from a Northern route they should get creative and increase their Ascension service to fortnightly and also extend it from ASI to Gibraltar. This would give tourists a choice and a much quicker route to St Helena without losing the JNB service for those who like it.

Jamestown correspondent

Dear Editor

I'd like to respond to a question raised on a radio phone-in last week as it referred to myself. The question asked was: why would a vet who deals with animals get involved with coronavirus? If I am involved, it is peripheral, but in the spirit of enhancing the questioner's level of understanding I would like to clarify why it is that vets generally are drawn into disease monitoring and control initiatives. None of this is to belittle my medical colleagues, who do a sterling job often in very trying circumstances.

For starters – crucially – it is useful to know that 75% of new and emerging diseases in humans come from other animals. Note the use of the word 'other'! This is not because these animals are dirty, but because, firstly, we are one species and they are many thousand, and secondly because we pillage nature and treat animals with not only complete disrespect but a total disregard for the consequences. From Spanish flu (birds), ebola (bats/monkeys), avian influenza (birds), SARS (bats) and MERS (bats/camels) through to – and let's not forget- HIV (primates – probably humans eating chimpanzees), we have failed to learn our lesson. This pandemic of coronavirus was not just inevitable, it was predicted. The WHO have been warning of it for years, and SARS and MERS were warning shots across our bows that went largely unheeded.

And why are we susceptible to these pathogens? Because, despite many people being oblivious to the fact, we too are simply animals. Viruses frequently cross the boundary between species, so the other animal world – not the natural domain for most medics - is a core part of understanding the epidemiology of the many diseases that have a significant impact on

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Your Opinion Counts

humanity. This is why vets are often involved, and why I have a place on the Health Protection Board, established under the WHO's International Health Regulations (2005) for exactly the purpose of internationally coordinating control of disease outbreaks.

It begins at university. Of the 250 students on my 6 year course, 200 were medics and 50 were vets. For the first 3 years we vets studied the various branches of human medicine alongside the medics and took their exams – the only difference being the subject of anatomy. What better than for vets to first understand their own species before adding another 8 or so more in the last 3 years?

Then in UK veterinary practice day by day we test for, vaccinate against, treat and trace various forms of disease. On farms especially we deal with the epidemiology of disease outbreaks and their control - viral, parasitic and bacterial. Which is why in 2001 I found myself thrown into the deep end of the UK's last Foot & Mouth outbreak (not the children's disease), caused by a virus which cost the agricultural sector alone £3 billion and in which we slaughtered 6 million animals. Recruited by DEFRA (Min of Ag) in Devon, I was asked to attend a suspicious case south of Exmoor, which turned out to be the county's last and most impressive outbreak. The affected village was soaked in virus, so we sealed off the whole area with army and police. My farm lay at the centre of 7 others, some of which also had the disease, forcing us to slaughter all those plus their neighbours to create a buffer zone. Having 'gone dirty' – because humans can carry the virus - I worked for the following 15 months only on infected premises, developing a heightened sense of the invisible boundary between clean and dirty, with all the PPE and disinfecting necessary to maintain that distinction. This was a contact virus and hugely contagious.

On St Helena of course we also practice strict quarantine measures for certain live animal imports using Rupert's

fenced and padlocked quarantine station. By my calculation the vet team and myself have done 6 months quarantining since I came here. When in 2014 I post-mortemed dying ducks, stained and studied blood smears under a microscope, and diagnosed the bacteria that causes fowl cholera - subsequently confirmed by laboratory - we instigated the same measures as used in the Foot and Mouth outbreak to confine the disease to one (very cooperative) farm. An epidemic quashed.

5 months later, to my astonishment, we had a true runaway epidemic of another, thought by some vets to be the most economically damaging in the world: Newcastle disease (ND). Of the 4 virus strains, we managed to acquire the deadliest with a 100% death rate in chickens. Considered all but indistinguishable from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which can infect and kill humans, I did nonetheless manage to distinguish it by performing multiple post mortems, researching scientific literature, and accumulating tiny observations. Because it could have been HPAI and affected the island's population, this was critical. We were therefore able to pre-empt the results from the samples we sent to the WHO's specific ND/HPAI reference laboratory – which of course arrived weeks later - instigate isolation measures, disinfection, footbaths and PPE, order vaccines and successfully halt the epidemic.

In 2015 I took myself on a week-long course for vector borne (mainly insect carried) disease run by the non-governmental organisation (NGO) The Mentor Initiative. I did this because the new airport represented a risk that we could import vectors of disease such as the malarial mosquito. At the end of the week, the CEO, Richard Allan, an ex-WHO epidemiologist, recruited me for his Syria Programme based on the Turkish border. I was initially employed as Medical and Technical Lead, then becoming acting Country Director. Within this desperate war-torn nation was a disfiguring epidemic of a sandfly-carried parasitic disease called leishmaniasis, with an underlying mini epidemic of its fatal form which we uncovered with testing kits during village surveys. He stated on the course – and he won't mind me quoting him - that he liked to recruit vets because he found them to have a broader knowledge, experience and understanding of disease control than doctors, who tend to be more specialist and single species

orientated. During this time, I worked with and presented to the WHO and other UN agencies. Over 1 year, using our brave Syrian teams often working under the hail of Asaad's bombs, we treated some 35,000 Syrians and protected some 4 million others with insecticidal nets (LLINs) and spraying houses (IRS). Vast numbers from a highly effective NGO.

So why would a vet be in any way involved in the protection of St Helena against COVID-19? I hope I've answered the question. We now have a Saint vet on the island who is hugely capable and equally well trained, and she may well be called upon now or in the future to assist for similar reasons. I hope her qualification will be accorded the respect it deserves. The island is lucky to have her.

