

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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Response to New Telecoms Policy:

“St Helena Held Hostage by Foreign-owned Monopoly”

Mike Olsson



Christian von der Ropp



Water and Roads – Visions for the Future

Vince Thompson

Public Reaction to New Governance Proposals ***St. Paul's Primary School Celebrates International Literacy Day***



Record Profit for Bank of St Helena



Coronavirus alert on Ascension

A Short-lived Scare

On Monday the Ascension Island Government announced that two people had returned positive Covid-19 test results while in quarantine. The results of the tests were known last Sunday afternoon. The two people concerned showed no signs of having the coronavirus infection and were otherwise in good health. The Covid-19 alert was raised from Level 1 to Level 2 as a precautionary measure, however the risk of the coronavirus spreading to the wider community was considered minimal.



On Wednesday further Covid-19 tests were taken from the two people who returned positive results and “results indicated significantly reduced levels of virus, to the point of non-infectious amounts, and were therefore deemed to be negative”. As a consequence the alert level returned to Level 1 which is the usual level when the pandemic is still active on a global scale even though Ascension itself is virus-free.



Government Committee Meetings

The Economic Development Committee need to find a way for hens to let them know when they are going to stop laying eggs – that’s the hens stopping laying, not the committee members. The Honourable Members were discussing the age-old issue of merchants importing a commodity when local producers are trying to sell the same thing. It happens with potatoes sometimes – except that now merchants aren’t importing and local producers are still waiting for nature to do its work before local sales can increase sufficiently in volume. As for eggs, there was a local shortage in May and June so merchants ordered eggs from South Africa which arrived in July and August. The time lag between ordering and delivery meant that imported eggs and increased local egg production met head on. It is reported that merchants need more reliable egg production information from local producers so eggs are not imported unnecessarily. The local producer is the hens, not the people who keep the hens. This is where the problems lie. Hen-keepers are as surprised as anyone when their hens stop laying, without a word of warning.

The egg laying discussion was held in closed session. This must be because the names of the local hens needed to be kept secret. In the open session it was reported there was a live interview in July on Sky News with Jonathon the tortoise. This was considered a huge achievement.

Sorry, I’ll write that again. Jonathon the tortoise appeared on Sky News together with the Director of Tourism who was interviewed live. The live interview was possible because a mobile phone in St Helena was connected to a live TV programme. This was considered a huge achievement. But hasn’t Johnny Clingham already connected people by phone from across the world to speak live on Saint FM?

The new Finance Committee had its first meeting two weeks ago. After discussing some ‘what do we do next’ items such as what is it the Economic Development Committee talk about that should be talked about by us. Does the answer lie in eggs, Jonathon and Helena Bennett? The Finance Committee moved on to a report on how this year’s budget is likely to

end up when March comes around next year. The Deputy Financial Secretary told the honourable members that an overspend of just over £1,000 is anticipated at present. After the usual health warnings about anticipations going up as well as down, Nicholas Yon pointed to an expected increase in demand for care services and the current unemployment levels leading to extra demand on the benefits budget.

After that, the final item of business on the open agenda was a discussion on another new policy. This policy is about funding non-governmental organisations that have statutory duties, requirements and responsibilities. The Public Solicitor’s Office, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Legal Assistance Fund are three such bodies. It seems the policy spells out the reasons why SHG is funding these organisations and how it is done. The policy was approved.

It can only be hoped a closed agenda followed the open agenda and more serious budgetary matters were discussed. The Finance Committee should by now have their heads down, studying the details of next year’s budget. They should be deciding what expenditure is cut or increased and trying to get a sensible word or two from the FCDO on grant-in-aid for the coming years.

There is much more in this category of financial and budgetary planning but, as sure as eggs are eggs, we will not have any information about it until the budget speech in April next year – or maybe May or June on past DFID performance. If local egg production is discussed in secret we will hear nothing of importance from the Finance Committee – ever. A change of governance also involves major shifts in attitudes, ways of thinking and habits. Government business should be on the open agenda unless a good and convincing reason can be given for it to be discussed behind closed doors. At the moment it seems to be the other way around. When will we see councillors move to a vote at the start of a meeting on some items being moved from the closed session to the open session. Councillors need to show us now that they can take control.

Water and Roads – visions for the future

Vince Thompson

Another Vision was published by SHG just before the *Independent* went to print last week. We reported that the 2030 Vision and Infrastructure Plan dated May 2020 finally saw the light of day three months later but were not able to find space for all the fine ideas for St Helena which have already been the subject of countless lengthy discussions and no doubt will continue to be so over the course of the next 10 years.

The 2030 Vision has 98 pages and many ideas, proposals and dreams. One project described in the section on utilities appears to be going ahead. The 2030 Vision describes the project as deep aquifer borehole exploration and recommends it as a cost-effective and swift solution to providing up to 500 cubic metres of water a day; very useful when the rains don't come. When the water restrictions were in force the target was to keep water consumption down to 1,000 cubic metres a day; this is a reduction from the usual average of 1,400 cubic metres a day. The report tells us that taking 500 cubic metres per day from deep aquifer boreholes would amount to less than 1/1,000th of the annual aquifer recharge rate.

A recent informative feature from SHG about borehole drilling in the Francis Plain area does not use the word 'deep' when referring to boreholes of aquifers. Hopefully they are deep and are part of the push to find an extra 500 cubic metres of water per day that we can draw upon when the rain clouds stay away.



John Cox, author of the 2020 Vision and Infrastructure Plan checks his figures on water supply

A proposal for a Fisher's Valley reservoir had cold water poured over it in the 2030 Vision report. It is claimed desalination for 500 cubic metres of water would cost less than half the money needed to build a reservoir in Fisher's Valley. The reservoir could cost more than £7 million and there are concerns regarding the hydro-geological suitability of the site. Project completion is estimated to be at least six years and climate change considerations raise doubts about the reliance of run-off to re-stock the reservoir.

The 2030 Vision for roads includes many things. One of them is a clear message to maintain roads according to a planned schedule designed to keep maintenance costs to the minimum. At present, haphazard funding from DFID means the

aim from our overseas influencer seems to be to ignore maintenance until the maximum cost needs to be spent on them.

In the section on new roads the 2020 Vision turns first to the upgrading of Field Road and Side Path. The report judges that the traffic now destined for this route from Rupert's "would not be such a bottleneck" now that containers will be de-stuffed in Rupert's. The down side is that leading all the cargo traffic from Rupert's down Side Path to squeeze through the Brow and Napoleon Street means other possible projects such as a coast road around or a tunnel under Munden's are less likely to happen.

A coast road from Rupert's to James Bay has been much talked about but never costed. A rough estimate on the back of a John Cox used envelope suggests £8 – 10 million would be needed.



A coast road linking Rupert's and James Valleys

Three routes for tunnels linking Rupert's and James Valleys have been discussed over a number of meetings in the Castle. All three options are estimated to cost around the same; a cost which is around the same as the coastal road.



One of three routes considered for a tunnel linking Rupert's and James Valleys. Estimate for a single carriageway width is £8 – 10 million or £14.5 million for double width



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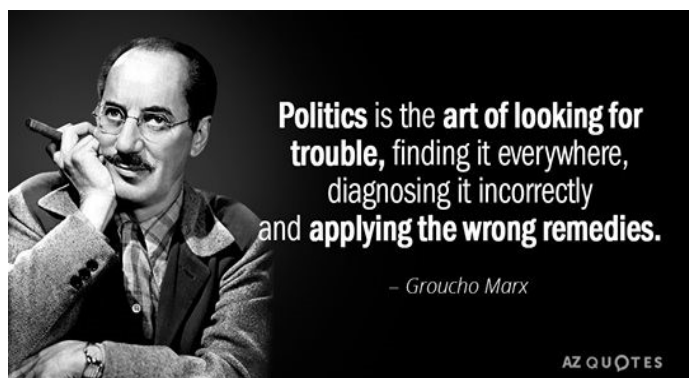
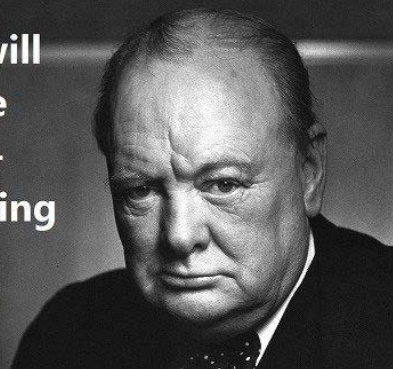
Editorial

It's been a funny old week. It went very quickly with the mixture of news and opinion remaining about the same. The Economic Development Committee goes into closed session to discuss egg production and agrees to start funding the freezing of fish once more – subject to funds being available. Why egg production is a subject which has to be kept secret is a mystery and without a reasonable explanation we can only wonder at the way people in the Castle sometimes make their decisions. As for funding fish freezing; are SHG getting themselves into another fishing hole just as deep as the one they have hardly pulled themselves out of yet? On top of that a piece of legislation that has been knocking around for a few years now is deferred again; deferrals and delays on this particular Bill are now without number. On the other hand the proposed schedule for events leading to a poll on a new governance system is said to be happening far too quickly. I expect most councillors will tell you that. It seems as if nothing is worth doing anything unless it can be delayed and deferred countless times. So often it seems the delays and deferrals do not make the quality of the eventual decision any better.

For people who do not want to follow the day to day details of carryings on in the Castle, and why should they, there is a lot of detail to get used to about the current system of government and the two options put forward to replace it. An intensive course in governance systems is needed to get a reasonable understanding of the details. What really makes for frustration is that it has been shown that those in government are capable of making quick decisions and making the right calls. The Incident Emergency Group (IEG) tackled the threat of coronavirus when there was no-one, anywhere, who knew anything much about it. I think most people agree the IEG did the right thing most of the time and successfully buttoned down the Island in a good state of preparedness just in case this pandemic does arrive here somehow. Most of the members of IEG are senior government officials; the only elected member is the chairman of the Health Committee. It is not therefore a democratic organisation but it did the job well and continues to work away quietly now that the panic is over; panic over for us at least. We could not put the IEG in charge of everything at the Castle and let them get on with it, some people might complain – even if they get things done



**"Americans will
always do the
right thing —
after exhausting
all the
alternatives."**



**Politics is the art of looking for
trouble, finding it everywhere,
diagnosing it incorrectly
and applying the wrong remedies.**

– Groucho Marx

AZ QUOTES

and do it well. Apart from not being democratic the IEG is not unnecessarily political (that's political in the worst sense of the word). That is probably just as good a reason why the Group got things done quickly and well. Others may wish to follow suit. **Vince**

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

Due to increasing costs St Helena Independent has been forced to increase its advertising rates from 1st September 2020. This is the first increase in rates since 2009 and since then our costs have almost doubled. From 1st September the following rates for black and white adverts apply:

1/1 Page - £50
1/2 Page - £25
1/4 Page - £12.50
1/8 Page - £7

***St Helena Independent is the best choice to
reach your audience on St Helena.***

St Helena features in global digital conference

Rebecca Cairns-Wicks, representing the St Helena Research Institute and Tara Palembe, speaking for the Falklands based South Atlantic Research Institute will lead a Virtual Island Summit discussion today which will reach 500 islands across the world and involve around 10,000 participants. St Helena and the Falklands will join forces for a session called Innovation and Sustainable Development in the South Atlantic.

