

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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A celebration of St Helena Coffee at the Coffee Shop



Guernsey 2021 NatWest International Island Games latest casualty of Covid-19



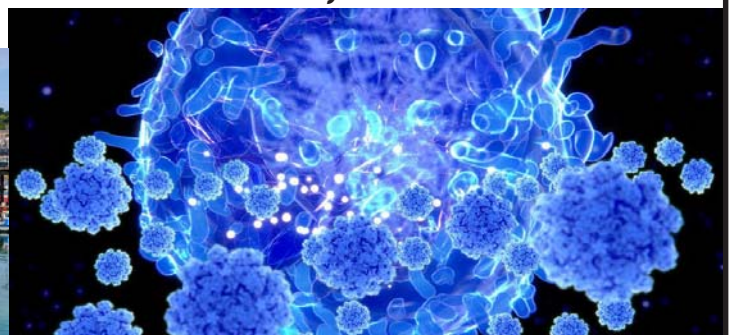
Report on St Helena Police Published ***Vince Thompson***



High Profile UK Advisor Wheels out Well-worn Suggestion for Dealing with the Unwanted



“The return of tourism demand requires travellers and tourism sector employees feel – and are, safe”



Report on St Helena Police Published

Vince Thompson

Last year the Governor asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to inspect the St Helena Police Service. The inspection took place in March and the report was published last week. HMICFRS were asked to check the St Helena Police arrangements, policies and practice for armed policing; detention and custody; investigation and victim support/care; neighbourhood and community policing, public engagement and communication.

The report by HMICFRS resulted in 14 recommendations and identifies 22 areas for improvement; some of them requiring urgent action.

The report points out the St Helena Police Service is made up of local officers and expatriate British officers on short term contracts. Most of the uniformed front line police constables are local officers while expat British officers take on the roles requiring skills the local officers are not trained for. These include criminal investigation, training posts and senior management roles. The report states this situation results in very inexperienced frontline constables. It is also reported that St Helena law is based on UK legislation but is not keeping up with the UK; this is an area for improvement.

The 22 Areas for Improvement listed in the report

The monitoring of custody records should be improved to make sure all relevant information, including details of the use of force, are recorded.

People detained by the police are routinely explained their rights and entitlements but printed copies of the rights, entitlements and code of practice are only available on request. All detainees should be handed printed copies as a matter of course.

The right of a detainee to make a phone call is compromised because detainees have to walk past convicted prisoners to get to the phone and prison guards can overhear the phone conversations.

HMICFRS found instances where female detainees were not offered the opportunity to speak with a female officer. However one partially deaf detainee was advised to let the police know if there was anything they said which was not heard or understood while another detainee who could neither hear nor speak received very good attention from Officers who went to great lengths to get specialist help.

Some practices are not compliant with the Police and Criminal Evidence Ordinance. There is some confusion about when the 24 hours a person can be kept in custody actually starts and foreign nationals are not always told they have a right to contact their high commission, consulate or embassy.

There were also many examples where custody reviews were not compliant with the ordinance; these include detainees not being reminded of their right to free legal advice, a detainee being charged after being in custody for more than 24

hours. Other oversights included omitting the rank of the officer completing the review and neglecting to record routine detail such as whether detainees had been reminded of their rights.

Recommendations made in the Report

1. By 1 August 2021, the chief of St Helena Police should implement a robust crime and incident record management system.

2. By 1 August 2021, the chief of St Helena Police should make sure that all control room operators have received appropriate THRIVE training.

THRIVE is an assessment based on the level of threat, harm, risk and vulnerability faced by a victim of a crime or situation. Control room operators have not been trained to carry out this part of their duties.

3. By 1 August 2022, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's BritishOverseas Territories police advisor should amend OTCRIS to automatically identify vulnerable victims.

Vulnerable victims are people who are repeatedly victimised. While Operators are largely aware of vulnerable victims due to the small population, diligent recording of repeated victimisation is needed.

4. By 1 August 2022, the chief of St Helena Police should develop the necessary policies and procedures (drawing on the College of Policing's authorised professional practice and UK police force policy, as appropriate), and apply for funding for a short-term technical assistance policy officer.

This recommendation is required because St Helena Police have few written policies and procedure. The report states a full range of policies would give officers valuable and consistent guidance.

5. By 1 August 2021, the St Helena Government should develop a victim support scheme.

This recommendation points to the absence of a victim support policy together with procedures which set minimum standards for the care of victims.

6. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police should develop a community policing strategy.

The report states that inexperienced uniform officers are working mostly on investigations and cannot devote sufficient time to community policing. It is noted they are also struggling to develop their investigatory skills. It is suggested that CID should take on all investigatory work so uniformed officers can learn more about their communities and improve their community policing skills.

7. By 1 August 2021, the chief of St Helena Police should revise its APSTRA, making a new assessment of the capacity and capability to counter the threat of high public ownership of firearms. The requirement to develop tactics for aircraft entry should be removed.

Arms training for police started in order to comply with the

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terms of the airport licence. However the report advises the St Helena Police Service should be 'realistic' about the risk posed by a firearms attack on the airport or a plane hijack. Also, "St Helena Police should be realistic about the level of armed policing it can develop" to address this threat. However, there are 224 firearms certificate holders who hold 349 firearms. The report suggests serious violence involving alcohol poses a significant risk and police firearms training should focus on this aspect of risk.

8. By 31 December 2020, the St Helena Government should have resolved the issue of the indemnity and life assurance for firearm officers.

9. With immediate effect, the chief of St Helena Police should address the identified key security issue.

The police hold 169 firearms in the police armoury. They are secured by a series of locked doors. There are two set of keys for gaining access to the armoury. The Armourer has one set which he keeps with him while on duty or at home. The second set of keys is stored safely at police headquarter and accessible by the chief inspector. It is likely this recommendation has already been acted upon.

10. With immediate effect, St Helena Police officers should comply with the chief of police's operational policy decision, outlined in his standing authority for the use of conducted energy devices. The force should also review the use of such devices and share data with interested parties.

Despite there being a policy concerning police officers having immediate access to tasers for use in an emergency situation, tasers were carried by exception rather than the rule. Also, body worn cameras appear to have fallen into disuse as the report recommends the cameras be re-introduced. The report also encourages the re-introduction of ha-

bitual carrying of tasers, just in case.

11. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police should amend policies and procedures to reflect changes that the force makes to structures and practices recommended in this report. The chief of police should document any deviation from authorised professional practice. And the St Helena Government should acknowledge the associated risks.

The report states that the St Helena Police policies and procedures for the use of firearms had not been signed off and they require further development. The report also states the St Helena Police cannot possibly comply with the College of Policing firearms standards and should set its own risk based standards.

12. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must publish an overarching policy for the whole custody process so that consistency of practice and improvements in safety and treatment can be achieved.

The absence of policies, procedures and protocols addressing situations involving detainees is one of several areas where policies and standards are not formalised or fully developed. The report states the lack of policies and standards involving taking people into custody is a particular cause for concern.

13. By 31 December 2020, the chief of St Helena Police must make sure that the force's custody officers act in compliance with all aspects of the Police and Criminal Evidence Ordinance and its codes of practice, This involves:

- providing all custody officers with appropriate training and guidance about their obligations under the ordinance and codes of practice; and
- instigating regular audits of custody records to assess compliance.



Thank You Cyril Alexander Benjamin 10/08/1942 – 10/09/2020



Son Patrick, Step-daughter Delly, Brother and Sisters of the late Cyril Benjamin together with their families would like to express their sincere thanks to the doctors, nurses and staff of the General Hospital for their care and attention during his underlying illnesses and especially during the last two weeks before his death. Special thanks to the staff of Deason & Cape Villa for the help and care given to Cyril whilst he resided at the respective residential homes.

Thanks are extended to Bishop Dale, Cannon Clive, Father Jack, Deacons Ernest, Jonathan and Bobby for conducting the funeral service, Joy George the organist, Roy Williams and his team and Davina and Colin Lawrence for the lovely wreaths.

Special thanks to brother Hayward for his invaluable support, colleagues on Ascension and in the Police and all other family and friends who gave support, attended the funeral, paid floral tributes and sent messages of condolence through cards, emails and phone calls. This was very much appreciated and touched our hearts at this sad time. God bless you all.

Cyril will be greatly missed, but his memories will live on in our hearts forever.



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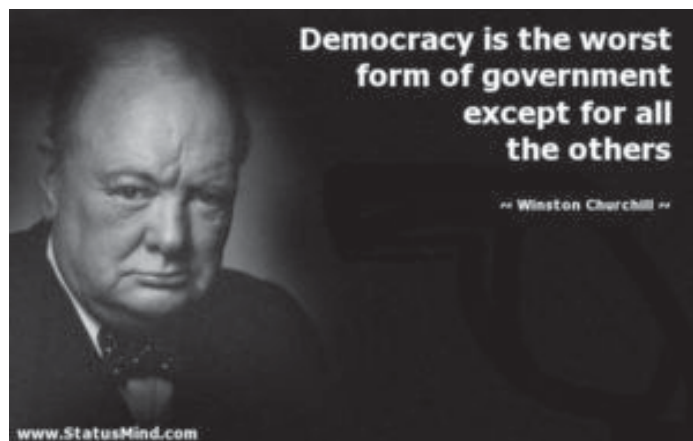
Editorial

The public engagement sessions on the Governance Commission Report are now completed. It's now over to the councillors to say what they think about the two Sarkin Reports and the Governance Commission Report which followed on from Sarkin. The most interesting, and probably the main question, is whether the councillors will go for a consultative poll or some other form of public consultation. The tight time schedule seems to cause anxiety for some councillors so it will also be interesting see if they put the brakes on the whole process or drive the very idea of a different system of government off the road and into the long grass.

