

THE ST HELENA  Est. 2005  
**INDEPENDENT**

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# *Coronavirus Risk Stops Flights...*



## *Island Schools Closed from Today*

***Administrator Sean Burns Begins Official Duties***

***Libby Weir-Green brings her last tourist group to St Helena***



***All the Latest Updates about the Coronavirus (COVID-19)***



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# Editorial

Thursday was a busy day for news and important information. Yesterday started as a fairly normal day as far as public announcements and press releases from the government's press office were concerned. At about 1030am Kerisha Yon's team issued a public announcement on behalf of the police. Concern is raised over the speed that patrons of the Oasis Bar depart in their cars on Thursday nights. It's not that people are eager to get away from the Oasis its more about drivers being over keen to get to the next place they are going to. The message from the police was simple; we have got our eye on you. The corona virus inspired social distancing precautions may put and end to the speeding cars before the police do.

Thirty minutes later another public announcement popped up on the computer screen. Its purpose was to clarify that all schools will be closed from and including today – not from close of school today. No headline stories so far; run of the mill stuff after the excitement earlier in the week. But that changed at about 12:30pm.

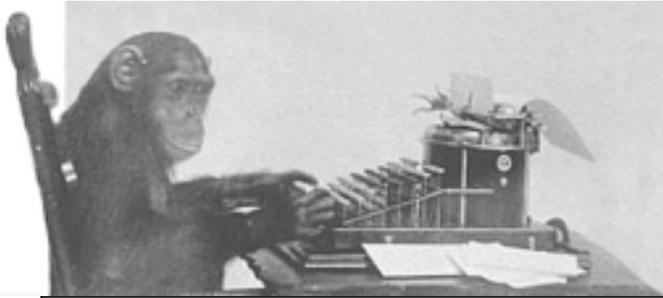
This time it was a press release; **Government approves support for local businesses affected by Covid-19** it said. The first item of support is for businesses with employees who are required to self-isolate for 14 days after returning from overseas. A one-off payment of £325 can be claimed in certain circumstances. Self employed can also claim the same one-off amount, again, subject to conditions. The payment is called Enforced Self-Isolation Support. There is a form to complete and full details can be found on the SHG website at <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information>. There is also a similar amount of money, available on a monthly basis, for businesses most affected by the Covid-19 restrictions. It is called Hardship Support for Highly Impacted Sectors. It is aimed at tourism related businesses Just after 2pm things started to liven up. Another public announcement landed from cyberspace, **Majority of passengers who arrived on 14 March no longer need to self-isolate** it said. All but five had been cleared to go about their normal activities. No explanation was given about how they were cleared or why they were cleared early. Five days of self-isolation instead of the usual 14 days is a very good discount. To quote from the Sarkin Report for a moment, "They, (that's we, the public) also want to understand how decisions are taken, who took them and why they were taken. There is much criticism about these issues at present". In the case of the passengers who arrived on 14 March no longer needing to self-isolate we do not have the how, the who or the why. Knowing how, who and why, is especially important in this case as there are no Covid-19 test kits available yet. Was it a stethoscope on the chest and "take some deep breaths please" or a hand discreetly slipped between a man's legs and "cough please"? Or maybe it had something to do with one of the self-isolated who soon got bored staring at the

walls in the Mantis Hotel and started researching the legal basis of his Enforced Isolation with astoundingly quick results. Maurizio Giuliano is his name and NO, he did not come here from Italy. Mr Giuliano is British-Italian and describes himself as an author and journalist. He has also worked for the United Nations for the past 15 years, First in media relations and communications and then as Head of various regional offices in Africa and South America. To cut a longish story short he ended up quoting the Public Health Act 1939 to the self-isolated Governor and asked who would pay for his enforced accommodation and will SHG provide the necessary documentation showing holiday leave suddenly became sick leave. In a varied career Maurizio spent some time as a consultant to the Italian Senate (one of the two Houses in the Italian Parliament) advising their Committee on Human Rights. Without the benefit of any how, who or why, I suspect Mr Giuliano had something to do with the quick release of the enforced isolationists. I also think the Governor is soldering on, serving his full term of 14 days isolation.

Putting Mr Giuliano to one side, three public announcements were issued by Kerisha's team in fairly quick succession. This week's water levels was one, the second told us badminton and gym activities at Prince Andrew School are corona virus-closed until further notice and the third appealed for information from friends, relatives and colleagues about incoming passengers due to arrive on Saturday. Immigration and Port Health want contact details so as many incoming passengers as possible can be warned they will experience Enforced Isolation immediately upon arrival. Would Airlink have the details they seek?

It was now getting towards 3:30pm and the buses were starting to gather in the Grand Parade. Three more bits of information were launched from the SHG Press Office. First, the UK Minister for the Overseas Territories had a teleconference with the leaders of the Overseas Territories (including St Helena even though we have no political leader) earlier on Thursday. The Minister said **the UK Government want to ensure the OTs get all necessary help and is procuring medical equipment.** The Minister, Baroness Sugg, gave an assurance on behalf of the UK Government, "*we will also stand by the OTs in the long run as they deal with the impacts of the pandemic.*" The Baroness finished by congratulating SHG on the precautionary measures that have been put in place to forestall the onset of Covis-19. "*I would like to thank the Councillors and public servants on St Helena for their hard work to help stop the spread of the virus. I encourage everyone to follow the advice that has been issued - we all have a role to play in keeping people safe*" she said.

The next Notice told us the **Vet Surgery on a Wednesday afternoon is cancelled until further notice.** Joe Hollins does not want any human passing on the virus to dogs, cats,



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# Editorial

hamsters and lambs that are kept as pets. I made that bit up. The closure is in line with the social distancing policy but sick animals can still be nursed back to health by making an appointment in advance. People who just turn up asking for medical attention for their pets will be asked to make an appointment. **The vet dispensary van will also not be available each week in Jamestown and Longwood.** The daytime weekday phone number for appointments is 24724. For emergencies outside normal hours and at weekends it is 26162 or 62039.

The 10th and last of the day was a humdinger of BAD NEWS. **Tomorrow's Jo'burg flight might be the last for some time.** The South African Covid-19 border controls came into force at 4pm yesterday. It is clear SHG have not been able to get clear and precise information from the South African Government which adds considerably to the problems the border controls have created.

Non South African nationals arriving from a country banned by South Africa cannot transit OR Tambo airport. This includes the UK and several European countries and "is interpreted as including people planning to transit through Johannesburg to St Helena. As it is understood at present, it is now impossible for UK nationals to get to St Helena. It may be the same for anyone with any type of British passport. This point needs to be clarified with the South African authorities. SHG state, "we cannot guarantee the weekly flight to and from St Helena beyond this Saturday." They advise anyone with plans to leave St Helena in the near future (to any-

where) to consider booking on tomorrow's flight. Tickets for onward flights should also be booked as it is unlikely passengers from St Helena will be allowed pass through South African Immigration and beyond the transit area. SHG still require more information from the South Africans as emergency medical flights are also uncertain at present. SHG state, "We cannot confirm if arriving from St Helena, you can enter South Africa, unless you are a South African citizen or resident." The South Africans are enforcing isolation more than SHG.

SHG have been given assurances that **all passengers on tomorrow's flight to Jo'burg will be allowed to transit OR Tambo airport to board pre-booked connections.** But, unless a passenger is a South African national, people boarding tomorrow's Jo'burg flight will be restricted to the transit area of the airport. Normally we leave the airport and go to the Southern Sun or some other nearby hotel, get a shower, have a meal, maybe relax with a drink and then get a good night's sleep. The following day is spent finding something to do until it's time to return to the airport to check-in for another flight to take you to where you really want to go.

Tomorrow, the passengers will spend the night of arrival and the following day trying to get some sleep in an uncomfortable chair or on some floor tiles. The only distraction from constant attempts to get some sleep will be trying to find adequate washing facilities for someone without access to a bath or a bed. Meals will probably be 'duty free' chocolates and biscuits.

## Dear Editor,

May I through your paper commend Beatrice Mac Daniel for the sentiments expressed in her letter in the Independent of last week Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. She hit the nail right on the head regarding how individuals are affected in this economic climate here on St Helena.

Thank you Beatie for highlighting this. There are many saints quietly going about their business but struggling inwardly and so often they do it all with a smile. To those of you who continue to offer acts of support, thank you.

However, am very much disturbed and disgusted by comments on social media (relentlessly) made by individuals who are abusing good opportunities of employment at a time when we need to be looking after our jobs. And then going on to cry wolf. Some out there have been given numerous opportunities to prove their worth (jobs that others can only hope to get) only to move into new employment believing that they have the right to disrespect their colleagues, ignore office rules and use social media as a means to demoralise innocent people. What message am I sending out when people see that I just cannot work as a team member and everywhere I go I cause chaos? I am certainly not going to keep fooling all of the people all of the time. There are a number of sincere hard working people who are sadly unemployed right now and waiting for a

good job to come their way. My heart goes out to you and I wish you every success in finding a job soon.

To those of you who think that your job is not important and you feel invisible - You are important. We all need each other and I am extremely grateful for the men who come to collect my garbage and our politician. I admire the person who gets up every morning and is willing to work at whatever is needed to pay the bills and put food on the table. Not spend his day causing contention amongst his colleagues.

And finally I commend Mr Tony Peters (aka Foot) on the Falkland Islands for his open and honest letter on the realities of depression, stress and anxiety. Some may not be comfortable with his story. How sad! There are so many people suffering with this on St Helena, therefore educate yourself, step out of your comfort zone, so that should your loved ones come to you with these illnesses you can offer the comfort, love and non-judgmental support that they will truly need.

Too many suffer in silence every day because they are so afraid of how they will affect those who choose to remain "uncomfortable",

I wish Tony Peters every happiness and success in this life.

**With all my love**

**Flossy Flo from down Egg Island.**

## ***Fire at Anne's place last Friday***

A fire broke out at Anne's place at Castle gardens last Friday afternoon which led to the main street being cordoned off and restrictions to traffic, the fire believed to be caused by a child at the back of the house was eventually extinguished. Later that afternoon Connect STH issued a request asking residents of Jamestown to reduce their water usage to essential needs only until further notice. This was due to a substantial quantity of water being used on the afternoon's fire incident. By Saturday morning restoration works and cleaning up had begun.



## ***Thank You***

The family of the Late George Buckley of Blackfield, Longwood would like to send sincere thanks to all doctors, nurses and all at the General Hospital for the care and professionalism given during George's short illness.

Thanks are extended to Father Clive and Pastor Paul Taylor for the prayers, Father Allan for conducting the funeral, Mrs Pat Musk the organist.

Miss Sharon Wade for reading the Eulogy and Miss Lyn Buckley for the reading.

Mr Roy Williams and his team, Colin and Davina Lawrence for making the wreaths, and those who provided floral arrangements.

For those who generously gave flowers and supported us throughout.

George has gone from our lives but will remain in our hearts.



***His love we will cherish forever***

## ***Tristan da Cunha Government announces ban on visitors due to coronavirus contagion fears***

The Tristan da Cunha Island Council made the decision on Monday 9th March 2020 to not allow passengers to disembark from visiting cruise ships at the island. There were three cruise ships booked to call at Tristan this season: Le Lyrial and Silver Cloud in early March and Plancius scheduled for 12-15 April. The companies and ships concerned have been made fully aware of the decision.

The isolated Tristan da Cunha community is particularly vulnerable to the introduction of any new virus as there is very limited immunity amongst the people. Therefore, even with common colds, epidemics occur locally which cause the hospitalisation of the most vulnerable.

In fact, a Tristan flu epidemic, probably introduced from the last ship visit, affected the island in early March. This has put pressure on Tristan da Cunha's healthcare services and so steps must be taken now to minimise the risk for coronavirus to be introduced to the island by visitors.

The coronavirus is particularly serious for older people and Tristan's population has a disproportionate proportion of older people, many of whom have underlying respiratory disease which places them in the most at-risk group.

The ban will apply until further notice and will also extend to any other ad hoc visiting vessels, eg yachts. Crews of yachts needing urgent assistance should contact the island in advance using the detailed advice on the website: [www.tristandc.com/visitsships.yachts](http://www.tristandc.com/visitsships.yachts)

# ***Snag With Linking Google's Undersea Cable to Saint Helena Could Leave Telecom Monopoly Entrenched Without the planned Equiano branch, island residents won't have access to the cable's promised data rates***

***By Michael Koziol***

Google's Equiano Cable Will Extend to the Remote Island of Saint Helena, Flooding It With Data

Last June, Google announced an addition to the company's planned Equiano undersea cable. In addition to stretching down the length of Africa's western coastline, a branch would split off to connect to the remote island of Saint Helena, part of the United Kingdom. The cable would be an incredible gain for the island of about 4,500 people, who today rely on a shared 50-megabit-per-second satellite link for Internet connections.

The cable will deliver an expected minimum of several hundred gigabits per second. That's far more data than the island's residents can use, and would in fact be prohibitively expensive for Helenians to afford. To make the cable's costs feasible, Christian von der Ropp—who started the Connect Saint Helena campaign in 2011—worked on the possibility of getting satellite ground stations installed on the island.

These ground stations would be crucial links between the growing number of satellites in orbit and our global network infrastructure. One of the biggest problems with satellites, especially lower-orbiting ones, is that they spend significant chunks of time without a good backhaul connection—usually because they're over an ocean or a remote area on land. The southern Atlantic, as you can surely guess, is one such spot. Saint Helena happens to be right in the middle of it.

Von der Ropp found there was interest among satellite companies to build ground stations on the island. OneWeb, Spire Global, and Laser Light have all expressed interest in building infrastructure on the island. The ground stations would be a perfect match for the cable's throughput, taking up the bulk of the cable's usage and effectively subsidizing the costs of high-speed access for Helenians.