Other speakers include the Director of Education on the role of education in island development, Councillor Russell Yon who will be telling the world where we are with the much delayed PASH Global renewable energy project and Darrin Henry who will point to the opportunities for expanding the digital economy from the remote island perspective. Lolly Young will also be speaking on behalf of SHAPE in another session about helping the disabled and vulnerable towards a life of independence and self-reliance.

British Napoleonic Bicentenary Trust to protect our built heritage

The recently formed British Napoleonic Bicentenary Trust launched its Napoleon 200 Campaign yesterday. As with all covid affected conferences and campaigns the Napoleon 200 Campaign will rely on digital communication for the launch. The purpose of the Bicentenary Trust is to raise funds to preserve St Helena's built heritage, to raise awareness of Napoleon's exile in St Helena and of St Helena itself. The Trust's website - www.napoleon200.org – features the batteries at Munden's and Bank's Battery all of which are in urgent need of maintenance and renovation.

Also featured on the website is Toby's Cottage, a ruin near the Briar's Pavilion. When the Briar's Pavilion was the family home of the Balcombe's in Napoleon's time the cottage housed the family's slaves. The cottage is known as Toby's because of one particular slave who was then old and had been captured many years earlier from what is now Malaysia. Described as an original and interesting person he ruled over his own domain and never left the Balcombe property in the many years he served as a domestic servant. Betsy Balcombe, who struck up a famous friendship with Napoleon described Toby as a perfect despot who never allowed the authority he had gained for himself to be disputed. The story is that Napoleon grew to like Toby and tried to buy his freedom, but was refused.

The Bicentenary Trust are also developing plans for a Heritage Trail together with a series of events to raise awareness of the bicentenary and to promote St Helena. The trustees include Sir Brian Unwin, a former head of the European Investment Bank, TV historian Dan Cruickshank and journalist Michael Binyon. The Trust's registered address is The British Napoleonic Bicentenary Trust, c/o St Helena Government, Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, London, SW1H 0QS

The Trust points out that the heritage projects are at the 'concept stage'; some initial exploratory work has been done but the intention is to form a working group on St Helena to

take the work forward. The contact for anyone interested in being involved is the Executive Director for the Trust, James Bramble, at james@napoleon200.org.

South Africa wants to open its borders soon

South Africa's Minister of Tourism told the country's media representatives recently that if Covid-19 infections continue the current downward trend the South African Government could bring forward plans to open regional borders. Opening the borders to South Africa's neighbouring countries is seen as a first and important step to returning to the full range of international travel destinations available before the arrival of the coronavirus.

Statistics show that 71% of South Africa's tourism originates from neighbouring countries and a series of travel agreements with neighbouring countries could give South African tourism a much needed boost. It is not known if St Helena falls within the area South Africa calls its region.

South Africa sit in 8th position in the list of the most infected coronavirus countries and leads the Africa list as the country with most infections. Almost half of all infections recorded in African countries were in South Africa. The South African Government have recorded a total of 643,000 infections and more than 15,000 deaths. On Thursday the daily total was 82 Covid-19 related deaths and almost 2,000 new infections were recorded.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Cook big batches of food and freeze the excess.

It is more efficient to use all of the oven space available and your freezer will be more efficient if it is full.

Governance Commission Report

THE
BUCK
STOPS
HERE

This is the 4th in a series of articles summarising the main points in the Governance Commission Report. So far the subjects covered have been; - why we need change and then the two alternative systems of government; an improved committee system, similar to what we have now, or a ministerial system of government. This week it is how government can be scrutinised so that the actions taken by government are more open and transparent.

Any system of governance can and should include strong and effective powers of scrutiny so that those in government who make the decisions can be questioned on what they are doing and why they are doing it. Also on how and when a proposed action or decision is due to come into force. Decision makers should be questioned on any aspect of policies, spending or administration.

Scrutiny in a ministerial system of government is usually seen as the most effective because in a ministerial system one person, the minister, is held responsible and answerable for all that happens within his or her government department. There is no reason why similar levels of scrutiny should not be used in any type of committee system of government. Instead of calling in the minister to answer questions and provide information the chair of a committee could be called to sit on the hot seat. The difference is that chairs of committees are not personally responsible for decisions made by a committee and the chair of a committee is not at all responsible for the government administration. The temptation to say 'it's not my responsibility, try someone else' could easily be a far too common answer to any scrutiny in a committee system.

Whether it is a ministerial or committee system the first level of scrutiny is with Legislative Council. Elected Members who are not involved with the ministerial or committee decision should be looked to when hard and searching questioning is needed. With a ministerial system there can be up to seven Elected Members who are not involved with any particular decision and they can be lining up to ask questions of the minister who is under scrutiny. In a committee system, Elected Members are on about three committees and therefore involved in the decisions made by all of them. There are fewer Elected Members available to scrutinise in a committee system.

In a ministerial system, all members of Legislative Council who are not ministers are ideally placed to fulfil the scrutinising functions of the government system. If there are twelve Elected Members, five of them would be ministers and for the remaining seven one of their specific tasks is questioning ministers on what they doing and why, when and how. This would be new territory for St Helena and may take a bit of getting used to if the ministerial system is adopted. The even-

tual result would be far more openness and transparency that we have now.

In Legislative Council Elected Members who are not part of the ministerial team should be able to submit motions for debate so that any issue which needs scrutinising can be brought to the surface. Elected Members should also be able to ask questions of any minister in Legislative Council and expect a response of some kind.

The most thorough scrutiny will be at sessions of the two proposed scrutiny committees. There could be two scrutiny committees checking on the five ministers and their government administrative departments – or directorates. One scrutiny committee would oversee the two larger ministries while the other committee oversees the remaining three. The St Helena Government administration is in the early stages of being re-organised now, so which scrutiny committee will oversee which directorate and the minister responsible for it remains to be decided.

To be effective, any scrutiny committee needs to have certain powers. The power to call in a minister. The power to question any minister on any topic so long as making the information public does not prejudice national security. The right to expect an answer from any minister to any question. The right to call in any individual or representative from any organisation that has specialist knowledge or a special interest in the subject under scrutiny. These individuals can provide information and details relevant to the subject under scrutiny. The scrutiny committees should also be empowered to invite written submissions from anyone interested in the sub-

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Governance Commission Report



ject under scrutiny. In this way anyone with something to say can contribute a relevant view or opinion. Written submissions are normally recorded and included in the evidence considered by the scrutiny committee. It is usual for written submissions to be published on the section of the government website covering the scrutiny committee's investigation. Without these powers, or most of them, a scrutiny committee could become a toothless tiger.

Having scrutiny committees is certainly important but it is just one part of the whole. Having effective scrutiny from committees which hold adequate powers is critically important. In the same way responsibility is given to a Chief Minister and each minister in his team, an equal measure of powers of scrutiny should be given to the committees. Ministerial responsibility is power and effective scrutiny of how the minister uses that power is vital in a democratic society.

The Governor also forms part of the scrutiny of government. As the Queen's Representative, the Governor's first responsibility is to uphold the constitution. If the Chief Minister is to be the individual where the buck always stops this means the Chief Minister will have a great deal of power. The Governor is the person who makes sure the Chief Minister does not try to extend his or her powers beyond those prescribed in the constitution.

Any individual can contribute to the scrutiny of government if an adequate system of scrutiny is put in place. Anyone can contact a non-ministerial Elected Member and ask that a particular question on a specific subject is asked in Legislative Council. The question is to be answered by the minister responsible. If scrutiny committees have the ability to invite written submissions from individuals outside government on any subject they have under investigation or discussion at any time, there is another opportunity there for anyone to have a direct input into the scrutiny process.

Next week the *Independent* will report on outside influences and how they can and do affect decisions made by SHG. If the Chief Minister is to be the individual ultimately responsible for everything in government, the relationship between the Chief Minister and his ministerial team with the UK Government and its representatives will need to change.

Public reaction to new governance proposals

There have been two public meetings on the proposals for a new governance system. It is early days yet but early signs are beginning to appear about what people want out of this round of discussions. Very reasonably and not surprisingly, many people want more information before making a decision. The public reaction when Professor Sarkin did his round of public meetings a year ago was a strong message that the present government system did not work and a long list of reasons why was provided. Now the ball is rolling and the opportunity to change the present system of government is near, there appears to be an air of caution and a desire to know more before taking the plunge. The main questions at the public meetings so far include:-

1. What relationship will the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office have with St Helena if a new governance system is adopted?
2. What powers will the Governor hold in the new set up?
3. Should the Governor just attend meetings of the ministerial cabinet, able to speak but not vote?
4. What are the constitutional changes being made to accompany the change of governance? Will other constitutional changes be put in place at the same time?
5. What will happen to the public comments being recorded at these meetings? Will they be published and will questions and comments get responses?
6. More information on the alternative systems of governance is needed before a decision can be made.
7. It is known SHG has started a re-organisation, will the new administrative structure in government be known before a consultative poll is scheduled?
8. Can the voters rather than the Elected Members vote for a Chief Minister?
9. If a director is not good at his job can the minister get

rid of him/her? If the Chief Minister sacks the minister for underperforming when the fault lies with the director, the wrong person is sacked.

10. The deadline for a decision on all of this is too tight.
11. The ministerial system is preferred but it may take about two years to make a considered decision. Others thought a shorter period for further discussion of detail would be acceptable.
12. Can we get the right person to get elected and then elected by the Elected Members to be Chief Minister? We have a small population here.
13. The salary for a Chief Minister and other ministers seem to be pitched about right.

There is a response to question four – Feedback from the current round of public meetings will be collated and presented to Legco to “set direction for a formal poll on the current system versus an alternative system.”



Cyril Gunnell and Yours Truly at Saint FM

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

Substandard Unwanted Repetitive Entertainment

As the sole provider of both television and communication systems here on St Helena I think it is time they are held to ransom to answer why they enjoy charging a high price for a service offering a low return to the consumer.

In October last year they replaced the set top box which was working fine with a cheap and smaller one which is not worth much more than £5 but they charged £24 and gave it a guarantee of 3 months, which shows how good it is. Most new items have a guarantee of 12 months and this box often freezes up and has to be rebooted. To which they are not interested unless you wish to purchase a new box, which more than likely will go down the same road in time. It is capable of recording programmes but only the one you are watching which is a waste unless you are out.