But I guess the point is this. We need to support the expertise we have on the island, not undermine it. Everybody is trying their best in these absolutely exceptional circumstances. We have limited personnel, finances, and resources, and this virus is the perfect pathogen. No nation can fully cope. We're all trying to mitigate against what might be seen as the inevitable. Economies are destitute, businesses dying, and the human cost through other causes induced by lockdowns is mounting horribly. Sooner or later nations will ease their restrictions – a grim compromise based on a cost-benefit analysis. By smoothing the peak of the pandemic we have lengthened the hill of its duration. The virus will rumble on, bubbling up here and there. If we are to stay clear then we are in for the long haul - not weeks but months. And there are many unknowns. Nobody is sure that infection confers good immunity, a vaccine is a year away, there is not yet any identified anti-viral treatment, outlier incubation periods might be longer than 14 days, and Africa, our neighbour, could be a slow burner. For the island to stay free of COVID-19 until the silver bullet is found is a tall and difficult order, but we can try. It requires great patience, cooperation and understanding. And if COVID-19 does reach the island in the future, this year or next, we need to do what the island is actually very good at - as the amazing work at Bradleys has proved: pull together and act as one community.

Yours sincerely
Joe Hollins

Is IEG the Shape of Things to Come?

We seem to have two systems of government in place at the moment. One is the endless and often meaningless discussions which characterise the committee system and the other is a small, central, responsible, accountable and decisive group which gives us some foresight on what a Chief Minister and his Ministers for each Directorate may be capable of

The Incident Executive Group (IEG) is a small group of high ranking officials who hold themselves responsible for all of the wide-ranging decisions necessary to keep the threat of Covid-19 at the Prevent Stage. This group is dealing with a new threat which could have far-reaching consequences if not managed effectively. There is still much to be known about Covid-19. Strategies and action plans change almost daily as something new, or even suspected, is discovered by professional specialists across the world.

Decisions are made on the basis of what seems best at any particular time, what is possible and what is realistic. Consultants are nowhere to be seen and there is never a delay while a further report is called for. The group is outward looking, taking advice on a very regular basis from UK and international organisations which have the capacity, capability and resources to offer the best available advice. It is accepted mistakes can and will be made; that a decision made yesterday may need to be amended or revised today or tomorrow. Most, if not all, decision changes occur because the well resourced international organisations have amended or revised their thinking on some detail or other. The motto appears to be 'to do the best possible with what's available'. Within all of that is a need and acceptance that flexibility is the order of the day, every day. And that not making a decision, not taking some kind of action, is the worst possible decision that could be made.



IEG members at a press conference on Covid-19 – Chief of Police, Head of Governor's Office, Public Health Committee Chairman, Chief Secretary and Public Health Director

While the Health Committee is represented on IEG by its chairman, Derek Thomas, The Health Committee itself is very much in the background regarding the momentous Covid-19 health issue. The Public Health Committee meeting held on 1st April had three items involving 'updates', the usual formalities such as confirmation of minutes and some discussion on more tobacco legislation. Covid-19 was also an agenda item but was very likely more in the update category rather

than an example of pioneering decision-making. Other committees have continued with their one meeting a month and Executive Council too (on the basis of what is on the open agenda) has taken a back seat.

The public information available about Council Committee meetings tell us the Environment and Natural Resources Committee is concerned about traffic cones being informally placed in Market Street (no mention of the disastrous state of the pavements or much needed parking improvements), the members of the Economic Development Committee listen to verbal reports about what other people are doing, and the Social and Community Development Committee have had their heads down on an agreement with the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Many of these discussions are either unnecessary or could be implemented by government officers under a proper system of delegation.

With the Sarkin Report in mind, we seem to have two systems of government in place at the moment. One is the endless and often meaningless discussions which characterise the committee system and the other is a small, central, responsible, accountable and decisive group which regularly tells us all what is going on. This small group gives us some foresight on what a Chief Minister and his Ministers for each Directorate may be capable of.

The Governor announced the formation of a Governance Commission on 7th April. It was pointed out the appointments to the Governance Commission will be followed up 'in the next two weeks'. The latest word is that letters of appointment have been sent out but replies and confirmations of acceptance are still awaited. We will be into May before this Commission gets into gear and the target is for Legislative and Executive Councils to receive the recommendations from the Governance Commission in June or July. The Governance Commission will need to emulate the IEG in their decision-making ability.

THE ROCK

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON
SUNDAY 3rd MAY @ 11 am FOR
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
At No 3 Unit Longwood Enterprise
Park

*Transport is available from
Jamestown. HTH
Contact 23249*

PRAISE & WORSHIP

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT FACILITATOR

Corporate Finance has an opportunity for a self-motivated individual to join their Procurement team on a fixed term contract for the period May to December 2020 to effectively and efficiently support and assist in the delivery of all SHG's Procurements, in accordance with SHG's Procurement Regulations.

The successful applicant will be responsible for delivering Procurement Projects through appropriate compliance of regulations and effectively managing internal and external communications in terms of SHG requirements and delivery timescales.

Applicants should possess the following qualifications and experience:

- GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- Good IT Skills and proficient in the use of Microsoft Applications including databases;
- At least 2 years' experience in a post that deals with the public on a regular basis.

Prospective candidates should have good communication skills, both verbal and written, in order to communicate effectively with members of the public, suppliers and Directorates.

Salary for the post is at Grade B1 commencing at £6,722 per annum.



For further details about the post, interested persons should contact Nicola Young, Deputy Head of Procurement telephone number 22470 or e-mail: nicola.young@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Venning, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 5 May 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.



**Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
has vacancies for**

General Workers

Within the Coffee Production Department

Job Outline

To carry out maintenance, harvesting and processing at the Company's Plantation.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have GCSE grade C or above in Maths & English, or equivalent
- Be prepared to work outside normal working hours and meet tight deadlines
 - Be energetic and self-motivated
 - Be able to undertake physically demanding duties

Salary for the post is **£7,754.93** per annum, (£149.25 per week),

For further information,
including the Company's
attractive benefits package,
please contact
Daren Duncan

on telephone number: 24461
or via email address:
solomons.lands@helanta.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:
hadmin@solomons.co.sh and should
be completed and returned to Miss
Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer,
Solomons Office, Jamestown,
By 12 May 2020.