But what seemed like smooth sailing for the cable has now run into another bump, however. The island government is currently at odds with the island's telecom monopoly, Sure South Atlantic. If the dispute cannot be resolved by the time the cable lands in late 2021 or early 2022, Helenians could see incredibly fast Internet speeds come to their shores—only to go nowhere once they arrive.

"The arrival of unlimited broadband places [Sure's] business at risk," says von der Ropp. He points out that, in general, when broadband access becomes essentially unlimited, users move away from traditional phone and television services in favor of messaging and streaming services like Skype, WhatsApp, and Netflix. If fewer Helenians are paying for Sure's service packages, the company may instead jack up the prices on Internet access—which Helenians would then be forced to pay.

Most pressing, however, is that the island's infrastructure simply cannot handle the data rates the Equiano branch will deliver. Because Sure is a monopoly, the company has little incentive to upgrade or repair infrastructure in any but the direst circumstances (Sure did not respond to a request for comment for this story).

That could give satellite operators cold feet as well. Under Sure's current contract with the island government, satellite operators would be forbidden from running their own fiber from their ground stations to the undersea cable's terminus. They would be reliant on Sure's existing infrastructure to make the connection.

Sure's current monopoly contract is due to expire on December 31, 2022—about a year after the cable is due to land on the island—assuming that the Saint Helena government does not renew the contract. Given the dissatisfaction of many on the island with the quality of service, that appears to be a distinct possibility. Right now, for example, Helenians pay 82 pounds per month for 11 gigabytes of data according to Sure's Gold Package. The moment they exceed their data cap, Sure charges them 5 pence per megabyte, which is a 670 percent increase in the cost of data.

11 GB per month may seem hard to burn through, but remember that for Helenians, that data covers everything—streaming, browsing the Internet, phone calls, and texting. For a Helenian that has exceeded their data cap, a routine 1.5 GB iPhone update could cost them an additional 75 pounds.

But it could be hard to remove Sure as a monopoly. If the island government ends the contract, Sure has a right of compensation for all assets on the island. Von der Ropp estimates that means the government would be required to compensate Sure in the ballpark of four or five million pounds. That's an extremely hefty sum, considering the government's total annual budget is between 10 and 20 million pounds. "They will need cash to pay the monopoly's ransom," says von der Ropp, adding that it will likely be up to the United Kingdom to foot the bill. Meanwhile, the island will need to look for new providers to replace Sure, ones that will hopefully invest in upgrading the island's deteriorating infrastructure.

There is interest in doing just that. As Councilor Cyril Leo put it in a recent speech to the island's Legislative Council, "Corporate monopoly in St Helena cannot have the freedom to extract unregulated profits, from the fiber-optic cable enterprise, at the expense of the people of Saint Helena." What remains to be seen is if the island can actually find a way to remove that corporate monopoly.

## Island starts voluntary lock down

This week saw a long list of private businesses and community organisations voluntarily and temporarily close in an attempt to keep the coronavirus at bay. Among them are Rick Walters' Roots hairdressing salon and Robert Peters' History on Wheels tours. New Horizons and the Cubs and Brownies have all closed their doors and are waiting until the Covid 19 pandemic runs out of steam. On the government side, this week's Public Accounts Committee meeting was cancelled as senior government officers met instead to discuss the next steps in the attempts to delay the arrival of Covid 19 and reduce the effects of the coronavirus when it does arrive. The first victim of coronavirus for St Helena was in ESH Tourism when the world's leading travel trade show in Berlin due to be held at the beginning of March was cancelled. The small team from St Helena Tourism had to return from Germany without persuading anyone at the Berlin show to come to St Helena. Later it was announced that councillors will not be attending overseas meetings and conferences. The Joint Ministerial Council meeting in London was an early casualty. The Commonwealth Digital Economy Forum, to be held at Rosie's Taste 4 Life, joined the lengthening list of cancellations together with the cruise ship visit by the MV Astor.

This week the rate of cancellations and closures has accelerated with councillors cancelling Wednesday's Half Tree Hollow constituency meeting. On the same day the St Helena Community College was closed; both are described as measures in line with the social distancing policy. It seems to be only a matter of time before the schools are also closed.

On Tuesday, before and during the press conference organised by SHG to explain the latest position in preparedness for a coronavirus invasion, the phones at Saint FM were constantly ringing with listeners asking for particular questions to be put to Cllr. Derek Thomas and the rest of the panel in the Governor's Office. Every caller wanted to see the most stringent measures put in place to keep coronavirus out of St Helena. Several callers asked, "When is the airport being closed?" or "Why isn't the airport closed?" Other callers asked when other closures would be happening, especially for venues which attract large gatherings.

At the press conference Derek Thomas announced that passengers carried on the weekly Airlink flight will be limited to government officials, residents and returning Saints. The number of passengers looks destined to be reduced to a mere trickle as overseas visitors and tourists are now not welcome. Quarantine for 14 days will be imposed on any arriving passengers who have travelled from or visited a high risk country.



This precautionary measure did not impress Darrin Henry of *Inside St Helena* and other media platforms. Darrin reflected what appeared to be a common and strongly felt opinion across St Helena, that the shutters should come down everywhere and St Helena return to complete isolation for as long as it takes. The view being taken that the only real way to keep out coronavirus is to keep everybody out.

The isolation unit at Bradley's Camp, obtaining Covid-19 testing kits and ventilators as soon as possible to help virus victims with the respiratory problems and the body temperature tests for incoming travellers by air or sea are seen by many as admittance that it is only a matter of time before the coronavirus will be amongst us. This is looked upon as defeatist and a more stringent isolationist approach should be followed to reduce to as near to zero as possible the risk of coronavirus reaching St Helena. Darrin Henry pointed out the island has been left isolated before for lengthy periods when the RMS has had unscheduled visits to dry docks for major repairs.

The Head of the Governor's Office, Greg Gibson, defended the decision to keep the air service going on a limited basis as it is necessary to get professional healthcare specialists here quickly. It will also allow much needed and urgently awaited medical equipment to be sent here much quicker than the MV Helena can manage.

Another closure is Harford Primary School due to many teachers having severe colds or flu. Some people are wondering how it can be certain the symptoms shown by the teachers is cold or flu and not coronavirus if the testing kits for the virus are not yet available. Another claim repeatedly made by Cllr Derek Thomas at the press conference was that there is no known case of Covid-19 in St Helena. Once again, without the testing kits a claim of this kind offers reassurance to many Saints who are clearly very worried about how the coronavirus threat is unfolding.



# **AIRLINK FLIGHTS AND SOUTH AFRICA CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS**

The South African Government has imposed strict border controls to contain the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

We have been in touch with the South African Government to understand what the new entry and transit controls are, as there has been some confusion.

Our understanding of the new controls that affect St Helena (as of Thursday, 19 March 2020, at 4pm) are as follows:

- Non South African nationals **arriving from any listed banned country** (e.g. China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, USA or United Kingdom) cannot transit Johannesburg airport or enter South Africa. This is interpreted as including people planning to transit through Johannesburg to St Helena.
- We have been assured that all persons **leaving St Helena will be allowed to transit** through Johannesburg Airport on this Saturday's flight.
- We cannot confirm, if arriving from St Helena, you can enter South Africa, unless you are a South African citizen or resident. We are making further enquiries about entry to South Africa for non-South Africans, especially in relation to routine and emergency medical journeys.

As air travel arrangements around the world are changing on a daily basis, we cannot guarantee the weekly flight to and from St Helena beyond this Saturday.

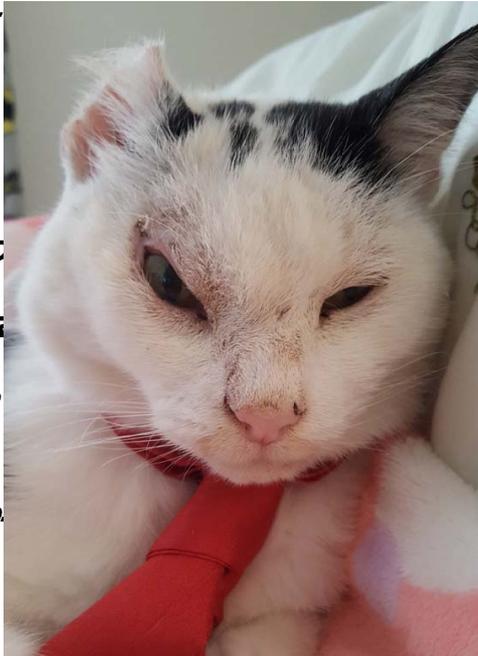
**We therefore advise anyone thinking of leaving St Helena in the near future to consider booking on to Saturday's flight.** Please note that you are advised to book onward connecting flights too, as it is unlikely that you will be allowed beyond the transit area of Johannesburg airport.

**SHG**  
19 March 2020

## **THINK I'M BAD??? YOU SHOULD SEE THE OTHER CAT!!!**

***A BIG THANK-YOU TO VET REBECCA (who did the intricate eye surgery to ensure I keep my good looks!!) AS WELL AS VET JOE, KERRY, RICO, CLAYTON, KEN HENRY AND ALL AT THE ANRD'S VETERINARY SECTION FOR THE MEDICAL ATTENTION AND GENUINE CARE OVER THE YEARS....AND BY THE WAY GUYS, THANKS FOR THE EXTENSION ON THE '9 LIVES' BIT!!***

*Phineas Flynn*



# Support for Businesses Affected by COVID-19

On 17 March 2020, St Helena Government (SHG) announced additional measures to prevent COVID-19 from reaching the Island as well as limit the spread of the virus if it was to be confirmed here. While these measures are an important step towards protecting public health, they will also have an impact on the local economy.

Recognising this, SHG has approved the following support mechanisms to reduce the burden on local businesses. As this is an evolving situation, SHG will continue to evaluate the impacts of COVID-19 response measures and consider additional support where warranted. The support described below will be reassessed when the COVID-19 measures are lifted or no later than June 2020 if those measures remain in place. A review will be undertaken if there is a confirmed case of the virus on-Island.

## Enforced Self-Isolation Support

All individuals returning to St Helena from overseas on or after 14 March are now required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Any company with an employee who is required to self-isolate is eligible for a one-time payment of £325 per full-time employee, provided the period of self-isolation is not counted against the employee's sick leave and the employee is compensated at their usual rate for the period of self-isolation. Sole proprietors (i.e. self-employed persons with no employees) may also be eligible for a one-time payment of £325 if they can demonstrate they are unable to work as a result of the self-isolation requirement.

## To apply for Enforced Self-Isolation Support

Applications should be made in the attached form and should be sent to Alan Bennett via email: alan.bennett@sainthelena.gov.sh. The following information will be required in order to process the application:

- Name of the business
- Name of registered owner
- Tax registration number
- Name and address of each employee you are claiming for
- Confirmation of business account number into which the funds should be transferred.

SHG may require further information in order to process the request. The application will be processed and payment made within five business days to your business bank account.

## Hardship Support for Highly Impacted Sectors

Beginning 21 March, only individuals who already have the right to live and work on St Helena will be allowed to enter the Island, impacting tourism-related businesses. Effective immediately, eligible privately-owned businesses can apply for monthly Hardship Support of £500 for the first owner/director, £325 for the second owner/

director and £325 per additional full-time employee. After an application is made and approved, the business will receive payment for the month of application and each following month in which support is available.

Hardship Support is available to owners of companies and sole proprietorships for whom more than half of their annual income is earned in the following sectors:

- Tourist accommodation providers
- Tour operators, including both land- and marine-based
- Eateries
- Bars and clubs
- Other tourism-related businesses

## To apply for Hardship Support

Applications should be made in the attached form and should be sent to Alan Bennett via email: alan.bennett@sainthelena.gov.sh.

The following information will be required in order to process the application.

- Name of the business
- Name of registered owner
- Tax registration number
- Name and address of each employee you are claiming for
- Declaration that more than 50% of the owner/director's income is derived from the profit of a business in an eligible sector
- Confirmation of business account number into which the funds should be transferred.



The application will be processed and payment made within five business days to your business bank account.

## Support from Bank of St Helena

In addition to these proposals by SHG, the Bank of St Helena has announced a series of actions to support customers. Effective 23 March, the Bank will institute a three-month freeze on loan capital and interest repayments for business loans. This assistance is targeted to businesses in the tourism sector (e.g. accommodation, bars, restaurants, eateries, tour operators, etc.). However, consideration will be given to requests by other businesses that can demonstrate that they are adversely affected by COVID-19 related measures.

In addition, the Bank of St Helena will be encouraging more people to take up online banking and local debit cards, which will eliminate the need for queuing for cash and the payment of bills. The Bank is offering free online banking for all personal banking customers for three months to allow them full access to the online banking services.

The Bank will review implementation of these actions after three months.

**SHG**  
**19 March 2020**



St Helena  
Government

- Social Distancing
- Self-Isolation
- Practice good hygiene
- Keeping up-to-date

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

### **ST HELENA PREPAREDNESS UPDATE**

Keeping St Helena safe is our priority. In a press conference yesterday, Chairman of the Public Health Committee Councillor Derek Thomas announced further measures we are putting in place to try and prevent the coronavirus (COVID-19) from reaching St Helena. **We would like to reassure the public that there are no suspected cases of COVID-19 on the Island at this time.**

We have in place the following three phases of planning:

- **Prevent – Keep COVID-19 off the Island**
- Contain – Limit the spread of COVID-19 on St Helena
- Delay – Reduce the number of serious cases.

**We are in the Prevent Stage, and all resources have been deployed to ensure we remain at this stage for as long as possible.** We have therefore introduced the following additional prevention measures:

- No one will be permitted to fly to St Helena unless they are exempt from immigration control (St Helena Status citizens, St Helena residents, holders of long term entry permits), SHG sponsored Technical Cooperation Officers and contractors, travellers to Ascension and persons authorised in advance by the Governor
- Everyone arriving by air, and anyone that lives in the same accommodation with that person must self-isolate for 14 days unless advised differently by a medical person
- Anyone on-Island who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, aches, fatigue) should call the Hospital on tel: **25707** and self-isolate. Please do **NOT** go to the Hospital
- No cruise ships will visit the Island for the time being (A complete set of travel restrictions is appended to this release).