One issue raised a few times during the public engagement session was who should choose the Chief Minister - should there ever be one. Should a candidate who wants to be a Chief Minister declare his or herself when being nominated? Should there be a separate vote for a Chief Minister? These questions were discussed at length by the Governance Commission. The underlying question is, should voters know whether or not they are voting for a possible Chief Minister when they put an X against a candidates' name. Well, people in the United States know very well what their choice is when they vote for a President on 3rd November and far too many eligible voters are not happy with the choice they have. In the UK the Prime Minister is the leader of the governing political party and the leader is chosen by MPs of that political party or by all members of that political party. Since we do not have political parties in St Helena the current proposal is that the newly elected councillors should elect a Chief Minister from among themselves. There are other ways to do it. Will councillors explore the other options or just reject the whole idea of a ministerial system of government.

After this week's so-called presidential debate both candidates but especially Trump have been very heavily criticised; and rightly so. The personalities leading the UK Government have also earned criticism after the idea that UK asylum seekers should be shipped out to the mid-Atlantic was actually given consideration. The 'odious' Priti Patel was one comment I received from the UK by email. "I nearly spat my cereal out when I heard it on the breakfast news" was another. "The UK Government just gets worse by the day" was added to the list of criticism. While the various suggestions about how a Chief Minister should be elected deserve proper consideration it is worth remembering that no system of democratic government ever gets anywhere near to perfection. But it is very much worth remembering democracy is the best type of government we have, in whatever form it is delivered.

Once more, I have a quote from Winston Churchill which fits the situation



And finally, Neil Foster, formerly of Enterprise St Helena, will be raising money on Sunday for a mobility for the disabled charity called Aerobility. Neil will be taking social distancing to the extreme when he competes in the London Marathon when running up and down St Helena's hills and guts. The 2020 London Marathon is different. About 45,000 registered runners will cover the required 42.2 kilometres anywhere in the world over a 24 hour period; logging their progress on an event app (see overleaf).

The Chief Executive of Aerobility said, "What Neil is undertaking is remarkable. Not only is he is isolated geographically but running a marathon, on your own, without the support of fellow runners or cheering crowds is an exercise not only in physical capability but also mental resilience. This is something that will resonate with our community and aviation as a whole. We hope that aviators and wider members of this community will get behind his effort and sponsor him."

Do you want to join Neil on Sunday?

**Whatever you do, have a great weekend
Vince**



Sharon in the Studio at Saint FM with Sharon and Darrin Henry talking about Miss St Helena

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Aerobility and the remotest participant in the 2020 London Marathon

by Aerobility

Living on St Helena, in the middle of the South Atlantic, one of the remotest places on earth, Neil Foster certainly knows a thing or two about isolation. It is this experience that has inspired him to raise money for Aerobility – the disabled flying charity that tackles the isolation that disability can sometimes lead to.

Originally from Canada, Neil Foster moved to the remote volcanic island in the South Atlantic to help with private sector development with the promise of benefit from the new airport. Previously, it was only possible to access the island by boat – a five-day journey on the RMS St Helena from South Africa. *“Thanks to the airport, it’s now possible to perform a medical evacuation if someone needs transportation to hospital in South Africa,”* says Foster. He continues *“Aviation is supporting the island community in the ways that matter most, and Aerobility extends the benefit of flight through meaningful transformation of lives”*

The airport is not the only initiative to help create benefit to overcome a sense of isolation. SHAPE (St Helena’s Active Participation in Enterprise), plays a crucial role in supporting the island’s disabled and vulnerable adults who face social exclusion. Having supported them, Neil will now run the virtual London Marathon in support of Aerobility on the 4th October. He is hoping the aviation community will get behind his effort to support disabled flying. He has therefore set up a



sponsorship page here uk.virginmoneygiving.com/flytogether

Like all marathons, Neil’s run will be a challenge in itself. However, making it even tougher than most will be the volcanic island’s extremely hilly terrain

The run, which will also include a section around the newly built airport will take place this Sunday, October 4th. For more information on Aerobility go to www.aerobility.com.



Ludwig van Beethoven’s 250th birthday celebrations



Lisa, Kerry and James

As well as Napoleon’s 200th bicentenary in 2021, this year the well-known German composer Ludwig Van Beethoven’s 250th birthday celebrations were due to be held all over the world. There was only 1 year between Napoleon and Beethoven in age!

Unfortunately, due to the devastating pandemic, many events and concerts worldwide have been cancelled, postponed or are being held virtually online or with no audiences.

We are so lucky on St Helena that Creative Saint Helena can

continue with the planned concert, and this Saturday 3rd October, 18 singers and instrumental players will be getting together to play and sing some of Beethoven’s short pieces.

The concert will include some well-known tunes that most people would recognise sung by St Helena singers choir, James Fantom on guitar, Joe Hollins - solo vocal, Gay Marr and Ivy Ellick on piano, Jenni Ratcliff and two Prince Andrew students on violins, Graeme Beckett on trumpet, Teeny Lucy on recorders and Kerry Lawrence and Lisa Joshua on flutes.

What is classical music all about? All are very welcome to join us to find out!

The concert will take place at 7pm at the Catholic Church in Upper Jamestown with the kind permission of Father David. Entry is free with voluntary donations welcome.





International Coffee Day was yesterday, Thursday 1st October. Local coffee producers brought people on St Helena together who like a good quality top-tasting coffee. At the Coffee Shop on the seafront local producers showcased their products for people who have an instant liking for proper coffee.

The type of coffee found on St Helena is the Green Tipped Bourbon Arabica and it has remained preserved with its original qualities since the first plants were imported in the 18th century. In 2019, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) officially classified this type of coffee bush as a globally endangered variety.

St Helena Coffee has gained international recognition for its rarity, disease-free distinction and superb quality. It is now on sale at the luxury London department store, Harrods as well as several other trading outlets across the world which specialise in quality coffees. In most lists of quality coffees St Helena coffee ranks as the second most expensive; topping the list of the most expensive coffees it is often Kopi Luwak. The coffee bean from which Kopi Luwak originates is plucked from the dung of civet cats. It is the passage of the bean through the digestive tract of the civet cat which gives this coffee its distinctive taste. It is produced mainly in the Indonesian islands of Java, Bali and Sulawesi and can sell for up to £470 per half kilo. St Helena coffee has been sold in Harrods for £60 per 100grams or £300 per half kilo.



A civet cat putting Kopi Luwak coffee beans through the blender

Coffee producers spoke of their passion for the trade, a "labour of love" process that results in a precise quality product; a product to be proud of, in order to maintain St Helena's reputation with coffee connoisseurs. As most producers are small family run businesses they spoke about the very real challenge that they face in sustaining locally produced coffee into the future, namely attracting a younger generation into coffee cultivation - interested in continuing their legacy which commenced over 25 years ago.

A celebration of St Helena Coffee

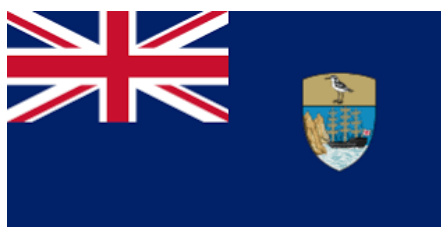


The Coffee Shop on Thursday morning as coffee lovers in St Helena gathered for one more cup

This challenge is recognized by the new programme launched by the International Coffee Organization (ICO) this year, to support the next generation of young people in coffee. This programme intends to provide the rightful combination of adequate financial support with skills development and training.



St Helena coffee and related products, including coffee liqueurs, fudge and chocolate; in the middle of the stall is the coffee 'cherry' straight from the coffee bush. On the left is a tray of parchment beans. These beans have a naturally occurring papery substance surrounding the coffee bean. Coffee beans can be sold in their parchment state or they can go through a further process called 'hulling' to remove the papery substance, leaving the more familiar brown coffee bean.





Request for Expressions of Interest

Reconstruction of box gutter between the roofs - Longwood Enterprise Park

Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the following work at the Longwood Enterprise Park:

- **Reconstruction of the box gutter between the roofs**

The submitted Expression of Interest should include company name, name of responsible officer, title, address, telephone number and email address.

Please submit Expressions of Interest to the Mrs Michielle Yon, Director of Resources, via email Michielle.yon@esh.co.sh or to be delivered to the ESH office in Ladder Hill Business Park by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Wednesday 16th October 2020. Responses received after this date and time will be regarded as late responses and may be disregarded.

For further information interested contractors may contact Mr Paul Scipio of "ProArc" on telephone +290 23850 or +290 61725.

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Request for Expressions of Interest

Repair and resurfacing of access road and car park – Ladder Hill Business Park

Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the following work at the Ladder Hill Business Park:

- **Repair and resurfacing of access road and car park**

The submitted Expression of Interest should include company name, name of responsible officer, title, address, telephone number and email address.

Please submit Expressions of Interest to the Mrs Michielle Yon, Director of Resources, via email Michielle.yon@esh.co.sh or to be delivered to the ESH office in Ladder Hill Business Park by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Wednesday 16th October 2020. Responses received after this date and time will be regarded as late responses and may be disregarded.

For further information interested contractors may contact Mr Paul Scipio of "ProArc" on telephone +290 23850 or +290 61725.