CHANGES TO THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE THAT APPLIES TO THE YEAR 2019/2020

Companies and businesses preparing their yearend accounts and tax returns for the tax year 2019/2020 are reminded of the following changes to the Income Tax Ordinance and Regulations:

LOWER TAX FOR CORPORATIONS AND BUSINESSES

A reduction of 10% of the corporation tax rate (15% down from 25%) and a person other than a company reduction of 5% (21% on the first £18,000 of chargeable income; and 26% on the remainder of such chargeable income) on profits from exports and selected import substitution activities such as:

1. Exportation of goods and services;
2. Fishing and fish processing;
3. Cultivation of honey
4. Growing and roasting of local coffee;
5. Farming and butchering of meat;
6. Farming of vegetables, legumes, nuts or fruit or the processing of local grown produce;
7. Distilling or brewing of liquor, wine or beer;
8. Production of traditional craftwork, or jewellery using predominantly locally sourced inputs (recycled, grown, or mined in St Helena);
9. Production of upholstery or clothing.

Please note:

.The lower tax rates is not available for companies/businesses which solely distribute, market and/or retail the goods as this would not be classed as primary production.

.The lower tax rates is only available on the element of the business involved in export or selected primary production activities.

.A separate account showing the eligible part of the business must be submitted with the Tax Return.

DEFINITION OF DEPRECIABLE ASSET

Depreciable asset: means any tangible movable property or structural improvement to immovable property that has a useful life exceeding one year and costing £1,000.00 or more

Only assets costing £1,000.00 or more will go into the business Fixed Asset & Depreciation Schedule. All assets that is currently in the Fixed Asset & Depreciation Schedule previous to 1 April 2019 will continue to be depreciated every year at the normal depreciation rate until the written down values reached zero.

Any Investment Tax Credit held/carried over from the 2018/19 tax year can be applied in the 2019/20 tax year subject to the limits prescribed in section 11 of the Income tax Ordinance.

APPROVED INVESTMENT SCHEME

The **Investment Tax Credit** is removed on any depreciable asset acquired or constructed on or after 1 April 2019 and replaced with an **Approved Investment Scheme**

MAIN BRANCH, KIOSKS AND REMOTE BANKING OPENING HOURS

Main Branch

Monday to Friday	08:45 – 15:00
Saturday	08:30 – 12:30

Wharf Kiosk

Thursday and Friday	09:00 – 14:30
Saturday	08:30 – 12:30

Airport Kiosk

Closed until further notice

Remote Banking

Longwood Enterprise Park	Tuesday	09:30 – 13:00
HTH Supermarket	Closed until further notice	
ANRD, Scotland	Closed until further notice	

These opening hours are subject to change in light of the current circumstances relating to the threat of COVID-19.

Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STHL 1ZZ
T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. info@sainthelenabank.com · web www.sainthelenabank.com



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017 and the Company Ordinance, 2004

REFERRAL LIMITS FOR ONLINE BANKING TRANSACTIONS

Minimum Referral Limit - £1,000

Maximum Referral Limit - £5,000

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to inform the public that the new minimum referral limit for account transactions using Online Banking is £1,000.

What is a referral limit? Referral limits restrict straight-through processing of individual transactions to a limited value; therefore, if a payment is made from your Online Banking account that exceeds your set referral limit, the payment will be delayed until the transaction is confirmed. All transaction made over £5,000 will require confirmation.

Business banking customers may negotiate an agreed referral limit upon service registration. This agreed referral limit may be below or above the default and maximum referral limit values stipulated by the Bank.

For more information, please contact us info@sainthelenabank.com or (+290) 22390.

Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STHL 1ZZ
T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. info@sainthelenabank.com · web www.sainthelenabank.com



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017 and the Company Ordinance, 2004



HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL LOAN REPAYMENT TERMS EXTENDED

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers of the following changes to Loan Terms:

Housing Loan Terms have been extended from 20 years to a maximum of 25 years, provided the applicant is eligible.

Commercial Loan Terms have been extended from 10 years to a maximum of 15 years, provided the business case shows viability and demonstrates a feasible repayment strategy.

These changes will affect all applications that were received after 01 April 2020. Terms and conditions apply.

For more information, please contact us on (+290) 22390 or email info@sainthelenabank.com.

Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STHL 1ZZ
T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. info@sainthelenabank.com · web www.sainthelenabank.com



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.

Established and regulated under the Financial Services Ordinance, 2008, the Financial Services Regulations, 2017 and the Company Ordinance, 2004

OPENING HOURS



SURE SA Ltd would like to advise customers that their Customer Care Centre opening hours will revert back to normal with effect from Wednesday 29th April. (please see below)

Saturday opening hours will also resume with effect from 2nd May.

MONDAY	9am to 3pm
TUESDAY	9am to 3pm
WEDNESDAY	9am to 1pm
THURSDAY	9am to 3pm
FRIDAY	9am to 3pm
SATURDAY	9am to 12pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Directory Enquiries 22222 and Customer Service Enquiries 22900 will be available from 8am to 4pm.

121 Free Fault Line available 24/7

Connect
SAINT HELENA LTD

TIP OF THE WEEK

Don't use running water to thaw frozen food. For water efficiency and food safety, defrost food in the refrigerator overnight.



St Helena
Government

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, 4 MAY 2020

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

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place at 9.30am in the Council Chamber on Monday, 4 May 2020.

The programme of business includes the following Performance Audit Reports:

- The Jamestown Hospital Refurbishment Project
- The 1, 2, 3 Main Street Hotel Development

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

The meeting will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1.



Your Freight & Buying Agent in Cape Town with:

25 Years plus, serving remote island communities

- Sourcing, Buying of any type of goods - VAT free
- Online purchase payments – VAT Free
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- Vehicles & spares, sourcing, purchasing or forwarding on your behalf

Contact: Dave or Gadija

Phone: +27 21 531 7701

Email: sales@zedcore.co.za

Sarena's Gift Shop

Phone : 22792

**Yellow Builders
Bucket £4.95**



**Mop Bucket
£5.90**



£3.50



**Galvanized
Bucket £15.75**



**Galvanized Water
Can ££28.25**

Fan £31.50

£15.95



£5.95

£5.95



2IN COOLTONE BOX FAN





**PRESS
RELEASE**

 Enterprise St Helena

ESH SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Protective measures to prevent and limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus have been introduced by the St Helena Government (SHG). While these measures are an important step towards protecting public health, they will also impact upon the local economy. In recognition of this, both SHG and Bank of St Helena (BoSH) have introduced specific business support arrangements to help the island's businesses.

