

THE ST HELENA INDEPENDENT

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Pressure Grows to Plan for Electric Vehicles



The Blue Belt Programme – Four Years On



Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes: Another Game with Skill Benefits

Yesterday's Covid-19 Update from SHG - in Full

Jonathan's Hidden Secrets Jonathan Hollins



Superheroes: Making St Helena a Better Place



HAPE
St Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise

Superheroes: Making St Helena a better place

Tammy Williams

***“The secret of getting ahead is getting started”
(Mark Twain)***

Saturday's Superhero Fun Run turned out to be a huge success, drawing a large crowd of families and friends all in honour of SHAPE. The day organised by SHAPE in partnership with St Helena Airport began at 10am. Many activities were arranged, which included arts and crafts, a Superhero photo booth, a cinema for children and a mini market selling various goods, plants, bananas and local crafts - there was also a tea garden and sweet treats.

The event was opened by an inspiring speech from the newly crowned Miss STH Latisha Fowler, who seized the moment to promote the value of Shape and all the 'heroes' that contribute to its work. Derek Richards also took to the Mic and fired everyone up to prepare for the races. Everyone had a chance to take part, and it was wonderful to see the clients of SHAPE also take to the Runway.

The fire service also simulated an aircraft fire at the Fire Training Rig where visitors to the Fun Day were able to view the Airport fire service in action as they put out a fire. DJ KJ kept everyone in a happy mood by spinning those great tunes to dance and eventually run to.

Every day within our community there are superheroes working in the background with little mention but are contributing to St Helena's uniqueness.

There is work in research, science and discoveries, from caring to the vulnerable within society to caring for our environ-



ment and our ocean, this is wonderful work, we should shout it out loudly.

SHAPE's 'Start' banner illustrates a willingness to embrace the future and all it has to offer, I think so many of us are afraid to take that step, we want change but we don't want the discomfort that comes with it. We want progress but we are hesitant to welcome other ideas and cultures into our community for fear of dilution and losing what makes us special. If we lose what makes us special, whose fault is that?

SHAPE's 'no fear' attitude is what should drive us to take a stake in our future and engage with all partners, spending time with SHAPE may be all we need to jumpstart the island to new and better things.

We could take a leaf out of SHAPE's book and their determination to make the best out of whatever life throws at them. Within SHAPES name is something referred to as "Active Participation"



DJ KJ



Miss St Helena & Associate Princesses



DJ Dustii

Superheroes: Making St Helena a better place

Tammy Williams

There is no place for spectators and sideliners, only those are willing to participate in making St Helena a better place to live, who would not want to actively participate in building a better community for everyone?

SHAPE relies on the goodness and support of their partners, without them and you they cannot function, Christmas is coming, won't you put something in their stocking? Saturday morning was joyful and inspirational, big congratulations and thanks are extended to all those who organised the day and made it so special.

And now to the rest of St Helena, we all need to work together, influence our chance for good, the start banner is raised, the gun has fired, what are you waiting for?



Kristian Green and his mom Debra



Young at heart Basil George



All heroes wear capes/ Corbyn John and David O'Connor



Spiderman makes a guest appearance



We all need somebody to lean on





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Editorial

I was told a day or two ago about an old lady who did not have quite enough money when she got to the check-out to pay for the few bits of food she had chosen. We can all picture the scene. The lady was someone who has to fend for herself. Earlier in her life she probably spent her entire time looking after others; but now those people have all gone. Some of them will probably have gone overseas to find a brighter future. Others will have died. Filled with embarrassment and confusion the lady was 'rescued' by the kind person in the queue behind her. The kind person paid for her shopping and told the lady to put her money back in her purse. I don't know, but I imagine the shopping bill amounted to something like £5.10p.

I'm sure the kind person was fully repaid by the gratitude, sheer relief and delight shown by the old lady but my simple and uncomplicated mind wondered why it is that on a small island with a small population there are people who struggle along uncomplainingly with empty bellies and no electricity. I'm sure most of us know people in that situation but why is it such people continue to struggle without some survival money from a special fund in the SHG budget?

I put this question to a good friend who has worked in social services for several years and knows a thing or two. I got an email back with the usual promptness (this friend is not in St Helena) with suggestions about a living wage instead of a minimum wage, there were further words about a carers allowance and a Christmas bonus. The closing remark was that St Helena needs an economy which would support the cost of these social benefits.

But that is not what I had in mind. If you or I know of someone who is quietly struggling to survive and too quiet to seek out state help from whomever it is that should be contacted in whatever government office the person has a desk, phone and computer. Is it possible to have a quiet and confidential word with whatever person it is whose ear we should be whispering into? I'm sure the answer to this question comes back as

quick as a flash, "It's not as simple as that". I know it's not and that is where much of the problem lies. When giving out money everything has to be recorded and signed for. Forms have to be completed and authorisations obtained. People are employed to check the weekly, monthly and quarterly figures. The accountant wants supporting documents for every penny spent and the auditor has to have all the paperwork he asks for before signing off the year end accounts. Many thousands of pounds are spent accounting for every last penny. Also, the system gets so complicated there are those among us who really do need a little extra money every week but just cannot handle the complications involved in applying for it.

So why can there not be a kind of emergency fund of a few thousand pounds which is dispensed to those who are clearly in need but is 'ring fenced' from the usual avalanche of paperwork; different procedures would apply in order to get the funds quickly to the person who needs them and without stress and strain being caused to the person in need. To maintain a good standard on financial propriety the assistance could be given by handing out food boxes or essential clothing instead of money. Such a system would avoid situations where some extra money is given to a person in need but someone else in the house takes the money to spend on booze and fags. If a food box delivery is made to a person in genuine need, all right-thinking neighbours will be happy to see government money being spent for a very good reason. Any neighbour who thinks otherwise will expose themselves to shame. Human nature being what it is, applications for this kind of assistance could be by 'invitation only'. Recommendations that assistance should be given to any particular individual could be from charities who work with the dispossessed and the deprived.

I checked out what levels of poverty exist where the good friend I spoke about earlier lives. It did not take long to find headlines in the local newspaper such as, "Growing Divide Between Rich and Poor" and "Children's Commissioner

Concerned About Hidden Poverty". Child poverty is another cause for concern here. Stories about children going to school with empty bellies are too frequent. We need to find a new way to get the much needed help to the most desperate in our society quickly and without fuss.