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Extreme E Reveal St. Helena Ship Ahead of 2021 Season

By Pontus Lindroos



Credit: Phil Owen / Extreme E

The Extreme E championship has now revealed it's logistic centre and hub that will be onboard the St. Helena freight ship that will be used for transport between each of next year's rounds to reduce the emissions produced by the series.

The ship was aquired by Extreme E in 2018 following use by Royal Mail to transport both cargo and people to and from Cape Town before an airport was built in 2016, and since the purchase it has undergone an overhaul to be ready for next year. Work on the ship includes a total overhaul of the steel-work, engines, propellers, interior and cabin space.

The ship has been selected by Extreme E to transport everything next year, which includes all cargo, the Odyssey 21 E-SUV vehicles and team members and it also has 62 cabins onboard.



Credit: Phil Owen / Extreme E

A total of 30 tonnes of steelwork has been added to repair previous damage and create new elements on the ship with the original 20 square metres swimming pool being replaced by a science laboratory. The engines has been stripped and all components have either been renewed or replaced so it can run on sulphur marine diesel and the propellers have also been changed to reduce friction and improve efficacy.

There have been a total of over 30 crews onboard that have rebuilt the ship at the dry dock in Cammel Laird shipyard in Birkenhead, near Liverpool with the Extreme E logo having

also now been applied to the outside of it before its public reveal.

"The St. Helena is an iconic vessel and it is a privilege to be part of the team restoring her to original glory. As Captain, it's also been an invaluable experience to get to know her inside out before we take her off around the world on her important new mission." Jari Lindgren, the Captain of St. Helena, said on the transformation.

"She is a perfect logistics platform and Extreme E is setting a really good example of how ships can be refurbished for efficiency and given a new lease of life. This has been an important chapter, and we're now really looking forward to the next stage and getting into full operation, and back to a life at sea."

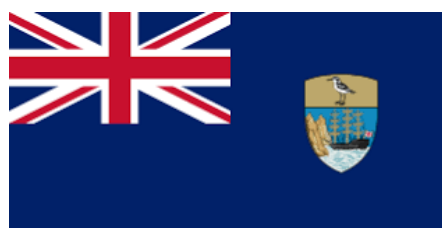


Credit: Phil Owen / Extreme E

"Everything you see on the St. Helena has been touched. As a 30-year old ship she needed quite a lot of work to get her ready for her new role with Extreme E and some adaption to make her suitable for both passenger and cargo use." Austen Brunton, Technical Project Manager at Wilson Ship Management, added.

"Seeing the St. Helena re-enter the water is a very proud moment for myself and all my team. We have spent 18 months working on her to get her into this condition and it has been great to see her finally back on the water, where she belongs. We still have some more work to do on the interior, but she is now preparing for her new lease of life in her career, with Extreme E."

THE CHECKEREDFLAG.CO.UK



High Profile UK Advisor Wheels out Well-worn Suggestion for Dealing with the Unwanted

Vince Thompson

About once a year someone, usually in the UK, comes up with the idea that captured terrorists or other high security detainees should be accommodated on St Helena. It's happened again, only this time the suggestion is even more strange and stupid.

This time the combined efforts of a former Prime Minister of Australia, the present Prime Minister of the UK and his Home Secretary have spent precious time from their busy and very important schedules considering whether asylum seekers who arrive in the UK should be sent to our South Atlantic Islands to be 'processed'. This idea fits well with getting unwanted people as far away from you as possible but fails on every and all other considerations of practicality and sensibility.

Tony Abbott, a former Prime Minister of Australia was recruited last month as an advisor on trade negotiations; he was to work at the Board of Trade. Within a few weeks Mr Abbott seems to have strayed into the inner workings of the Home Office and formed close links with the current Home Secretary and former International Development Secretary, Priti Patel. According to reports in the UK media, they got together to rework Abbott's immigration policy for Australia which includes keeping asylum seekers detained on islands remote from Australia for indefinite periods. Abbott has publicly stated at a recent conference that Europe should follow Australia's example on immigration to stop asylum seekers "streaming across borders".

The proposed British version of Australia's immigration policy is, or was, to send asylum seekers to Ascension Island and St Helena. The desperate and destitute victims of civil war, famine, terrorism, dysfunctional and corrupt governments would be detained on our two small islands for extended periods as the 'processing' of asylum seekers gets nowhere, fast.

The most recent UK figures show 34,000 registered asylum claims in the UK over a 12 month period. Asylum seekers using small boats to cross from France to England numbered less than 2,000 last year. This year so far, 5,000 'boat people' have been counted attempting to step ashore on the beaches of southern England. This is something neither Napoleon Bonaparte nor Adolf Hitler managed to do and it appears to have reduced the UK Government to a state of panic as they continue to disagree with the rest of Europe on just about everything. More recent comments from UK civil servants have played down the Abbott proposal for South Atlantic detention centres for UK asylum seekers saying it is just one idea of several based on how other countries deal with immigration.


The Abbott-Patel proposal has been received with widespread criticism. Ascension Island Council member, Alan Nicholls, described it as a "logistical nightmare". Alan told the BBC, "Looking at cost and logistics, we are some 4,000-plus miles away from the UK, I would have thought it would be extremely expensive and a bit of a logistical nightmare to get asylum



seekers here to Ascension because of the fact we are very isolated and I don't think the whole thing would be very feasible, to be quite truthful."

A spokesman for the Prime Minister informed the media, "The UK has a long and proud history of offering refuge to those who need protection. Tens of thousands of people have rebuilt their lives in the UK, and we will continue to provide safe and legal routes in the future.

"As ministers have said we are developing plans to reform policies and laws around illegal migration and asylum to ensure that we are able to provide protection for those who need it, while preventing abuse of the system and the criminality associated with it. The rise of gang-affiliated Channel crossings has put this issue into very sharp focus."



TIP OF THE WEEK

Blasting leaves or stains off your walkways with water is one way to remove them, but brushing with a broom to first loosen the dirt and grime will decrease your water use and save you time in the long run.



“The return of tourism demand requires travellers and tourism sector employees feel – and are, safe”

Vince Thompson

Yesterday South Africa opened its borders to international air traffic. Recently the St Helena Government announced “The news that South Africa has moved to level 1 restrictions is welcomed by SHG, we will be working closely with Airlink over the coming weeks to determine when and how the scheduled Airlink service to St Helena can be resumed.” Another recent change is that Executive Council have now taken over the responsibilities of the Incident Executive Group (IEG) which was formed to respond quickly and effectively to fast changing situations as the coronavirus spread across the world.

Will Executive Council respond as quickly and effectively as IEG? Are they prepared for the decisions required as new situations develop in connection with the pandemic; or are they perplexed by it? A well respected firm of business analysts recently published a paper outlining what is required to get the tourism economy back on its feet as soon as possible. Doing exactly that is in the forefront of the minds of many people working in the Castle. One of the four main requirements listed by the business analysts is that tourists and tourism sector employees need to feel safe and be safe. This is a very important point because it means if the resident population does not feel as secure as possible from the pandemic then tourists are unlikely to start coming any time soon. As things stand, it is estimated it will take between four to seven years for tourism to return to last year’s levels. Our committee system of government is criticised for being indecisive and ineffective. If Executive Council do not make decisions, or make the wrong decisions, planes flying to and from St Helena could remain empty for much longer than seven years.

The business analysts point out anxiety remains high about travelling between countries. One reason put forward for the low level of confidence in pandemic preparedness and protection protocols is confusion over safety measures that are currently in place. To increase confidence among potential travellers, prompt, transparent consistent communications from governments and public agencies is needed. The IEG gained a reputation for doing this; can Executive Council do the same? Greece is given, in the business analyst’s report as the best example of a country to announce clear details of its border protection policy and not to make changes to them every week. The report states coronavirus infection rates “remained steady” however their report was published in August and since then the daily coronavirus infection rate in Greece has risen from 50 to 60 a day to around 350 a day – in line with most other countries that have relaxed border controls; something more for our Executive Council to think about.

On other aspects the tourism economy the report points out that government grants to subsidise wages and other cash schemes used now to keep businesses afloat are expensive and governments cannot afford to continue them for the next four to seven years, or longer. It is expected most of these business-help schemes will close over the next few months. Other, more viable, finance schemes to combat the destructive effects of the pandemic on the tourism sector include

revenue pooling arrangements particularly among small and medium size businesses. The report suggests that pooling revenue and sharing losses helps accommodation providers to optimise variable costs and reduces the need for government support. This pooling arrangement can include some hotels closing temporarily to help other hotels achieve reasonable occupancy levels. The closed hotels would share in the revenue taken by the hotels which remain open. This arrangement may possibly work in St Helena but not until a trickle of tourists start finding their way to St Helena.

Another proposal in the report is government backed joint equity funds which again could benefit small and medium size businesses. The government backing would provide security for equity invested in the tourism sector, providing a possible benefit to several small to medium tourism businesses simultaneously. For governments without the necessary finance, their role could be limited to setting up the necessary joint equity structures and opening them to potential private investors. Again, this idea could possibly gain traction but only after St Helena’s tourism sector can take off the hand-brake and move into first gear.

Another aspect of the tourism sector which encourages tourism businesses to keep the hand brake on is the many government departments and public entities which are involved in some way with tourism. The report found that across 24 countries analysed, 66% of private businesses active in tourism were either unaware of measure taken by governments or felt the measure taken were ineffective. The business analyst’s report emphasises the need for clarity, consistency and co-ordination from government organisations and a streamlining of the often complex structures and relationships – or disconnects.