We have also received concerns around visiting yachts and the MV Helena. You are reassured that yacht crews self-isolate themselves, given that the journey to St Helena can take up to 12 days from South Africa. They are also screened and questioned on arrival, just like air passengers. As for air passenger arrivals these arrangements are kept under constant review.

As the Island's food and materials lifeline, the MV Helena service will continue and we are reviewing the process of managing crew contact.

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These strong practical measures together with other measures such as voluntary Social Distancing and practicing good cough and hand hygiene will help us to prevent the virus getting here, however it is impossible to eliminate the risk 100%.

Therefore as a community, we are all in this together and we have to take sensible precautionary measures to protect ourselves and those around us – we all have a collective responsibility to each other.

Please read on for information on how you can help.

## **Social Distancing**

As announced at yesterday's press conference a social distancing campaign is being implemented and this will be reviewed on an on-going basis. As part of our Social Distancing Campaign we are encouraging people to take steps to reduce contact with each other as a precautionary measure. These include:

- Do not shake hands or hug – wave instead!
- Avoid close physical contact
- Try to avoid crowds

As per our phased approach to tackling COVID-19 on the Island we do not see it necessary at this Prevent Stage to ban large gatherings.

Gatherings in public places and businesses are still permitted as there remains no indication of COVID-19 on the Island. This decision will of course remain under regular review. Organisers of planned, large events in the next three months should therefore make their own judgement on meeting public expectations on these occasions. We note that a number of organisations and businesses have voluntarily postponed upcoming events and regular meetings. It is for organisers to decide if their actions are proportionate or necessary at this time.

Owners and operators of public places are required to ensure a high standard of cleanliness and hygiene is maintained.

As a precaution, it is voluntary though recommended for people with underlying health problems and/or over 70 years of age to avoid large crowds and gatherings.

Look out for posters in this week's newspapers, in key places around the Island and on Social Media. Also listen out for our radio updates.

## **Self-Isolation**

We have spoken a lot about self-isolation especially now that we will be requesting all arriving air passengers to self-isolate for 14 days, but what does self-isolate mean and what should you do if you are asked to self-isolate?

Self-isolation or staying at home is an effective precautionary measure to protect those around you – your family, friends, and colleagues – from contracting COVID-19. It means taking simple, common-sense steps to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, like you would with the seasonal flu virus. We know it's a stressful time, but taking these measures will help protect you, your family and the St Helena community from COVID-19.

If you have been asked to self-isolate due to possible COVID-19 infection i.e. displaying symptoms of new continuous cough or high temperature or have been in close contact with a possible COVID-19 infected person, you should remain at home for 14 days until you are well. Self-isolation can be difficult and frustrating. These simple steps will help to make self-isolation easier:

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



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- Plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home
- Ask your employer, friends and family to help you get the things you need to stay at home
- Stay at least two metres (about three steps) away from other people in your home if possible
- Sleep alone, if possible
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, as much as possible
- Think about and plan how you can get access to food and other supplies such as medications that you will need during this period
- Ask friends or family to drop off anything you need. Make sure any deliveries are left outside your home for you to collect
- Make sure that you keep in touch with friends and family over the phone or through social media
- Think about things you can do during your time at home. People who have successfully completed a period of staying at home have kept themselves busy with activities such as cooking, reading, gardening and watching films
- When you are feeling better, remember that physical exercise can be good for your wellbeing
- If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 14 days, contact the **St Helena Coronavirus/Flu hotline on 25707**. For a medical emergency dial 911.

All passengers arriving on Saturday's flight and each flight will receive an information pack when they land at the Airport. Information packs will ideally be sent to passengers ahead of their departure to St Helena. Self-Isolation guidance will also be made available on the St Helena Government website. If you do not have access to the internet please contact Kate Heneghan at the Health Directorate on tel: 22500.

### Practice good hygiene

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are not visibly dirty
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds each time you wash your hands
- **CATCH IT, KILL IT, BIN IT** – When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue to prevent the spread of germs and viruses. Discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water
- Hands touch many surfaces which can be contaminated with a virus. If you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer a virus from the surface to yourself
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early by calling the St Helena flu hotline on 25707.

### Keeping up-to-date

There is a raft of information available online and through various media channels however we encourage you to use official and authoritative channels for information. We are increasing the frequency of our updates to the public so please tune into the radio on a daily basis, look out for our regular news releases and visit our 'live' Question and Answer page on the SHG website: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/coronavirus-COVID-19-live-qa/>.

We've also now started broadcasting general advice on COVID-19 via the promo TV channel and we will be continuously adding to this content.

Anyone with concerns on a particular issue relating to COVID-19 should contact: [marco.yon@helanta.co.sh](mailto:marco.yon@helanta.co.sh).

**#StHelena #Coronavirus #COVID-19 #AltogetherHealthier**

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

**SHG, 18 March 2020**

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## St Helena

### Travel Restrictions in response to the COVID-19 virus

- No fly for travellers from any overseas country, unless they:
  - Are exempt from St Helena border control (e.g. Citizens, residents, long term entry permit holders, temporary contractors)
  - Travellers to and from Ascension in direct transit
  - Individuals exceptionally authorised in advance of travel by the Governor.
- All arriving travellers at the Airport are required to self-isolate for 14 days, unless the period is amended by a medical person following relevant examination or testing. If self-isolation is not possible then the traveller would be required to use a SHG isolation facility.
- Any person on-Island exhibiting apparent symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, aches, fatigue) is required as directed by a medical person to be isolated at their own residence or a SHG isolation facility.
- Any person on-Island exhibiting apparent symptoms of COVID-19 should not go to the hospital/ clinic to seek assistance. Instead, they should call for medical advice on: **25707**
- People taking or meeting travellers at the Airport should not remain inside the Airport building and leave the area as soon as possible. At the discretion of the Airport authorities, those waiting for arriving passengers are likely to be asked to remain outside of the building.
- There remains a moratorium on visiting cruise ships until the end of May 2020. Continuation or otherwise of this moratorium will be reviewed regularly.
- All non-essential travel overseas is not encouraged.

SHG

18 March 2020

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# Deal With Gibraltar International Bank Raises Many Questions

On Monday last week, SHG released a press release saying: “**GIBRALTAR INTERNATIONAL BANK SUPPORTS ST HELENA**”

Gibraltar International Bank (GIB) has agreed to formally support St Helena Government’s (SHG) and Bank of St Helena’s (BOSH) initiative to provide easier access to international banking services for St Helena residents and businesses. This means that St Helena residents and businesses can now apply to open an account directly with GIB where they will be able to access online banking services and a debit card that can be used for online purchases/payments and used abroad.

The GIB bank account would be similar to having a UK bank account and can be used for payment transfers (in/out) and opened in various currencies to facilitate foreign transactions. The GIB bank account would be ‘located’ in Gibraltar, and there would be no legal relationship between the bank account holder and SHG or between SHG and GIB. SHG is not promoting GIB and does not warrant in any way the services offered by GIB.

Financial Secretary Dax Richards said: “This piece of work has been ongoing for a while and the outcome is a real positive for St Helena. With the rise in the requirements for payments by debit/credit cards most people and businesses on St Helena would have found it difficult to buy items or pay for services online. Having the option of opening a bank account with the Gibraltar International Bank will enable people to obtain a card which will make these transactions easier.

“When travelling overseas, residents without an overseas bank account or debit card would have had to transfer money to a family member’s bank account or carried large amounts of cash which as we know is not safe and advised against. The option of opening a bank account with Gibraltar will complement the work being progressed by the Bank of St Helena to address the banking needs of the people of St Helena.

“Furthermore it is hoped that businesses will soon have the option of acquiring a point of sale platform capable of accepting payments by debit and credit cards. This will go some way in supporting the local private sector to maximise revenues from visitors to the Island and ensure businesses are able to take advantage of future e-commerce opportunities.”

To express an interest in opening an account with the GIB, persons and businesses should contact GIB directly, the account opening process will be subject to the usual know your customer checks. A trial has been undertaken and from submitting an application through to opening the account and receiving a debit card through the post took around 6-8 weeks.

Further information on the type of accounts and associated support can be obtained from the GIB

Website: <https://www.gibintbank.gi/>.

Those interested in opening an account can contact the following members of staff by email:

Kevin Gonzalez – Relationship Manager

[kevin.gonzalez@gibintbank.gi](mailto:kevin.gonzalez@gibintbank.gi)

Gerald Danino – Head of Client Relations

[gerald.danino@gibintbank.gi](mailto:gerald.danino@gibintbank.gi)

Gibraltar International Bank Limited is authorised and regulated by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission.”

It cannot be in question that St Helena needs access to international debit card arrangements but before SHG solicits such services with a relatively unknown bank some checks



## From Mike’s Diary

and investigations need to be undertaken. We also need to assess the consequences for our own Bank of St Helena. There are a big risk that we are shooting ourselves in the foot if we do not do this properly.

The St Helena Independent has undertaken its own investigations with help from some friends with experience from banking and the legalities involved.

The Gibraltar International Bank Ltd- according to the internet it is 100% owned by the Government of Gibraltar although we can find no details of its accounts, capital, profitability etc. It is relatively new and we wonder how successful it is.

The senior people behind the bank Lawrence Podesta, the CEO, and Derek Sene, who seem to be the senior managers, were full career employees of Barclays Bank, Gibraltar. Both were relatively junior employees.

Our guess is that Lawrence Podesta and Derek Sene have set up GIB Ltd after retirement from Barclays after some interesting discussions with the Government of Gibraltar and behind closed doors! They have certainly not put any of their own money into the Bank. It might be interesting to find out just how BOSH has become involved with this new outfit in Gibraltar. We do not doubt that that Podesta and Sene are honest people and they will do their best to look after Saints money but some questions need to be asked.

1. SHG will destroy the bank of St Helena by doing this. There will be significant capital flows away from the island.

2. Access to visa debit and credit facilities will inevitably mean that more people buy goods off island. There will be a significant detrimental impact on local retailers. points 1 and 2 mean significant problems for St Helena’s economy.

3. The due diligence on GIB appears not to have been done properly.

4. There has been no thought to anti money laundering issues and compliance processes.

5. The press release is essentially a solicitation for deposit taking which is in breach of the financial services ordinance

6. We know that GIB is regulated by the Gibraltar financial services commission but the public has not been told whether there is any consumer deposit protection scheme or an ombudsman etc?

7. How exactly will this work in St Helena without a physical presence and no local regulator?

In an interview on Saint FM yesterday the Financial Secretary, Dax Richards said that the Attorney General, Allen Cansick, was in agreement with the scheme and no approval from the St Financial Services Regulator was needed.

I have my doubts.

***This article was properly published in the Internet version last week but corrupted in the paper version.***

## Libby Weir-Green brings her last tourist group to St Helena



year instead of flying straight on to Mount Pleasant. While there she met Matt Young who was a director, and later chairman, of the St Helena Line. Matt took Libby on to the RMS to show her the ship. Libby fell in love with the ship and two months later was on board once more, to visit St Helena for the first time. With Libby were a group of tourists; by bringing them with her to St Helena Libby became the first tour operator to include St Helena in her choice of destinations offered to clients. Libby has visited St Helena every year since 2004, guiding a group of tourists every time.

In retirement Libby intends to write a book. Although not one word of it has been written yet she has a working title, *"I shouldn't really laugh"* which is an admission that she has very much her own style of humour. Libby knows she will miss the people she looks forward to seeing every year but will give piano lessons and has plans to write a screenplay based on a book she read a long time ago called *Libby*. This book was bought from a souvenir shop on Pribilof Island which lies well off the coast of Alaska, as near to Russia as it is to the United States. The shop opened got 30 minutes each week. This book, says Libby, has everything; history, humour, travel writing, sex, you name it, it's in there. "I want to turn the book into a film" said Libby, "even though I haven't a clue about how to write a screenplay. Well, that's just typical, but she will do it.

Libby has a more immediate challenge right now as she was unsure on Tuesday how she can take her tour group back to the UK. South Africa banned flights from several countries, including the UK, from Wednesday this week causing her major logistical and bureaucratic problems to be sorted out.

Libby Weir-Green founded Island Holidays 33 years ago. For the last 16 of those years she has been bringing tourist groups to St Helena every year as well as making the travel arrangements for other visitors who prefer to travel independently. Libby started Island Holidays in August 1987. After organising holidays to some of the furthest Scottish islands Libby set her sights further afield and organised tours to the Falklands. She has also organised a tour group to go to the Falklands every year since 1987.

St Helena was added to Libby's South Atlantic destinations in 2004. She decided to stay a few days on Ascension in that

But she will do it.

## Administrator Sean Burns Begins Official Duties

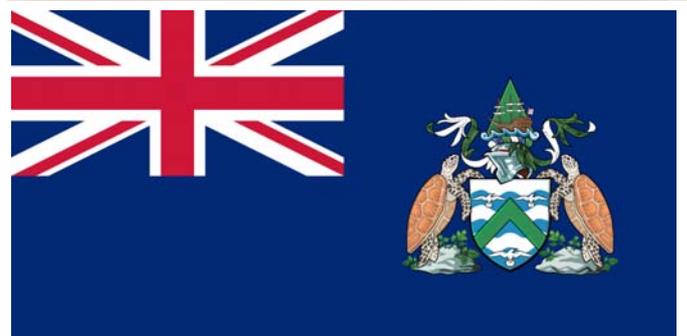
On Sunday 15 March Sean Burns was sworn in as Administrator of Ascension Island by Governor Philip Rushbrook in a ceremony in Georgetown court house, beginning official duties on Tuesday 17 March.