New Information on the Blue Belt Programme

We have an article this week on the first four years of the Blue Belt programme and the Marine Protected Areas which are at the heart of it. The last part of the article concerns the marine research laboratory and marine centre now being built in the old freight terminal on the wharf. Enquires with the St Helena National Trust revealed that not much was known about what is planned as a combined effort between SHG and SHNT. Yesterday afternoon an enquiry on this matter with SHG brought the following response:-

"The conversion of the freight terminal into a marine centre is being funded by the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme. Blue Belt is funding the conversion of the ground floor of the building for use as a marine laboratory and office space for the SHG Marine and Fisheries Conservation section. They have also agreed to fund the installation of a mezzanine floor following funding issues for the Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) in relation to the upper floor project.

The intention (as it was always) is that the upper floor will be leased to SHNT for them to run as a visitors centre to complement the marine lab/office space. A letter of intent is now to be drafted by SHNT with regards to their use of the upstairs space for that purpose. A lease cannot be granted until the construction is finished and the space 'exists' and is approved for use.

It is intended that the Phase 1 works (ground floor) will be completed in April 2021, Phase 2 (upper floor) will commence after this time."

**Have a good weekend
Vince**

Breaking the ground in preparation for Equiano cable

Vince Thompson

Work has started on the Cable Landing Station at Rupert's in preparation for the landing of the cable which is due in the second half of next year. The Cable Landing Station will be the connection point joining the submarine cable to the shore-side networks. The work on the Cable Landing Station is expected to be completed in January next year.



Laying the concrete base for the Cable Landing Station

EXPLORATORY BOREHOLES AND GROUNDWATER DRILLING PROJECT SHG UPDATE

Following the successful completion of the functional test to assess the performance of the 310WW Trailer Drill Rig, drilling contractor, Henry's Contractors, commenced drilling of the first exploratory borehole on Francis Plain Ring Road, as part of the Exploratory Boreholes and Groundwater Drilling Project, on 2 November 2020.

The contractor drilled the first borehole to a depth of approximately 50 metres out of the target depth of 70-80 metres. Several problems were encountered during the works, which included difficult ground conditions and frequent hydraulic system breakdowns of the Drill Rig. At a depth of 50 metres, the drill string (the down-the-hole hammer and drill rods) became jammed.

Based on the documented testimonials of previous drillers, this is not an unusual occurrence, with drilling boreholes on St Helena presenting many challenges.

The drill string remains jammed, despite the contractor spending several days attempting various innovative recovery techniques.

As a result of this, the decision was made to temporarily suspend the works pending procurement of additional equipment, including drill rods, from South Africa. It is hoped that this equipment will arrive on the MV Helena in January 2021. Once the equipment has been received, the Drill Rig will be made ready to commence drilling of the second exploratory borehole.

The Programme Management Unit (PMU) would like to thank Henry's Contractors for their sterling efforts to date, and for all involved with trying to free the drill string.



The Cable Landing Station is across the road from the Fish Processing and Sea Rescue



More concrete being poured

"Risk Normalisation" threatens to prolong the pandemic

A researcher in something called Professional Learning in Uncertainty drew attention to the common human behaviour which causes us to ignore or give less attention to certain risks when we they become part of our daily lives. Because of this behaviour it is common for people of the US and UK to attend parties and raves despite the pandemi. There are also many examples of people across the entire spectrum of society ignoring advice to self-isolate, refusing to wear masks and flouting the social distancing rules. Another result of being too familiar with a particular risk is having the genuine intention to comply with the pandemic precautions somehow, just not getting around to doing it often enough.

The researcher in Professional Learning in Uncertainty suggests there are ways to counter this weakness in human behaviour. One of them is to use the techniques used in high risk industries to keep the workforce as safe as possible. This is based on good and regular communication about risk; almost constant reminders about the danger of electric shock or gas explosion are two examples. Repeat and repeat again and again until everyone follows the safety procedures without hardly thinking about it. Germany, New Zealand and Vietnam are singled out as being good at using this technique.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROGRESS COMMITTEE

FIRST PUBLIC UPDATE

At the formal Legislative Council meeting (LegCo) on Friday, 16 October 2020, the councillors present voted (8-3) in favour to the next stage of the Governance Review. This meant LegCo will decide at a future meeting if a public consultative poll (or formal consultation) can be held to decide if the Committee system should be revised or a Ministerial system for St Helena is preferred by Islanders. Before LegCo can decide on a poll they agreed to a short term 'Progress Committee' being set up. Its functions are:

1. To finalise the detailed organisational arrangements for each governance option – Present Committee system, Revised Committee and Ministerial - in particular, to include feedback received during the recent public engagement events hosted by the Governance Commission. This is in response to a request from Elected Members for more explanation on who does what in each governance option and how will it be done (A copy of the Feedback Report is available at: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Annex-for-Legislative-Council-feedback-from-Governance-Commission-public-engagement.pdf>)
2. To complete a working draft of a limited constitutional amendment (for use if a Ministerial system was eventually chosen) and to permit the Attorney General to discuss the working draft with Foreign & Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) constitutional lawyers
3. To prepare more precise costs on the operation of the alternate governance options; and
4. To finalise the consultative poll (or formal consultation) question and ensure St Helena Government (SHG) administration has preparations ready for a consultative poll to take place. Also, to compile an additional voter register for those Saints currently not on the main Voter List.

LegCo Members also agreed the Progress Committee should comprise of representatives from:

- Elected Members (Cllrs Leo and Henry)
- Speaker's Office (Deputy Speaker)
- SHG administration (Elections Returning Officer)
- AG's Chambers (Attorney General)
- Governor's Office (acting as the Secretariat)
- Public representative drawn from the now-completed Governance Commission.

This breadth of membership was important to ensure all of the necessary parts of any system of government for St Helena would be represented and able to contribute to the work of the Progress Committee.

The Progress Committee has met three times in three weeks. Its first task, because it could take the most time to be completed by legal specialists, has been to consider the amendments necessary to the 2009 Constitution to operate a Ministerial system of government, if this was chosen by the Island. No constitutional changes would be required if a Revised Committee system was chosen in the future.

Most of the required constitutional amendments had been



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

considered previously in 2005 when a governance change for St Helena was last considered. This previous work assisted the Progress Committee to progress this task more swiftly than first expected. The Attorney General is now preparing an up-to-date working draft and will check the legal wording and make it ready, when required, to go to LegCo for their consideration in advance of a decision to proceed to a consultative poll or formal consultation. A copy of the draft constitutional amendment would be made available publicly after discussion with LegCo.