To complement these schemes, and with the aim of ensuring that the economy has the foundations in place for recovery, Enterprise St Helena (ESH) - supported by Department for International Development (DFID) and SHG – is introducing the following two support measures for privately owned small businesses (nine or fewer full-time equivalent staff) on the island, who derive more than 50% of their income from business activity in an eligible sector.

1. Tourism, Hospitality and Retail Sector Small Business Support Scheme

This grant is targeted at the following eligible expenditure:

Contribution towards essential costs for business premises, or business insurance: i.e. utilities, internet costs for business premises, or business insurance. *Small businesses in these specific sectors will be able to claim up to a maximum of £500 for the quarter April-June 2020, to help with these essential business costs. (Note: Tourism Accommodation means premises that is rented out on a short-term basis – i.e. 30 days or less – and is currently unoccupied.)*

2. Small Business Adjustment Scheme

Eligible expenditure includes:

Purchase of supplies or services from local (i.e. St Helena-based) businesses that enable small businesses to adapt their working patterns in the short-term in response to COVID-19. *Small businesses will be able to claim a maximum one-off payment of £500 to support with any of these costs. This can include:*

- ◆ **Small items of equipment to support the adaptation of working methods**, such as answering machines, paper towel dispensers, hand dryers, food packaging to support home delivery schemes, personal protective equipment for employees (PPE)
- ◆ **Items related to staff and customer safety and hygiene**, including for example hand sanitisers, paper towels etc.
- ◆ **Services from other local businesses that will support adaptation** of their business, for example: telephone answering services from other local businesses, local advertising costs to communicate changes to products and services offered.
- ◆ **Purchases that increase the amount of agricultural food produced locally**, for example purchase of seeds and saplings / plants or treatments that will help to increase the amount of local food available to buy on the island.

Each eligible business can make one application per scheme. Where several businesses are under the same ownership, or operating out of one building, the funding is limited to one grant per scheme.

Further details regarding each scheme, along with an application form, may be obtained by contacting a member of the ESH Business Development Team on Telephone 22920, or via info@esh.co.sh. Details and application form are also downloadable via our website at: www.investinsthelenacom

 Enterprise St Helena

Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 | Email: info@esh.co.sh
Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelenacom | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com



Brands you can trust

BEKO Aspirator
 - Bagless
 - 700 watt
 - 7m Cord Length



Russell Hobbs Sandwich/Waffle/ Panini Maker



3in1

VAX Pet3
 - Bagless
 - 800 watt
 - 4.3kg



Filters also available

Russell Hobbs Kettle with Brita Filter



Brita 2.4Litre Filter Jugs

Hotpoint

Hotpoint 30 Litre Microwave



Also available in White



Salter Digital Kitchen Scale

Russell Hobbs Cordless Iron



Breville 4 slice Toaster



Russell Hobbs Kettle & Toaster
Sold separately



**Rose & Crown Office , Market Street, Jamestown, St Helena Island STHL 1ZZ
 T: +290 22427 E: sales@roseandcrown.sh W: www.roseandcrown.sh**



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

Cattle Assistant

Within the Farms Department

Job Outline

To assist with the day-to-day duties involved in the cattle operations for the production of beef by agreed measures of standard delegated by the Supervisor or Charge-hand.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have basic knowledge in cattle husbandry
 - Have Health & Safety Awareness
- Have experience in operating common hand tools

Salary will start at **£8,043.41** per annum (£154.80 per week)
depending on skills and qualifications

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Arthur Williams, Livestock Manager on telephone number: 24461 or via email address: solomons.livestock@helanta.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: hadmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, By **05 May 2020**.



VACANCY FINANCE ASSISTANT

The Children & Adult Social Care Directorate has a vacancy for a **Finance Assistant** to work at Brick House. This post is key in supporting the directorate in providing effective and efficient finance functions with the assistance of the Assistant Director and Management Accountant.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- GCSE in English, Maths or Accounting at Grade C or above or equivalent (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- Driver's License Class A;
- Proficiency in IT skills including Microsoft Applications and Access Dimensions;
- Experience working in a finance and customer focused environment

Applicants should have good organisational skills and the ability to prioritise workload to meet deadlines. They should have good communication and customer care skills, with the ability to deal with customers from diverse backgrounds.

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

For further information and a copy of the job profile for this post, interested persons should contact Gavin Thomas, Senior Manager and Public Guardian on telephone number 22713 or e-mail: gavin.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Application forms can be obtained from Corporate Human Resources and the Children & Adult Social Care Directorate and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday 5 May 2020.

Appointment is 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.



April 2020 marked the 10th Anniversary of *G-Unique Designs*, which was established in 2010 by Giselle Richards. Initially aiming to provide 'one-off' hand-crafted jewellery for a gap in the local market on St Helena; G-Unique has since expanded to create unique products that provide 'a piece of St Helena' for both locals and visitors.

Over the last decade, G-Unique had to adapt to an ever-changing market which has brought an innovation in product lines from beaded jewellery, to local kiln-fused jewellery, to recycled ECO-friendly gifts, to accessories and printed products that compliment the hand-crafted jewellery designs.

One of the biggest challenges since establishing G-Unique is constantly adapting to the changing and shrinking market on island, where people have less disposal income than previous years, together with air access disruptions and more recently the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak. But with locals continuing to support G-Unique as a small local business, it is hoped that the business will be around for another 10 years and beyond.

You can find these products at the **G-Unique Boutique** on the Top Floor of The Market, with the making of these local designs at the G-Unique Studio at ESH Business Park, Ladderhill.