The service provided contains some 5 cartoon channels which you can only watch one at a time and during the day the movie channels show animated films which now gives 7 cartoon channels. The standard service should offer a better quality of channels and the premium service; provide extra channels people my desire. Also the present television stations show many repeat broadcasts including the movie channels and how many times do we need to see Top Gear repeats?

Now with the new system being set up by the service provider which started on 1st September and to which Sure tell us they didn't know what was going to be provided, which I find strange and hard to believe since they are purchasing a service and SUREly should have been informed as to what was going to happen. Apparently they did not know what channels would be provided to an already substandard operation with the loss of ITV Choice and now BBC First and who knows how many more, and

what other poor replacement channels will be provided. We now have a dedicated cricket and football channel but have now lost the formula 1 service which many on the island enjoy and have been replaced by cage boxing, horse and pony competitions and other sports which have little interest or following. Much of the sport provided now does not match up to what was available prior to the changes and when you see the advertisements for DSTV explaining that they now have channels dedicated to each sport, then should SURE be looking at this and requesting the services and maybe they should ask the consumer what they want from the service.

How can the service provider not know what is going on. To my mind it is like having a shop and not knowing what you have for sale.

The telephone system has recently been upgraded but nothing has been said again to the customer about what the changes are about or will result in. Again is this something which they no little about. I now have a running list of incoming phone calls which was not there before and also the ringtone has changed for incoming calls.

The internet downloads at a speed of 1.6mb per second and uploads at 0.8mb per second. When you carry out a speed test on the network everything is recorded as very slow. The network bandwidth is 1M and shows a loss of 30%-50%. And we get told things will change when the new cable arrives here but at what cost to the customer or consumer? I would imagine that SHG and the Airport get better internet. With the onset of Covid 19 an extra megabyte allowance was given to their customers and this should now remain as they charge an extortionate figure for the meagre megabyte al-

lowance at present, as it has obviously not resulted in them having to pay extra for this.

If you have to report a fault after 4pm Monday – Thursday or from 4pm on Friday to 9am on Monday then you are put through to the Falkland Islands and they will make a note and inform Sure St Helena when the office is open again, so you might as well do it yourself. We the customer pay for a service which we do not get and it not possible to speak with the CEO who is always unavailable when you try to give her a phone call or visit the Bishops Room store.

With all the current changes on the island then perhaps it is now time to allow a new provider for the services currently being supplied through SURE, who may be able to provide a better service both in provision of the various products, and further more to provide a proper call out service for outside hours especially at the weekends. After all, the customer is paying for this in some way. A review of the operating times, are urgently needed and the business hours need revision.

I sincerely hope they are not re-awarded the contract for the provision of poor standards of all services they currently supply to the consumer. If re-awarded then certain conditions of operation should be in the terms of contract to establish a better quality and standard of operation, service and cost to the customer/consumer. One wonders what the costs are for similar small island populations around the world for these services.

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Yours Concerned***

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Response to New Telecoms Policy: St Helena Held Hostage by Foreign-owned Monopoly

Mike Olsson

On Monday the deadline for the public consultation of the new "Policy for Communications Networks and Services" ended. In July SHG published the new policy which outlines how our telecoms sector should be regulated after Sure's license term ends in December 2022.

The consultation gave the public the chance to provide input on the proposed changes.

To the disappointment of many the policy shows a strong inclination towards extending Sure's monopoly, as Christian von der Ropp of A Human Right points out.

Christian who has been lobbying for our submarine cable as well as better and more affordable Internet access for more than eight years submitted an extensive response to SHG extending over 55 pages.

It starts with a general introduction on the importance of better and more affordable Internet access for the island, describing how low Internet adoption limits our ability to attract tourists and adopt electronic forms of money as African countries have already done successfully and how the cable could lead to job growth in traditional occupations and bring new jobs. Besides the positive effect better Internet would have on our education and health system it also states that the "persisting digital divide on St Helena [...] causes democratic deficits" as wide broadband penetration was a necessity for democratic participation on and off island.

Lastly, the introduction highlights how throughout the world broadband helped contain the COVID-19 pandemic and saved lives which would not be possible the same way on St Helena due to the low broadband adoption.

The second chapter of Christian's response compares St Helena to similarly sized island nations and finds that Sure's broadband plans are at least twice as expensive as elsewhere including in the Falklands despite their 27% smaller population and calls Sure's overage charges of 300-749% excessive and unfair as our lack of choice and our limited digital literacy is exploited recklessly. While tariffs are prohibitive it is pointed out that performance, service quality and availability of our broadband service is low, how the limited availability of St Helenian telephone numbers from abroad is partly owed to Sure's inadequate and expensive interconnections overseas and how we are not even allowed to bypass this barrier to international voice calling by the ban of certain Internet-based telephone services in Sure's terms and conditions.

The response goes on to blame Sure for not having upgraded our Internet link to a modern satellite system, for the lack of a backup link and the resulting blackouts in the past and that because of our slow satellite link Sure's investment in a 4G network which "is oversized for today's needs and undersized to support high usage levels" in the future was a misallocation of capital while other key equipment has not been modernized.



A summary says that Sure has shown an unwillingness to increase capacity, that the absence of any public scrutiny of Sure's investment causes moral hazard and inefficiencies and that the current regime with a 10-year license term generally disincentivizes investments towards the end of that period.

Based on the fact that Sure prohibits businesses from reselling Internet access by Wifi hotspots or by setting up Internet cafés the response notes: "Sure's license grants excessive rights that enables the company to crowd out local businesses, hamper entrepreneurship in St Helena and exclude the poorest from accessing the Internet".

Sure's resistance to expand Internet access is explained by the fact that telephone calls and pay TV are key pillars of their business model which could collapse if we had unlimited Internet access and could access so-called over-the-top (OTT) services such as YouTube, Netflix, Skype or WhatsApp which could replace Sure's services at little to no cost.

Despite Sure having discounted the threat OTT services pose to their business model as "a worldwide trend" the response says there is a "direct and existential conflict between islanders' hope and need for unlimited Internet access including discrimination-free access to OTT services and the commercial interests of Sure".

The response also analyzes our heavy dependence on Sure as the only provider of communication services and the financial penalty of ending their monopoly due to the obligation of SHG to buy out all of Sure's assets on island should their license not be renewed. Worse, if Sure don't upgrade their network prior to the cable's arrival in 2021 on a voluntary basis – so still during their current license term – SHG is at risk of losing the last tranches from the EDF grant with a total value of €21.5 million as it requires 70% of users to get data rates of at least 10Mbps which are impossible today.

This, the report claims, "boxes in SHG with Hobson's choice: accept Sure SA's conditions or pay millions in compensation

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Mike Olsson

for [their] assets as the license terms stipulate and additionally lose one or more tranches of the EDF funding.”

It concludes that “St Helena is effectively held hostage by a foreign-owned monopoly profiteering from the island and hampering its socio-economic development not only at the expense of islanders but also that of UK taxpayers who have been keeping St Helena afloat, indirectly carrying the financial burden of the monopoly.”

Christian goes on to argue, that the Policy fails to recognize the key problem of St Helena’s poor and expensive telecoms services which is its regressive regulatory policy protecting Sure’s outdated business model, the abuse of monopoly power and a lack of regulatory oversight by the government.

The new policy proposes price controls and service quality obligations to be enforced by a newly created Regulator but Christian believes the Regulator will remain a toothless tiger since the Policy itself already notes that tools to monitor service quality were too expensive while he believes the proposed price control mechanisms were unfeasible. By several recent warning examples from the Falklands he makes the point that it is impossible for an island nation of our size to create the necessary regulatory capacity and that this will eventually lead to the loss of regulatory control.

Christian’s response argues that the new policy is full of misconceptions and misassumptions ignoring facts and key developments of the global telecoms industry. Despite the BOTs of Montserrat and Anguilla allow competition and still have cheaper broadband rates and in ignorance of potential satellite earth stations that would elevate our bandwidth utilization to an equivalent of tens of thousands of subscribers, the policy asserts without evidence that St Helena is “well below minimum efficient scale due to market size”.

“The policy is totally imbalanced in that it does not investigate any of the countless problems of the monopoly but desperately seeks to extend the same with many factually wrong arguments.” Christian explained to the Independent and went on: “It also lacks any vision on future infrastructure upgrades beyond the 10Mbps threshold required by the EDF”, a rate no longer considered as “broadband” in many jurisdictions and a hundredth of the gigabit-level the UK seeks to deliver to UK homes by the end of 2025.



Referring to the recommendation of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), a DfID-sponsored NGO, and many examples including from highly developed countries the response proposes to bring St Helena’s broadband network into public ownership. It argues that because poles, ducts, manholes, cabinets and other infrastructure could be shared with the electricity and water network a public utility like Connect could build a fibre network up to 30% cheaper than Sure, that the long payback period of fibre networks meant Sure couldn’t recover the investment in such, that instead the infrastructure-driven and capital-driven business model of Connect would better align and that local ownership of our broadband infrastructure would stop the capital outflow, one of our core economic problems.

Most notably if Connect owned the fibre network the “direct conflict between any private company’s interest in generating profit and the goal of providing universal, affordable access, can be resolved as a government-led and -controlled rollout can unlock long-term benefits beyond bottom-line profits of a private telecoms provider.”

It is also criticized how the Policy is full of unnecessary concessions to Sure such as repeating seven times not to pose regulatory burden on Sure, undermining SHG’s authority. At the same time the Policy proposes a new bureaucratic barrier by the requirement of an import license for telecoms equipment such as mobile phones that will unavoidably lead to price increases for consumers.

The Policy’s consideration to restrict access to OTT services like YouTube and Netflix to protect Sure’s business model is called “absurd” in Christian’s response as regulators around the world adopt the principles of “net neutrality” seeking to ensure the opposite: discrimination-free access to OTT services which are main drivers of digital innovation. The response also notes the irony that St Helena will connect to Google’s cable which is in fact a provider of OTT services which the policy considers to restrict.

“With a 10-years monopoly, the absence of competition, SHG as an anchor customer spending £686,000 p.a. on Sure’s services, SHG’s obligation to buy out Sure’s network in case their monopoly is not extended and the fact that the submarine cable including capacity rights are paid for by SHG with money from the EDF there is a risk-free environment on St Helena, but still the Policy portrays Sure’s business as risky and implicitly seeks to justify a high risk premium for Sure”, Christian criticizes.

He also highlights how the Policy desperately seeks to argue for the renewal of the monopoly by other wrong assumptions including that Saints would not immediately make use of unlimited Internet access or that St Helena’s little landmass would make mobile networks inefficient because of interference.

Response to New Telecoms Policy: St Helena Held Hostage by Foreign-owned Monopoly

Mike Olsson

Being based in London the Policy's author should have noted that mobile networks even work pretty well where more people live on a square-kilometre than on the entire of St Helena.