The work of the Progress Committee this week will be to ensure the detailed organisational arrangements of each governance option – Present Committee system, Revised Committee and Ministerial – are as fully explained as possible. Subsequently, these expanded descriptions will be available to inform the public on the way each of the governance systems should operate, so that they can make an informed decision if or when a choice is decided by LegCo to go to the public.

A further update on the work of the Progress Committee will be issued in two weeks' time. The hope of the Committee is its work will be completed and its preparations made available to LegCo in time for it to take a decision on staging a future consultative poll at its meeting scheduled for December. If a poll (or consultation) is approved it would not take place until a date in January, at the earliest.

Governance Review - Progress Committee
10 November 2020

Richard James International would like to advise customers that space allocated to them for freight on the flight from the UK on 30th November has been limited to 5 cubic metres and they already have on hand emailed orders and freight forward goods well in excess of this limit.

It is with regret therefore that the excess freight already received by them as well as any further freight forward items and new orders will have to be rescheduled for the next flight expected in January, subject to availability of space. Alternatively, it will have to be sent by sea freight.

All at Richard James International extend their thanks to customers for their understanding and look forward to being of continued service to all.

Thank You

May Young and family here and overseas of the late Beasy Maggott, would like to thank the Doctors and Nursing staff for their care and attention given to Beasy.

Thanks to Bishop Dale and all the Clergy for the funeral service, Ivy Ellick the Organist, Roy and his team, Davina and Colin Lawrence for making the wreaths, Fiona Duncan for making the flower arrangements, Emma for the video and Susan O'Bey for the Eulogy.

Thanks to all who sent cards and messages of condolence.

Beasy has gone from our lives but not our hearts.

God's Blessings always



Thank You

The family of the late Ivan O'Dean who passed away peacefully at the General Hospital on Tuesday 20 October 2020, would like to express sincere thanks to the Doctors & Nurses of the General Hospital for all their care and attention throughout his illness. Deacon Earnest, Bishop Dale and Deacon Jonathan for conducting the funeral service, Mrs Joy George for playing the organ, Mrs Molly Fowler for reading the eulogy, Roy and his team, Davina Lawrence and Chrislyn Crafts for making the wreaths, Solomons for the service sheets and Nicholas for playing the music at the grave yard.

Thanks are also extended to family and friends for their support, the symphony cards and the phone calls at this difficult time.

He will be solely missed but we will treasure his memories forever



TECHNOLOGY FOR WELL-BEING ON ST HELENA

We started the STRAWS (Saint Teenage Well-being Study) in May 2020 and have recruited more than 30 people to date. The plan is to keep on recruiting young people to the study for the next 2-3 months. One of the interesting things (there have been many) that has come up in the research is young people's interest in using technology to help their well-being. This has got me thinking about doing another study in this area to find out more about what people think.

I have designed a study to interview 12 young people aged 16-25 years to see what they think about technology, how it would look and what it would do, if it would help them with mood, anxiety and general well-being. In addition, we're curious to know how young people might feel about using technology to access remote delivery of healthcare.

The study will involve interviews which will follow a simple guide of prompts. The interviews will probably need about 30-45 minutes to complete. We can complete the interviews at your home or Prince Andrew School at a time that suits. For participants younger than 18 years of age, we will need parents to complete a form giving consent for their child to take part. All participants will receive £15 for their time.

We plan to collect data in November and December

2020. Once people have a look at the information sheets then we need to consent them, which means that people understand that they don't have to take part and can withdraw if they need to. It's also really important that people understand that their information will only be looked at by the research team and their answers are not connected to their names. Any reports that are published or available will ensure that no names are connected with opinions or information. This is understandable and a very strict rule in academic research and means that people can be confident that the information and opinions that they share are not traceable back to them.

We'd really like to hear from you, if you have any questions or are interested in being in the study. If you are 18 years or younger, then parents have to say that it is OK to be in the study before we can meet with anyone.

If you are interested in being involved you can contact Tara Murphy on tel: 22593 or email: Tara.Murphy@nottingham.ac.uk

The study is part of PhD research with University of Nottingham and has been approved by the St Helena Research Institute.

Latest Covid-19 Update from SHG

By SHG

INCIDENT EXECUTIVE GROUP (IEG) – 19 NOVEMBER 2020 TOP LINES FOR RADIO BRIEFING

Home Quarantine

The IEG has had numerous recent political discussions on Home Quarantine and based on medical evidence and advice has decided to introduce mandatory 14-day Home Quarantine for all new arrivals, who have pre-approved accommodation. This will take effect from the January charter flight, subject to a satisfactory risk assessment and education campaign

The decision not to introduce Home Quarantine from the November charter flight was made by the councillors on IEG after discussion with members of LegCo. The advice from officials involved in IEG was that home quarantine should be available from the November flight

Further public information will be initiated to help the public understand how this change in January to the quarantine arrangements will be implemented and the quarantine management measures that will be in place

Passengers arriving on the November charter flight will undertake the existing centralised, mandatory 14-day quarantine at Bradley's Camp unless directed to Home Quarantine by a Proper Officer. Reasons why the Proper Officer can direct Home Quarantine include:

- o Arrivals from Ascension Island which is considered low-risk
- o Arrivals with medical conditions whereby Bradley's Camp would not be appropriate accommodation. All passengers returning from medical referral will be quarantining at home for November's flight
- o Arriving families with children aged 10 years or younger, as following a risk assessment by Children & Adults Social Care, Bradley's Camp was found not to be appropriate accommodation.

Councillors are aware that many Saints were planning to travel on the November charter flight but unfortunately due to the number of people that can be accommodated at Bradley's Camp they will not be permitted to travel. Passengers who can travel will continue to be prioritised

Quarantine remains our primary method in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and is still our first line of defence in protecting the Island

Other preventative measures include testing everyone on arrival and after the 14 days of quarantine

Management and assurance processes are in place for those arrivals who have been directed by a Proper Officer to quarantine at home. They are:

- o Accommodation assessments in advance against established criteria
- o Daily phone calls and other assurance measures to

ensure compliance

o Signage not to enter to indicate the accommodation is being used for home quarantine and notification to residents in dwellings in the vicinity

o The legal framework to address breaches of any quarantine as a severe deterrent.