Sean is the 25<sup>th</sup> Administrator to take office and has previously served as Administrator of Tristan da Cunha twice, as well as Head of the Governor's Office on St Helena.

Sean is accompanied by his wife Marina. On his appointment, Sean said:

I am proud and privileged to have been appointed by the Governor to be the Administrator of Ascension and look forward to working with everyone for the benefit of all on the island. Marina and I are delighted to be here and are excited to meet with everyone as we settle in.

Outgoing Administrator Steven Chandler departed the island on the morning of Wednesday 18 March, having served as Ascension's 24<sup>th</sup> Administrator between March 2019 and March 2020.



# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Editor.**

We are in a lot of panic on-island with the CoronaVirus (CoVid-19) slowly sneaking up on us. We are all preparing ourselves for the inevitable by buying hand sanitizers, hand wipes etc. and many have been familiarizing ourselves and others of clean hygiene and tricks to prevent the spread of CoVid-19. So what sick person would want to post something on social media that is so misleading that anyone who sees it immediately goes into panic.

On Tuesday this week an announcement was aired on St FM regarding possible cases on Ascension. Hours later a thoughtless local person posted on Facebook **"It's official.....they got it"**

Now, I'm just going to leave this here and let you decide what this means.

In my opinion, for someone who has no idea what this person is talking about would immediately become anxious because of the Ascension announcement. Why would that one person go out on a limb and do such a thing when they know so well that the island is going through a difficult time with panic about the virus. And the amount of comments that followed just showed that that person made a grave mistake and confused everyone. What made me outraged was how the user REFUSED to truthfully explain as to what "it" is. The fact that you just wanted attention for all the wrong reasons just makes me sick.

Social Media users have posted funny memes, pictures and photo compilation of CoVid-19, all of which does not represent any fake news that the virus is at a certain location. That is used to shed some light through dark times for everyone. But posting something that makes people even more worried about the virus is just careless.

I appreciate those who have posted positive things on Facebook over the

past couple of months. I recently friend someone on Facebook who lives on St Helena who makes cool videos on YouTube (thanks MICKY BUGATROSIS3 for making me laugh, and a happy 1 year anniversary to you) and I also saw some brilliant pictures posted by Phantom View, among other social media posts. That is what social media should mostly be used for; positive posts, event updates, news, socializing, etc., not for attention seekers trying to get themselves in a worse position than they are right now. And that person has been posting a lot about their anxiety and depression for quite some time; why makes things worse.

To end my rant, I would just like to say thank you to everyone on Facebook who continues to post positive thoughts on social media. And to that one Facebook user who posted that statement, SHAME ON YOU! I hope the user reads this letter and execute an appropriate action to all those that they have alarmed.

Kind regards,

**Percy "Little Openami" McHertin**

**Dear Editor**

Once again I am prompted to write to the media to address my concerns about the Covid-19 virus which has been declared a pandemic by the world health organization. I watch the international news daily as countries confirm new cases of infection which continue to spread at an alarming rate, with many countries now taking steps to close its borders to prevent the arrival of new cases and to contain current levels of the infection. However for some reason it appears that St Helena with its various command structures and sub committees are no further forward in taking any definitive steps (other than restrict access for category 1 countries as determined by the UK government). This is concerning on so many levels given our isolation, lack of resources, our inability to test for the virus, our lack of actual preparedness (despite the SHG preparedness press releases), our aging demographic and risks posed by the populations high rate of underlying illnesses, and the lack of scientific study on this strain of the corona virus.

An example of our lack of preparedness was evident at last week flights to St

Helena. The questionnaire allowing passengers to report any concerns of travellers exhibiting flu like symptoms were not available, there were no adequate screening, passengers were told to self-isolate without any arrangements in place to ensure that this is actually carried out, the quarantine stations at Bradley's are still being completed and the medical staff present were not wearing any personal protection equipment other than a hi-vis alerting persons to the fact that they are medical personal.

The risk to employees, especially those who provide a front line service doesn't appear to be properly mitigated either. There are the general public health announcements, with hygiene tips and tips for the public to avoid highly populated areas, however for employees who work in front line services these avoidance tips are not an option in order for them to be effective in their jobs.

I am personally aware that previously employees at the airport have been advised not to use their masks (for the limited protection that this provides) because this will alarm passengers. I have also heard that customs employees who have rightfully raised concerns with their line manager about the risks to their health of working at the airport in the midst of this pandemic, and who have also requested personal protection equipment have been threatened with disciplinary by the Head of Customs if they continue down this path. I would sincerely trust that this is not true, and I would gladly stand to be corrected. However these concerns have been aired a number of times and it is prudent that all employers uphold the duty of care that is owed to its employees. This duty of care exists in the ordinary course of an employment relationship, and I would imagine that in the event of a global health emergency an employee's health and safety (including their mental wellbeing) would be an employer's paramount concern.

The multitude of unknowns, local risk factors and the failings in the level of preparedness significantly increases the risk for St Helena to the extent that the only sensible solution would be to suspend flights until these are properly addressed.

According to elected members there is a lot going on behind the scenes. How-

**Continued on NEXT PAGE**

# Your Opinion Counts

collective decision making groups are a mechanism for those who have direct decision making powers to avoid accountability. St Helena needs to act quickly. South Africa has closed its borders to travel for passengers from all affected countries. This helps St Helena in some way but travellers in South Africa or surrounding African countries where there are also recorded cases of the virus are not restricted from travelling to St Helena.

Elected members have confirmed that in the event of a closure to the airport, urgent medical supplies will be bought in by a military aircraft, apparently this was also done in extreme cases many years ago and before we had air access, so clearly is not the reason for the airport remaining open. Our elected members are the highest level of authority in St Helena, chosen by the people to represent the views of the people. We need leadership! This is not a decision for the FCO or DfID. The UK Prime Minister has made his position clear 'many families will lose loved ones before their time', please do not let this be the case for St Helena.

Yours sincerely

**Extremely Concerned**

**Dear Earl**

As promised on behalf of Elected Members I provide a substantive response to your letter of 19 February 2020, concerning the proposed water tariffs increases by CONNECT from 1 April 2020. Prior to the meeting facilitated by Unified Saints at Half tree Hollow Community Centre on 8 January 2020, Elected Members had held meetings with CONNECT concerning their proposal to increase water tariffs by 20%, at these meetings it was decided by Elected Members that the full amount of 20% should not be passed onto the consumer. After receiving feedback from CONNECT, it was decided that

Saint Helena Government (SHG) would provide a further subsidy to cover half the proposed increase. As the public will be aware water is already heavily subsidised and if we had agreed to provide the subsidy to cover the full amount of 20%, other essential services would have suffered.

Those recipients of Income Related Benefits and the Basic Island Pension will have their level of income adjusted to reflect these increases.

I will also like to clarify that it is not Elected Members who agree or disagree tariff increases for utilities, this is the responsibility of CONNECT Board and the Utilities Regulator. However, Elected Members can set the level of SHG subsidy payable and this has been done as indicated above.

Yours Faithfully

**Derek Thomas**  
**On behalf of Elected Members**

**Dear Editor**

We know that the Coronavirus reaching St Helena was not 'IF' but 'WHEN'

I listened to the press conference held in the Governor's Office on Tuesday 17 March and was surprised to hear the Chair of the Public Health Committee say there are no suspected cases of the Coronavirus on St Helena. If they're not able to test and people are not reporting their symptoms how can that statement be reliable.

I have information to the fact that a few people have been having cough, very sore throat, chesty feeling, tiredness, fever and

profound sweating but they have not reported this to the hospital. As of today 17 March one person is now in the 5th day and still unwell and sleeping, another one in 7th day and still having to take cool baths to help keep the temperature down.

What about those who might be spreaders? If St Helena is not able to test we cannot have confidence in what we are being told by the government.

Temperature checks  
"What can be missed

The biggest problem is that temperature screening can miss cases, unwittingly sending sick people through. It can also deliver false positives, potentially sending healthy people into spaces where others are seriously ill.

A thermometer, if calibrated and if used appropriately, can detect a fever. Great. We are all happy about that," said Isaac Bogoch, an infectious disease specialist at Toronto General Hospital. "But is it an effective method for screening people for covid-19 infection? The answer is no. "

**Contributed**

**Dear Editor**

I would like to say a big thank you to the Police, Fire and Rescue, and ENRD Staff, as well as all of our family, friends and neighbours who helped with the search for my Mum and gave us support last Thursday night and Friday morning.

It was much appreciated, you did a great job!

**Nanette Anthony.**

## For Sale



Toyota Prado, Land cruiser, 3.0 Diesel Automatic @ £11.000 and a Ford Fiesta XR2 car – in need of some TLC or can be used for spare parts – any offers

Please contact Mario George on Tele: 22821 if interested



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Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown, or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via email address: [hadmin@solomons.co.sh](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and should be completed and returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, by **27 March 2020**.

## INVITATION TO TENDER

The Programme Management Unit of Corporate Finance are seeking the services of individuals who are able to provide ad-hoc Technical Support to the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) Support Team.

Such Services will include, but not limited to, design drawings, costing designs, basic project management, preparation of progress reports, structural designs and assessments, surveying and project site supervision.

Individuals who are interested and want to find out more, can contact Mr Richard Wotton, EDIP Chartered Engineer on Tel 51617 or email [richardcwotton@hotmail.com](mailto:richardcwotton@hotmail.com).

Copies of the tender documentation can be obtained from **Miss Alfreda Yon,**

**Capital Programme Manager  
Programme Management Unit  
The Castle  
Jamestown**



St Helena  
Government

Telephone No: 22777 or email [alfreda.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:alfreda.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh)  
Completed Tenders should be submitted to the Capital Programme Manager by **12 noon on 30 March 2020** in a sealed envelope marked **EDIP Support Team**. Electronic copies will also be acceptable and must also be received by the deadline to the following email address [alfreda.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:alfreda.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh).

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

# NOTIFICATION

## CANCELLATION OF LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY MEETING

“The meeting of the Land Development Control Authority that was due to take place on Wednesday, 1 April 2020 has been cancelled until further notice. This cancellation is in line with the St Helena Government’s social distancing policy with regard to the Coronavirus.”



St Helena  
Government

## **VACANCY TEMPORARY SUPPORT OFFICER**

Corporate Finance has an opportunity for a Temporary Support Officer to join their Accounting Services team for a period of two months.

The post holder will be responsible to the Senior Accounts Executive and will be responsible for the accurate and efficient entry of data and monitoring of all St Helena Governments financial transactions.

Applicants should possess the following qualifications and experience:

. GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above or an equivalent qualification

(applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);

. Experience working in a Finance and Accountancy Role; and

. Experience with using a computerised software accountancy package such as Access Dimensions.

Prospective candidates should possess good IT skills in standard software programmes such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook with the ability to produce accurate and clear written communications and have good oral communication skills. Candidates should be self-motivated and be an effective team player.

Salary for the post will be £6,722 per annum.

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

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies) and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Wednesday, 25 March 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.*

**Available for  
Fixed Term  
Rental**



**Bertrands Cottage – Available for fixed term rental**

Enterprise St Helena (ESH) has Bertrands Cottage available for fixed term rental to the private sector or individuals interested in this Historical Building. The Cottage comes fully furnished and 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](mailto: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](mailto:Robyn.Franconi@esh.co.sh) by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Monday 23th March 2020.

Terms and Conditions will apply.



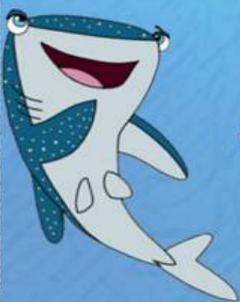
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**Bone Shark Festival 2020  
ART COMPETITION RESULTS**



The SHNT Marine team, in collaboration with St Helena Tourism, held the 2nd annual Bone (Whale) Shark Festival on the 21st February 2020. This year, in readiness for the event, we held an Island wide art competition, which provided the opportunity for everyone to share what St Helena's unique connection with the Bone sharks meant to them!

**Congratulations to our winners!**



**Ages 3 - 7:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Dione -Pearle Yon (PPS) 2<sup>nd</sup>: Georgia Bailey (PPS) 3<sup>rd</sup>: Hannah Taylor (PPS)

**Ages 8 – 11:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Ziggy Joshua (and Mrs George (PPS)) 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jada Crowie (SPPS) 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jordyn Scipio Richards (PPS)

**Ages 8 – 11 (Poems)**

1<sup>st</sup>: Sadie Herne (SPPS) 2<sup>nd</sup>: Aidan Isaac (SPPS) 3<sup>rd</sup>: Luca Yarrow (SPPS)

**Ages 12 – 16**

Bobbi Clingham

**Family entries**

1<sup>st</sup>: Autumn Benjamin & Dad 2<sup>nd</sup>: Laine, Lucio, Sandra George & Jamie Essex 3<sup>rd</sup>: The Greens, Justine and Qhi

**Our winners will join the SHNT Marine team on a boat trip to see the wonderful Bone sharks in person!**

We would like thank everyone who participated in our art competition, with over a hundred entries given in and, for the level of inventiveness and originality from everyone. Well done to all!

The Art competition entries will be displayed in the SHNT foyer for everyone to see.

**We also would like to congratulate Sherilea Curzon-barnikel on naming our cuddly Bone Shark, Herbert, Well done Sherilea!**



St Helena  
Government

## **VACANCY**

### **CORPORATE PROCUREMENT FACILITATOR**

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

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

Applicants should possess the following qualifications and experience:

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

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

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

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

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies) and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Wednesday, 25 March 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.*



## FREE PERSONAL ONLINE BANKING

### AVAILABLE FOR PERSONAL ACCOUNT HOLDERS

To address concerns over the COVID-19 Pandemic, Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers that from 01 April, Online Banking for **St Helena** and **Ascension Island** customers will be available **free of charge** for all personal account holders for three months to assist with conducting banking online and reduce the need for customers to visit the Jamestown branch or kiosks.