G-Unique also has an online webstore via the website www.g-unique.com and an active social media presence on both Facebook & Instagram.

Giselle would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played a role in supporting *G-Unique Designs*, with a special thanks to her family and the hard-working G-Unique team over the years. We look forward to your continued support & purchasing of our hand-crafted local products that aim to showcase local skills & creativity.

Enjoy your FREE coupon as a little token of our appreciation. Thank you!

Happy 10th Anniversary!



 **Get £2 off** 

On presentation of this coupon.

**In-store at the
G-Unique Boutique or Studio**

Valid 1st-5th May 2020

Single use only, cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer including money off reward card.





VACANCY ACCOUNTS EXECUTIVE

Are you looking for an employment opportunity in Finance and Accountancy?

Corporate Finance is seeking to recruit a highly motivated individual to join their Accounting Services team as an Accounts Executive.

The Accounts Executive will have the opportunity to contribute to the effective operations of the financial accounting system and is responsible for the accurate and efficient entry of data. This is a diverse role which involves the monitoring of transactions for all directorates within the St Helena Government.

Applicants should ideally possess the following qualifications and experience:

- GCSE English Language and Mathematics at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- GCSE Accounts at Grade C or above, or ACCA Diploma in Financial and Management Accounting (RQF Level 2) or equivalent;
- Possess intermediate IT skills in Access Dimensions or similar package;
- At least 1 years' experience in an accounting role.

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 regarding the duties of the post and for a copy of the job profile, interested persons can contact Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on email: sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh or on telephone no: 22470.

Application forms can be obtained from Corporate Human Resources and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Venning, Human Resources Officer, Corporate Human Resources, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 5 May 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.

Sure 24/7 FREE Fault Reporting Line



Please call our **FREE Fault Reporting Line 121** if you're experiencing a fault with your service. This line is available 24/7.

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Today Friday 1st May, Chief Executives from Premier League Clubs will hold a video conference to discuss what they call 'Project Restart'. The plan is to start the English Premier League in June with 40 days to complete the League and Cup games.

With the Dutch and French Leagues now cancelled with no Champions being declared and no clubs relegated the BBC has questioned if Project Restart for the Premier League is realistic.

Extract from BBC:

'The sense is that hopes of a return to action by early June now hang by a thread.

Confidence has undoubtedly been shaken by the French government's decision to put elite sport on hold until September, along with the warnings of medical experts and player representatives about the health risks of rushing back into action. Some clubs are worried the sporting integrity of the competition could be compromised if only certain venues are used and they play fewer games at their home ground than their rivals. Others say they feel pressured into agreeing to play by politicians and league bosses when they would prefer the season to be abandoned.

But by the time Friday's Premier League meeting takes place, is there a real danger that Project Restart could have suffered a false start?

The clubs know that, ultimately, they will take their lead from government, and their medical and scientific experts. That was proved by what happened across the Channel, where the French league's modelling and scenario planning was suddenly rendered meaningless when Prime Minister Edouard Philippe made his shock announcement, and the season was abruptly cancelled, as it has been in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Government approval in the UK relies on key criteria such as improved testing capacity, and a relaxation of social distancing rules being met.

But ministers and their advisers will also be hanging on Angela Merkel's every word on Thursday when the German chancellor addresses regional leaders, and no doubt discusses the Bundesliga's plans to resume matches in mid-May - plans that have acted as a source of inspiration to other countries around Europe.

But with a recent spike in cases in Germany raising fears that their lockdown may be tightened again, if Merkel follows the French in ruling sport out for several months, some believe the game could be up for the Premier League too'.

If the Premier League and Football League don't get completed some fans more than others are going to be devastated. Liverpool fans for sure will be really disappointed as their team is miles ahead off all other teams in the EPL.

I would also feel for the fans of Leeds United as they are on the verge of returning to the Premier League. Leeds who has a great history and is a very big club does belong in the Premier League.



Liverpool fans want to be cheering not crying come the end of this season. It would be a real shame if Covid 19 comes between them and that elusive EPL trophy.

Football Flash Back



Saints 1987

New Horizons

For the next two weeks commencing Monday 27th April to Friday 8th May, we will open as follows:

- Monday's 3pm-4.45pm activities Francis Plain
- Wednesday 3.30-5.30pm School Years 5; 6, 7 and 8

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Thursday 4.30-6.30pm
School Years 6; 7 & 8 Indoor games only*

Friday 5.30-8.30
School Years 9; 10, 11 & 12 & Longwood members

Saturday 2nd May
Circuit at Leisure Park

Activities and times will change once this period is completed.

*Indoor games includes; Pool, air hockey, Xbox, Computer Games, Board and Card games

New Horizons Gym

For the next two weeks starting Monday 27th April the Gym will open as follows:

Monday- Fridays: 6am-9am and 4pm-8pm
Saturdays: 10am-12 noon

The Gym will be open by New Horizons staff and they will ensure that all equipment is clean between uses.

New Horizons will add 2 months membership to the expiry date of all existing Gym Members

St Helena's Day

We at New Horizons respect the decision made by elected members to cancel the St Helena's Day celebrations for 2020.

Despite St Helena's Day being our biggest fund raiser of the year and that we have been organising this event since 2007, we all felt that to bring in a crowd of 2000+ people into Jamestown would be irresponsible especially with the uncertainty caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Although New Horizons will lose much needed revenue, the safety of the St Helena community comes first.

We look forward to organising a celebratory fun day sometime later in the year or if not 21st May 2021.

Nick Stevens (Manager)

Staff, Chairman and Committee of New Horizons

Golf Report for Sunday 26th April 2020

Last Sunday 26th April 2020 official golfing activities at St Helena Golf Club resumed with a bang. An impressive turn out of 27 golfers took part in the Monthly medal Strokeplay competition. Cool breeze, plenty of cloud cover and soft greens provided perfect conditions for some exciting golf. The prizes on the table were worth the battle to finish top on the leader board. The overall results were impressive with 9 players scoring in the 60s. At the end of the 18 Holes the scores started to trickle in. After the first 8 scores Mr. Jeffrey Stevens aka Foxy was all smiles having brought in a nett 64 which is 4 under par. He knew he stood a very good chance of having his hands on the first prizes. Alas! It was too soon. The ultimate winner of the monthly medal and first prize who played in the 4th group was handicap 20 Mr. Philip Francis with nett 63. Foxy tied up in second place. Following complicated arithmetic calculation by the handicap system Mr. Martin Buckley who also had nett 64 emerged second.