Background:

Home Quarantine is widely adopted throughout the world in response to COVID-19 e.g. Tristan, Ascension, Guernsey and Isle of Man - who are COVID-19 free practice quarantine from home or rented accommodation. Best practice in relation to home quarantine is already established and using WHO guidelines have already been used on St Helena [https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/considerations-for-quarantine-of-individuals-in-the-context-of-containment-for-coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/considerations-for-quarantine-of-individuals-in-the-context-of-containment-for-coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)). It has been found over the preceding months with the specific cases that have been granted approval that no one has breached the Home Quarantine rules.

Visit of French Journalists – November 2020

IEG considered a request from the French Ambassador and agreed that a small group of French journalists could quarantine at Longwood House together with the French Consul subject to the following conditions:

- The group will undergo COVID-19 testing before departure, with the result communicated to the Senior Medical Officer in advance of travel
- Longwood House has been assessed as a suitable quarantine location
- A COVID-19 test to be conducted on arrival at St Helena and after 14 days.

Background:

A request was received from the French Ambassador to South Africa to allow a group of French journalists to visit St Helena at the end of November for media activities in advance of the Napoleonic Bicentenary in May 2021

The journalists will compile footage to be used for coverage of the Bicentenary - an opportunity for St Helena to receive international coverage

The exemption request was specifically to allow quarantining at Longwood House to facilitate the work of the journalists. Working with the French Consul, the journalists will use the time to undertake filming and reporting activities within the confines of Longwood House

Longwood House has been assessed by the Senior Medical Officer as suitable for quarantine

It was stressed that quarantine was a key part of the defence

Latest Covid-19 Update from SHG

By SHG

sive measures against COVID-19 and that there was no plan to move away from it

It was proposed and agreed that COVID-19 testing would be done before departure, with the results communicated to the Senior Medical Officer. A positive test result for any individual before departure would prevent travel to St Helena. An enhanced testing regime would be implemented which will include testing on arrival to the Island and during the quarantine period

This would be a 'bubble arrangement', but the group would remain in Longwood House for the duration of the quarantine period

Longwood House will be closed to the public for the period of the quarantine and the week following

An enhanced testing regime would be followed, and normal quarantine rules would apply

Members supported the request and recognised that these types of requests might come up more often and should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In all cases where exemptions are requested, the Senior Medical Officer works closely with the relevant individuals to ensure that appropriate health protocols are in place and observed.

Voluntary Testing on Arrival

The Senior Medical Officer provided an update on the voluntary testing on arrival trial that took place following the Octo-

ber charter flight:

- Passengers were not informed of the voluntary testing on arrival in advance. This was done to see how processes worked on the day and to understand resource implications
- Testing was not carried out on under-10 year olds
- 15 voluntary tests were carried out and all were negative
- The handling and testing process worked well and the Health Directorate is instructing the AG's Chambers to draft Regulations to be considered by the Public Health Committee and ExCo to make testing on arrival mandatory from November's flight. This will exclude transit passengers to Ascension because they will be tested on Ascension, children younger than 10 and passengers arriving from Ascension because they are low risk. At the end of 14-days quarantine all will be tested, including children.

Public Education

The COVID-19 community awareness programme introduced by the Health Directorate was highlighted. It was noted that the Chief Medical Officer had been on the radio and had published two articles in local newspapers. A third one will be published this week and a presentation will shortly be aired on the promo TV channel. The flow of information will continue to ensure that people have up-to-date and factual information regarding the Pandemic.

IEG

19 November 2020

Invitation to Tender

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

Installation and Removal of Festoon Christmas Lights

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from
Miss Tiffany Lawrence
Procurement Officer
Essex House
Jamestown

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

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

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Wednesday, 25 November 2020.

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



St Helena
Government

NOTIFICATION

MEETING OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AUTHORITY

The Land Development Control Authority will hold its monthly meeting on **Wednesday 2nd December 2020, at 10 am at the St Helena Community College, Jamestown.**

Meetings of the Authority are open to members of the public, applicants and objectors.

The Agenda and redacted versions of the Handling Reports will be available on the LDCA Web Page on the SHG Web Site.

Should you require assistance, please contact the Secretary of the Land Development Control Authority on telephone number 22270.

Applicants and objectors may speak at the meeting providing that a summary of the points to be raised has been submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The Venerable Frederick George

29 January 1939 - 16 October 2020

"Crockford's Directories" are wonderful! Sometimes as you read between the lines astonishing lives blossom in front of you. So it is with Fr Fred George, for he had an extraordinary life. It was a tough life with many dangers ... especially trekking around the Australian Outback, or later driving through the monsoon in Brunei to isolated communities, or later again ploughing up-river by launch in the Gambia to distant mission stations. Fred never eased off, and wherever there was work to do, Fred was there!

But that's to rush things, for there's much more in his memoirs, "Poor Fred", and "Fred in Charge" (sold by Jamestown Museum). He tells of childhood years in Catford in South London. He writes of his love of camping in magical villages like Friday Street in the Surrey Hills. We read of his National Service with the Devonshire Regiment ... his struggles through dyslexia to get to Teacher Training College ... then his joy at getting into St Luke's, Exeter.

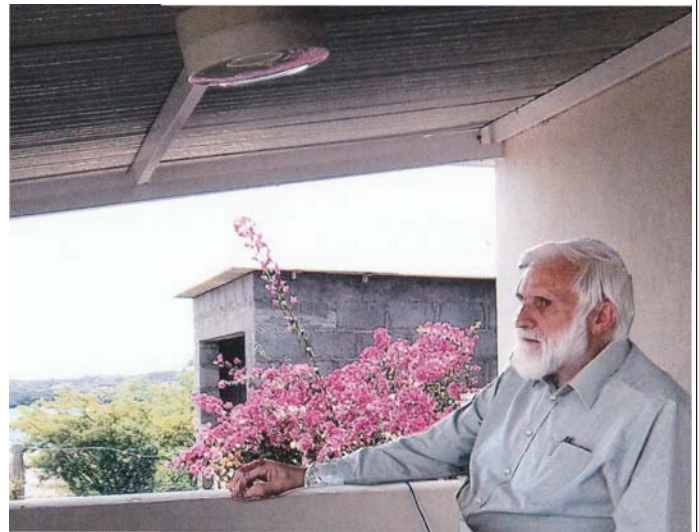
Onwards his journey sweeps; eventually he's accepted as a Teacher in Australia with USPG, and here he joins the "Bush" Brotherhood of St Barnabas - Fred was one of the last of that Order. His many memories include re-building (literally) a school burned-out in a Bush Fire - and on another occasion avoiding a couple of large crocodiles in the Outback when his rickety old "ute" slid off a flooded road into the ditch! These are just 2 "snapshots" from so many in Australia ... but then there are very many further adventures in Brunei, and later the Gambia.