**Not an Online Banking User?** If you do not have Online Banking at this time, please contact us on [customerservices@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:customerservices@sainthelenabank.com) or 22390 to request an application form and receive your free Online Banking offer. New customers can cancel their package with the Bank at the end of the offer period.

The transactions you will be able to undertake through Online Banking include:

Statements and Balance Checks	Access your statements and check your real time balance at any time.
Local and International Account Transfers	Undertake your account transfers at your convenience for both local and international transfers.
Journals	Create, process and re-use journals; ideal for multiple, monthly recurring payments.
i-Mail	Contact us with any queries.

**CONTACT US TODAY TO SIGN-UP FOR FREE ONLINE BANKING AND  
LIMIT YOUR NEED TO VISIT THE BANK**



**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

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

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

T. +290 22390 · F. +290 22553 · email. [info@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:info@sainthelenabank.com) · web [www.sainthelenabank.com](http://www.sainthelenabank.com)

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



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## BANK CLOSURE

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers that the St Helena and Ascension branches will be closed on **Wednesday, 01 April 2020**. This closure is necessary to enable the Bank to complete its End of Financial Year procedures.

Normal opening times for both branches will resume on **Thursday, 02 April 2020**.

Bank of St Helena would like to thank customers for their support and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

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# AUTOMATED PAYMENT SERVICES

## GIVING YOU CONTROL OF YOUR BANKING

**Prefer not to carry cash or visit the Bank?**

Bank of St Helena Ltd offers customers a number of automated alternatives to paying by cash, or having to go to the Bank at all:

<b>Local Debit Card</b>	Use your LDC to make payment for goods and services. Payments are made immediately and cashback services are available from participating stores.
<b>Standing Order Payments</b>	Use our Standing Order service to make automated regular payments of a fixed amount.
<b>Direct Debit Payments</b>	Use this automated payment service to pay your bills with participating businesses. Enquire with us for further details.
<b>Online Banking</b>	Use this service to do it all! Check your balance, make local and international payments and create, process and re-use journals.

For more information, please contact us on 22390 or email [customerservices@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:customerservices@sainthelenabank.com).

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## 3 MONTH LOAN FREEZE FOR TOURISM RELATED BUSINESS LOANS

Due to the potential impact of worldwide restrictions to combat COVID-19 and its effect on commercial entities, Bank of St Helena has agreed to freeze repayments on business loans that are linked to tourism for the next three months. These sectors include:

- ⇒ **Accommodation**
- ⇒ **Eateries / Restaurants**
- ⇒ **Tour Operators**
- ⇒ **Bars**
- ⇒ **Taxi Service**

This freeze will be for both capital and interest repayments for the three month period and will result in the life of the loan being extended by three months at the end of term.

If your business does not fall under these categories but you can demonstrate how your business will be affected by the current restrictions, please contact us on 22390 or email [commercialending@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:commercialending@sainthelenabank.com).

For further enquiries on Bank of St Helena offerings during this time, please contact us on 22390, email [customerservices@sainthelenabank.com](mailto:customerservices@sainthelenabank.com) or visit our website.



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# The Sure Customer Satisfaction Survey

## 2-31 March 2020



Sure will be launching its 2020 Customer Satisfaction Survey on Monday 2 March, which will continue through to 31 March.

The aim of our survey is to gain our customer's views of our products and services, and where possible to improve your overall customer experience with us. Our survey is designed to take no more than 5 minutes of your time. To support our national goal of 'Altogether Greener' and the use of digital platforms, we will be launching our survey via our website only. For those customers who do not have access to the Internet and our website; facilities will be available at our Customer Care Centre in Jamestown during normal working hours, and staff will also be present throughout Jamestown during the period with facilities on-the-go to allow all customers to complete the survey.

All Broadband Customers will receive an additional 100 Mb with their inclusive allowances for the month of March to ensure they are able to access the survey without having to utilise their monthly allowance to do so. We also have a Prize Draw at the end of the survey for anyone wishing to enter.

Sure will be sharing the results of the customer satisfaction survey as well as its plans to address the outcomes of the survey with our Customers and the Community throughout the month of May 2020.

We thank you for participating in our online survey and for your valuable feedback which will be used to inform our Customer Experience Programme.

Please visit our website to complete the survey:

**[www.sure.co.sh](http://www.sure.co.sh)**

# Sure Customer Satisfaction Survey

## 2 – 31 March 2020

# We want to hear from YOU!

Please take 5 minutes to let us know what you think about our products and services.

**[www.sure.co.sh](http://www.sure.co.sh)**



**Additional 100MB for all Broadband customers to complete the survey!**



# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS MILLENNIUM FOREST

Help us celebrate the 20th anniversary of Millennium Forest, the largest and most environmentally important community-launched project on St Helena, with a range of events throughout 2020

**#MillenniumForest2020**



## ***For sale***

### ***Camera and Access***

***Canon EOS 7D SLR Camera***

***Canon 55mm AF lens***

***Tamron 300mm Telephoto lens***

***Charger and tripod***

***32GB flash card***

***£500 or nearest offer.***

*Interested? Contact Phylis Colman,  
Sandy Bay on telephone number  
24656, after 6pm.*



## **CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION**



# **STOP**

**SHAPE WILL NO LONGER HOST TOURS  
OR VISITORS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE -**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**

**STAY SAFE FROM ALL AT SHAPE!**

FOR MORE INFO CALL US ON 24690 OR EMAIL SHAPE@HELANTA.CO.SH

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**St Helena  
Government**

**SAINTS  
TOGETHER**



## ***CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CAN YOU HELP?***

Further to the St Helena Preparedness Update issued on 11 March we are seeking **all individuals with Health and/or Social Care experience to contact us and register your details.**

We would also like to hear from anyone with experience in communications and project management, or with other relevant skills that can be called upon when needed.

It is important that we have a register of who may be able to support our response to the threat to the Island from COVID-19. Once we have your details we will be in touch to discuss further and answer any questions you may have.

To register you can email: [recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh) and you will be sent a short form to complete and return in order for us to capture your details.

Alternatively, you can call 22470 and ask to speak to a member of the Corporate HR team who will complete the short form with you over the telephone.

# CHALLENGERS END THE STREAK



Royal Challengers handed Levelwood Allstarz their first defeat of the season following a nail biter of a match on Saturday afternoon.

Batting first, Challengers posted 138/9 in 20 overs. They were seemingly on target for a bigger score after Andrew Yons 74 had taken them to 120 after 15 overs, but suffered a batting collapse and scrambled to 138.

Allstarz were quickly in trouble during their run chase. They lost talisman Ross Henry in the first over and a period of tight bowling from Challengers saw them further under pressure. Knocks of 39 and 30 from Stefun Leo and Sanjay Clingham took Allstarz close to the required target but they fell just short of the line on 131/6 after 20 overs.

## OTHER MATCHES

On Sunday Morning, Pirates V Allstarz was another closely fought fixture. Pirates posted 152 in 19.1 overs. Man of the Match Jamie Ellick picked up 4/13 from 3 for Woodpeckers. In reply Woodpeckers took the game to the final over but were only able to score 131 falling 19 runs short.

On Sunday afternoon, David George hit the highest score of the tournament so far. George scored an unbeaten 152 to take Heat to 295/1 against Lions who were eventually bowled for 65.

## RESULTS

RMS T20 Cup 2020

Sat 14 Mar 2020

**Challengers 138/9 Allstarz 131/6**

Andrew Yon 74 Stefun Leo 39  
Sean-Lee Thomas 13 Sanjay Clingham 30  
Andrew Yon 3/18 Ross Henry 4/21  
Jordi Henry 1/20 Brendon Leo 2/11

**Performance Points**

A Yon 3, S Clingham 2, S-L Thomas 1

Sun 15 Mar 2020

**Pirates 152 Woodpeckers 131/8**

David Young 37 Trystan Thomas 26  
Cheddy Lawrence 25 Julian Henry 17  
Rhys Francis 3/22 Jamie Ellick 4/13  
Darren Isaac 2/26 Ashton Benjamin 2/27

**Performance Points**

J Ellick 3, C Lawrence 2, R Francis 1

**Heat 295/1**

**Lions 65**

David George 152\* Martin Cranfield 38  
Dax Richards 87 Dan Marlow 8  
Damian Burns 4/16 Philip Yon 1/58  
Gavin George 2/15

**Performance Points**

D George 3, D Richards 2, D Burns 1

## FIXTURES

Sat 21 Mar 2020

RMS T20 Cup

9.30 am

**Woodpeckers V Lions**

Umpires: Mustangs

1.30 pm

**Heat V Allstarz**

Umpires: Challengers

Sun 22 Mar 2020

9.30 am

**Woodpeckers V Mustangs**

Umpires: Heat

1.30 pm

**Pirates V Lions**

Umpires: Woodpeckers

RMS T20 Table									
	Games Played	Games Won	Games Lost	Points	Runs Scored	Overs Batted	Runs Conceded	Overs Bowled	Net RunRate
Royal Challengers	6	5	1	15	890	95.00	665	120.00	3.827
Levelwood Allstars	5	4	1	12	632	58.67	626	100.00	4.513
Jamestown Heat	5	4	1	12	939	90.17	596	100.00	4.454
Sandy Bay Pirates	5	3	2	9	846	95.67	744	93.67	0.900
Mustangs	5	1	4	3	532	94.17	687	67.00	-4.604
Woodpeckers	4	0	4	0	477	76.33	612	54.83	-4.912
Lions	4	0	4	0	452	72.00	838	65.33	-6.549

## Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens



We football fans had a pretty boring weekend with no football on the TV due to Covid-19. I went from watching Manchester United to watch Bjorn Ironside and Ivar the Boneless (Vikings season 5).

Premier League football has been called off until at least the 4<sup>th</sup> April.

The big question is when will football return as experts have predicted that the virus won't peak until June.

UEFA took a big step on Tuesday to try and get the domestic European leagues finished as they have cancelled Euro 2020. The tournament, due to take place from 12 June-12 July this summer, will now run from 11 June to 11 July next year.

This is good news for Liverpool fans as their team closes in on the first title in 30 years. Manchester United was the first club to issue a statement saying that they will support having the domestic and European season completed.

- . **Premier League:** All elite football in Britain cancelled until 4 April at the earliest subject to "conditions at the time".
- . **La Liga:** Spain's top flight suspended until 4 April at the earliest when it will "re-evaluate" the situation.
- . **Serie A:** Italy has the highest number of cases in Europe and the country is in lockdown.
- . **Bundesliga:** Suspended until at least 2 April in Germany.
- . **Ligue 1:** Games initially played behind closed doors in France but now suspended "until further notice".

European Leagues, which represents football leagues across the continent, says it is committed to completing European and domestic seasons by 30 June at the latest.

A mini-tournament to decide the Champions League and Europa League is expected to be one option put forward to ease fixture congestion caused by the coronavirus crisis.

The scheduling of domestic matches in midweek alongside Champions League games or playing European games at weekends is also expected to be approved.

The biggest worry for the football industry is that there is no guarantee that the football leagues will re-commence soon.

As a result of no football, clubs could drastically be affected financially which could be detrimental especially for the smaller league clubs.

### What's happening at New Horizons?

23 people took part in the second new Horizons Fun Run. Last Saturday's run started and finished at White Gate going via Scotland; Rosemary Plain, Trap Cott, Sunny Side, and Scotland.

After consulting the Chairman and committee of New Horizons we have made the decision to cease all New Horizons activities until further notice.

This will include the New Horizons members activities on Monday; Wednesdays and Friday; Wednesday and Saturday Boot Camp and lunchtime activities

In order to play our part in safeguarding our community from Covid-19 we have taken the recommended advice on social distancing to minimise the spread.

The New Horizons Committee also recommends that we close the Gym at HTH.

Gyms have been identified as "high risk" locations for catching coronavirus due to sweat and dampness heightening the spread of germs and our committee feel we shouldn't encourage social interaction in this environment.

Existing Gym Members will have their membership extended. Gym users who are leaving the island in the near future will be refunded.

We are now trying to make good of a bad situation by doing some much needed maintenance work to the New Horizons Centre.

We also have plans to upgrade the Gym. We are in the process of ordering flooring for the weight training area and replacing the old cardio equipment with four spinners and two cross trainers.

We at New Horizons wish everyone to remain safe.







St Helena  
Government

## VACANCIES SOCIAL CARE OFFICER (ADULTS & COMMUNITY)

The Children & Adult Social Care Directorate is seeking to recruit suitable persons to fill their vacant posts of Social Care Officer (Adults & Community).

The Social Care Officer will provide the overall assessment and coordination function of the Adult Social Care Team. The role is also about wellbeing, community, it's about focusing on strengths not weaknesses, empowerment, safety, fairness and equality, compassion and support.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and experience:

- . GCSE or equivalent in English Language at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process);
- . Completion of NVQ level 3 qualification on Social Care or willingness to undertake;
- . Valid Driving Licence;
- . Experience of working with vulnerable people and supporting others

Salary for this post is Grade D commencing at £11,034 per annum.

For further information about the duties of the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons should contact Mr Philbert Howell, Team Manager (Adults & Community) on telephone number 22078 or e-mail: [Philbert.howell@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:Philbert.howell@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms, which are available from Corporate Human Resources and Children & Adult Social Care Directorate, should be submitted through Directors where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 24 March 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.*



# REMOTE BANKING MARCH 2020

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

Location	Date	Time
Scotland	Monday, 23 March	09:30—13:00
HTH Supermarket	Tuesday, 24 March	09:30—13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Friday, 27 March	09:30 - 14:00

Save yourself the trip into Jamestown, visit your nearest Remote Banking Location. For your convenience you can also use your 'Local Debit Card' at all our Remote Banking Locations

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

## Safety & Compliance Officer

### Job Outline

Responsibility for planning, implementing and overseeing safety and compliance, through BOU Managers, in accordance with laws, regulations, standards and ethical practices as applicable to the Company in respect of environmental management and workplace health & safety, as applicable to all aspects of the Company's diverse portfolio of business interests.