There were 4 two ball pool winners

Lawson Henry	Hole 5
Bramwell Lumukwana	Hole 7
Martin Buckley	Hole 14
Jeffrey Stevens	Hole 16

Congratulations to all the winners.

Sunday 3rd May 2020 the club will be hosting a club sponsored 18 Hole Stableford competition. Registration is ongoing through the usual channels. For more pictures and information like our Facebook page @shgc.org.sh Stay safe and have great weekend...!

Contributed by: SHGC



ST. HELENA



GOLF CLUB

Cricket Results

Sat 25 Apr

Jamestown 157/5
Scott Crowie 62
Gavin George 36

V

Longwood 124/5
Joey Thomas 35
Darrell Leo 31

Scott Crowie 2/18
Leon Legg 2/22

Joey Thomas 3/20
Antonio Green 2/48

Scott Crowie 3, Gavin George 2, Joey Thomas 1

Sun 26 Apr

Sandy Bay 89/6
Martin Cranfield 21
49*
Darren Isaac 20

V

St Pauls 91/1
Gareth Johnson
Dax Richards 28*

Rhys Francis 1/7

Dennis Leo 2/16

Gareth Johnson 3, Dax Richards 2, Dennis Leo 1

Half Tree Hollow 99

V

Levelwood 100/5

David Young 36
29*

Sanjay Clingham

AJ Bennett 12

Ross Henry 23

AJ Bennett 1/12

Brendon Leo 3/24

Damian Burns 1/10

Jerry Thomas 2/4

Brendon Leo 3, Sanjay Clingham 2, Greg Coleman 1

Fixtures

Sat 2 May

1.30pm St Pauls V Levelwood

Umpires: HTH

Sun 3 May

9.30am Jamestown V Sandy Bay

Umpires: Levelwood

1.30pm HTH V Longwood

Umpires: St Pauls

ST HELENA'S DAY CELEBRATIONS CANCELLED

St Helena's Day 2020 falls on Thursday, 21 May, and as usual the day will be observed with a public holiday. However this year Elected Members have made the difficult decision to advise Event Organisers to cancel the traditional St Helena's Day Celebrations.

Over the past 13 years the St Helena's Day Celebrations have been organised by Non-Government Organisation New Horizons, who has provided the Island community with several much anticipated activities, including the themed parade, live music and stalls to celebrate the Island's national day – often drawing a crowd of over one thousand.

Due to the current St Helena Government Social Distancing guidance on keeping large social gatherings to a minimum and the unpredictability of the current COVID-19 Pandemic, it was deemed appropriate to cancel the celebrations this year.

Elected Members would like to thank the St Helena public in advance for their understanding during these uncertain times.

Nick Stevens, Manager of New Horizons, said "we at New Horizons respect the decision made by elected members to cancel the St Helena's Day celebrations for 2020.

Despite St Helena's Day being our biggest Fundraiser of the year and that we have been organising this event since 2007, we all felt that to bring in a crowd of 2000+ people into Jamestown would be irresponsible especially with the uncertainty caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Although New Horizons will lose much needed revenue, the safety of the St Helena community comes first.

We look forward to organising a celebratory fun day some-time later in the year or if not 21st May 2021."



St Helena Day 2019

Photographs: Ed Thorpe



St Helena
Government

• Monthly meetings of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee and Highways Authority took place on Thursday, 16 April 2020

• Key topics discussed include traffic cones, solar lights, traffic calming measures and a Proposed Cycling Proficiency Course

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2020

The monthly meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee and the Highways Authority took place on Thursday, 16 April 2020.

The use of traffic cones by some individuals in Market Street is causing concern. The public is reminded that permission to use these cones is granted by the Highways Authority to individuals or organisations on a one-off basis for special occasions only. Residents of Market Street who are disabled or have mobility issues have permission to use cones to enable access to their homes. Business owners who operate from their homes have permission to use 'Merchant – No Parking' signs for a limited period to load and offload goods. Special permission is also granted on request from religious denominations to enable functions outside of their normal services.

The new solar lights installed in Jamestown have caused some concerns with residents. These solar lights have a similar light intensity (lumens) as the previous lights, however, because they are dark skies compliant, the area these lights illuminate are not the same. These lights are fitted with a motion sensor which has a detection distance of six metres either side of the light, and will remain on at full brightness for a period of 20 seconds. If no motion is detected, the lights will go into standby mode and will work at 30% full brightness. Some corrective measures have been made to allow the lights to be constantly on between 7pm and 11pm. The motion detection sensor will be activated for the remaining time. This is still not favourable with some residents who prefer the old lights. The Roads Manager has therefore contacted the manufacturers in the UK to ascertain if any further adjustments can be made. The move towards solar lights will in time provide savings which will generate funding to procure additional solar lights to be installed on-Island.

A request for some traffic calming measures to be introduced on Knollcombe's Road was discussed. It has been brought to the attention of the authorities that motorists have been speeding through this area and residents are expressing their concerns. The Police Officer present was tasked with raising this issue through their 'Fuzz Buzz' radio programme and also requested the Police to patrol this area frequently. There is general concern around speeding vehicles Island-wide and the public is reminded to adhere to the speed limit signs posted and remember that the speed limit for all other Island roads is 30mph.

A document on a Proposed Cycling Proficiency Course produced and provided by a member of the public at the request of the Committee was debated. Members were in agreement that the document was well presented and included all the necessary information and safety aspects with regards to maintaining a cycle and cycling on St Helena's roads. The Course will benefit all Islanders who have an interest in cycling and is intended to improve the safety of cyclists and all road users whilst the Committee contemplates lifting the ban on cycling on the few remaining roads where cycling is currently prohibited.