Whilst in Australia he had trained "on the hoof" and was made Deacon in 1972. Then 11 years later in the Gambia he took leave for a "top-up" year at College in Chichester, and was ordained priest. He then returned to the Gambia as College Principal at Farafenni. In truth Fred crammed about four lifetimes into those first 44 years - and that was just the start!

But at heart Fred was a pastor, so from 1989 to 1997 he came home to be a parish priest in Suffolk. He loved Ringsfield, Redisham, Barsham, Shipmeadow, and the villages around. In fact one of the photographs in his study was of that amazing East end of the church at Barsham. Later he was very happy as Rector of Wainford, and he fondly recalled the churches and the people. But as with so many who've spent time abroad, the call returned, and in 1997 he moved to the South Atlantic to the Diocese of St Helena as Vicar of Jamestown.

He was soon appointed Archdeacon, and his love of people, his passion for historic buildings, his ability to give minute attention to finances, property plans and records made him ideal. In truth, he had found the place he loved most, and even though he "retired" in 2003 ... coming back to the UK to look after Winchelsea for a long interregnum, he then returned to St Helena and built his home on Woody Ridge in St Matthew's parish.

Fred was a wonderful colleague, and "retirement" was purely



Fred - Ascension Vicarage - looking to Turtle Beach

notional! For when there was real difficulty in paying a Vicar for St Matthew's Parish he simply stepped into the job. His driving was hair-raising, but whether he was rushing around both islands on church work, or doing his bit as Chairman of the National Trust, or sorting out chaotic diocesan records, Fred was there - meticulous and utterly dependable. Again, his own love of travel (gained over many furlough holidays with his sister Anne), and his deep love of Italian Renaissance art (which he had occasionally taught) meant that he was a real gift when it came to Lent and Advent Courses, or Diocesan Quiet Days. The subjects included everything from studies on the Gospels to "Images of Christ in Art and Iconography". But whatever, wherever, he was always there.

You couldn't overestimate Fred's contribution. Even in declining health he was busy planning the fine new Ministry Training Course - and lecturing on it. His insight and generosity was endless! Even when health and memory really made life difficult, the determination remained. He would be driven to the mass in Longwood where the gifted Parish Deacon would do the Synaxis, and Fred would continue with the Eucharistic Consecration. He was so much a part of life on St Helena and Ascension, and whether visiting, saying mass, or drinking tea and "supervising" bingo in the hall at Longwood, he was with those he loved and served devotedly.

What memories! His little house, "Barnabas" with its oratory next door his tremendous library (mainly theology, architecture and Renaissance art) ... staff meetings with him down at the open-air restaurant ("Anne's Place") in the Castle Gardens ... his endless goodness of heart. And in those memories, always the cooling Trade Winds blowing up from the distant Cape ... the clouds of chattering mynah birds at dusk ... and the sea, going on for ever.

Rest in Peace Fred. You've managed to cram more like six lifetimes into one! Bless you for all you've done - and for all you've been.

Richard Fenwick, Bishop of St Helena 2011-2018

Pressure grows to plan for electric vehicles

Vince Thompson

The UK Government announced this week that petrol and diesel powered cars and vans will not be sold in the UK from 2030 onwards. Certain hybrid vehicles, able to switch from electric to fossil fuel, will be permitted. The UK is one of 20 countries which have made a commitment to ban petrol and diesel, most of them from either 2030 or 2040. In addition many cities have made similar commitments as signatories to the C40 Fossil Fuel Free Street Declaration. While the South African Government is not one of the 20 national governments to set targets for a complete ban on petrol or diesel powered cars and vans Cape Town is one of the cities that has signed up to the C40 Cities declaration.

Decision time is coming

The number of nations and cities committing to ban fossil fuelled vehicles will increase during the present decade making it increasingly difficult for St Helena to continue without facilities for recharging electric cars. Some electric cars have been brought to St Helena by private individuals and the general reaction seems to be the cars work well on the steep gradients and sharp bends. One small white car which can be seen in Jamestown at the moment can run for at least three or four days on a single charge.

The cost of electric cars

Electric cars have been tested over a period of several months by the St Helena Government but no information on the outcome of these tests has been released. Small electric trucks are due to come into the showrooms starting next year. Most are being developed by United States vehicle manufacturers to serve their large pick-up market and will be expensive to start with. Prices currently quoted range from \$50,000 to \$75,000 (£38,000 to £57,000) but are expected to reduce after a few years as production increases. The cheapest new electric cars in the UK currently sell for £20-23,000; the same price as a mid-range new Ford Fiesta.

The mileage obtained from a car after a full charge varies widely, from about 300 miles to just over 100 miles. The cost of electricity for a full charge also varies. Three cars tested by *buyacar* showed costs per full charge ranging from £5 to £19 at UK prices.

When to make the switch

Timing will be crucial in many ways for when St Helena decides to start switching from petrol and diesel to electric cars. It certainly seems worth waiting for a few years before making the jump. In a few years a used electric car market will be starting to get established and the prices for new electric cars should have started to drift downwards. But if the decision is left for too long St Helena will be searching through a shrinking and increasingly expensive petrol and diesel car market and finding tankers to bring in the fossil fuels will probably present increasing problems.

How to make the switch

The main consideration will be to have charging points for electric cars available as the demand for them picks up in St Helena. The buyer's market will decide when the switch re-



An electric car getting its battery charged

ally gathers pace. A home charging point costs about £800 (UK price) but a UK Government grant is available to reduce the personal cost by up to £350. Home charging seems more popular, instead of charging the car while shopping or at work at a public charging point. Home charging can take between 5 and 12 hours depending on the size of the battery and charging capacity. There are a few things to think about in planning for the coming electric future.



PLEASE RETURN COINS TO THE BANK

Bank of St Helena Ltd would appreciate any large quantities of coins customers will not be using to be returned to the Bank or Wharf Kiosk. Coins can either be exchanged or paid into an account.