### Interested Persons Should:

- Have IOSH or similar Health & Safety Certification
- 3-5 years experience in a Health & Safety/Compliance role
- 3 years experience in a management role

Salary will start at £16,141.68 per annum, (£1,345.14 per month)

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Mandy Peters, Chief Executive Officer on telephone number: 22380 or via email address: [CEO@solomons.co.sh](mailto:CEO@solomons.co.sh)

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via e-mail address: [hadmin@solomons.co.sh](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh) and should be completed and returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, By 31 March 2020

# EARTH HOUR

28 MARCH 2020

MILLENNIUM FOREST



Join millions of people around the world by switching of your lights for 1hr on Saturday 28th March 2020, starting 8:30pm. Earth Hour has become one of the largest grassroots movements for the environment; started in 2007 by WWF.

Climate change is happening at a ever increasing rate and if we don't act NOW what quality of life or availability of resources are we leaving for future generations?

Come to the Millennium Forest at **7:00pm**, to celebrate with us

- Talks on climate change
- A candle lighting event for Earth Hour (8:30pm—9:30pm) - you can bring your own jar and tea light or get one from us.
- A fun activity and make a pledge to your environment.

**“We have a single mission, to protect and hand-on the planet to the next generation” - Francois Hollande (President of France)**

Unable to join us? Participate by switching of your lights during Earth Hour, 8:30—9:30pm

Follow us on Facebook @communityforests, #MillenniumForest2020

**RAISE YOUR VOICE  
FOR NATURE  
#CONNECT2EARTH**



## Sun Outages – March 2020



Due to Sun Outages there will be interruptions to the **International Telephone and Internet services** on the following dates and times:

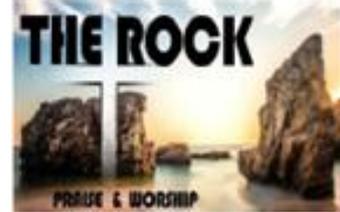
Date	Time	Duration
24/03/2020	16:02	4 mins
25/03/2020	16:02	4 mins
26/03/2020	16:02	5 mins
27/03/2020	16:02	3 mins
28/03/2020	16:02	3 mins

Connect  
SAINT HELENA LTD

## TIP OF THE WEEK

If you spot a leak from a pipe that is not on your property, please report it to Connect Saint Helena on 22255.

This type of leak may not cost you any money but it costs all of us in losing our precious water resources.



invites you to a

## Mother's Day Service

Sunday 22 March 2020

10:30am

Unit 3, Longwood Enterprise Park

John 8:12

*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*



## **EAST COAST UPDATE**

### **Toronto / NYC - Addie Thomas**

As I write this, I sit in the empty dining area of the LIC Hotel in Queens, NYC. It is the 18th March 2020 and tonight at 23:30 hours, I am meant to be flying from JFK to Gatwick Airport. This would conclude my travels, yet, I suspect, this does not conclude 'my adventure'.

On Monday, I crossed the borders of Canada to fly to NYC. As I transferred through Pearson International's airport the stark contrast to previous travel through this airport was apparent. Security were happy for me to take a photo of the empty baggage scanning equipment .....I was the only person on this particular carousel. My hand luggage was flagged up and they didn't bother to ask me to remove all my items as they would have done on a normal day, I suspect.

I didn't wear a face mask, although there were lots of people who did. There was a young man picking his nose and eating the proceeds and I wanted to ask whether hygiene featured in his daily activities, but I left it.

Red notifications on the flight activity board signified cancellations. I expected my flight to be cancelled too, yet, the previous cancellations were simply to herd the few travellers going in any one direction onto one flight.

With about 15 people on a 150 seater plane .....I felt like I was actually travelling on my own private jet.

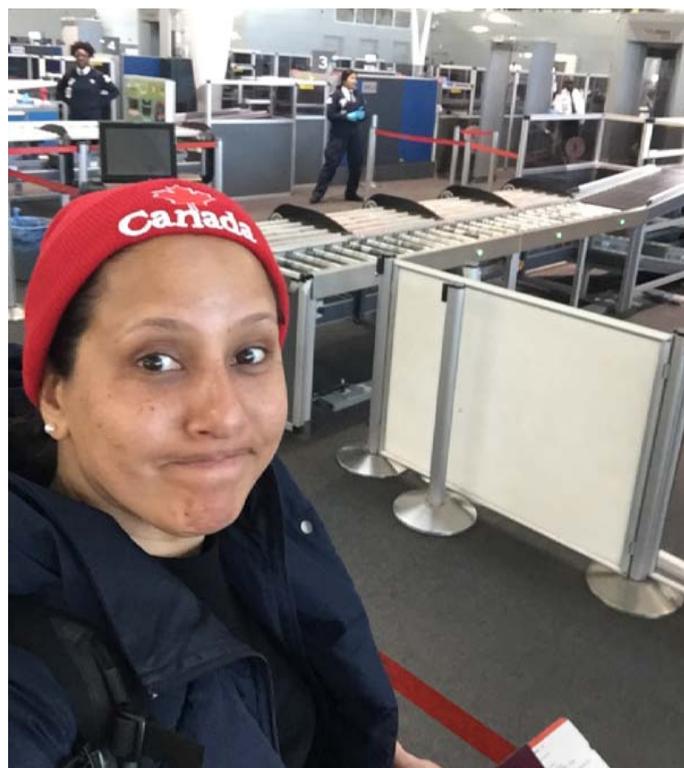
As we descended to LaGuardia Airport, the 'jigsaw puzzle' that is New York signified something 'sinister' to me. A previous playground had turned into a ghost town.

No checks (immigration or health) were done as we exited the plane, there had been some security / border checks prior to getting onto the plane but nothing by way of health. On my way to the hotel, the cab driver advised that he had made \$56 the day before. Another driver later that evening advised that he would be taking his taxi back to the rental company the next morning as he simply could not keep going.

As I sat with a few folk in the Gantry Pub on Vernon Blvd in Queens later that day, I asked the question ..... "what person will we become as things worsen?" Most of these guys worked in equities and it was interesting to hear their responses as opposed to people I had previously met from various 'working class' backgrounds.

They did not understand what I was trying to ask and simply talked about all material / tangible things that would be lost. Yet, out of their responses I understood one thing.....Americans are petrified of the future because their social and care system isn't the same as Britain. This was explained to me. Trump hasn't helped, according to Sara from UNICEF with the removal of various organisations set up for this reason. His blasé attitude in his initial press conferences have left much to be desired about his leadership.

With a greater land mass, contributions to steady the 'creak-



ing ship' are greater. In a country where a lot of debt is encouraged, people have this debt to contend with as well as the loss of income.

Going back to my question ..... "when disaster hits, what kind of people do we become?" Do we push and scrap for toilet rolls? Or do we stand in line and consider others who also need a supply? Do we buy hand sanitisers in large quantities and then sell them on at an exponential uplift? Or do we consider fellow humans above making a quick buck?

"Everything will be ok when we are ok with everything". Initially, my thoughts passed immediately to my Mum and other elderly members of my family, or family members who have health challenges. Then I realised that I wasn't accepting what is, on a day by day basis. I often speak about 'acceptance of what is / will be' and if I didn't live that with those around me, what's the point of advocating such?

My greatest wish now is we do all we can to support folks to get the basic necessities. People talk about the disruption (education etc) and the loss of all things material. It hurts when staff are laid off. I hope we can do all we can to ensure people can eat, have a roof over their head and some toilet roll! I don't however, spare thought for the handing back of the latest Mercedes car that was just bought, or the holiday that has had to be cancelled. This may sound harsh but they are first world problems that I do not waste sympathy upon in times like this.

It has reminded me how I want to work hard in the future .....for others. The more I work to build my own empire, the more emphasis I put on material gain, the more I have to lose which is really, in life....insignificant in the grand scheme

# EAST COAST UPDATE

## Toronto / NYC - Addie Thomas



of things. A safe and happy home means more to me than the latest gadgets and the fastest car. Making someone happy .....being kind to my neighbour, this is what matters for me now.

Yesterday I wandered through Manhattan. It was surreal. To run in and out of cafes and not be able to sit ....it just isn't 'Manhattan'. At red lights, I 'jaywalk' because there was no traffic to stop me. I popped into St Bart's church where services have been cancelled and I bow my head in solidarity to all. I ask God to please bless us as the world joins together in this battle.

I chatted with Will, an NYPD officer in Times Square. Normally, Times Square would have a large number of Cops on the periphery, I counted 5 officers.

For me, Times Square would be 'a no go area' because I detest tourism at its most pungent. Yesterday, however, there were about 30 people mingling about, some with green 'Paddy' hats on, trying to make the most of a celebration that will long be remembered as the year St Patrick's Day did not happen in NYC. Even the Freedom Tower's Irish lit 'steeple' did nothing to mitigate the disappointment to thousands who had been preparing for the day. Shops with green clothing for the day were closed, advising shoppers to buy online.

My travel insurance firm have confirmed that anyone who bought their policies post 13th March 2020 will not be able to claim losses or additional costs. Luckily, I not only bought my policy last year but extended my policy to a 90-day one in conjunction with this trip. People have still taken the risk to travel, the risk being the operative word. I chatted with a French couple who had still made the trip regardless of the

warnings and they had one day where they were able to enjoy a bit of what is NYC. The remaining 3 was spent walking aimlessly to one closed institution after another.

I have seen such kindness from people in Canada and friends and family in the US in the build-up to this moment in my life's history. Yet, if I am going to get ill, I want to be on British soil, I pay tribute to the Government's responses today and our precious NHS. I hope I can do all I can to help in whatever way until the crisis has peaked off.

LBC news reports that London is not responding to the various Government statements. Bars and restaurants remain open etc.....tube journeys continue (especially on lines like the Central Line) to see rush hour cramming. Is this desperation? Is this greed? Is this due to the fact that without Boris making clear cut rulings, insurances cannot be claimed (although certain industries are ruled out of claiming anyway?).

So, will I be on that plane back to Gatwick tonight? I'll deal with that as and when so that I can continue to make good use of the interim hours. I was in Canada, in the CN Tower the day the planes hit downtown NYC, it seems so remarkable that I am now back in NYC, trying to get back to the UK during this crisis.

I've learnt a lot about humans through this and the person I want to be in the future. There are some very bad human acts in this world when the going is good, when things change and challenges occur, we see more of human nature and gross acts of selfishness and heartlessness. I must remember to note the acts, not the individuals who may be the kindest people when the going is good. I celebrate all those who have risen to the challenges and thought of others. I commend the little acts of kindness that have made significant difference.

I wish all of my fellow-islanders safety and health in these trying times. I thank the Government for making the necessary decisions in safe-guarding our small population. I pray that enough has been done within the right time-frame to keep you all safe.

God Bless



## Golf Report for Saturday 14th and Sunday 15h March 2020

The annual Flagg Challenge Cup attracted a slightly less than usual turn out. Those who turned up were enthusiastic as they battled out for the trophy and first prize. Weather was great for both round one and two. The competition was played in Strokeplay format over 36 holes. It started on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and ended on Sunday 15 March 2020. Those who

finished in the top 5 after round one hang in there and defended their positions in round two. The ultimate winner with nett 135 playing off 24 handicap was Mr. Henzil Beard, second place with nett 137 was handicap 21 Mr. Donald Bowers and third prize winner was Mr. Leon Crowie playing off 6 handicap who scored nett 138. The top five finished as follows;

Name	Round 1	Round 2	Total
1. Henzil Beard	65	70	135
2. Donald Bowers	68	69	137
3. Leon Crowie	65	73	138
4. Larry Legg	73	67	140
5. Paddo Johnson	69	73	142

The prizes for the top three including the trophy for the ultimate winner were presented By Mrs. Flagg who congratulated the winners and thanked all those who took part in the competition. She indicated her intention to continue the Flagg legacy into the foreseeable future. She was accompanied by members of her family. On Saturday there were four two ball pool winners; Mr. Tony Green eagle two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mr. Larry Legg eagle two on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jeffrey Stevens birdie on 5<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Leon Crowie birdie on 7<sup>th</sup>. There were no two ball pool winners on Sunday. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to Mrs. Flagg and her family for her continued support to the golf club and also for sponsoring the tea and snacks.

As a preemptive and precautionary measure against the possible contracting and spreading of Covid19 (Corona Virus) the committee of management has taken a decision with immediate effect to suspend all Sunday competitions until further notice. The AGM that was scheduled for Sunday 29<sup>TH</sup> March 2020 is also hereby postponed until further notice. Members wishing to play social rounds of golf may do so but are highly advised to take the necessary precautions such as avoiding handshakes, washing their hands among others.

Stay safe and enjoy your weekend...!




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

# *Clerk/ Cashier*

**Within the Insurance Agency**

Job Outline

**To assist in the day to day operations of the department by preparing policy documentation, updating Access Dimensions files and providing an efficient service to customers.**

**Interested Persons Should:**

- Possess Grade C or above in GCSE Maths & English
  - Be computer literate
- Possess good Customer Service skills
- Have experience in Cash Handling

**Salary will start at £659.83 per month, (£7,917.96 per annum)**

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Tracey Thomas, Insurance Manager on telephone number: 22860 or via email address: TraceyT@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via e-mail address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, **By 27 March 2020**



St Helena  
Government

- St Helena's stored water volume has increased over the past week and is currently at 42%
- The Island remains under an Island-wide hosepipe ban

### ST HELENA WATER LEVELS

St Helena's stored water volume has increased over the past week and is currently at 42%. This increase is largely due to consumption rates falling below 1000 cubic metres and a slight increase in surface flows.