The final section of the report looks at data and forecasts and how the use of this data has changed since the coronavirus pandemic took hold six short months ago. The report tells us, “Data sources and forecasts have shifted, and proliferated, in the crisis. Last year’s demand prediction models are no longer relevant, leaving many destinations struggling to understand how demand will evolve, and therefore how to manage supply. Uncertainty over the speed and shape of the recovery means that segmentation and marketing budgets, historically reassessed every few years, now need to be updated every few months. The tourism sector needs to undergo an analytics transformation to enable the co-ordination of marketing budgets, sector promotions, and calendars of events, and to ensure that products are marketed to the right population segment at the right time.” This time it can be said this part of the report applies equally to St Helena right now as it does to any other county in the world.

UPDATE ON CHARTER FLIGHT DETAILS OCTOBER 2020

St Helena Government (SHG) can now confirm that the Titan Airways Boeing 757-200 aircraft has once again been selected to operate the next charter flight to the Island in October.

The flight will depart from London Stansted and fly direct to St Helena with a technical stop in Accra. The aircraft will then overnight on St Helena before operating a shuttle service to/from Ascension Island. On completion of the shuttle service and a second overnight stop on St Helena the aircraft will fly directly back to Stansted including a further technical stop at Accra.

The provisional flight schedule is as follows (N.B. the departure and arrival times have been revised for this flight):

Date	Flight No	Departure Time	Departure Airport	Arrival Airport	Arrival Time
26/10/20	ZT7241	0015 UTC/LOCAL	London Stansted EGSS / STN	Accra DGAA / ACC	0715 UTC/LOCAL
26/10/20	ZT7241	0800 UTC/LOCAL	Accra DGAA / ACC	St Helena FSH / HLE	1210 UTC/LOCAL
27/10/20	ZT7242	1000 UTC/LOCAL	St Helena FSH / HLE	Ascension I FHW / ASI	1210 UTC/LOCAL
27/10/20	ZT7242	1330 UTC/LOCAL	Ascension Island FHW / ASI	St Helena FSH / HLE	1540 UTC/LOCAL
28/10/20	ZT7243	1000 UTC/LOCAL	St Helena FSH / HLE	Accra DGAA / ACC	1400 UTC/LOCAL
28/10/20	ZT7243	1445 UTC/LOCAL	Accra DGAA / ACC	London EGSS / STN	2155 UTC/LOCAL

Seat assignment will be on a priority basis and is taking place during this week. The Tourist Office will inform passengers directly if they have been prioritised and offered a seat. Information packs will be distributed to passengers shortly after they confirm they still wish to travel.

Due to the aircraft and route selected some extra capacity to travel on the St Helena to UK sector is available. Additional travel requests for this sector only will be accepted up until 4pm on Monday, 5 October 2020. No further travel requests will be accepted for travel to St Helena from the UK.

Travel requests for the flights in November and January can be submitted now.

Travel requests should be made to the St Helena Tourist Of-

fice via: christina.plato@tourism.co.sh or by calling + (290) 22158. For those based on Ascension Island or wishing to travel to or from Ascension Island, please contact the Shipping and Travel Office via: flight.bookings@ascension.gov.ac or by calling + (247) 66244.

Customers (individuals or organisations) wishing to book airfreight to St Helena on the October charter flight are advised to use an appropriate freight forwarding agent to make the necessary arrangements. The freight forwarding agent will have a critical role to play in ensuring that goods are delivered to the airport on time and that all required documentation is in place.

SHG
30 September 2020



FOR SALE BY TENDER

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has for "sale by tender" a Ford Fusion, formerly registered as vehicle number 4295.

This vehicle has been damaged as a result of a road traffic accident and will be offered on an "as is, where is basis", with no warrantee given or guarantee implied.

Persons interested in viewing should, in the first instance, contact Solomon's Insurance Office on telephone number 22860.

Offers should be made in writing to the Tender Board Secretary, clearly stating the registration number on the envelope and placed in the Company's Tender Box in their Main Office Foyer by no later than 4pm on Wednesday 7 October 2020.
30 September 2020

JOB VACANCY

THORPE'S JAMESTOWN SHOPS



TILL/SHOP ASSISTANT

PART TIME / FULL TIME

This role involves shelf stocking, using an epos till and dealing with customers.

- Free home to duty transport
- Attractive leave and sick leave package
- Starting/Training salary at £3.30 per hour (£508.20 per month)
- Salary to increase considerably with proficiency in the job role and further increases with time spent in the company.
- Opportunity to progress to higher position at a higher pay rate

Contact: Henry Thorpe or Carol Yon Tel: 22781, email: admin@thorpes.sh or come and see us in our office above Thorpe's grocery shop



PUBLIC NOTICE

BANK DROPS INTEREST RATES FOR FIRST TIME HOME OWNERS / MORTGAGE APPLICANTS

OFFERS EFFECTIVE 01 OCTOBER 2020

Bank of St Helena Ltd are pleased to announce that as of 01 October 2020, the following will be implemented for first time home owners / mortgagors:



Offer 1: For applicants who earn £8,500 per annum or less, interest rates of 5% will apply for a term loan up to 25 years.

OR



Offer 2: For applicants who earn £15,000 per annum or less, payment of the principal loan amount can be deferred for a period of up to 2 years. Interest payments will apply.

The interest only payment period will be at the commencement of the repayment term and the loan will be repaid over the remaining eligible loan term.

During this period of interest only payments, interest will be charged at a rate of 5%, reverting to the prevailing rate (currently 7%) once repayments of both principal and interest commence.

Applicants will not be eligible for both offers. Offers apply to applications received from 01 October 2020. Additional terms and conditions apply.

For more information, please contact the Lending section on 22390 or personallending@sainthelenabank.com.



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

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

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



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



@sainthelenabank



Bank of St Helena Ltd



CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS OPEN



Applications for the 2021-2022 Chevening Scholarship Awards are now open. Applications will close on Tuesday, 3 November 2020.

St Helena Chevening alumna, Pamela Constantine, studied Business Administration at the University of Portsmouth in 2000 and encourages potential future scholars to take advantage of this opportunity. Pamela said:

"A Chevening Scholarship is not just all about study it opens you up to a vast network spanning approximately 50000 alumni members from more than 141 different countries allowing you to share knowledge, grow and be inspired through numerous events, online connections and forums very crucial for development of potential future leaders, innovators and exceptional individuals with exposure being key. In light of the current economic situations we are facing both globally and locally, do take advantage of these opportunities whilst they are still here. 'Scholar for a year Chevenier for life'."

To apply, candidates must meet certain criteria including:

- You must be a citizen of St Helena, Ascension or Tristan da Cunha
- You must have completed all components of an undergraduate degree to gain entry at postgraduate level
- You must have at least two years' work experience
- You must not have studied in the UK previously with funding from a UK government-funded scholarship
- You must return to your country after your study in the UK for a minimum period of two years.

Further information on Chevening can be found by visiting www.chevening.org. You may also contact Chevening Officer, Kerry Lane, at the Governor's Office on +290 22308 or email: Kerry.Lane@fcdof.gov.uk who will be able to assist with your queries.

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

SOLOMON & COMPANY (ST HELENA) PLC



JOB VACANCY BOATMEN/LABOURERS

FROM V33 12 OCTOBER 2020

AS PART OF THE STEVEDORE OPERATION ON A PART TIME BASIS

Interested Persons Should:

- Be able to undertake physically demanding duties
- Have a general understanding of safe manual handling practices
- Be able to work in a fast-paced environment while remaining safety-conscious
- Be prepared to work out of hours
- Be able to work at heights

Hours of Work

Hours of Work whilst the MV Helena is in Port are usually
06:00 – 18:00

Rate of Pay

Wages will be paid by the hour at the rate of
£4.35
Premium Time & Overtime is paid when applicable

Contact Us

For further information or to register your interest, please contact:
- Kerry Yon, Telephone: 22523 Email: shipping-travelmanager@solomons.co.sh or
- Anthea Joshua, Telephone: 22523 Email: asstshipping-travelmanager@solomons.co.sh
BY WEDNESDAY, 07 October 2020



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

Buying Clerk

Within the Procurement Department

Job Outline

To ensure that a reliable and efficient service is provided for the sourcing and supply of overseas purchases.

Interested Persons Should:

- Have grades C or above in GCSE Maths & English
- Be computer literate namely in Microsoft Outlook, Excel & Word
 - Have excellent communication skills
- Be analytical and have an aptitude for figures
- Have the ability to prioritise and work to deadlines
 - Be well organised with a keen eye for detail
 - Be highly motivated with a can-do attitude

Salary for the post will be £8,038.20 per annum (\$669.85 per month)

For further information,
including the Company's
attractive benefits package,
please contact
Julie Lawrence,
Procurement Manager
on telephone number: 22104
or via email address:
procurementmanager@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 13 October 2020



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 excellent Customer Service skills
 - Have experience in Cash Handling

Salary will start at £8,045.28 per annum, (\$670.44 per month)

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 13 October 2020

Invitation to Tender

The Saint Helena Government wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the Exploratory Drilling (Boreholes) project, at the Ring Road, Francis Plain.

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Shelley Thomas

Executive Assistant

Programme Management Unit

The Castle

Jamestown

Telephone No: 22470 or

Email: shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh



**St Helena
Government**

A site visit to view the drilling rig that will be used for these works will take place on **Tuesday 6 October 2020, at 11am, at the Red Hill Treatment Plant.**

A site visit of the proposed locations for exploratory drilling will take place on **Wednesday 7 October, at 10:30am, meeting at Francis Plain car park.**

Contractors should note that site visits requested after the 6 & 7 October will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

If you require any further details, please contact EDIP Chartered Engineer, Mr Richard Wotton, on telephone number 25805 or email richard.wotton@sainthelena.gov.sh

A hard copy of completed tenders should be placed in the tender box located in the Main Castle Foyer, Jamestown by 12noon on Wednesday 14 October 2020.