The Bank would like to thank customers in advance for their assistance.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



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Bank of St Helena Ltd

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Jonathan's Hidden Secrets

Jonathan Hollins

This is a story about my favourite crusty old friend, though the story is not yet complete. It is of course Jonathan, the oldest known living land animal in the world.

We were approached by a cancer doc, Professor Wes Clarke of the Vanderbilt University Medical Centre in Nashville, Tennessee – home of country music – who asked us to collect some samples for an interesting piece of research. Now before your eyes glaze over and you turn the page, let me give you an interesting thought, a thought that often doesn't cross people's minds. Take the example of a dog. When dogs reach the age of say 12 years, they are similar to a 70 year old human. Their eyes develop cataracts, the joints show wear and tear and develop osteoarthritis, the heart valves start to leak and perhaps develop a murmur, cancers form, the hairs may go grey and the skin and coat look aged. But they are mammals, just like us, and share about 85% of our DNA, so how come almost identical tissues age at several times the speed of ours? The answer lies in our genetics, our DNA. We are coded to age. So it follows that research into the genetics of ageing also helps identify why we develop age related conditions like cancer.

Which is where Jonathan comes in. Giant tortoises are special. Not only do they live to become ancient, but they generally do not develop cancers. They're not immortal of course,



"Jono took a selfie of me the other day (lol!) - he's so clever - but I'm not sure who looks crustier (I don't shave at the weekend to prevent shaving rash.)"



DNA Sampling Jonathan

but rather than dying from age related illnesses as we do, they tend to literally just wear out. But why do tortoises generally avoid developing cancer?

First, here's another interesting thought for you. If you knock a chunk of flesh say out of your arm, as long as you take care of the wound, the tissue cells multiply up in their tens of thousands, reproducing to fill the defect, and then – this is so clever – when and only when the defect is filled, the skin cells replicate and slide over the top to create a seal. At which point they all stop. Well – almost. Skin cells reproduce and replace all the time. But if they didn't stop, if they continued to replicate crazily, they would form a cancer. A cancer is a cell that replicates but has forgotten how to stop, whereas normal cells are switched on to repair a wound or maintain a tissue, then switched off again. Many cancers are caused by genetic mutation, by errors which occur when our cells replicate. The cancer cell is in effect switched on to replicate by an accident of mutation, but hasn't been given an off switch.

Giant tortoises don't develop much cancer because they have a number of very enviable features that we don't have. They have more DNA repair genes patching up damage, less mutation when cells replicate, more tumour suppression genes, and better immune surveillance (to explain, day-to-day we all develop mutated cells now and again, but our immune system patrols, seeks them out and usually destroys them). Tortoises do it all better.

So what Dr Wes wanted from me was a set of saliva swabs from my mighty old friend containing his DNA. Not easy, but I've collected 12 samples, wedging my fingers protected by a thick leather welding glove in one side of his mouth, while frantically swabbing on the other side - and with the acceptable loss of only one thumb nail! Which of course replicated and regrew.

From the swabs they will read his whole genome – his complete sequence of genes. This has been done before for giant tortoises. But they will then do a first for science and read his methylome. Now again, before you wander away, let me explain this slightly ugly term. These are the active genes that

Jonathan's Hidden Secrets

Jonathan Hollins

are switched on and off to perform a variety of functions in your body, the controller genes. They are specific active sequences in the DNA, and it is these genes that are more likely to become damaged through constant use, and precipitate the development of a cancer. And not just cancer – but age-related disease such as diabetes, dementia and hypertension.

So what is the intended outcome? Well, above all else, it may help us to learn why people get certain forms of cancer as well as other diseases, and better still, shed light on how to prevent them. Second, it may assist with conservation efforts for the giant tortoise. In addition, the data will be added to the Smithsonian Institute's Earth BioGenome Project, where the genomes of over one million complex life forms around the world will eventually be held for the benefit of all science. And third, it may also identify what Jonathan really is.

What on earth do I mean by that? It's another string to Jonathan's bow, and why I treasure him so much. The giant tortoise in days gone by was easy to herd up and gather. Ships, sick of salted beef and maggots, filled their holds with the perfectly packaged fresh meat supply – tortoises were stackable, didn't need food or water for weeks, and apparently tasted utterly delicious. Of the many species of giant tortoise that existed, most were eaten into extinction. The

commonest remaining giant tortoise is the Aldabran Giant Tortoise from the atoll of the same name in the Indian Ocean. Which is what our tortoises are. Or are they?

A few years ago a Dr Justin Gerlach of the Seychelles Nature Trust had an idea. Ships when calling in to ports, gifted tortoises to nations around the world, which is how we came by ours (well, one came by French submarine, but that's another story). Tortoises are so long lived, he thought, that perhaps some of the species were not extinct after all – only in their natural habitat. Sure enough after searching collections, he rediscovered 2 extinct species: the Arnolds Giant Tortoise and the Seychelles Giant Tortoise. A few years ago Dr Gerlach sent me the precise measurements of each species – and we both agreed that Jonathan is decidedly a Seychelles Giant Tortoise, of which there are very few indeed. In truth, many of these old species are in dispute because of the modern technique of DNA analysis. Before days, naturalists tended to classify a species by their difference in shape, behaviour and habitat. But even if the Seychelles Giant Tortoise is deemed not to be a separate species, it is still a rare breed – and we value our rare breeds just as much.

Jonathan the Giant Tortoise – an endless source of wonder. Long may he live!

LAND FOR SALE

Available for sale is 1.22 Acres of prime land in a sheltered and secluded area at Thompsons Wood in Blue Hill.

In addition to this land having potential for private use and Tourism Development, it is also well suited for the development of a small Banana Plantation.

The asking price is a very compatible £30,000 for the 1.22 Acres.

Interested persons in the purchase of this land can contact Stedson Francis on Telephone number 00 290 24270 or on email stedson.francis@helanta.co.sh



The Blue Belt Programme – Four Years On

Vince Thompson

Last Friday the *Independent* featured an announcement made the earlier the same day that the largest marine protected area (MPA) in the Atlantic Ocean had been declared in the waters around Tristan da Cunha, the world's most remote inhabited island. Covering 687,000 square kilometres, 90% of the Tristan MPA will be a "no take" zone where commercial fishing is banned. Research indicates that undisturbed fisheries can produce a "spill over" effect resulting in fish catches in neighbouring fishing hotspots increasing by 400%.