While this increase is welcoming news, it is important to remember that the stored water volume can quickly decline if consumption increases. It is therefore very important that we keep our consumption levels to essential use only.

The Forum would also like to remind the community to use water responsibly, including when washing hands.

**Remember, we are currently under an Island-wide hosepipe ban. If you see anyone using water irresponsibly or notice a burst pipe or leak, then please inform CSH immediately.**

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

***#StHelena #WaterShortage #EveryDropCounts***

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

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

**St Helena Resilience Forum  
13 March 2020**

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Visit us: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh)



## *FIREWOOD for SALE*

**EUCALYPTUS at LUFFKINS  
SPRING**

**£25 for 1.2 Cubic Metres**

*(a medium-sized pickup load)*

*Phone Cliff Huxtable 24342*



## *POLICE APPEAL FOR INFORMATION*

### *THEFT OF VEGETABLES AND SEWAGE PIPE DAMAGE*

St Helena Police are currently investigating the theft of vegetables in the Longwood, Deadwood and Colt Sheds areas.

Any information, regardless of how minor it may seem, can be provided in the strictest of confidence to Police Headquarters on tel: 22626 or email: [brittney.coleman@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:brittney.coleman@sainthelena.gov.sh). Alternatively, you can speak with a Police Officer of your choice.

St Helena Police are also appealing to the public for information relating to criminal damage caused to a sewage pipe below the area of the children's playground in New Ground.

Any information that can be provided to Police will be treated with the strictest of confidence. Information can be provided to Police Headquarters on tel: 22626 or email: [charlene.john@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:charlene.john@sainthelena.gov.sh), quoting incident report number HEHN00005503.



**St Helena  
Government**



## *ST HELENA POLICE CONTINUE TO BE PROACTIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO SPEEDING*

Following several reports of drivers speeding after the closure of The Oasis Bar on Thursday nights, Police Officers and vehicles will be stationed at various points in the Half Way area as part of an initiative to prevent speeding.

The speed limit for this particular road (White Wall to White Gate) is 30mph. Drivers will be stopped if they are seen driving recklessly or in a dangerous manner, without due care and attention or driving whilst using a mobile phone.

Operational and Neighbourhood Police Inspector, Julianne Stevens, commented: "The Police Road Safety Strategy is about safe people, safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles. We want to keep you safe!"

# COMMONWEALTH DAY 2020

## 'DELIVERING A COMMON FUTURE'

Thank you to the children and teachers of St Paul's Primary for allowing councillors to come to your school on 9<sup>th</sup> March and share in the special Commonwealth Day 2020 Assembly.

The children's engaging interests in Queen Elizabeth's message to the 54 member states of the Commonwealth, their focus on the presentations and their lively singing made a special assembly extra special. Thank you to Cllr Gavin Ellick for leading with the guitar. Congratulations to the children of St Paul's Primary.



**Councillor Buckley reading the Queen's Commonwealth Message.**

## ***Aunty Lou by Cyril Kenneth Leo***

Some months ago the Independent carried a public appeal for any information that could be provided on "Aunty Lou". Many years ago, Aunty Lou allowed me to take a photo of her, and I finally found it amidst piles of other prints.

In the 70s I was home on holiday from Ascension and living with my mum "Dot" Leo and step-dad Kenneth "Kenny" Leo in one of the flats at Botanical Gardens. After serving in the Royal Navy, Kenny was a local policeman. One evening Kenny and I were relaxing in the sitting room when I noticed a small device fastened high up on the wall in the corner of the room. Kenny told me it was an emergency alarm for Aunty Lou. Aunty Lou lived further up the Run, and, if she needed assistance, she would press a button to activate the alarm and he would then go to check on her.

On my first Saturday morning in St Helena I was home alone and the emergency alarm sounded. I decided to quickly make my way up the Run to find Aunty Lou's house. I recalled Kenny telling me that Aunty Lou kept her faithful old car next to her house. On my way walking alongside the Run, I will admit I was a little nervous as my imagination alerted me to all the possible situations that I might find on arrival.

Eventually I found my way past an old vehicle adjacent to a little old stone house with a small front door. I knocked on the door, waited a while and, just as I made an attempt to open the door, it opened. A little old lady emerged and looked up at me with concern on her face and surprise in her eyes. I asked if she was ok. She said, "Yes". I then also became confused and started to question if it really was the alarm that I heard and I began to feel guilty for disturbing the old lady for no reason. With a gentle calm voice Aunty Lou asked who I was and what I wanted. I told her what Kenny had told me and that I heard the alarm so had come to see if she needed some assistance.

Ken had forgotten to tell me that Aunty Lou tested the circuit

of the alarm Saturday mornings.

Aunty Lou invited me into her house for tea and I could only marvel at the fascinating memories she shared with me about her travels throughout the world in her faithful friend, now parked next to her house. I remember Aunty Lou telling me that she already had arrangements in place not to be separated from her faithful friend, even in death.

I hope the friend or family member who was searching for some local history about Aunty Lou in St Helena will come to see this photo and read my story of a very special lady who loved St Helena and who was loved by Saint Helenians.





## PRESS RELEASE

### ***AIRPORT OPERATIONS ON SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2020***

Due to ongoing communicable disease preventative measures at St Helena Airport, the travelling public and visitors to St Helena Airport are advised of the following:

Passengers departing St Helena on SA8132 to Johannesburg on Saturday 21 March 2020 are asked to ensure that they have arrived at the airport and are checked-in between **10:30 and 12:30**. This is to ensure multi-tasking staff can accommodate the various processes required to turnaround the aircraft in an expeditious manner.

The Bank of St Helena office at St Helena Airport will be **closed** on Saturday. Given that the bank will be closed, passengers are strongly advised to carry extra cash for any excess baggage payments that may be due.

The Tourism Office will also be **closed** on Saturday and will remain closed until further notice.

However, the 1<sup>st</sup> floor café, the landside retail unit, the departures café and the duty-free shops **will remain open** on Saturday.

Passengers and visitors to the airport are asked to consider social distancing measures to limit the inadvertent spread of disease. Measures to prevent the spread of diseases include limiting exposure by avoiding crowds and close proximity to one another.

As such, those persons coming to the airport to collect someone arriving by air are asked to consider waiting outside the Terminal Building or perhaps in their vehicle rather than going into the building. Likewise, those assisting travellers who are leaving St Helena by air are also asked to consider just dropping them off at the airport rather than entering the building.

With the cooperation of everyone who comes to the airport, these measures will help reduce the likelihood of the spread of communicable disease on Island.

***St Helena Airport Limited, 19 March 2020***

# OPENING HOURS



We're changing our Customer Care opening hours. There will be no more Saturday opening until further notice.

<b>MONDAY</b>	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
<b>THURSDAY</b>	9am to 1pm 1.30pm to 3pm
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9am to 1pm 1.30am to 3pm
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

Directory Enquiries 22222 and Customer Service Enquiries 22900 will be available from 8am to 4pm from Mon-Fri.  
121 Free Fault Line available 24/7



**Thank You to the HTH Guides, Brownies and Rainbows for a wonderful relaxing gathering at their Coffee Morning on Saturday 14th March. Special kudos to those who made the tasty eats and prepared the coffee & teas....a happy family/ community event to be remembered for years to come.....**



## ADVICE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING

**Social distancing means limiting unnecessary contact with people outside of your household unless absolutely essential.**

We are currently recommending this to over 65s who are not essential for the running of the Island's services should they wish to continue carrying out their roles.

For those 65 year olds who do choose to adhere to social distancing, when not in the home, they should keep to a distance of 1 metre (3 feet) from others. There may be, therefore, the need to avoid large public gatherings where this is not possible.

If you work, or are not at home, you should avoid using public transport during peak hours unless essential.

**Social distancing and [self-isolation](#) are not the same.** While you are practicing social distancing, you can still go out, get fresh air, do your gardening, and walk your dog along a quiet lane. For those practising social distancing, the advice is not to come into close contact with others.

Self-isolation however is quite different – it requires you to avoid **any** contact with others and to remain in a physically isolated space so that you cannot transmit infection to others.

### Why use social distancing?

Social distancing is an important strategy to prevent COVID-19 from spreading within Jersey especially to older and vulnerable people. It is one of the most effective ways to reduce the rate of infection and therefore the impact of the disease and demand on our health services.

The more people who adopt these practices alongside the hygiene advice already available, the better our chances of preventing the spread and protecting those who are vulnerable.

### How does social distancing work?

Social distancing includes certain activities outside the household (including social contact between different households). This can include the following:

- Kissing, shaking hands and hugging with people from outside of your household
- Close contact with children and grandchildren in multi-generation households by vulnerable adults
- Staying home where possible
- Keeping a distance of 1 metre /3 feet from others
- Avoiding large public events and crowds where there is close proximity
- Avoiding public transport at peak hours unless essential
- Working from home if you can do so
- Not visiting other households unless essential and ensuring that they are not displaying symptoms.
- For those who choose to continue their current roles in the community, the advice is to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene, cleaning surfaces regularly and avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

# St Helena Political Governance Review (Report Two)

Last week we reported on the first part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sarkin Report. It mainly covered the differences between the present committee system, the proposed ministerial system and possible variations to the committee system. The ministerial system gives responsibility to a small number of political leaders. This week we focus on the checks and monitoring of responsibilities given to the Chief Minister and the political heads of the four proposed directorates.

## **The Judicial Services Committee**

The Judicial Services Commission (JSC) already exists although it is rarely, if ever, in the public eye. The Sarkin Report recommends the role of the JSC is enhanced in terms of appointments to public office. The JSC is covered in Section 94 of the Constitution. Its main purpose is to make recommendations to the Governor on the appointment of judicial officers and “exercise such other functions as may be conferred on it by law”.

The main point about the JSC is clause 7 in section 94 which states, “In the exercise of its functions the Commission shall act independently and shall not be subject to the direction or control of the Governor, the Executive Council or any other person or authority.” This independent status given to the JSC in the Constitution is the reason why it is suggested its role should be enhanced. In January this year a Bill to amend the way appointments are made to the Commission for Equality and Human Rights was on the Exco agenda. The amendment stated, “The Governor must not appoint any member, Chair or Deputy Chair of the Commission under paragraph 1(a) or 4(a), or dismiss a member under paragraph 3(e), unless the Judicial Service Commission, established under section 94 of the St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009, has made a recommendation to the Governor for such appointment or dismissal, but the Governor is not obliged to make any such appointment or dismiss a member following such recommendation.”

This amendment to an Ordinance seems to indicate a movement is already underway towards what is suggested by Sarkin. The report states, “It should be determined which powers should be devolved and which powers of the Governor are retained. Rather than allow each Governor to decide which powers to devolve and when to devolve them, it should be that more of them are directly devolved with the ability to take back those powers when there is a need to do so for specific problematic circumstances.”

In the following section in the Report “Enhanced Role for the JSC” it states, “As noted above, appointments also ought to be constitutionally devolved and routinely made at arms-length by independent processes with specified legislated tenure periods, particularly for the oversight mechanisms. The role of the JSC should be enhanced in this regard.

Transferring the power to appoint individuals to positions in public service from the Governor acting as an individual to an independent judicial body composed of the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Public Solicitor and one other person also means neither a Chief Minister nor any of his ministerial



team can bring undue influence to bear on who is and is not appointed to any of the many committees and commissions which are an off-shoot of government.

## **Complaints Commission**

The Report states, “The Complaints Commission, which can be appointed in terms of the present Constitution by the Governor, ought to become a standing mechanism possibly as an Ombudsman. This Commission or Ombudsman ought to be independently appointed, possibly through the JSC. For many appointments at present there is a great deal of discretion about the way the process occurs. Greater independence in appointment and functioning ought to occur.

The purpose of the Complaints Commission would be to investigate claims of maladministration by government and government officials. A clear independent status for this Commission is obviously crucial and it is suggested it is one way the role of the JSC could be enhanced by being responsible for appointing members to the Commission

## **A Public Service Commission**

The Report states, “A Public Service Commission, which could operate on a part time basis, ought to be created. The PSC ought to be given authority with regard to the public service. The PSC ought to make senior appointments. Human Resources can make some lower level appointments but guidance and the policy ought to be set by the PSC. Issues of disciplinary processes and allied matters should be determined by the PSC and exercised by the PSC for senior personnel.

In this case the PSC takes the issues arising through hiring and firing government employees away from the political arena and away from Heads of Directorates as well and the Chief Minister.

## **Personal Contracts**

Specific contract periods with detailed performance requirements ought to be introduced for the civil service is another Report recommendation.

## **The Public Accounts Committee**

The Report states, “the PAC ought to be reformed to play a more involved and vital role. Again, appointments ought to be done independently. The powers and scope of work of the PAC ought to be reviewed. The role of the PAC ought to cover all entities that are state entities and even should review those institutions that receive substantial state assistance.

## **Auditing**

The Report states, the “Good Practice in Effective Oversight of Public Finances in the UK Territories” an FCO document of February 2017 needs to be complied with. This document

# St Helena Political Governance Review (Report Two)

envisages both constitutional and legislative changes to issues concerned with public finances in the OTs. Compliance is also necessary with the Lima Declaration. Internal auditing process also ought to be enhanced and the reporting line of the Audit and Risk Committee changed so that it reports to the Committee of Ministers. That Committee ought to be chaired by an independent person. A variety of anti-corruption measures ought to be put in place to ensure that corruption does not creep into the system.

## Oversight

The Report states, "External oversight also needs to be enhanced. This means that ministers and ministries ought to be regularly informing the public about what they are doing,

how they are doing it and encourage input. The concept of People's Meetings could be regularly held.

Hearings that allow input to be given ought to be an essential part of the legislative or policy formation process. Parliamentary processes ought to have a public engagement process including on the budget. This should then be legislated so that it is an essential and critical competent of the legislative process. It would mean that without that public process the legislation could be overturned.