#StHelena #ENRC #HighwaysAuthority

SHG, 28 April 2020

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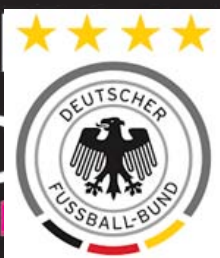


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It's either Covid-19 or Trump and Covid-19

Why all that noise?

On Thursday evening a ship blew off at least twenty times in no particular order of short and long blasts. First there were the usual three long blasts; is the MV Helena leaving earlier than planned? After that the horn was sounded again and again; long blasts, short blasts and towards the end two or three wobbly blasts. A ship in distress? What's wrong with the radio communication?

It was nothing to get alarmed about. The police were all there among a group of people who were on the receiving end of a thank you event organised by the crew of the MV Helena. Everyone involved with this call of the MV Helena are pleased with the way the Covid-19 precautions were practiced and it was thought a gesture of thanks would be appropriate. The MV Helena is due to leave on Sunday and is expected to arrive back here in the third or fourth week of May.

Britain's most secret Overseas Territory

The British Indian Ocean Territory is a group of fifty-five islands, all of them now deserted apart from one. Diego Garcia, the largest island in the group is now a US military base and a casual visit is definitely not welcome. There are about 3,000 inhabitants on Diego Garcia, all of them being US or UK military personnel or contractors. Diego Garcia is smaller than St Helena and just as geographically remote.

This island does not enjoy the isolation we now have. Military planes still fly in and about carrying people from the contaminated outside world as well as cargo. New arrivals are isolated for 14 days but there is still a risk the coronavirus could slip through the net.

This week the *Independent* contacted a (non-United States) resident of Diego Garcia to check if everyone was alive and well. The message back was, "All safe here, the Americans follow their Commander in Chief's advice and use disinfectant on their cornflakes each morning to keep themselves safe. We're isolated but safe".



Charity funding takes a hit

It was really not a surprise that the usual and very popular St Helena's Day celebrations were cancelled, becoming one more of the many measures taken to try to keep this Island in the Prevent Stage of the pandemic. Apart from having a good time, what will also be missed is the significant amount of money raised on 21st May for good causes. As the precautionary/preparedness measures continue, the number of cancelled fund-raising events will increase and the effect this will have on the good causes they fund will get worse. Is it the Charities Commission that keeps an eye on this sort of thing?

News from the Falklands Mount Pleasant Complex has 13th COVID-19 tested positive; no cases among Falklands' population

The number of COVID-19 tested positive cases at Mount Pleasant Complex in the Falkland Islands has risen by one to thirteen, following on the latest 16 swab test results received by KEMH from the UK.

The positive was for an individual at Mount Pleasant Complex, who is in isolation as part of the on-going MPC arrangements for dealing with cases.

Eleven out of 12 individuals who have earlier tested positive for COVID-19 in the Falkland Islands have now completed self-isolation or treatment while another individual remains in self-isolation. They all belong to British Forces South Atlantic Islands stationed at MPC.

This means that there are no Falklands' residents COVID-19 cases, neither in Stanley or the Camp.

In related news it was announced that King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, KEMH, in Stanley have expanded their oxygen generation capacity. In effect, UK armed forces have an oxygen generation plant to increase the supply of oxygen to KEMH and supplement the existing oxygen concentrator plant.

This was achieved thanks to the work of UK armed forces personnel and Ministry of Defense civilians and contractors, in conjunction with the Hospital's engineering department, KEMH will now have even more capacity to treat patients with breathing difficulties.

The oxygen generation plant and equipment was delivered by a Royal Air Force C-17 Globemaster, as part of the UK Government's support to the Overseas Territories during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The C-17 was deployed from 99 Squadron, Royal Air Force based at RAF Brize Norton. A team from 5001 Sqn RAF Wittering will shortly deploy to assist in the installation and maintenance of the oxygen generation plant.



Gareth Martin Walton

The Wife, Son, Mother, Father and family here and overseas of Gareth Martin Walton who flew to Heaven on 7 March 2020 would like to thank everyone who supported them through the very sad and difficult time of Gareth's passing. Special thanks to Angelo Ellick, the Police, especially Martin Franconi, Charlene John and Andre Bak as well as the Doctors and Nurses who were on duty that fateful morning. To Gareth's best friend Robert Yon and family, Claris George & boys, Godparents Vilma and Ian Oliver, Peggy and Colin Thomas, the Liverpool Supporters, Gary 46 for donating the Liverpool flag, Marilyn Joshua for reading the lesson, Christine Scipio O'Dean for reading the eulogy, The Dook family for running the Wake and other support as well as Clare Duncan, Leigh and Giselle Richards and all Gareth's School mates for the lovely book, with photos and messages of Gareth's school days which was presented to his son Milan, Bishop Dale and Father Ernest, Roy Williams and Team, Davina Lawrence for making the wreaths, Catherine Turner, Brendan Lawrence and family, Brian Isaac, Tracey Williams, Leslie Clingham, and all of those people who generously gave flowers and anyone else who helped in any way and who we might have missed. Thanks to all of you who gave up your time to attend the funeral. The amount of comforting words by Cards, Telephone, e-mails, facebook etc was very overwhelming and it was amazing to see how Gareth had touched the hearts of many people. Gareth darling you may have left this earth but you will never leave our hearts and like the words from your favourite band the Scorpions says *"That's where you'll be, You'll be with me, Here in my heart, No distance can keep us apart, Long as you're here in my heart"*.

Wife Mylyn would like to thank everyone who supported her, son Milan and the rest of the family through the very sad and difficult time of husband Gareth's passing, special thanks to Bruce Salt for his continued and invaluable support and also Charmaine, Brother Keith and family for being there throughout and for organising everything and arranging the funeral. Robert Yon and family, the Scanes family, Luce and Carlos and to everyone who showed support in anyway. Gareth my darling, thank you for 9 wonderful years, No distance can keep us apart as you are always in my heart and you will never walk alone. I love you Hon forever and always.