"Rather than tailoring regulations to match the desires of a monopolist and its outdated business model the objective of the Policy should be to enforce a business model that aligns with society's and the economy's needs." the report say.

"People believe that the huge capacity the submarine cable will bring, will finally usher St Helena into the broadband age but the truth is that there is another bottleneck and that's the uncontrollable private monopoly which must be removed", Christian adds.

Apart from allowing competition including community-owned networks in the form of cooperatives the response calls for SHG to partner up with other BOTs and create a joint regulatory body for telecoms to better counter the „growing complexity of modern telecommunications with all the technical,

economic, and legal aspects, some of which the Policy fails to assess appropriately".

The report states that the dependence on Sure caused by their right to compensation for all their assets in case their license is not renewed paired with the dependence on Sure to deliver the EDF milestones results in a loss of authority and sovereignty over St Helena's telecoms sector which needs to be restored. If not, it is warned, we will continue to be exploited by an uncontrollable monopoly and the plan to render St Helena into a mid-Ocean hub where submarine cables and satellite earth stations interconnect will fail. The strategic value of such hub for the UK and its fledging space industry isn't considered by the Policy which generally lacks any macro-economic scope, as the report notes.

Christian called the overall package, as unacceptable, not being in the interests of the island, and that the Policy does not contain to true reforms but only "cosmetic adjustment" with little to no effect.

World Champion Racer to ride the former RMS

Lewis Hamilton, now heading for his 7th Formula 1 Grand Prix championship title, has joined the growing number of backers, entering teams for the Extreme E racing series which uses electrically powered SUVs for endurance racing in remote and environmentally threatened locations around the world. From Brazil's Amazon rainforest to Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Nepal and Greenland, the former RMS St Helena will take Lewis Hamilton's X44 off-road racers and the entire Extreme E organisation to race locations chosen because the forests, coastline, gorge, glacier or ancient heritage is threat-



Another race, another win for Lewis Hamilton

ened due to melting ice caps, deforestation, desertification and rising sea levels. The environmentally conscious Extreme E organisation claim the *St Helena* will reduce the carbon pollution of the atmosphere by two-thirds compared to airfreight.

Lewis Hamilton, reputed to earn £40 million per year, has joined the lengthening list of Extreme E race teams just 136 days before the first race of Season One of the Extreme E Championship. In his announcement he said, "Not only will we visit remote locations facing the front line of the climate crisis, we will also work closely with these locations and leading climate experts to share our knowledge and leave behind a positive legacy in each location which goes far beyond the race track."



The former RMS - used in a big way to promote environmental sustainability



During the year the Bank continued to work towards the agreed strategic objectives outlined in the Bank's strategic plan. Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) were set in line with these objectives to monitor and review the Bank's performance throughout the year, and whilst most of these were achieved during this reporting period, the economic climate in St Helena and now the threat of the world pandemic COVID-19, has played a significant role in creating variances to targets set at the outset of 2019-20.

The performance of the Bank is very much influenced by the current economic climate which includes customer deposits, revenue generated and the lending portfolio. The rate of inflation has decreased to 1.7%, a decrease of 2.4% compared to March 2019.

The Bank made an operating profit of £643,457 for the year 2019-20 which was an increase of £324,443 (102%) from 2018-19, with a 23% net profit margin and a cost to income ratio of 77%. There has been a positive adjustment to fair value, resulting in a profit before tax of £782,270, and a profit after tax of £628,777. This is an increase of £344,800 compared to 2018-19.

The Bank's total income, net of interest payable, continued to grow this year with an increase of £742,703 (47.2%). Interest received increased by £744,616 (41.4%) from £1,800,019 to £2,544,635, and interest payable increased by £1,913 to £228,892. Fees and commissions decreased by £25,366 (7.4%) this year following the reduction in charges for online banking and the substantial increase in automated transactions. Other income also decreased this year by £26,532 (16.5%) from 2018-19; being largely due to the decrease in foreign currency transactions made during the year. The Bank is aware of its exposure to foreign exchange risk and whilst payments will always need to be made, the Bank tries to minimise this exposure by reducing foreign cash holdings whilst still maintaining sufficient funds to service customer requests.

The Bank's investments are initially recorded at cost and subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the income statement. The interest income from investments for the year ended 31 March 2020 was £1,451,508. The Bank monitors its cash holdings and operational requirements closely and additional funds will be invested when it is deemed appropriate.

Growth in the lending portfolio has not materialised as anticipated, and as a result the loan portfolio has decreased this year. Commercial loans went from £6,280,556 in 2018-19 to £5,296,118 in 2019-20, a decrease of £984,438 (15.7%) with no loans of significant value being approved and a large commercial loan being paid off in full. Housing loans also decreased by £34,912 to £10,040,885 against a balance of £10,075,797 at the end of 2018-19, which indicates that the economic climate continues to have a negative impact on the ability of customers to borrow. Personal lending remains relatively stable with an increase of £5,909, however, the biggest increase for the year was overdraft facilities with an increase of £211,493, the majority of which relates directly to commercial overdrafts. The Bank operates well within its capital and liquidity limits set by the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) and the Bank is in a position to facilitate future growth in lending.

Customer monies held by the Bank showed an increase of £986,947 (1.3%) at the end of 2019-20; with the Bank's higher earning interest accounts Child Bond and New Life continuing to be popular with growth of 8% and 23% respectively for the year.

The Bank has a Strategic Plan for 2018-21 which will continue to guide its products and services for the next year. For the year 2020-21, International Prepaid Debit Cards and Virtual Tourist Cards remain the top priority. International Prepaid Cards will allow the Bank's customers, who do not have access to international bank accounts, to travel abroad without the need for physically carrying large amounts of cash. A trial period for a prepaid card service is due to commence, and if successful it is hoped the cards will be available to customers in the near future. The Bank is also acutely aware of the need for international payment solutions here on the Island for visitors and has carried out extensive work on the feasibility of certain options. In the interim, development for Virtual Tourist Cards is also being undertaken which will allow visitors to use the local debit card infrastructure. This is a two phased project with the first phased having been completed and the second phase nearing completion. This will allow safer transit of money for visitors and will benefit the Island's economy as it will provide visitors with another spending option next to cash.

The cessation of flights due to COVID-19 has directly affected the operations and income of all businesses on the Island, particularly those related to the tourism industry and the Bank has introduced a number of initiatives to assist where possible. This includes a three-month deferral of loan repayments for businesses affected which will reduce income initially expected from the lending portfolio for the first quarter of 2020/21 and possibly beyond.

Head Office: Market Street · Jamestown · St Helena Island · STHL 1ZZ

T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. info@sainthelenabank.com · web www.sainthelenabank.com

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019-20

Extracts from the Directors' Report 2019-20

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Income			
Interest Receivable	5	2,544,635	1,800,019
Interest Payable	6	(228,892)	(226,979)
Net Interest Income		2,315,743	1,573,040
Fees & Commissions		316,192	341,558
Other Income	7	134,368	160,900
Total Income		2,766,303	2,075,498
Expenditure			
Employee Costs	8	759,523	751,079
Premises Costs		72,667	59,897
Investment Management Fees		102,178	46,493
Investment Losses	27	442,567	-
Depreciation Tangible Fixed Assets		87,024	86,160
Depreciation Intangible Fixed Assets		47,213	53,904
Specific Provisions		92,225	242,814
Audit Fees		35,000	32,875
Financial Services Authority Fees		22,000	25,331
Other Expenditure	9	462,449	457,931
Total Expenditure		2,122,846	1,756,484
Profit before gain on financial assets		643,457	319,014
Gain on financial assets			
Change in fair value of financial assets		138,813	37,825
Profit on ordinary activities, before taxation		782,270	356,839
Taxation	10	(157,568)	(134,973)
Deferred Taxation	21	4,075	62,111
Profit on ordinary activities, after tax		628,777	283,977

The income statement has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	11	358,013	389,537
Intangible Fixed Assets	12	95,977	143,078
		453,990	532,615
Current Assets			
Cash	16	884,191	979,139
Bank Balances	17	4,822,149	2,778,866
Investments	14	56,361,021	56,558,475
Other Assets	15	3,015,932	2,478,081
Lending	13	15,944,925	16,574,301
		81,028,218	79,368,862
Total Assets		81,482,208	79,901,477
Liabilities			
Customer Current & Deposit Accounts	18	74,208,253	73,221,306
Other Liabilities	19	398,018	433,011
Total Liabilities		74,606,271	73,654,317
TOTAL NET ASSETS		6,875,937	6,247,160
REPRESENTED BY:			
Share Capital	23	3,219,285	3,219,285
Retained Earnings	24	3,656,652	3,027,875
Total Equity		6,875,937	6,247,160

The financial statements on pages 16 to 30 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 27 August 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

Chairman
Date: 27/08/2020



GREEN ISLAND ENERGY LIMITED

Tel: 25104 Mobile: 61720

karlthrower@greenislandlimited.com



**Save money on you
electricity Bills:
invest in a Solar System**

PV panels are designed to provide electricity for over 25 years and the batteries are designed to last over 10 years.

There are a large range of options available, for example:

£3500 for a 3.2kWp (10 Panels) System kit without batteries including standard installation (great if you use electricity during the day).

£6500 Same system with 5.4 kWh of batteries for people whom use more electricity at night times.

A 3.2kWp system can save you over £1700 a year.











Systems can be designed to the customers requirements, you can add or remove batteries or panels as required—start small and build as you save!

Call to arrange a site visit.



Promotional Offer: 20% off Tesco Frozen Products. Offer ends 30th September 2020

Thorpes Wholesale and Tinkers Shop

Mixed Vegetable 1kg Tesco	Chips Oven Straight Cut Homestyle 950g Tesco	French Fries 1.5kg Tesco	Potato Wedges Spicy 750g Tesco	Peas Finest British Petits Pois 750g Tesco
				
£3.67 Now £2.94	£2.58 Now £2.06	£3.99 Now £3.19	£2.63 Now £2.10	£2.10 Now £1.68
Onion Rings Mini Battered 50pk 425g Tesco	Cauliflower Cheese Grills Vegetarian 4's 397g Tesco	Mushrooms Garlic Breaded 400g Tesco	Chicken Kiev's 4's Cheese & Bacon Breaded 500g Tesco	Chicken Dippers Battered 20's 450g Tesco
				
£2.51 Now £2.01	£2.39 Now £1.91	£2.74 Now £2.19	£2.99 Now £2.39	£3.21 Now £2.57
£4.82 Now £3.86	£4.56 Now £3.65			

Further discount on a case is as follows:

Public


8% Cash discount

6% on account


Traders

17% Cash discount

12% on account


St Helena Government

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St Helena Government

Welcome to St Helena Government

Welcome to the St Helena Government website. Whether you are a resident, visitor, or investor, please browse, catch up on our news, and find out about the services we provide to our community.