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

SHG

29 September 2020

Invitation to Tender

The Saint Helena Government wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the Refurbishment of Levelwood Public Toilets near Silver Hill Bar.

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Shelley Thomas

Executive Assistant

Programme Management Unit

The Castle

Jamestown

Telephone No: 22470 or

Email: shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh



**St Helena
Government**

If you require any further details, please contact Graduate Civil Engineer, Mr Kyle Shoesmith, on telephone number 25805 or email kyle.shoesmith@sainthelena.gov.sh

A hard copy of completed tenders should be submitted in the tender box located in the main Castle Foyer, Jamestown by 12noon on Friday 09th October 2020.

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

SHG

17 September 2020



**St Helena
Government**

PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY Customs Officer (Fixed term contract until 31 December 2020)

Are you a highly motivated individual and willing to accept a challenge? A vacancy has arisen for the exciting and varied role of Customs Officer - helping to protect the borders of St Helena and assisting with raising important revenue for the island.

The post-holder must have the following qualifications and experience

- **GCSE Maths, English and ICT 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);
- **Class A Drivers Licence;**
- **Cash Handling Experience.**

Prospective candidates should have good customer service skills and a keen willingness to learn.

Please note that the successful applicant will need to be available for an immediate start.

Fixed term contract until 31 December 2020

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

For **further information** about the duties of the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons should contact Juliette O'Dean, Acting Head of Customs on telephone number 22287 or email: juliette.odean@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from **Corporate Human Resources** or the **SHG website** at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Venning, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than **4pm on Tuesday, 6 October 2020**

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. 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.



**St Helena
Government**

PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY Disability & Day Care Officer (Fixed term contract until 31 December 2020)

Are you a compassionate and patient individual? If you are looking for a job where no two days are the same and know that you are able to make a positive difference to people's lives, then we would like to hear from you!

The post-holder must have the following qualifications and experience

- **GCSE in English at Grade C or above or equivalent** (*applicants without this qualification may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process*);
- **Completion of NQF level 3 qualification on Social Care**, if not be willing to undertake;
- **Completion of accredited lifting and handling training or equivalent**, if not be willing to undertake;
- **Driver's License Class A;**
- **Experience of working with challenging behaviour and Basic IT Skills**

Please note that the successful applicant will need to be available for an immediate start.

Salary

for the post is at 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 **Nicolene Adams**, Employability Scheme, Community and Day Care Outreach Services Manager on telephone number **25327** or email: nicolene.adams@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from **Corporate Human Resources** or the **SHG website** at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than **4pm on Tuesday, 6 October 2020**

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. 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.

Vacancy for Rigger or Trainee Rigger

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

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

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

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

Essential Qualifications & Experience

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

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

Please contact the Administrative Officer on + 247 66800 (Extn 102) or email glen.yon@encompass.co.ac for a **Job Application Form**, **Job Description** and for further information regarding the post.

Applications to be sent to:
Admin Officer
BBC Atlantic Relay Station
English Bay
Ascension Island (or email glen.yon@encompass.co.ac)

Applications should be submitted on our job application form, and must be received by **Friday 9th October 2020.**

Songlines is a popular magazine specialising in world music. This month's edition features St Helena, its popular music and its musicians. Huw Hennessy of Songlines travelled to St Helena to find that traditional music is under threat.

The harbourside is the place to be on a summer's evening in Jamestown, with Atlantic rollers crashing against the sea wall and fairy terns darting from the cliff tops. Under a tin roof open to the balmy breeze, the house band plays to its loyal fans as children run around. As a couple of musicians leave the stage, others hop up to take their place. It feels more like a jam session than a concert, except the music is smooth and slick.



Big Easy at the Mule Yard in Jamestown

What the Saints Did Next

This is St Helena the little islands in the mid-Atlantic about half the size of Amsterdam, where Napoleon Bonaparte ended his days and which has remained remote yet welcoming to all-comers ever since. Saints, as the islanders call themselves, punch well above their weight for their eclectic musical output, which reflects their history, with influences from all over the world. Run by the British for the last 300-plus years, the earliest settlers brought slaves from Africa, followed by Chinese labourers, and then prisoners from the Boer War. Mix these together and today you'll hear echoes in Saints' sing-song accent; 'bread' for instance, comes out in three drawled syllables; 'bree-ay-urrd.'

To the first-time visitor, Saint Helena is a beguiling blend of the familiar and the exotic. The main street of Jamestown, its capital – and only town – is lined with tidy Georgian townhouses prettified with window boxes and wrought-iron balconies. With its leafy park, church spire and war memorial, it could easily pass for any provincial town in England. But look around and its tropical wilderness becomes apparent. The trees in Castle Gardens include mangoes and jacarandas, alive with chattering myna birds.

Today's live bands, such as The Big Easy, Beverly Thrills, Island Politics and Good Vibez, play mostly classic rock, blues and reggae to please the local taste for retro hist. But listen to either of the island's two radio stations (Saint FM and SAMS), or look elsewhere in and around Jamestown, and you're just as likely to hear traditional county music. Country was one of the earlier genres that took root in Saint Helena, back in the 1950s. Until then dance orchestras, military style brass bands and skiffle had been their staple fodder. But when they went to work at the US military base on Ascension Island, 1,131km to the north, many got hooked on

SONGLINES

Loretta Lynn and Conway Twitty. They brought back this music with them and their love of old-time country has never gone away.

One of the Saints' leading traditional musicians over the last five decades is Vincent March, self-taught guitarist, but equally at home on the ukulele and the mandolin. "I used to listen to the last great Hank Williams on the radio and from the chaps coming from Ascension. That's how I got interested in his music playing the guitar and singing his songs. I went off to Ascension myself when I was about 18. I got with the Americans down there, and we played some gigs together, though I wasn't a professional at all and I still ain't. We just played music to enjoy ourselves and have a bit of entertainment. Then I met my wife Vilma. She plays the piano accordion and her dad played the fiddle and the guitar; so we'd get together and have a jam session, like a real hoe-down sort of thing." Together with other Saints musicians, Stedson Stroud, Ralph and Hazel Peters and Jackie Stevens, they formed the Silver Strings. It folded when Stroud and Stevens left, but Vincent and Vilma went on to form the Dry Bottle Band, adding Ray Cranfield to the line-up. They still play every couple of months or so at the Baptist Church but, although Vincent has added bluegrass gospel to his repertoire, he is downbeat about the future of traditional music on Saint Helena. "There's a few guys playing still, but the original type of music, the way Saints used to play, is dying out. Modern music has come instead, with all its electronics. I prefer to play acoustic, like my mandolin. It's just got nothing else put into it, more original and purer".

James Fantom, lead guitarist with Island Politics, agrees about the dying traditions, but is philosophical about the future; "It seems difficult to get young people on the island interested in live music, and playing an instrument. I think this is a trend worldwide. However, some young people are learning how to produce electronic music, which I think is just as valid. Art is a reflection of society and a snapshot of life in a certain time, and that's no different here . . . In a world where live music has all but ceased, it's awesome to be able to say we are still playing."

At the time of writing, Saint Helena has been mercifully spared from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, with no confirmed cases on the island. The worldwide lockdown had taken its toll, nevertheless, with live concerts temporarily suspended and some bands folding. Saints' close-knit community is pulling together in the crisis, however. As Barry Francis, drummer with Island Politics, puts it: "We're like pieces of Lego: if one of us can't make it on the night, someone else with step up and fit into their place."

Note: *World music describes traditional community or ethnic non-commercial musical styles which are a world apart from popular western music. Examples are American or African tribal music and South African "township" or Afro-Cuban music. Africa has been inhabited by humans for at least 100,000 years; musical traditions date back several thousand years. Songlines is a word describing an Australian Aboriginal belief which refers to a route across vast tracts of land linking historic events. Aborigines have inhabited Australia for 60,000 years; their culture and traditions stretch back in time much further than St Helena's.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY SOCIAL CARE OFFICER (Children's Services)

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Could you become an effective **Social Care Officer**?

In this role candidates are expected to establish supportive and professional relationships with clients and deal effectively with unpredictable and challenging situations in a professional and sensitive manner.

This post will be for a fixed-term period **up to 31 December 2020**. If you are interested, **please contact us soon** via the details provided.

The following are essential...

- **Qualification in Social Care** at a minimum of Diploma level, or willing to work towards achieving or **GCSE or equivalent in English Language** at Grade C or above and be willing to work towards a qualification in Social Care
- **Valid Class A Driving Licence**
- **Intermediate IT Skills in Word, Excel and Database**

Previous experience in **general administration** and **working with vulnerable people and supporting others** are necessary, as well as an **interest/participation in some aspect of your local community** is also useful.

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.

Salary for this post is in 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 **Adele McMahon**, Team Manager (Children's Services) on telephone number 23312 or e-mail: adele.mcmahon@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Application forms, which are available from Corporate Human Resources and Children & Adult Social Care Directorate or on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies should be submitted through Directors where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh by **no later than Wednesday, 7 October 2020**.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance.

SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

Airport CNS & IT Apprentice



COMMUNICATIONS and NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS (CNS) and IT APPRENTICE VACANCY WITHIN ST HELENA AIRPORT LIMITED.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a professional team to undertake training in maintaining equipment and facilities which provide communications and navigational systems for a safe and compliant airport operation.