Mum Cecily and Dad John would like to send special thanks to Son in Law Keith for all his help and invaluable support in caring for everyone and for getting everything sorted and for arranging the funeral and to Daughter Maria and family for being there throughout the ordeal and shock we were dealt with. Our hearts got broken but you kept us together – THANK YOU.

A TRIBUTE TO MY BELOVED SON GARETH FROM MUMMY

My beloved boy, I never got to say Goodbye to you but I remember your last words to me on Saturday 7 March at 1.30am which was *"Mum now I know what you went through*



all those years due to work problems, please help me stop the bullying and harassment in the workplace" and you mentioned a certain carers name that "she have to go". I then watched you walk out through the kitchen door not knowing I would never see you alive again. Within half an hour of our conversation you were gone from us forever.

You've worked at the CBU and Ebony View for a good number of years, you loved your job and I have never heard you complain, it was only recently, I, your Mum noticed the strain in your face. I then learnt your manager suspended you with no explanation and no letter to indicate what was the problem or what you were suspended for. You spoke to your councillor Christine Scipio- O'Dean where immediate action was taken only to find the Directors of Safe Guarding and Human Resources knew nothing of what was going on. You also went to Human Rights and then to Human Resources where I believe you spoke about your rights and you were listened to and was reinstated however you felt you needed some time out after all the stress and pressure you had been through waiting for your letter of suspension that never came. I blame myself for encouraging you to return to work because I knew how much you loved your job. You were on treatment for years for epilepsy but that illness did not cause your death or the accident. You had a Heart Problem that you nor any of your family knew about. And from all the stress and pressure you were under didn't help and your heart couldn't take it and you collapsed whilst driving.

I'm so sorry that I cannot help with your last request to me and that is for St Helenian Government to Stop the bullying and harassment but I promise you my darling I will try to get answers leading up to your death. You know both Catherine Turner and Councillor Christine Scipio - O'Dean won't fail you and neither will I and your devoted wife will see to it and you will be proud of her. I battled with my work problem where

Gareth Martin Walton

you knew I was treated shabbily for 5 years but I didn't give up. I can tell you Gareth although there are always tears for you I can also have a little smile now to but I will tell you that privately at some other time. Your Daddy is a broken man, he misses you so much, you are thought of every minute of every day. We also didn't know how you touched the lives of many people, there were bags full of cards and letters, the phone never stopped coming but you left behind for us your lovely little boy and your wonderful wife who Daddy and I will look after as long as we can. The pain in my heart will never go away, the tears are always there even though I try not to show them behind my glasses but for now you rest my lovely son, no more harassment, bullying, backstabbing and two faced people and bad management, you are now at peace and safe with God. Your Sister Maria, Brother Keith and family are here with us but are also sharing the pain of losing you. You weren't always perfect as a young boy, but you turned your life around and became a wonderful husband and a really loving Father. A really good son we have lost and the island has lost a passionate and devoted Carer.

You will also be pleased to know that Mike and Tony played your favourite Scorpion song on Saint FM as a tribute to you on the morning you passed and it was also played in the church and Bishop Dale can now play on his Guitar and your Liverpool song was played at your resting place.

Rest now my darling, we will meet again, with all our love in the world love Mummy (Cecily Walton)



Thank You

Partner Sylvia and all the family would like to thank everyone who supported them at the time of Paul's sudden passing.

Thanks are extended to the Medical and Police Teams, to Roy and his team for the funeral arrangements, Fiona and Tracey for the making of the beautiful wreaths, cross, floral arrangements and funeral sheet, Bishop Dale and Mr Ernest Fritz for conducting the funeral service, Tina Sim for reading the lesson and Daniel Leo for the music at the graveside.

Thanks also to all who gave cards of condolence and messages of support and to all who paid tribute to Paul by attending the funeral.

'Paul, your presence we miss, your memory we treasure, loving you always, forgetting you never'

In Loving Memory



Paul Leslie Augustus
13 July 1968 – 12 April 2020

No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say goodbye,
You were gone before we know it,
And only God knows why,
Our hearts still ache in sadness,
And secret tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know



**Has an exciting opportunity for a
*Part-time Care Worker***

Purpose of Role:

- To provide a service to high dependent clients encouraging participation in both small and large activities that increase or reinforce daily living skills, encourage personal growth, improve socialization and provide therapy through a variety of means e.g. arts and play.
- To provide a service to high dependent disabled & vulnerable adults in their personal care; supporting them with feeding, toileting, hygiene and mobility, whilst accessing SHAPE for enrichment activities.

**Responsible to Social Care Officer
3 Days per week – 8:30am – 4:00pm.**

For a full job description and requirements of the role please contact
Ms Mercia Rinquist (Social Care Officer) on **24690**
or email Careworker.SHAPE@helanta.co.sh

Please submit your application form to
Miss Danielle Anthony
(Finance & Administration Manager) via email
Finance_AdminManager.SHAPE@helanta.co.sh
no later than 4pm on Monday 4th May 2020.

We look forward to hearing from you!



**Has an exciting opportunity for a
*Full Time Technical Trainer - Gardening***

Purpose of Role:

- To inspire, enthuse and train disabled and vulnerable adults in gardening techniques, providing meaningful work experience through direction and high supervision.
- To support the conservation, maintenance, development and enjoyment of the SHAPE Garden areas as a significant horticultural attraction, providing garden therapy as well as production of organic fresh produce for sale to the public with a view towards achieving a steady flow of income.

**Responsible to SHAPE Manager
Hours of work – Monday to Friday (8:00am – 4:00pm)**

For a full job description and requirements of the role please contact
Mrs Marianne Young-Crowie (SHAPE Manager) on
24690 or email SHAPE@helanta.co.sh

Please submit your application form to
Miss Danielle Anthony
(Finance & Administration Manager) via email
Finance_AdminManager.SHAPE@helanta.co.sh
no later than 4pm on Monday 4th May 2020.

We look forward to hearing from you!