St Helena is a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic Ocean, one of the safest and most remote islands in the world boasting a pristine terrestrial and marine environment.

Population & Housing Census 2020 Questionnaire
7 September 2020

St Helena Week
7 September 2020

- All open documentation relating to the business of Legislative and Executive Councils and Council Committees available for viewing on the SHG website
- Information easily accessed from the Homepage: www.sainthelena.gov.sh

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCILS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

All open documentation relating to the business of Legislative and Executive Councils and Council Committees is available for viewing on the St Helena Government (SHG) website. This includes information on the membership of Legislative Council and Council Committees, Committee Open Agendas, Meeting papers and Signed Open Minutes. Legislative Council Order Papers, Sessional Papers, Hansards, Bills for Ordinances and Undertakings from formal meetings are also available along with Memos, Open Agendas, Signed Open Minutes and Top lines for formal meetings of Executive Council.

The Legislative and Executive Councils and Council Committee information is easily accessed from the homepage of the SHG website.

During the recent round of constituency meetings, some members of the public expressed concern that Council information was not available online or not easily accessible. We have taken the opportunity below to walk users through how Council information can be easily accessed via the SHG website:

1. Log on to www.sainthelena.gov.sh which will take you to the Government homepage:


St Helena Government

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St Helena Government

Welcome to St Helena Government

SHG Press Office | 1st Floor, The Castle | Jamestown | Tel: +290 22470

kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh | liam.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh | jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh

Visit us: www.sainthelena.gov.sh

2. From the main toolbar at the top of the homepage, click on Government and then Legislative Council from the drop down menu:



3. You are now on the Legislative Council section of the website. From the right hand side menu, you can now navigate between the different pages. For example to view Executive Council agendas and papers, simply click on Executive Council which will take you directly to this page:



You can easily visit any other page under the Legislative Council Section by going back to the right hand side menu.

We endeavour to ensure that all information is as up-to-date as possible, however if you cannot find a document you are looking for or unsure where a particular document might be located then please contact any member of the SHG Press Office team via email: kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh, liam.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh, jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh or tel: 22368. The Press Office team also welcomes any ideas on how the website might be improved to enhance user experience.

Hardcopies of any Legislative and Executive Council documentation should be requested through the Clerk of Councils via email: connie.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh or on tel: 22470.

Council Committee documentation should be requested through the respective secretaries as follows:

- Economic Development – Anita.Legg@sainthelena.gov.sh tel: 22590
- Education – Santana.Fowler@sainthelena.gov.sh tel: 22607
- Environment & Natural Resources – enrd.committee@sainthelena.gov.sh tel: 22270
- Finance – Carol.George@sainthelena.gov.sh tel: 22470
- Public Health – Peta.Henry@sainthelena.gov.sh tel: 22500
- Social & Community Development – Nicole.Plato@sainthelena.gov.sh tel: 22470

SHG, 8 September 2020

2

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kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh | liam.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh | jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh

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- Peaks Project Development Group to hold public information session on the Peaks Project at the Museum of Saint Helena

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to host online webinar showcasing practical nature-based solutions in the UK Overseas Territories

PEAKS PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION AND RSPB WEBINAR

The Peaks Project Development Group (PPDG) will be holding a public information session on the Peaks Project – *'Restoring St Helena's Internationally Important Cloud Forest for Water Security and Wildlife'* – at the Museum of Saint Helena on Tuesday, 15 September 2020, at 7pm.

The session will include a welcome by HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook and a presentation with background information on the Peaks National Park and its importance to St Helena for biodiversity, water security and as a socio-economic resource. There will also be an update for stakeholders and the general public on the progress that has been made in developing the Peaks Management Plan and a fully costed Implementation Plan.

The PPDG comprises representatives of the key stakeholder groups: St Helena Government's Environmental Management Division, Education & Employment Directorate and St Helena Research Institute, Connect Saint Helena Ltd, Saint Helena National Trust and St Helena Tourism. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is also a member of the group.

Anyone with an interest in the Peaks, particularly land owners and wider stakeholders, is encouraged to go along and learn more about the Project.

RSPB Webinar

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is also hosting a webinar showcasing practical nature-based solutions in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs). The webinar will take place on Wednesday, 16 September 2020, at 1.30pm-2.30pm (GMT).

The webinar will bring the opportunities for nature-based solutions in the UKOTs to life, giving people the chance to hear from local voices in the territories with projects in need of large-scale funding beyond the scale of existing small project sources. People can discover first-hand how significant climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits can be achieved alongside biodiversity conservation, on islands which hold 94% of our unique wildlife.

The speakers will share examples of new shovel-ready projects across the UKOTs, including on St Helena and Anguilla, and will discuss the challenges and opportunities for the future of nature-based solutions in these dynamic landscapes.

Speakers include:

- Mrs Kedell Worboys MBE - St Helena Government, UK Representative
- Dr Louise Soanes - Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Roehampton
- Farah Mukhida - Executive Director, Anguilla National Trust
- Lyndon John - UK Overseas Territories Officer - Caribbean, RSPB
- (Chair) Beccy Speight - CEO, RSPB

If you would like to participate in this webinar, you can register your interest via: <https://rspb.zoom.us/join/9876543210>. There will also be a link in from the Council Chambers at the Castle and members of the public are invited to attend.

SHG
9 September 2020

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Visit us: www.sainthelena.gov.sh





**AVAILABLE
FOR FIXED TERM
Rental**

BERTRANDS COTTAGE AVAILABLE FOR FIXED TERM RENTAL

Bertrands Cottage is currently available for fixed term rental for either commercial or residential use. The Cottage comes fully furnished and is equipped with a Commercial Kitchen.

If interested parties would like to view the premises, they can contact Michielle Yon, Director of Resources, via email Michielle.yon@esh.co.sh or on telephone (00290) 22920.

Expression of interest together with a short overview of the plans for operating should be submitted to Robyn Franconi, Finance Manager, via email Robyn.Franconi@esh.co.sh by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Wednesday 16th September 2020.

Terms and Conditions will apply.



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



PUBLIC NOTICE

STERLING £20 NOTES IN CIRCULATION

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to inform the public that the new £20 Sterling notes have been in circulation since February 2020. At present, the Bank of England **has not** set a date to cease circulation of the old £20 note and they **remain in circulation at this time**. The Bank of St Helena will continue to accept and distribute the old £20 notes until the date is released.

The Bank cannot guarantee businesses abroad will accept the old £20 notes and cannot be held responsible as this is the precedent set forth by the business. The Bank will issue the new £20 notes to customers if they are available and will inform the public when the old £20 notes will no longer be in circulation.

For more information on Sterling currency, please visit: www.bankofengland.co.uk.

New £20 Note

Front

Back



Old £20 Note (still in circulation)

Front

Back



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



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



@sainthelenabank



Bank of St Helena Ltd



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

Fuel Attendant

Within the Jamestown Fuel Station

Job Outline

To assist with the day-to-day operations of the Jamestown Fuel Station ensuring maximum performance and quality service is delivered on a safe, consistent and timely basis.

Interested Persons Should:

- Be customer focused and target driven
- Ideally have Cash Handling experience
 - Have Health & Safety awareness
- Have the ability to undertake physical and manual handling duties
 - Be competent in Maths, English and IT
- Be self motivated, flexible with a positive attitude, and able to work well in a team environment

Salary for the position is **£7,463** per annum, (£621.87 per month)

For further information,
including the Company's
attractive benefits package,
please contact
Paul Gasteen
Fuel Stations Manager
on telephone number: 22523
or via email address:
fuelstations.manager@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected
from Solomon's Reception Desk, in
the Main Office Building, Jamestown
or alternatively an electronic copy
can be requested via e-mail address:
hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should
be completed and returned to Miss
Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer
Solomons Office, Jamestown,
By 15 September 2020



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
Is seeking part-time

Coffee Pickers

Within the Coffee Plantations

Interested applicants should:

- Be able to undertake physically demanding duties and walk up and down slopes without aid
 - Be able to perform manual handling duties & lift weights up to 20kg
 - Be comfortable working outside in varying weather conditions
 - Be flexible to work outside of normal working hours if required

As a Coffee-picker, you will be paid according to the amount of coffee you are able to pick, at the rate of £1.65 per kilogram.

If interested, please submit your
Name, Address and Telephone
Number
to the Human Resources
Department on either
Telephone Number: 22380
Email:
hradmin@solomons.co.sh; or
Fax Number: 22423

Two Bedroom House to rent

Spacious open plan, two double bedroom house to rent in Half Tree Hollow area.

Benefits from new solar power water heating, shower over bath, off road parking, fully furnished including white goods and TV.

Available: 21st September or slightly earlier if required. For more information please contact Jolene.Williams@outlook.com or Derek Thomas on Ext 23647



GOVERNANCE COMMISSION PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMENCES

The Governance Commission has commenced their programme of public engagement on the two alternate systems of governance for St Helena (either a revised Committee system or a Ministerial form of government), that Professor Sarkin recommended as alternatives to the current committee system.

Members of the public wishing to provide comments or take part in discussions around the two alternate systems can do so by emailing: governance.reform.feedback@gmail.com or attending any of the below public meetings. **All meetings will start at 7pm.**

Monday, 14 September
Tuesday, 15 September
Thursday, 17 September
Monday, 21 September
Wednesday, 23 September
Thursday, 24 September
Monday, 28 September

St Mary's Church, The Briars
Guinea Grass Community Centre
Kingshurst Community Centre
Sandy Bay Community Centre
Blue Hill Community Centre
Half Tree Hollow Community Centre
Silver Hill Bar, Levelwood



Commission members are also happy to accommodate any questions or comments outside of these meetings. Members are:

- Belinda Piek
- Christine Thomas
- Cyril Gunnell
- Martin Henry
- Vince Thompson

All feedback received is being collated and will be reported back to Legislative Council. Feedback will help Council to set direction for a formal poll on the current system vs an alternative system.

Hard copies of the Governance Commission report have been placed in each of the Community Centres and the Public Library in Jamestown. The report and summary presentation, as well as Professor Sarkin's reports, are also available on the Public Information, Reports, and Policies page of the SHG website: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/>

Also look out for radio discussions, media articles and a planned Youth Parliament debate.

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
9 September 2020

Masterclass No.3

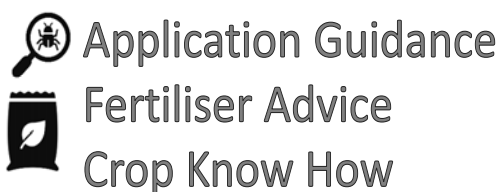
Crop Fertiliser & Nutrition

Monday, 21 September



9.30 am at
Harpers Ag Centre
and/or Harford
Community Centre
(depending on demand)

Sign up and get:



Grow:



Sign up by calling ANRD on 24724 or email: edward.whitton@sainthelena.gov.sh

VACANCY – ROADS OPERATIVE (FIXED TERM)

The Roads section has a vacancy for a Roads Operative until the 31st December 2020.