Later last Friday the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquatic Science published a report on the achievements of the UK Government's Blue Belt Programme for the first four years – 2016 to 2020. Five of the seven MPAs in the Blue Belt Programme are located in the South Atlantic. The Ascension Island MPA was designated in August last year and covers 440,000 square kilometres; 50% of the Ascension MPA is a "no take" zone. The St Helena MPA was announced at the landmark 'Our Ocean' conference in Washington DC in September 2016; like Ascension, the St Helena MPA covers 440,000 square kilometres but is classified as sustainable use, which means fishing is allowed but managed in a way which allows the marine life to thrive.

Further south, the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) have an MPA covering 1,240,000 square kilometres, including a "no take" zone of 283,000 square kilometres. Sustainable use over the rest of the area includes a ban on trawl fishing on the seabed and no seabed mining. All types of seabed fishing is banned in 94% of the SGSSI MPA. In the British Antarctic Territory a "no take" MPA was designated by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in 2009 and covers 94,000 square kilometres and protects marine life in habitats around the South Orkney Islands.



In the South Atlantic, 2,901,000 square kilometres of ocean are designated marine protected areas by the Blue Belt Programme. The area of the South Atlantic Ocean is 40,270,000 square kilometres; this means over 7% of the South Atlantic is protected by British Overseas Territory MPAs.

In St Helena waters, four years of the Blue Belt programme has included two major marine surveys involving the Royal Research Ships *James Clark Ross* and *Discovery*. Both ships mapped the ocean floor using high resolution multi-beam sonar systems and between them surveyed off shore and the



seamounts. Both ships also had teams of people from various UK marine organisations undertaking research into marine life and their habitats. Separate surveys were completed at different depths revealing a rich and varied sea-life. Even the seawater was analysed to a depth of 1,000 metres. Local marine research teams joined staff from the British Antarctic Survey, the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, the UK Hydrographic Office, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute and University College London. Presentations of the research results were made at public meetings in St Helena.



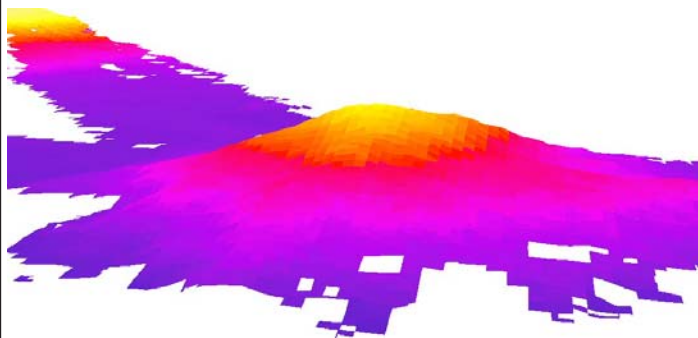
Tagging fish was also a big part of the work done. The focus has been on Yellowfin tuna with more than 1,500 fish being tagged to help understand the movement of tuna and learn a bit more about their habitat. It is now thought the focus should turn to Bigeye tuna which are classified as vulnerable (population decreasing) and judged by some research as more endangered than Yellowfin.

Much of the rest of the Blue Belt programme in St Helena was concerned with assisting the St Helena Government with updating relevant legislation and providing resources for the legal work to be completed, providing advice on a wide range of aspects of marine management from tourist fishing, sand extraction and water quality to contributing to the growing knowledge of marine protection being gained by local stakeholders.

A 'swath bathymetry' technique gives a picture of a previously unmapped seamount in St Helena waters. Local fishermen

The Blue Belt Programme – Four Years On

Vince Thompson



took the *RRS Discovery* to the location. Rising 2,500 metres from the ocean floor it is twice as high as Britain's tallest mountain. After asking people in St Helena for suggestions as to what to call the newly discovered seamount, the International Hydrographic Organisation officially confirmed all charts will in future show the new addition as the Charlie Boar Seamount in memory of Charles Henry, a St Helena fisherman of fond memory from the old days, who died in 2018.

Another important aspect of the Blue Belt programme is to strengthen enforcement against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in MPAs. The UK Hydrographic Office helps with this by checking satellite imagery for unusual and suspicious ship movements in the MPAs.

The UK Government produced two glossy brochures this year on the Blue Belt programme. One was the usual Annual Update, the second was a 'highlights' brochure covering the main actions and achievements over the past four years

The introduction to the 2019-20 Annual Update mentions the discovery of what is now called the Charlie Boar Seamount by highlighting "an underwater mountain twice the height of Ben Nevis added to a global map of the seafloor". Zac Goldsmith, the political (and accountable) leader within the UK Government for the Blue Belt programme wrote "Over the last year,

the Blue Belt Programme has started to develop a dedicated laboratory for marine research". This too refers to St Helena and the work which has just started, (almost one year late) to convert the freight terminal on the wharf to a marine research laboratory on the ground floor and a Marine Centre on an upper floor. The floors to be constructed. The plan was, and maybe still is, for SHG to have the ground floor for marine research and laboratory facilities while the St Helena National Trust take a lease on the upper floor and uses the space as a marine centre. The marine teams from SHG and SHNT would also move into the building and benefit from the synergy of working adjacent to each other.

As is so often the case when SHG is involved, there is a question mark hanging over this plan. The lease for the upper floor to the SH National Trust is still not available for signature despite the entire project running almost a year late. The inactivity and lack of information from SHG does raise questions and even doubts about whether SHG still want to work with SHNT on this project. It may be SHG are plodding along at their usual excruciatingly slow pace but the lack of interaction with the SH National Trust who are supposedly part of the team on this project is less than reassuring.

Marine Protected Area

South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands	1,240,000
Tristan da Cunha	687,000
Ascension	440,000
St Helena	440,000
South Atlantic Total	2,901,000

Pitcairn Island Group	830,000
South Orkney Island –	
British Antarctic Territory	94,000
British Indian Ocean Territory	640,000
UKOT TOTAL	4,371,000

Also see comment on PAGE 24

Points from the week

Increase in UK defence budget is bad news for UK Aid budget

The UK Government announced this week a £4 billion boost for the UK Ministry of Defence each year for the next four years. This increase is on top of a previous but smaller increase. Overall, the MOD will get more than £24 billion extra over the next four years.