Education/Qualifications:

Applicants should have a good command of English, and have achieved English, Maths and IT GCSE at grade C or above. Although Science or Physics GCSE is highly desirable, the successful applicant can be released for further education during the programme to achieve the necessary qualifications. Previous IT experience would also be advantageous.

Responsibilities:

The Apprentice will be responsible to the CNS and IT Specialist, and will be trained in maintenance, fault finding and repairs in Ground-to-Air communication and Navigational Systems, Meteorological Systems, Airport Ground Lighting and IT Systems. Attention to detail is vital in order to provide maintenance, conduct tests and daily checks, and update records for critical calibrated equipment. The successful candidate should be able to work as a team member, be patient and able to remain calm under challenging circumstances, and work diligently in preparation for audits and visiting calibration aircraft. The Apprentice must be physically fit, will be expected to work both indoors and outdoors, and be confident to climb communication masts, carry out aircraft ground handling duties when required and any other duties to support airport operations

Safety:

Comply with, support and promote SHAL Safety and Environmental Policies which includes:

- ➔ Operating tools, equipment, and machinery safely according to prescribed safety procedures.
- ➔ Follow established safety procedures and techniques to perform job duties including lifting, climbing, etc.
- ➔ Correct unsafe conditions in the work area and report any conditions that cannot be corrected immediately.
- ➔ Maintain good housekeeping of the work areas and equipment.

The Apprentice must be flexible with their working routine; normal hours of work are from 08:00 to 16:00 Tuesday to Saturday and may include working on Sundays and out of hours to support scheduled and *ad-hoc* aircraft operations. The Apprentice must be physically fit, able to lift items weighing up to 20kgs, work in standing positions for long periods of time, and work indoors and outdoors, sometimes in inclement weather. The successful candidate must also be able to work in compliance with international regulations and adhere to the Airport Safety, Environmental and Health and Safety policies.

The Apprentice must be willing to attend all required training, have a professional outlook and able to provide the following:

- ➔ A full medical assessment
- ➔ A 5-year verifiable employment/education history check and be able to show evidence for periods of unemployment
- ➔ Pass a Narcotic and Alcohol test
- ➔ Undergo a Criminal Background Check.

In this instance, the opportunity is being offered on a 12-month basis with the Apprentice's performance monitored and assessed through the Company's performance appraisal process.

Airport CNS & IT Apprentice



If you think you have the relevant qualifications and some skills to suit this role, or if you would like more information or to receive the Apprentice job description and application form, please contact Elaine Hopkins at the St Helena Airport on telephone number 25180 Ext 0 or email address recruitment@sthenelenaairport.aero. For information on the Apprenticeship programme contact Scott Stander, IT & CNS Specialist on Tel 25180 Ext 139.

The closing date for this position is Friday 9th October 2020.

HEALTH DIRECTORATE RECEIVES UN AWARD FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

by SHG

St Helena Government's (SHG) Health Directorate has received the 2020 United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) Award. This follows a nomination from Public Health England (PHE) on St Helena's successful implementation of the Island-wide Health Promotion Strategic Framework which has helped the Island achieve significant progress in reducing NCD risk factors.

Winners were announced on Thursday, 24 September 2020, at the virtual meeting of the Friends of the Task Force on the occasion of the UN General Assembly.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor Derek Thomas, said:

"Receiving this Award is really positive for St Helena. Our Health Promotion Strategic Framework sets the pathway for long-term initiatives in addressing the high level of NCDs we are experiencing on the Island. "It is pleasing and encouraging to see a number of citizens in our society taking responsibility in addressing their general health lifestyles. I am also grateful to our local importers for working in partnership with our health professionals."

St Helena's application was facilitated by PHE, the implementing partner for the Public Health Project, under the Overseas Territories 'Governance' Programme of the UK Government funded Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. The application highlighted the community approach of St Helena's Health Promotion Strategic Framework where emphasis was to make healthier practices/decisions easier and move away from a normalised culture of unhealthy behaviours. At the end of 2019 significant progress had been made on key outcomes within the framework.

Sarah Williams from PHE who put together the application said:

"PHE has been proud to support the work of the Health Directorate and wider community on St Helena to address some



of the main causes of Non-communicable Disease. We are delighted that the achievements on St Helena have been recognised by the UN. We look forward to continuing our work with St Helena to help those on the Island make healthier choices to benefit themselves and their families."

Acting Director of Health, Janet Lawrence, concluded:

"The Health Directorate is delighted to have our hard work and commitment to the Island's health acknowledged in the award from the UN. The award has been achieved due to the support and commitment from many key partners across the Island in helping to implement and embed the Health Promotion Strategic Framework. The Health Directorate would like to thank Public Health England, political partners, members from the private sector, SHG and the public in continuing to support this work."

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases Awards 2020 recognises achievements during 2019 on multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs, mental health and the wider NCD-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

The much anticipated match of the weekend between Liverpool and Arsenal turn out to be a one sided affair as Liverpool dominated their London rivals beating them 3-1.

Liverpool went behind when a rare mistake at the back by Andy Robertson saw Lacazette score the opener. Minutes later the champions were level when Mane scored; 6 minutes later Robertson atone for his error putting his team 2-1 up.

Diogo Jota making his debut for Liverpool scored the decisive 3rd goal 2 minutes before time.

On this performance Liverpool look like they going to have another brilliant season; especially as their so call main rivals are all having a shaky start.



Diogo Jota scored on his debut for Liverpool having joined them from Wolves

Manchester City went down to a shock 5-2 loss at home to Leicester City in a game that saw 3 penalties awarded to the 'Foxes'. Jamie Vardy scored two of the penalties plus another goal to complete his hat trick.

This was a disappointing performance from City and is the first time that a Pep Guardiola team has conceded 5 goals in a match.

Leicester sits on the top of the league table with 9 points from their opening 3 matches.



Hat trick hero Jamie Vardy

Chelsea conceded 3 goals in 27 minutes against West Brom only to mount an amazing comeback in the second half to draw 3-3. Tammy Abrahams scored the equaliser in the 93rd minute.

Frank Lampards team has had a mix reaction to this performance; as many fans are criticising his multimillion pound team for their lacklustre first half performance against the baggies whilst other are praising their spirit for after their second half fight back.



Thiago Silva made a defensive error to gift West Brom their first goal in his debut game for Chelsea

Manchester United got extremely lucky in their match with Brighton. It took a penalty decision by VAR after the final whistle to give the Red Devils all 3 points in a match that Brighton didn't deserve to lose.

Rashford had put United 2-1 up in the 55th minute only for Brighton to deservedly equalise in the 95th minute.

Bruno Fernandes 100 minute winner from the penalty spot was harsh on Brighton especially as they had hit the woodwork on 5 occasions.



Bruno Fernandes scoring from the penalty spot 10th minutes into injury time

In other matches Everton has 9 points from 3 matches as they defeated Crystal Palace 2-1.

Southampton picks up their first win of the season beating Burnley 1-0.

Leeds picked up another win beating Yorkshire rivals Sheffield United 1-0.

VAR and hand ball was the talking point after Spurs concede a late penalty against Newcastle which resulted in a 1-1 draw. West Ham 4 Wolves 0 was another strange result from last weekend.

Aston Villa is another team with a 100% record as they beat Fulham 3-0. Villa is now unbeaten in 8 games stretching back to results at the end of last season.

Round four the the EPL season will kick off at 11.30 on Saturday when Chelsea host Crystal Palace. Everton play Brighton at 2pm before Leeds play Man City at 4.30pm and Newcastle host Burnley at 7pm.

On Sunday Leicester play West Ham and Southampton play West Brom at 11am. Arsenal play Sheffield United and Wolves host Fulham at 1pm. Manchester United play Tottenham Hotspur at 3.30pm and Aston Villa host the Champions Liverpool at 6.15pm.

Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

SHFA Results and Fixtures

SHFA 2020 League Table

Saturday 26th September

The first game on Saturday saw Bellboys beat the Lakers by four goals to nil. At half time Bellboys had a two goal lead, with goals coming from Kyle Shoesmith and Andrew Yon. The Lakers had plenty of chances to score but were wasteful in front of goal. Andrew Yon would go on to complete his hat-trick in the second half with two more goals, and also win the man of the match.

Bellboys 4 v 0 Lakers

Sunday 27th September

Sunday's first game was a very close contest between the Harts and Saints, with Harts narrowly winning by three goals to one. The Saints were defending well, restricting Harts to long range shots, which the player of the match Rieedwaan Richards was equal too. Simon Scipio broke the deadlock with a tap in late in the first half. In the second half Saints equalize with a goal from Musata. In the last twenty minutes there would be two red cards, two goals including a penalty. Sean-lee Thomas converted the spot kick and Ross O'Dean came off the bench to seal the game.

Harts 3 v 1 Saints

The final game of the weekend saw Wirebirds score seven goals against the Axis. The boys in pink this year have been playing some good football, and have been solid at the back, but where no match against a Wirebirds side thick in the challenge for the league title. Goals for the Birds came from man of the match Tyler Benjamin with 2, Shane Stroud 2, Cody Harris 2, and a goal from Ricardo Williams.

Wirebirds 7 v 0 Axis

Tuesday 29th September

Crystal Rangers manage to put a team together to play their postponed match against Rovers on a cold Tuesday afternoon. Despite the best efforts of the Rangers they came up against a much more experienced Rovers team who defeated them 29 nil.