The Roads Operative will be responsible to work with a team to deliver the roads maintenance programmes, including assisting the masons. Preparing roads for surface work by clearing verges and removal of any weed growth on the road surface and building up of roads by hand packing stone, rubble and the applications of grit and tar.

The candidate will need to have the ability to carry out any operational duties, have basic written and verbal communication skills and be physically fit.

The salary for this post is at Grade B1 commencing at £6,722 per annum.

For further details regarding this post, interested persons should contact Mr Deon Robberttse on telephone number 23765 (e-mail roads.manager@helanta.co.sh)

Application forms and Job profiles for both posts are available from Essex House and should be submitted to the Human Resources Manager, ENRD, Essex House or e-mail karen.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than Tuesday 22nd September 2020. Proposed interviews for successful candidates will take place on Friday 2nd October 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.

Derek Henry
Director of Infrastructure and Transport Directorate
8 September 2020





APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

1. **Application 2020/65:** FULL Planning Application for **Renewal of Development Permission 2015/86 (Construction of a Three Bedroom Dwelling)**, the Ex Rifle Range, Half Tree Hollow on Parcel HTH1227. Applicant: Cliff Richards.
2. **Application 2020/66:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Demolition of Old Single Garage and Construction of Double Garage**, Wood Vale, Blue Hill on Parcel TW0010. Applicant: Gillian A Francis.
3. **Application 2020/67:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Garage**, Bushes Hollow, Horse Pasture, Blue Hill on Parcel BG0297. Applicant: Graham Lane.
4. **Application 2020/68:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Construction of a Four Bedroom, Split Level Dwelling**, Kunjie Field on Parcels SCOT0305 and SCOT0306. Applicant: Marc Lockley.
5. **Application 2020/69:** FULL Planning Application for **Proposed Demolition of Existing Ruin and Construction of a Three Bedroom Dwelling**, Fishers Valley on Parcel LWS0432. Applicant: Tony Malcolm Thomas

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

Any person who wishes to make Representations on the above Application should make them in writing within 14 days to the Planning Office, Essex House, Main Street, Jamestown or Email karen.isaac@sainthelena.gov.sh

Public Representation Closing Date:

4pm – 25th September 2020

**Shane Williams
Planning Officer**

THANK YOU FROM ST PAUL'S PARISH

Thank you to everyone who supported our most recent fundraiser held at the Market in Jamestown on Thursday 27th August. Your presence, generous donations of cake, confectionery and items for the raffle prizes were greatly appreciated. The total monies raised were £570. (Cake Stall £250, Raffle £320). Winners of the Multi Raffle were as follows:

Giant Cupcake	Bridget Coleman, Levelwood on	Sheet 25	Ticket No	12
Giant Donut Cake	Julia Benjamin, Sapper Way	" 8	"	13
Fruit Cake	Blake Thomas, c/o No 5 Clay Gut	" 20	"	16
Box of 6 Cupcakes	Olive Brown, Jamestown	" 7	"	14
Bottle of Chamdor	Cataleye Crowie, Bottom Woods	" 25	"	6



Sponsored walk: Forest 2 Forest

Need a challenge? Want to explore the island? Haven't explored our conservation sites?

When: Saturday, 26th September 2020, 10am at Casons car park.

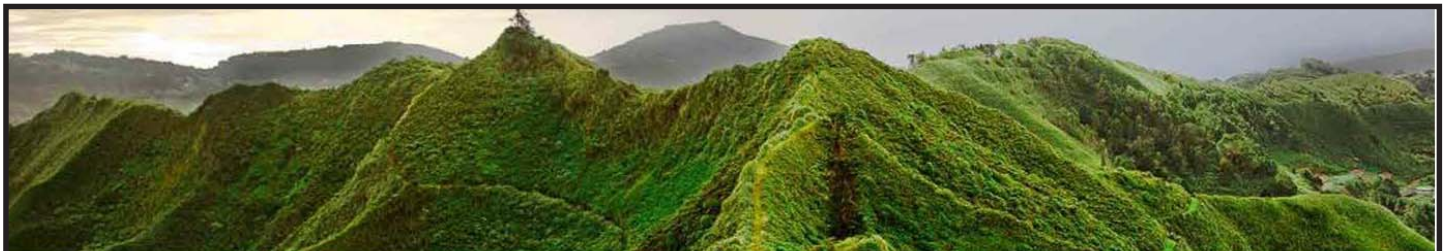
No registration fee, £10 minimum sponsorship per person

#MillenniumForest2020 #StHelenalsland



Route: The walk will start from Casons Forest to Bates Branch through Stitches Ridge up Cabbage Tree road and do all three peaks (Mount Acteon, Diana's Peak and Cuckhold's point) down to Black gate on to Woody ridge through the pasture ending up at upper Prosperous Bay Plain. From there will join into the haul road down to Fishers Valley (Cook's bridge) and up to Millennium Forest. A map of the route is posted in the notice board on the front of the National Trust building and inside the foyer as well as on our Facebook page.

Contact Martina Peters for more information including on transport arrangement and on 22307 or e-mail: martina.peters@trust.org.sh.



Peaks Project Public Information Session

The Peaks Project Development Group (PPDG) will be holding a public information session on the Peaks Project – *'Restoring St Helena's Internationally Important Cloud Forest for Water Security and Wildlife'* – at the Museum of Saint Helena on Tuesday, 15 September 2020, at 7pm.

The session will include a welcome by HE Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook and a presentation by the PPDG on the Peaks National Park and its importance to St Helena for biodiversity, water security and as a socio-economic resource. An update on the progress that has been made in developing the Peaks Management Plan and a fully costed Implementation Plan will also be given.

The PPDG comprises representatives of the key stakeholder groups: St Helena Government's Environmental Management Division, Education & Employment Directorate and St Helena Research Institute, Connect Saint Helena Ltd, Saint Helena National Trust and St Helena Tourism. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is also a member of the group.

Anyone with an interest in the Peaks, particularly land owners and wider stakeholders, is encouraged to go along and learn more about the Project.

For further information about the session, please contact Isabel Peters, on tel: 24724 or via email: Isabel.Peters@sainthelena.gov.sh.



Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Right, the short wait is over,,as tomorrow will see the start of the 2020/2021 Premier League season.

We as sports fans are hoping that there is no major re-emergence of the Corona Virus which has played havoc with international sports for the most of this year.

The season kicks off with promoted team Fulham hosting fellow London club Arsenal at Craven cottage. The game is scheduled to start at 11.30am GMT.

Arsenal is hoping to improve in the league this year and has made some new signings including Willian from Chelsea and fellow Brazilian Gabriel from Lille. Gabriel who is 22 is a central defender and was sign for £23.14m.



Gabriel Magalhaes new signing for Arsenal

Fulham was relegated in 2019 after winning the 2018 playoff final. Fulham once again reach the top flight via the playoffs as they defeated Brentford in the final.

At 2pm GMT Crystal Palace play host to Southampton. Both clubs did fairly well last year. Palace had a good start and Southampton had a good finish to the season.

At 4.30pm the Champions Liverpool will begin their defence of the Premier League as they face off against Championship winners Leeds who are returning to the top flight after an absence of 16 years.

Liverpool picked up their first title in 30 years last season. Leeds who was once a top flight giant last won the league in 1992.

The evening game on Saturday will see West Ham United play Newcastle United. Newcastle has being really active in the transfer market making 4 signings including Callum Wilson and Ryan Fraser former Bournemouth players. These two signing will help improve the Magpies attacking prowess.



Liverpool v Leeds....Champions v Champions

On Sunday returning club West Bromwich Albion will play Leicester at 1pm GMT. West Brom was relegated in 2019. Leicester just missed out on Champions League football last season.

The 3.30pm game on Sunday should be a cracker as Tottenham Hotspur host Everton. Everton will be boosted by the signing of former Galactico James' Rodriguez.



James Rodriguez is a Blue

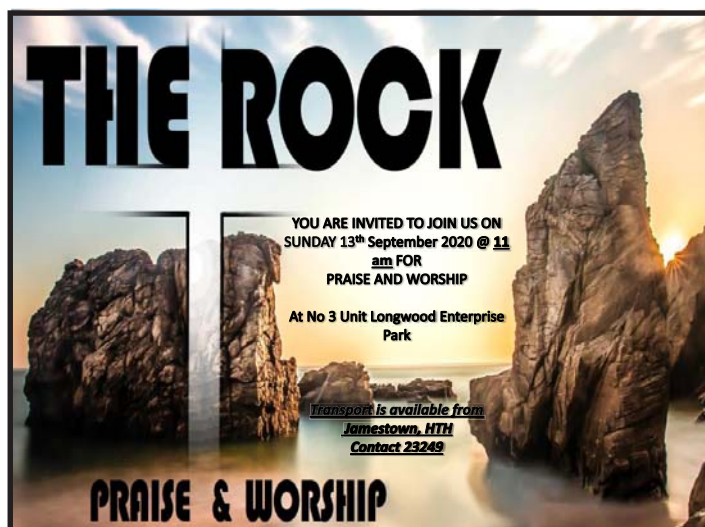
There will be two games on Monday. At 5pm Sheffield United will play Wolverhampton Wanderers These two teams had great campaigns last season.

At 7pm Brighton will host Chelsea down at the Amex Stadium. Chelsea has being the biggest spenders in the transfer window and has brought in enough talent to surely make them title challengers this season.

Chelsea has made 7 signings this transfer window; including Timo Werner and Kai Havertz to help with attack and Ben Chilwell and Tiago Silva to improve their defence.



Manchester City and Manchester United will begin there League campaign next week



Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

SHFA Report by Mike E Williams

SHFA 2020 League Table

Saturday 5th September

Goal feast

The first game on Saturday saw Lakers score 22 goals verse the Crystal Rangers. The Rangers could only muster a single goal. Lakers goal scorers were from man of the match Selwyn Stroud 5, Cody 'G' Thomas 5, Jordan Johnson 3, Louie Barnikle 3, Liam Yon 2, Tyler Brady 2, Kyle Yon and Jace Williams. Crystal Rangers goal came from Christen Phillips.

Lakers 22 v 1 Crystal Rangers

Axis hold on for the win

The second match was a closer game between Axis and Saints. The Saints played some of their best football all season and really gave Axis a hard time. Axis would go on to win 2 v 1; with a goal in each half. Goals for Axis were from Ryan Backhouse, and an own goal. Saints goal came from Mufarah, playing in his debut season.