Public engagement by councillors ought to be regularised and become an essential feature of the system. A calendar of such meetings ought to be published for a year at a time. Meetings should be schedules for all districts regularly.

## Proposed timeline for implementation

Implementation Stage	Implementation Date
Political Governance Report published	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
A governance policy proposed	April 2020
1 <sup>st</sup> consultation process	May 2020
Consultation report and recommendations	June 2020
Chief Secretary drafts policy based on both Sarkin and 1 <sup>st</sup> Consultation recommendations	July 2020
1 <sup>st</sup> draft of Constitutional amendments	August 2020
Consultation on draft Constitutional amendments	September 2020
Report on consultation on Constitutional amendments	October 2020
Finalised Constitutional amendments go to Legco	November 2020
Final revised text for Constitution to FCO	December 2020

**The full version of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sarkin Report is available on the Saint FM website**

## The Latest on Water

Reporting on St Helena's water levels, the STH Resilience Forum said this week that there are still little surface flows entering the Island's reservoirs, despite recent substantial rainfall. The community might be aware that the stored water volume can quickly decline if consumption increases, and last week Island water consumption levels rose to above 1000 cubic metres.

It was said that a large percentage of the population using soap and water as the preferred precautionary measure against Covid-19, could be viewed as a possible reason for the hike in consumption as it is a trusted measure in the absence of bottled hand sanitizer, which is either unavailable to many or too expensive for others.

The Forum reminds the public that it is important that we keep our water usage to essential needs only, and advises everyone to use water responsibly, including when washing hands.

STH is still under an Island-wide hosepipe ban and if you see anyone using water irresponsibly or notice a burst pipe or leak, please inform Connect STH immediately.

## Drive Responsibly

And a on asafety note, a public announcement advises that Police Officers and vehicles will be stationed at various points in the Half Way area in the district of HTH. This is part of an initiative to prevent drivers speeding on the road from White Wall to White Gate after the closure of the Oasis bar on Thursday nights.

The speed limit for this particular stretch of road is 30 mph. Drivers will be stopped if they are seen driving recklessly or in a dangerous manner, without due care and attention or whilst using a mobile phone. Operational and Neighbourhood Police Inspector Julianne Stevens commented that the Police Road Safety Strategy is about safe people, safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles and the Police wants to keep you safe.



St Helena  
Government



On 18<sup>th</sup> February iFinancial issued a press release announcing they had developed a “mobile phone payments solution, has gone live in St Helena after a period of extensive testing with selected merchants and end users. The system, which was developed in conjunction with the Bank of St Helena and the St Helena Government, is the first step on a programme to introduce electronic payments on the island.” When contacting the Bank of St Helena for information the Bank requested we hold back on this story for a while; they were not ready to ‘go public’ just yet. A similar partnership situation was announced in August 2018 by US company Allied Wallet. We reported on the announcement but (typically in St Helena) nothing further was heard, nothing happened and no information given as to why the Allied Wallet partnership did not proceed.

No we have the announcement that the Gibraltar International Bank will be providing services to ‘support’ the Bank of St Helena. There appears to be significant overlaps between the iFinancial and Gibraltar International Bank partnerships.

Will iFinancial go the same way as Allied Wallet? Will someone have the courtesy to explain to Bank of St Helena customers exactly what is going on?

## **St Helena money will not be needed by tourists**

The Bank of St Helena continue to develop a deal they have struck with iFinancial, a UK-based supplier of integrated real-time banking software. iFinancial announced this week they have introduced a cashless, electronic transaction system called iPayu which is designed to get around the need for tourists to use the St Helena or UK pound when buying goods and services here. In the announcement iFinancial state they have, “gone live in St Helena after a period of extensive testing with selected merchants and end users. The system, which was developed in conjunction with the Bank of St Helena and the St Helena Government is the first step on a programme to introduce electronic payments on the island”. This “first step” is the Local Debit Card which iFinancial say has been taken up by almost one-in-three of the adult population and enables cardholders to, “easily shop at many of the islands retailers without the need to carry cash.”

Matthew Day, a Director at iFinancial, said, “iPayu is a perfect solution for small islands such as St Helena. Additionally, the foreign-exchange capability that is being built into the tourist card project will enable a customer from one island to be able to buy goods on another island provided that both merchants are part of the iPayu network.”

A report based on the iFinancial announcement published on the IBS Intelligence website forecast that the iPayu system which is behind the Local Debit Card will include the tourist element of the “complete digitisation programme” from early 2020.



A previous move to introduce cashless transactions to St Helena in partnership with a Los Angeles techno-solutions business called Allied Wallet was announced in August 2018 by Allied Wallet. The Allied Wallet partnership did not go ahead; the cashless transaction scheme with Allied Wallet was intended to allow St Helena residents to use a debit card overseas as well as in St Helena. This aspect of the LOCAL complete digitisation programme with iFinancial and their iPayu system (ST HELENA PAY) remains to be announced.



**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

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

The Local Debit card is described as “the first part of a complete digitisation programme which will eventually enable tourists, visiting the island using the newly constructed airport, to be able to use their smart phone as the method of payment without the need to acquire the local currency St Helena pounds.”

## **Bank of St Helena joins forces with US on-line payments processing company in bid to make using travel money easier**

Allied Wallet, a Los Angeles based payment processing company announced last Tuesday it was proud to have formed a partnership with the Bank of St Helena.

**AlliedWallet**



**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

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

Using a prepayment card means putting cash from your bank account onto a card and using the card to pay for goods and services. As the money on the card is spent it can be topped up again with more cash from the bank account. This type of card is more secure than cash. If cash is lost when travelling

it can usually just be kissed goodbye. If a prepayment card is lost or stolen that can be reported and the card is cancelled and a replacement card issued.

Allied Wallet said in their announcement they will partner with the Bank of St Helena to offer the Bank’s customers a pre-paid card solution for use while they travel. They go on to say this will bring a new opportunity to the people of St Helena as well as its visitors and economic partners. In turn, it will enable Allied Wallet to further their economic development and lengthen the reach of their global payment services.

Allied Wallet’s Chief Executive said, “We’re very excited to partner with a forward-thinking bank and bring a new opportunity to the British territory of Saint Helena. Our prepaid solution will grow the economy by giving the bank patrons a simple and secure means for spending money in or out of the country – and we’re happy to be able to protect them and their funds as they travel and spend,”

## **Bank of St Helena joins forces with US on-line payments processing company in bid to make using travel money easier**

Another advantage for travellers is a prepaid card means there is no need to search for Rand, British notes or any other currency. While it is St Helena Pounds that went on the card it can come off as any currency. There is still the need to know what the exchange rates are and what the charges are for changing the St Helena money into another currency whenever it is used to make a purchase. Also you are saved the bother of looking closely at every coin to see if it is a 5, 10, 20 or 50 cent piece. In their announcement Allied Wallet say St Helena Bank customers will find it much easier to spend in and out of their country into other currencies all with one simple and safe card.

While the prepayment card is featured in the Allied Wallet announcement there is a wide range of other services they are able to offer. The announcement mentions payment solutions for merchants, enabling them to accept, and presumably make, global payments. Allied Wallet say they have

solutions for every size of business. More details available at <https://www.alliedwallet.com/merchant-services/>

Joey George, Bank of St Helena Managing Director told the Independent, "we have a confirmed prepaid debit card programme with Allied Wallet, the programme itself is still in its implementation stages and there are a number of technical and operational tests to be completed before we are able to officially offer a live prepaid debit card programme to Bank of St Helena customers." She added, "A timeframe for roll out is not yet confirmed, but we are optimistic it is imminent. This is all very exciting for St Helena and we here at Bank of St Helena are very proud to have achieved this major milestone." Allied Wallet has offices in Los Angeles and London. Founded in 2002 the company has grown rapidly and is reported to have won several awards for the quality of its services mainly in the areas of payment card processing and merchant services.

## **Ancient Tsunami Struck the Falkland Islands, Scientists Speculate**

Scientists are speculating that the Falkland Islands could experience a major tsunami in the future. They think that an ancient tsunami occurred from seafloor slope failures located at the British Overseas Territory's southern side in the recent past. Computer models showed how underwater landslides could have sent waves that are at least ten metres in height to crash on to the coastline.

The ancient tsunami seems to happen only once in roughly a million years. Uisdean Nicholson, a geologist from the Heriot-Watt university, said that more research is needed to understand how such an event occurs and to comprehend the time scales.

The landslides were found to occur on a steeply inclined terrain at the edge of Burdwood Bank seafloor's raised region. The scientists collected seismic data that showed repeated sediment failure, wherein silt, sand, and mud tumbled downslope into deeper waters. For significant events to occur, 100 km<sup>3</sup> of material needs to be moved, which is roughly the size of Edinburgh.

The scientists estimate the age of the sediments and calculate the frequency of slope failures from exploratory drilling. Scientific expeditions and oil companies were involved in the investigation, including the University College London and the BGS or British Geological Survey. They discovered that three to four "Edinburgh-sized" slope slides have occurred within the past three million years.

Certain earthquakes that cause tsunamis have been found to trigger ocean tsunamis by either depressing down or pushing up the water column above ruptures on the seafloor. In addition, sudden slumping of the sediment in landslides underwater also create the same effect. The biggest tsunami or worst tsunami that modern mankind can experience could come from these conditions. Scientists can gauge tsunami locations from such conditions. A search for "tsunami Wikipedia" can generate a lot of information, such as a list of tsunamis in history.

The September 2018 tsunami is a good example. This occurred in Sulawesi, Indonesia. It was caused by an earthquake that trig-

gered submarine slope failures, which then caused waves that are two metres high to crash into Palu City. In 1998, another submarine landslide triggered a 15 metre-high tsunami in Papua New Guinea; the resulting tsunami death toll was 2,200.

Tsunamis that are induced by landslides under the water can be very big; however, they quickly fall off with distance. The Falklands are around 150 kilometers from the Burdwood Bank. Nonetheless, the computer modelling showed how larger slope failures may cause 10-metre tsunamis at Port Stanley, the capital, and 40-metre tsunamis on the southern shoreline.

Dave Tappin, professor at the BGS, reiterated that ancient tsunamis should not alarm the people. Their team studies both modern events, such as the most recent tsunami 2019, as well as prehistoric ones, to better understand how tsunamis are generated as well as predict future hazards.

Burdwood Bank is a particularly prolific "landslide factory." It is speculated that this may be due to the SAF or Sub-Antarctic Front, which is the northernmost jet or branch of the ACC or Antarctic Circumpolar Current. The latter is the most powerful water movement known on Earth. The locations where the SAF skirts the Burwood Bank can accelerate in some places, making it highly erosive. The SAF picks up sediment from one location then dumps it elsewhere. The accumulation site is called the Burdwood Drift, which is a high and steep slope.

The emplaced sand and silt have been found to be accumulating again, although current data does not allow predictions of when the next slide could happen. Internal instabilities may eventually activate a slide, as well as shaking from an earthquake. It is worth noting that the bank is close to some tectonic plate boundaries.

A future direction of research may involve digging on some areas in the Falklands in order to determine the presence of ancient tsunami deposits.

# PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

## Avoid physical contact when greeting:

Safe greetings include a wave, a nod, or a bow.



## Avoid



Shaking hands



Hugging

## Wash your hands!

- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste

## Good Practice

When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue



Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use

Wash your hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty



If your hands are not visibly dirty, frequently clean them by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

## KEEPING UP-TO-DATE

Anyone with concerns on a particular issue relating to COVID-19 should contact: [marco.yon@helanta.co.sh](mailto:marco.yon@helanta.co.sh).

- #StHelena
- #Coronavirus
- #COVID-19
- #Altogether Healthier



**If possible:**  
Try to avoid social gatherings and crowds.





Community Development Organisation

# the Legacy project



An initiative from  
The Community  
Development Organisation (CDO)  
in collaboration  
with Enterprise St Helena (ESH)

working with Civil Society Organisations to build a stronger and more resilient community for the betterment of St Helena and its people.



**Through a funding collaboration from the CDO and ESH, all Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Registered Charities have a unique opportunity to either solely or jointly, submit proposals or ideas for a Legacy Project through the Community Development Organisation (CDO) to a value of £20,000.**

**Criteria are as follows:**

- ⇒ Applications must be submitted by an NGO, Registered Charity or constituted group
- ⇒ The Project has to deliver any one or more of the CDO objectives
- ⇒ There must be an element of longevity for the project (over 5 years)
- ⇒ The project must be sustainable in terms of annual funding
- ⇒ The total project must cost from £4,000 (minimum) to £20,000 (maximum)
- ⇒ The closing date for submission of project ideas is **30th April 2020**
- ⇒ Organisations may submit more than one project idea.

**All project ideas must be submitted on the form overleaf by  
4pm, Thursday, 30th April 2020**

**Successful ideas will proceed to the second phase of the application process**

**Fostering stronger community bonds, and encouraging social engagement**

*For further information please contact Jeremy Johns, CDO Officer,  
Tel: 22971, E: [community.sthelenahelena@gmail.com](mailto:community.sthelenahelena@gmail.com) or [shcdo@helanta.co.sh](mailto:shcdo@helanta.co.sh)  
Alternatively any one of the CDO Committee members:*

*Shayla Ellick, Mia Henry, Tara Wortley, Danielle Anthony, Cynthia Bennett, Patrick Henry and Gillian Brooks.*



<b>Project Title</b>	
<b>Submitted by</b>	
<b>Organisation/ Implementing Team <i>(if applicable)</i></b>	
<b>Summary of project and objectives <i>(max of 200 words)</i></b>	
<b>What benefits does this initiative have that will improve community life on St Helena. Who will your project idea benefit?</b>	
<b>How will the Project be sustained in the long term. E.g. Maintenance <i>(max of 200 words)</i></b>	

**NB: If needed, Please use an additional sheet of paper to complete**