Rico Benjamin strengthen his position on top of the Hotshots chart scoring a further 12 goals; Ronan Legg scored 7, Trystan Thomas and Dane Wade both scored a hat trick, Goal Keeper Keith Yon scored a penalty and Julian Henry, Aiden Yon-Stevens and Christen Yon all got on the score sheet.

Rico Benjamin was named man of the match and Trystan Thomas picked up the young player of the match.

Fixtures

Sat 3rd October

1pm Wirebirds v Harts Referee: Bellboys
3pm Saints v Crystal Rangers Referee: Axis

Sun 4th October

1pm Rovers v Lakers Referee: Crystal Rangers
3pm Axis v Bellboys Referee: Saints



Week Twelve

Place	Games	Wins	Draw	Lost	GF	GA	GD	Points
Rovers	11	8	1	2	99	5	94	25
Wirebirds	11	8	1	2	63	16	47	25
Bellboys	10	6	3	1	64	10	54	21
Lakers	12	6	2	4	59	23	36	19*
Harts	12	6	0	6	48	18	30	18
Axis	11	5	1	5	34	24	10	16
Saints	10	1	0	9	15	67	-52	3
C Rangers	11	0	0	11	3	222	-219	0

* = one point deducted for not providing a referee.

Hotshots Top 10

Name	Team	Goals
Rico Benjamin	Rovers	45
Shane Stroud	Wirebirds	28
Ronan Legg	Rovers	18
Andrew Yon	Bellboys	18
Sean lee Thomas	Harts	17
Matthias Young	Bellboys	14
Cody Thomas	Lakers	11
Tyler Benjamin	Wirebirds	11
Selwyn Stroud	Lakers	10
Tyler Brady	Lakers	10

POLICE APPEAL FOR INFORMATION VANDALISM TO VEHICLE

St Helena Police are currently investigating an incident where a vehicle was vandalised by a person or persons. This incident occurred in the area of Red Hill, St Paul's, between 6.30am and 4pm on Monday, 14 September 2020.

These type of incidents cause financial loss, hardship and inconvenience to the owner and Police are looking for the assistance of the community to detect and prevent these types of crimes from reoccurring in future.

The public is therefore asked to come forward with information to ensure justice for the victim.

Information can be provided to Police Headquarters on tel: 22626 or alternatively emailed to Police Constable, Charlene John, via: charlene.john@sainthelena.gov.sh, quoting incident report number: HEHN00006686.

Any information provided to Police will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Police follow numerous lines of inquiry to detect crime and the public is reassured that the Police use every source that's available to them. Appeals such as these are a valid line of inquiry the Police undertake as part of their investigation.

SHG, 30 September 2020

Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

Junior Football results 26th September

This Saturday will see the conclusion of the Junior Fustal League sponsored by Nigel George; Colin's Garage and New Horizons.



Congratulations to the Yellow Devils who are League Champions of the 6-11 years league with Predators as runners up. Rastabouts are Champions of the senior boys' league. Either Galacticos or Fugees will clinch the runners up place this weekend.

Junior Football results 26th September.

Big thanks to our sponsors and also to Gareth Johnson and Owen Richards who helped me with refereeing this season. 9 aside and 11 aside will start next weekend

Yellow Devils 6 v Predators 1

G/S Yellow Devils: Harry Winfield 2; Ryan Stevens 1 & Aden Thomas-Stevens 3

G/S Predators: Lebron George 1

POM: Aden Thomas Stevens & Lebron George

Blue Arrows 7 v Super Strikers 0

G/S Blue Arrows: Louis Thomas 1; Jamel Peters 1, Lucas Robertson 1, Dillon George 1, Darshan Patel 2 & Elijah Young 1

POM: Darshan Patel; Joshua Crowie & Nathan Thomas

Rastabouts 5 v Allstars 5

G/S Rastabouts: Taylon Phillips 4 & 1 own goal

G/S Allstars: Blaze Baldwin 5

POM: Taylon Phillips & Balze Baldwin

Fugees 1 v Galacticos 1

G/S Fugees: Blake Peters 1

G/S Galacticos: Musa 1

POM: Blake Peters & Musa

Fixtures

Sat 3rd Oct

- 9.15am Primary 6-11 Ranglers v Super Strikers
Referee: Nick Stevens
- 10am Primary 6-11 Blue Arrows v Yellow Devils
Referee: Nick Stevens
- 9.15am 11-15 Gladiators v Galacticos
Referee: Owen Richards
- 10am 11-15 Fugees v Rastabouts
Referee: Gareth Johnson



7-11 League Table										
Position	Team	Play	Win	Draw	Lose	GF	GA	GD	Points	
1	Yellow Devils	7	7	0	0	113	9	104	21	
2	Predators	8	6	0	2	97	17	80	18	
3	Ranglers	7	3	0	4	26	60	-34	9	
4	Blue Arrows	7	2	0	5	21	46	-25	6	
5	Superstrickers	7	0	0	7	3	128	-125	0	

11-16 League Table										
Position	Team	Play	Win	Draw	Lose	GF	GA	GD	Points	
1	Rastabouts	7	6	1	0	43	15	28	19	
2	Galacticos	7	3	2	2	28	24	4	11	
3	Fugees	7	3	1	3	36	28	8	10	
4	Gladiators	7	2	1	4	25	33	-8	7	
5	Allstars	8	1	1	6	28	60	-32	4	

Top Scorers 7-11			
Position	Name	Team	Goals Scored
1	Riley Yon	Predators	48
2	Harry Winfield	Yellow Devils	43
3	Aden Thomas-Stevens	Yellow Devils	34
4	Hugo Richards	Predators	14
5	Lebron George	Predators	14
6	Ryan Stevens	Yellow Devils	14
7	Zac Francis	Yellow Devils	13
8	Dirk Peters	Ranglers	12
9	Tyler Anthony	Predators	10
10	Levi Williams	Predators	6
11	Dillon George	Blue Arrows	4
12	Ziggy Yon	Ranglers	4
13	Darshan Patel	Blue Arrows	3
14	Edward	Predators	3
15	Liam Timm	Blue Arrows	3
16	Finley McMonegal	Blue Arrows	2
17	Joel Peters	Superstrickers	2
18	Laine George	Ranglers	2
19	Daniel Murangaawe	Blue Arrows	1
20	Efron Stroud	Yellow Devils	1
21	Elijah Young	Blue Arrows	1
22	Jamel Peters	Blue Arrows	1
23	Joshua Crowie	Superstrickers	1
24	Kirk Grant-Lawrence	Ranglers	1
25	Kylan Williams	Ranglers	1
26	Kyle Williams	Ranglers	1
27	Louis Thomas	Blue Arrows	1
28	Lucas Robertson	Blue Arrows	1
29	Robertson Shawnga	Blue Arrows	1
30	Zian Thomas	Ranglers	1

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

The International Island Games Association held their virtual AGM on Saturday 26 September when Jorgen Petersson, chair of the IIGA, sadly announced that the NatWest International Island Games scheduled to be held in Guernsey in July 2021 have been postponed.

Jorgen said 'This decision was not made lightly and was based on the responses received from the recent survey undertaken with Member Islands, coupled with the best medical advice that could be obtained. First and foremost, in making the decision was the wellbeing of all the Member Island's sports people and the impact that any importation of the virus into Guernsey would have on their Island. We have waited for even the slightest possible opportunity to go on with the Games in 2021, but we have to acknowledge the facts. The pandemic is not over, the quarantine-regulations will continue to make planning forward very very difficult and even impossible. 'Therefore, it would not be fair to ask the Member Islands or the Host Island to commit financially to an event next summer. This has been a difficult decision to accept for all of us. I am truly sorry for this decision, but I also know the determination in our island communities, and I am convinced we will come back in friendly competition under the umbrella of NatWest International Island Games as soon as possible'.

Nick Stevens, the Chairman of the National Sports Association of St Helena said that: "Although expected, it was still so sad and disappointing to hear the 2021 International Island Games in Guernsey has been postponed.

Guernsey is determined that they will eventually host the Island Games and once they get the all clear to do so they will be ready.

The message I would like to convey to our Athletes is to continue to train hard so that you too can be ready to compete at your highest standard when we get the call to say the games is on.

Training for our Island Games athletes in all sports needs to be on going as we are not only preparing for the Guernsey games but for Orkney in 2023 and Ynys Mon in 2025.

I have passed on our congratulations to our friends in Ynys Mon who received the majority vote from the member islands to host the 2025 games. We look forward with the rest of the world in putting Covid-19 behind us and will continue to strive in creating more opportunities for St Helena's sports women and men to compete in the International arena.

The Sports Champion for SHG, Councillor Cruyff Buckley said: "I am all too aware of the importance of Participation in sport in both the international arena and in a local context.

It is absolutely essential that we as an island contribute to instil in future generations the skills they are going to need in the modern world. Leadership, Teamwork, social interaction through to personal development and self-achievement all stem from activities that bring individuals together. Sport is at the heart of this framework.

I am soon to forward a proposal to committee, that seeks to achieve these objectives and reinforce a concerted and collective effort to move St Helena's sports and recreation into the 21st Century."

Golf Report for Sunday 27th September 2020

Contributed by: SHGC

Last Sunday 27th September 2020, 21 players teed off at 12:00 in the September monthly medal competition. At tee off it was fairly dry, but as the day progressed the weather took a turn for the worse. Good visibility in wet conditions is usually not an issue for golfers but with reduced visibility due to fog it became dangerous. In the interest of safety, the competition was cancelled at around 14:45.