Axis 2 v 1 Saints

Sunday 6th September

Wirebirds go level at the top.

Sundays first game saw Rovers lose for the first time this season at the hands of the Wirebirds. Rovers played some good football in the first half but were wasteful in front of goal. Wirebirds striker Shane Stroud would score the only goal of the game in the first half, after a delightful pass from Cody Harris. Both teams had chances in the second half with Rovers hitting the post. Wirebirds held on for a big win and go level on points with the Rovers, with Rovers still with a game in hand.

Wirebirds 1 v 0 Rovers

Bellboys get revenge.

The last game of the weekend saw Bellboys beat the Harts. Both teams had a lot of chances, but failed to score in the first half. It would take 28 minutes into the second half for Bellboys to break the deadlock, with a well taken finish from Mnqobi. Bellboys would go two – nil up after Andrew Yon ran in behind the Harts defence. Kyle Shoesmith killed the game off with a third, and Mnqobi grabbed his second with another good goal. Ryan Benjamin picked up the man of the match.

Bellboys 4 v 0 Harts



Week Ten

Place	Games	Wins	Draw	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Points
Rovers	9	7	1	1	69	3	66	22
Wirebirds	10	7	1	2	56	16	40	22
Bellboys	9	5	3	1	60	10	50	18
Lakers	10	5	2	3	58	19	39	16*
Axis	9	5	1	3	34	16	18	16
Harts	10	4	0	6	43	16	27	12
Saints	9	1	0	8	14	64	-48	3
C Rangers	10	0	0	10	3	193	-190	0

* = one point deducted for not providing a referee.

Hotshots Top 10

Name	Team	Goals
Rico Benjamin	Rovers	32
Shane Stroud	Wirebirds	26
Andrew Yon	Bellboys	15
Matthias Young	Bellboys	14
Sean lee Thomas	Harts	14
Ronan Legg	Rovers	11
Cody Thomas	Lakers	11
Selwyn Stroud	Lakers	10
Tyler Brady	Lakers	10
Sean Cansick	Harts	9

Fixtures

Sat 12th September

1pm Axis v Lakers

Referee: Bellboys

3pm Rovers v Harts

Referee: Wirebirds

Sun 13th September

1pm Bellboys v Crystal Rangers

Referee: Axis

3pm Saints v Wirebirds

Referee: Lakers

Junior Football Results

Saturday saw the Junior Football matches go ahead in pouring rain. Despite the weather the young players had fun and enjoyed their football.

Results:

Yellow Devils 23 v Super Strikers 0

G/S Yellow Devils: Ryan Stevens 4; Zac Francis 2, Aden Thomas-Stevens 6 & Harry Winfield 11

POM: Harry Winfield & Joshua Crowie

Predators 9 v Ranglers 3

G/S Predators: Riley Yon 7; Levi Williams 1 &

Tyler Anthony 1

G/S Ranglers: 1 own goal & Dirk Peters 2

POM: Riley Yon & Callum O'Dean

Allstars 4 v Gladiators 2

G/S Allstars Blaze Baldwin 2; Toure Osborne 1 & Tyreese Osborne 1

G/S Gladiators: 1 own goal & Jaydee Caswell

POM: Blaze Baldwin & Scott O'Bey

Galacticos forfeit their match to Rastabouts (result Rastabouts 3 v Galacticos 0)



Junior Football Results

7-11 League Table

Position	Team	Play	Win	Draw	Lose	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Yellow Devils	6	6	0	0	107	8	99	18
2	Predators	5	4	0	1	58	11	47	12
3	Ranglers	6	2	0	4	23	58	-35	6
4	Blue Arrows	4	1	0	3	12	30	-18	3
5	Superstrickers	5	0	0	5	3	96	-93	0

11-16 League Table

Position	Team	Play	Win	Draw	Lose	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Rastabouts	6	6	0	0	38	10	28	18
2	Fugees	5	3	0	2	33	24	9	9
3	Galacticos	5	2	1	2	19	20	-1	7
4	Gladiators	6	1	1	4	22	31	-9	4
5	Allstars	6	1	0	5	20	47	-27	3

Top Scorers 7-11

Position	Name	Team	Goals Scored
1	Harry Winfield	Yellow Devils	41
2	Aden Thomas-Stevens	Yellow Devils	31
3	Riley Yon	Predators	29
4	Zac Francis	Yellow Devils	13
5	Ryan Stevens	Yellow Devils	13
6	Dirk Peters	Ranglers	11
7	Lebron George	Predators	10
8	Hugo Richards	Predators	8
9	Tyler Anthony	Predators	7
10	Ziggy Yon	Ranglers	4
11	Dillon George	Blue Arrows	3
12	Edward	Predators	3
13	Liam Timm	Blue Arrows	3
14	Joel Peters	Superstrickers	2
15	Efron Stroud	Yellow Devils	1
16	Daniel Murangaawe	Blue Arrows	1
17	Darshan Patel	Blue Arrows	1
18	Finley McMonegal	Blue Arrows	1
19	Joshua Crowie	Superstrickers	1
20	Kirk Grant-Lawrence	Ranglers	1
21	Kurt Lawrence	Ranglers	1
22	Kylan Williams	Ranglers	1
23	Kyle Williams	Ranglers	1
24	Laine George	Ranglers	1
25	Levi Williams	Predators	1
26	Robertson Shawnga	Blue Arrows	1
27	Zian Thomas	Ranglers	1

Top Scorers 11+

Position	Name	Team	Goals Scored
1	Taylon Phillips	Rastabouts	18
2	Lars Williams	Fugees	13
3	Blake Peters	Fugees	12
4	Musa	Galacticos	10
5	Blaze Baldwin	Allstars	9
6	Macoy Williams	Rastabouts	8
7	Kenon Bargo	Gladiators	7
8	Dodi Williams	Fugees	6
9	Jaydee Caswell	Gladiators	6
10	Toure Osborne	Allstars	6
11	Taye Peters	Gladiators	5
12	Tyrone Cansick	Galacticos	4
13	Eureeze Peters	Allstars	2
14	Kieran Williams	Rastabouts	2
15	Shaquille Benjamin	Rastabouts	2
16	Stefan O'Dean	Rastabouts	2
17	Tyreese Osborne	Allstars	2
18	Annika Lawrence	Galacticos	1
19	Callum Young	Galacticos	1
20	Dominic Richards	Fugees	1
21	Jacob Williams	Gladiators	1
22	Jerome Peters	Rastabouts	1
23	Jolan Henry	Galacticos	1
24	Renae Coleman	Gladiators	1



NGCPH



RESERVED

I did not choose this dusty tomb,
Wrenched from my home.
Born of Mother Africa,
Someone's child.

RESPECT ME.

I was loved.
I was missed.
I was enslaved.
HONOUR ME.

I walk amongst you still,
In the curl of your hair,
The sway in your hips-
The spice in your food,
The smile on your lips.

I am loved.
I am missed.
I am FREE.
REMEMBER ME!

I am You
You are Me
We are more than History!

Honour me...

By Suzanne Joshua-Stevens

HM CUSTOMS OPENING HOURS

HM Customs would like to advise the public that their opening hours for the week commencing Monday, 14 September, to Saturday, 19 September 2020, will be as follows:

Monday, 14 September 2020	8.30am – 5pm Cash Office closes at 4pm
Tuesday, 15 September 2020	8.30am – 5pm Cash Office closes at 4pm
Wednesday, 16 September 2020	8.30am – 5pm Cash Office closes at 4pm
Thursday, 17 September 2020	8.30am – 5pm Cash Office closes at 4pm
Friday, 18 September 2020	8.30am – 5pm Cash Office closes at 4pm
Saturday, 19 September 2020	9am – 4pm Cash Office closes at 3pm

HM Customs would like to thank the public for their continued support.

SHG
9 September 2020



**St Helena
Government**

Golf Report for Saturday and Sunday 5th and 6th September 2020

It is a great pleasure and privilege to have Sir Galway Cup back on our competition calendar. The great turnout of 33 players is a testament of the members' appreciation of this event. It was a 36-hole stroke play competition. Saturday's condition was typical scruffy weather of strong winds, fog and rain. Finishing with a solo lead on Saturday was Leroy Caswell with net 64 followed by Bramwel Lumukwana, John Colclough, Larry Legg and Scott Crowie tied with net 69. Two ball pool winners for Saturday were Leroy Caswell on 5th Scott Crowie and Keith Joshua both on 16th hole.

Sunday 6th was battle royale. After 36 holes top of the leaderboard was Mr Scott Crowie and Mr Leroy Caswell both tied at net 137. This led to a playoff in which Scott Crowie emerged the overall winner of Sir Galway Cup and 1st prize. Leroy Caswell took 2nd prize and John Colclough with net 139 took 3rd prize. Longest drive gents prize winner - Bramwell Lumukwana, Nearest to pin gents - Jeffrey Stevens. Both longest drive and nearest to pin prizes for the ladies were won by our ladies Captain Helena Stevens. There were no two ball pool winners on Sunday. The prizes were presented by the governor HE Dr Philip Rushbrook. The governor was delighted to have the event reinstated on the golf calendar after a couple of years of absence. He was impressed by the great turnout. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to our governor for sponsoring the event.



Sunday 13th September 2020 the club will host a Greensome pick your partner Competition. Three eighths of the combined handicap will be applied. Tee off 12:00. Registration closes on Saturday 12th September at 15:00.

Happy swinging.....!

Contributed by: SHGC



Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

Main Street, Jamestown, Island of St Helena, STHL 1ZZ
Tel: 290 22380, Fax: 290 22423, Email: generalenquiries@solomons.co.sh
Web: www.solomons-sthelena.com

Prosperity Through Partnership

Information for Shareholders of Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc

Shareholders are advised that due to delays with the completion of the external audit process this year as a result of the Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic; the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders ordinarily scheduled for September will likely be held towards the end of the calendar year. Formal notification of the actual date will be issued under statutory notice, nearer the time.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc
10 September 2020

Registered Office: Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU, England
Registered in England and Wales, Reg No. 496276

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest about some of the current issues on St Helena.

There is a lot of discussion about political responsibility where the only penalty seems to be demotion by the Chief Minister or not elected at the next election. There does seem to me to be a greater need for personal responsibility.

In one jurisdiction I worked in the Treasury Minister warranted the appropriate annual budget allocation to the respective Ministers who were personally responsible for the use of that budget. Money was sub-warranted down the line, again with personal responsibility. There was a case where the dentist did not thing budgetary control was his responsibility and overspent. He had a tense meeting with the Treasury Minister when he was asked to personally pay back the overspend. This introduced a clear understanding of budgetary control and personal responsibility which I would recommend.

There are discussions about democracy which I suggest are fraught with difficulty and may once again be influenced by the loudest voice and, inside and out-

side influences who know what is good for St Helena. You may not be old enough to remember Professor Joad, of the Brains Trust programme on steam radio, who, when ever he was asked a question would say, 'It all depends on what you mean by....' The definition of democracy is different in the Democratic Republic of North Korea and that of say the democratic republic of the United States of America. St Helena, in my view, needs something that meets the specific needs of the island and not a grafted version as seems to be the pattern for other schemes adopted on the island.

On a less serious note there are other things that St Helena has adopted which mirrors big business elsewhere which I suggest, in this instance, is rude and misses an opportunity to publicise the island. In the careers advertisements there is a closing date with the caveat that if you do not hear within a certain period you have not been selected. Applicants will have gone to a great deal of trouble producing a curriculum vitae and getting references yet hear nothing from St Helena. Surely a simple letter of thanks for the the application and, say, a hundred pound voucher personal to the applicant to be spent in St Helena within the next five years would be appreciated. The island would get a lot of good positive publicity at very little cost rather than a negative feeling about the island from effectively being ignored,

**Regards,
Richard Grainger**

Dear Editor,

I read the article "Council putting governance options out for public consultation" (Sentinel 3rd September p3). I am concerned that the public is not being presented with the full picture.

The Governor and his hand-picked and unrepresentative "commission" may say there are only two options, Ministerial or enhanced-committee, but this is not the case. There is at least one other option – do nothing and keep the current system exactly as it is – and there may be many more.

I, for example, would prefer some form of Ministerial Government, but not as described in the "commission" report.

THIS MATTERS. If change is made it will significantly affect how government works on St Helena, and hence will affect everybody. The change will be in force for many years to come. It is unacceptable that this change is being rushed through and that the people of St Helena are not being offered the opportunity to come up with their own ideas.

This process should be put on hold while the people are fully consulted on what ideas they may have. A representative body such as Legislative Council should review these for feasibility and then the people should be asked to decide between a full set of options.

**Yours sincerely,
John Turner
Frith's Cottage, Napoleon St.**

All things to all men

3 good arguments that Jesus was Black:

1. He called everyone brother
2. He liked Gospel
3. He didn't get a fair trial

3 good arguments that Jesus was Jewish:

1. He went into His Father's business
2. He lived at home until he was 33
3. He was sure his Mother was a virgin and his Mother was sure He was God

3 good arguments that Jesus was Italian:

1. He talked with His hands
2. He had wine with His meals
3. He used olive oil

3 good arguments that Jesus was a Californian:

1. He never cut His hair
2. He walked around barefoot all the time
3. He started a new religion

3 good arguments that Jesus was aboriginal:

1. He was at peace with nature
2. He ate a lot of fish
3. He talked about the Great Spirit

The most compelling evidence of all - 3 reasons Jesus was a woman:

1. He fed a crowd at a moment's notice when there was virtually no food
2. He kept trying to get a message across to a bunch of men who just didn't get it
3. And even when He was dead, He had to get up because there was still work to do

St. Paul's Primary School Celebrates International Literacy Day

On the 8th September 2020 St. Pauls Primary School celebrated International Literacy Day. International Literacy day was declared by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1967.

The day kicked off with an inspiring assembly lead by Deputy Head Miss Sherell Thomas. Invited guest speakers, Dustin Cornelson, Chief inspector Price and Ms Patsy Flagg spoke about how important literacy is within their job roles. Mr Cornelson began his talk with a question; 'how to spell **Mis-sissippi**', Ephrem Stroud spelt this correctly and won £5. Children were engaged and eager to join in with questions that were asked. Ms Flagg (a retired Ex Education officer) use resources all hand written and reused from calendars and cards to aid her talk.

Throughout the day lots of different activities and guest speakers were stationed around the school for children to enjoy. Early years invited parents to join them in a paired reading activity. Each class had a guest speaker and Nursery enjoyed a story by Mr Dustin and Reception class by Director of Education Mrs Benjamin, 'I have enjoyed my time with the children today'. Parents were invited into the class to do paired reading which saw a very good turnout. Class Teacher, Miss Robyn Sim spoke about the importance of building the first steps to reading.

Year 1 class looked at famous St. Helena foods especially Pilau (around the mast). The topic linked well to their on-going science topic. Children sequenced the method to preparing and making Pilau. All children had a chance to go into the kitchen with a carousel approach to have an insight of reading how to make the Pilau. Children sat together to eat, which resulted in 'DELICIOUS', comments. Children learnt how important reading is from the steps of purchasing ingredients to tasting it on the plate. "Reading is the key to success", said YR1 Teacher Mrs Sally Young.

Ms. Molly Fowler (one of the school's former teachers) and Chairperson of the school's PTA Mrs Michelle Thomas-Lawrence read a story in Year 2. Children brought in a book to



share and read with a partner and made book markers as part of their activities. "Literacy is very important because this will help you to get a job such as being on the Radio", said student, Lakeria George.

In year 2B children brought in books to share with a friend or did a book swap. The children also had the opportunity to look at different St. Helenian foods and different places on the island, which children then wrote short stories. Guest speaker,

St. Paul's Primary School Celebrates International Literacy Day

Mrs Daniella Marlow (nurse) explained to children why literacy is very important for her job as a nurse. Mrs Marlow also brought in some medical resources which children used to create an arm cast and they thoroughly enjoyed. YR2 Teacher Miss Christy Bedwell said, "Today was a very interesting day, lots of questions were asked and children were engaged in all activities."

Year 3 had a fantastic day! The day was based around up-leveling pupil's vocabulary and the use of ambitious words. The pupils then used these words to create poems about their parents. In the afternoon parents were invited in for Paired Reading and a Show and Tell where they heard their poems which was a touching moment for some. The pupils looked more in-depth at math's vocabulary, with a focus on using the Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract approach where both pupils and parents demonstrated this method. 'The Minion ways to read' and the 'literacy Quotes tree' display, inspired year 3 to think about why reading is the key to success. Ms. Teeny Lucy read 'A cat called Rebel' which captured the pupil's imagination as they included the sound effects.

Year 4 interviewed older members of the community about school and life 'before days' as part of a homework task in preparation for this day. Children really enjoyed a presentation by Ms. Flagg who indulged and inspired them in many aspects from the past. For literacy children enjoyed a carousel of activities, ending the day with a story read guest, Fire-fighter, Damien Stevens and PTA Vice Chair, Mrs. Michelle Thomas-Lawrence.

In years 5 and 6 children completed writing a story or poem about the olden days. These classes also had a very informative speech given by Ms Patsy Flagg, talking about schools back in the day. Year 6 looked at why literacy is important in maths by looking at place value and problem solving (using words instead of numerals) 'without literacy you would not be



able to express your feelings or know the language to communicate'.

During the lunch time, various Departments came in to support the school with activities to depict this important day. We had the bank, Tourist Office, St Helena national trust, Fire Department and police. Pupils engaged in a variety of fun activities.

'The lunchtime activities made me understand why literacy is important in life as sometimes you need to fill in forms such as from the police, tourist office, the bank and they need to write down a lot of things'. – said Jacob Herne

Headteacher Mrs Pat Williams commented: It was such a lovely fun filled day with a great buzz of excitement around the school all enjoying the activities that were planned for our pupils whilst having a wealth of learning taking place. Congratulations and thanks to all staff, guest speakers, parents and personnel from various Departments who made this day extra special!

POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS 2021

FEEDBACK ON DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

Preparations for the planned Population & Housing Census 2021 are well underway in the St Helena Statistics Office. The Pilot Exercise, which began towards the end of June 2020, has been completed and the Stats Team would like to thank everyone who participated in this vital piece of groundwork prior to the full Census next year.

Whilst the Pilot Exercise has concluded, feedback is still being invited on the draft questionnaire which will be used during the 2021 Census.

Statistical Commissioner, Neil Fantom, said:

"The Pilot Census was very successful and I'd like to thank all those households that took part, the enumeration team, and everyone who has provided feedback so far. It's really

important to get as many comments as possible before we finalise the questionnaire."

Anyone wishing to view and provide feedback on the draft questionnaire can find it, along with relevant forms, on the SHG Website at: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/st-helena/statistics/>. Alternatively, any comments can be provided to the Statistics Office via email: statistics@sainthelena.gov.sh, tel: 22138, or by a visit to the office on the first floor of the Castle, Jamestown.

Feedback will close on Wednesday, 30 September 2020.

SHG 5 September 2020



**St Helena
Government**



St Helena Island
SECRET OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

**WORLD
TOURISM
DAY 2020**

**TOURISM
& RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**



To mark World Tourism Day 2020, themed this year as "Tourism and Rural Development" St Helena Tourism will be hosting a

FARMERS MARKET IN THE JAMESTOWN MARKET ON SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2020 FROM 3PM TO 5PM

Interested in having a stall?

Anyone interested in selling locally produced products are welcomed to book a stall. Stalls will be available free of charge inside and outside the market, on a first come first served basis.

To book a table or for more information please contact Juliet Williams, Events Manager on juliet.williams@tourism.co.sh or tel 22158.

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ST HELENA WEEKLY POLICE REPORT WEEK OF 31 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

During the week of Monday, 31 August, to Sunday, 6 September 2020, Police dealt with a total of 35 reports, resulting in three arrests.

Warrants were executed and, as a result, one person was arrested for the cultivation and production of cannabis and subsequently charged. They will appear in court in due course.

One person was arrested for assault occasioning actual bodily harm. They have since been released on bail, pending further investigations.

One person was arrested for theft, they have also been bailed pending further investigations.

A further report of theft was made and is currently being investigated.

A domestic report of common assault was made and the offender was given a formal caution.

Police attended an ongoing neighbour dispute and measures have now been put in place to mitigate the problem in partnership with other agencies.

A report of a traffic obstruction was made and dealt with.

Two reports were made for concern of safety and resulted in the arrangement of multi-agency strategy meetings.

One person was served an Anti-social Behaviour Order and

five court summons were served.

Police also supported the Port-to-Port sponsored walk on Monday, 31 August, by patrolling the route to ensure public safety.

Two reports of fire alarms and chimney fires were made. These were passed to the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service who dealt with both reports without incident.

The Castle Gardens area was patrolled regularly during the week and over the weekend. Officers also carried out community engagement throughout the Island.

The Bus Shelters which have come to Police attention are being monitored daily, with parking in lower Jamestown also being monitored.

During a Police patrol, it was noticed that a Government building was unsecured. The person in charge was contacted and, despite the building being vulnerable, it was ascertained that no crime had been committed. Members of the public are reminded to always secure buildings, vehicles and valuables, as if left unsecured, could result in a crime of opportunity.

Should you have a report please call Police Headquarters on tel: 22626. Controllers will take your report details and make an assessment, which will then be followed up by a Police Officer. Details are pertinent, therefore please be patient and understanding when you are asked for information.

Until next week - Stay Safe!
SHG 8 September 2020