The abandoned September Monthly medal will have a fresh start next Sunday 4th October 2020. Tee off 12:00 the groups and tee boxes will remain the same. Should any players who had not registered wish to add their names to the competition they should do so before 15:00 on Saturday 3rd October 2020. Members are reminded that The St Helena Open Championship will start on Sunday 18th October at 10:00 and end on Saturday 31st October 2020.

On Friday 9th October 2020 St Matthews Parish will be host-

ST. HELENA



GOLF CLUB

ing a quiz night fundraiser event at the Golf club from 19:30 members are invited to support this event.

Wish you all a great weekend of great weather.....!

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

SKITTLES SEASON – 2020/21

RESULTS

DATE: 14 th . September:					
Parttimers - 512			Bt	Strugglers - 457	
Lady's H Sc	Stacey WILLIAMS	63		Sally HICKLING	56
Gent's H Sc	Gavin (Duff) ELLICK	69		David THOMAS	71
Gent's H Sp	Toby CONSTANTINE	15		David THOMAS	17
DATE: 16 th . September:					
Super Stars - 442			Bt	Young Alcoholics - 404	
Lady's H Sc	Carmen PIEK	60		Anisa CROWIE	53
Gent's H Sc	Karl THROWER	40		Steve BENJAMIN	55
Lady's H Sp	Carmen PIEK	9			
Gent's H Sp				Jorden JOHNSON	15
Up-coming fixtures:					
Monday – 5 th . October: YOUNGSTARS V YOUNG ALCOHOLICS					
Wednesday – 7 th . October: EXTRACTORS V NEVER READYS					

Saint Helena: Containing COVID-19 at the price of development

By Mark Siraut

COVID-19 has devastated the global travel industry, hitting tourism-reliant economies the hardest. One such affected place is Saint Helena, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic Ocean, roughly 1,950 kilometres off the south-west coast of Africa. The remote island is most famous for serving as Napoleon Bonaparte's prison after his final defeat in 1815 up until his death in 1821. The island's isolation, however, largely ended with the construction of Saint Helena Airport in 2016, which was built as part of a plan by the Saint Helena and United Kingdom (UK) governments to open up the island and develop its tourism sector. However, Saint Helena has been forced back into isolation to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic from reaching its shores. The cost of containing COVID-19 was the collapse of the island's tourism sector, which was meant to drive its economic development.

Historically, Saint Helena's only regular link with the outside world has been its own dedicated cargo-passenger ship, the Royal Mail Ship (RMS) St Helena. It sailed to and from Cape Town in South Africa between 1990 and 2018, with voyages lasting around five days. However, several issues soon became prevalent, such as occasional delays caused by sea conditions or technical problems, leading to supply shortages on the island. In addition, very few travellers were willing to journey for such long periods to reach Saint Helena, meaning the tourism sector remained underdeveloped.

The Saint Helena and UK governments decided to replace the ship with an airport to attract tourists, and a new cargo ship, the MV St Helena, for heavy freight. This decision was part of the island's tourism strategy, which has focused on attracting wealthy tourists and those interested in the island's history and unique biodiversity. Saint Helena has a higher number of endemic species than the UK and the other 13 Overseas Territories combined. The government hoped to attract 30,000 tourists a year within 15 years of the airport opening, calculating that this number would allow the island to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The airport was completed in 2016, but large passenger planes were unable to land safely due to sudden changeable strong winds known as wind shear. This meant the airport was unable to open for commercial operations and led to it being dubbed "The World's Most Useless Airport" in the UK media. However, it eventually became operational in 2017, after it was found that smaller passenger planes could safely land.



A weekly flight was established between Saint Helena and Johannesburg, South Africa with a stop-over in Namibia.

South Africa, the main travel hub from which to reach the island, confirmed its first COVID-19 case on March 5, 2020, prompting Saint Helena's government to form the Incident Executive Group (IEG) to coordinate its pandemic response. However, it was private businesses and organizations that took the lead in fighting the virus, with many initiating a voluntary lockdown during the week of March 16.

On March 19, the IEG ordered the introduction of social distancing on the island. It also closed the border to foreign nationals and mandated that all arrivals self-isolate for 14 days, although the weekly flight to South Africa continued. However, the public preferred the complete suspension of flights, in order to best defend the island against COVID-19. There were also concerns about the Health Directorate's ability to deal with an outbreak, as it had no testing capacity and the island's hospital had just two ventilators.

On March 26, the IEG changed the self-isolation requirement for arrivals to compulsory quarantine at a government facility, Camp Bradley. South Africa also entered lockdown and stopped all international flights, finally giving the Saint Helena public its way.

The IEG announced there was a suspected case of COVID-19 on the island on March 27. In response, on March 31, enhanced social distancing was introduced due to fears about possible undetected cases. Under these rules, large gatherings were discouraged and at-risk groups advised to shield themselves at home. The affected person later tested negative and enhanced social distancing was ended on April 14.

The island's medical capabilities received a significant boost on April 21, when a flight bringing personal protective equipment, tests, and other medical supplies arrived from the UK. However, social distancing was not suspended until June 26, when the IEG was confident that the border was secured and the necessary medical infrastructure to deal with an outbreak was in place.

Most of the island's supplies are delivered by the MV St Helena,



Saint Helena: Containing COVID-19 at the price of development

By Mark Siraut

and there are ongoing concerns about the ship's ability to continue to operate during the pandemic, particularly if the situation continues to worsen in South Africa. In the event of a worst case scenario, the Legislative Council has granted the Governor the emergency powers to implement rationing, although the MV Helena is currently operating normally.

On June 24, the IEG decided to lift the ban on foreign nationals entering Saint Helena. However, these measures will do little to help the devastated tourism sector, given that flights are still suspended. International flights from South Africa are unlikely to resume until the pandemic there has been contained. Two flights from the UK bringing medical supplies and carrying out repatriations have landed on the island, pointing to the viability of a possible air-link between Saint Helena and the UK — a significantly easier route for potential tourists. However, this route is unlikely to develop anytime soon due the risk of a second COVID-19 wave in the UK.

The bicentennial anniversary of Napoleon's death will happen in 2021, and there are aspirations that tourists will be able to attend celebrations on the island, though this remains contingent on the COVID-19 situation. The Saint Helena government is currently preparing a tourism recovery strategy, which will likely include an international publicity campaign and the development of further tourism infrastructure for the island. Hopefully, Saint Helena will be able to tap into pent-up demand for foreign holidays in the post-COVID era and the international curiosity that the island has attracted due to its pandemic-free status.



The airport was supposed to open Saint Helena up to the world and kick-start its economic development. But both these goals were stymied by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the island to retreat back into isolation and devastated its tourism sector. COVID-19 has also shown that Saint Helena remains deeply dependent on South Africa for its links to the outside world. However, Saint Helena's isolation and swift action helped prevent it from enduring a potentially damaging outbreak.

When the island opened up to travellers in 2017, its ability to attract tourists was hindered by the failure of its airport to open on time. Saint Helena should take advantage of the current period to prepare its tourism sector for the post-pandemic era. Perhaps, with its current positive success story against the virus, coupled with its history and unique biodiversity, the island's second attempt to open up to tourists will succeed, and it will secure the economic development that it needs.


AGM **by SHCFA**

The St Helena Commercial Fisherman's Association (SHCFA) held its AGM on the 16th September 2020. One of the primary objectives was to elect a new committee; and I am pleased to inform you that this was achieved. Our new committee now comprises the following persons:

Chairperson - Waylon Thomas
Vice Chair - Rico Benjamin
Treasurer - Alan Nicolls
Fisherman's Rep - Michael Sim
Boat Owners' Rep - Peter Benjamin
Secretary/Communications Officer - Julie Thomas


"With our AGM behind us, the committee will now turn our attention to our aims and objectives for the year ahead, which includes the continuation of the work-streams that had been started by the outgoing committee."





TIP OF THE WEEK

Blasting leaves or stains off your walkways with water is one way to remove them, but brushing with a broom to first loosen the dirt and grime will decrease your water use and save you time in the long run.



GOOD TERN SEABIRD RESCUE & RECOVERY



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Date: Friday 16th October 2020

Time: 6.00pm

Where: The Canister, Jamestown

Join us for the charity's first AGM and hear about this years rescued birds and the charities plans for the next year.

If you want to get in touch, email
goodtern@outlook.com



TICKETS

£7

each

Miss St Helena 2020

To apply for tickets please provide the following information:

Name

Address

Landline Tel No.

Qty required, 1 to 4

Apply before Fri 9 Oct, noon using either of the following methods

Email: tickets@insidesthelena.com



Inside
St Helena
app



Miss St Helena
Facebook Page

A random draw to allocate tickets will take place using the
registered Home Landline Tel Numbers

No mobile or work numbers will be accepted

Landline Tel Numbers may only be entered once

You may apply for either 1, 2, 3 or 4 tickets

No internet connection or Home Landline?

You can still apply for tickets by contacting the organisers directly:

Darrin or Sharon Henry, Robyn Sim, Sasha Bargo,
Gemma Lawrence or Sylvia Phillips

ST MATTHEWS PARISH



Pub Quiz

Friday 9th October 2020
St Helena Golf Club
7:30pm

Quiz Master- Gavin Jack

Team of six
£3 per person

Register your team with
Angie 61583 or Cavell 24581

Seed Potatoes

Sifra brand
Generation 4
25kg
(approx 400 tubers)



Contact Melanie Williams in Thorpe's
Wholesale store on 22393 or
wholesale@thorpes.sh with the
number of bags you require.
Estimated arrival V34
arriving 10/11/2020



Thorpes

£32.95

per 25kg bag