The UK Aid budget, previously managed by DFID, has already had almost a £3 billion cut because the Covid pandemic has reduced the UK's gross national income upon which the UK Aid budget is based. Reports suggest the UK Government is thinking of cutting Aid further; with most of these thoughts coming from the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak. If the Treasury prevails over the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office it means the legally binding 0.7% of UK gross national income will not be met and the UK Government will need to answer to the House of Commons. A similar scenario was

acted out when Johnson announced he would be introducing an Internal Market Bill which would breach international law. Some expectations are the 0.7% target could reduce to 0.5% this year. The reductions in the UK Aid budget are likely to affect the outcome of budget talks between SHG and the FCDO on the Grant in Aid settlement for March next year.

South African allows foreign yachts back into its ports

Last week South Africa relaxed its pandemic precautions a little further by allowing foreign yachts (and their crews) to call at any South African port. Other precautions will still apply, such as producing a negative coronavirus test certification which is less than 72 hours old. That could be difficult to achieve in a yacht passing Hout Bay.

It does, on the other hand, point the difficult circumstances which led to the postponement of the Cape to St Helena yacht race to December 2021 in a more favourable direction. Hopefully by this time next year the need for strict limitations on movements because of the pandemic will have passed.

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

I am one of many Saint Helenians currently employed on the Falkland Islands tasked with supporting the British Military whilst supporting my family and the St Helenian economy. Earlier this year the St Helenian Government announced the availability of flights to the island in Xmas and as soon as it was possible to do so with welfare in mind, my company proceeded to book employees in order that we might be in good stead to acquire seats.

Yesterday 11th November my company received confirmation that of the four people requesting flights home for Xmas only one was approved by the governing authority and that the rest had been offered seats on the next available flight. Unfortunately the next available flight into St Helena had no return information which meant we would possibly become unemployed if we were too jumped to that opportunity.

We appreciate that there is only forty spaces at Bradleys but what we cannot comprehend is why returning ST HELENIANs were bumped of the flight to accommodate non St Helenians and why we could not quarantine outside of Bradleys, surely this would help the governing authority allowing more seats on the aircraft to be used. Desperate for me to come home a member of my family contacted a member of the St Helena Executive Committee and asked if it would be possible for the three company employee's that were bumped to be allowed to quarantine in a three bedroom house which they had acquired. They went on to explain that we would require no assistance from the Islands resources only to be mandatory COVID tested. Without consideration the answer was NO as EXCO would not approve, even though the Office of the Governor had advised in the Local Press that home isolation was healthier.

I have to beg the question is it because the governing authority (Tourist Office) and the St Helena Executive Commit-

tee,

- Feels we are not mentally fit to quarantine unsupervised?
- Our diplomatic status had run out!!!! (**that's a joke**)
- That a foreign film crew fits the criteria rather than returning St Helenians hoping to see family and loved ones possibly for the last time?
- Or dare I say it, is it racially driven? As expats seem to have no problem at all.
- Or is this simply old fashioned corruption?

This episode in my islands history has found me and other St Helenian off Shore Workers who has supported the islands economy disappointed with those responsible for access to my home, and those elected members of our current Executive Council. I think that the Honourable Members should remember that they have former Off Shore Workers within their ranks and know what it's like to be pushed aside. However I would like to take this opportunity to thank Counsellors Christine Scipio and Jeffery Ellick for all that they have done to help us with this current situation and to be heard.

Nicholas Crowie
Off Shore Worker
Falkland Islands

Dear Editor,

I wonder if you would kindly publish the response I would like to make regarding Bradley's.

I refer to the write up by Addie Thomas,

in The Independent, dated 13th November 2020, it was interesting! But when I saw the picture of all those people who were in quarantine there standing close together with no social distancing and wearing no masks, I was quite appalled to see.

How do those people from the UK know each other? Okay 'saint knows a saint' but did they did know what each other had been up to and their social contacts and activities before leaving UK and during the flight?

Did they all had a Covid-19 test before leaving UK?
Did they get tested on arrival at St Helena?

I thought the purpose of people in quarantine for 14 days was to prevent a potential virus outbreak on the island. God forbid if anyone of those people, be it Saint, English, or other, now transmits the symptoms once quarantine is over, it will be a nightmare for the authorities to get a resolve. This is a potential deadly disease and people should take it more seriously on arriving at St Helena, even when in quarantine.

I honestly think Government should impose stricter rules on social distancing on those arriving at the camp with strict monitoring. Prevention is better than a cure. Currently there is no cure to this pandemic.

Many thanks
Patrick Thomas

Invitation to Tender

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

The St Helena Pets and Livestock Return 2020 (Animal Census)

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Tiffany Lawrence
Procurement Officer
Essex House
Jamestown

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

Should you require any further details, please contact the Senior Veterinary Officer, Dr Joe Hollins, on telephone number 24724 or email joe.hollins@sainthelena.gov.sh.



Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Wednesday, 25 November 2020.

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

WHAT IS COVID-19, HOW IS IT SPREAD AND WILL WE GET COVID-19 ON ST HELENA?

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 (CO=Corona, VI=Virus, D=Disease) is caused by the SARS-Cov2 virus which belongs to a large family of viruses, called Coronaviruses, found in both animals and humans. SARS-Cov2 is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans or detected before the outbreak was reported in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

The complete clinical picture of COVID-19 is not fully understood. Initially it was categorised as a respiratory illness with people infected with COVID-19 reportedly experiencing mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. Further evidence suggests that COVID-19 can also have cardiovascular and neurological effects.

Symptoms can be more severe for some persons and can lead to pneumonia, breathing difficulties or death. People with pre-existing medical conditions (such as diabetes and heart disease) as well as older people are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, recent reports suggest serious illness occurs in up to 16% of cases (<https://www.who.int>).

St Helena remains free of COVID-19 and there are a number of strict measures in place, including mandatory quarantine for all new arrivals and strict infection control measures at points of entry (Airport and Harbour), to prevent the virus from getting into the community.

In the modern world we live in, the SARS-Cov2 virus spread all over the globe in less than six months. Small and remote communities like ours, or other small islands were not spared. They were affected (for example, consider the Marshall Islands <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-54728738> or the Falkland Islands) and despite preventative measures in place, it is probable that in time St Helena will record positive cases of COVID-19.

The Health Directorate's objective is to be able to identify a case as soon as possible, contain the case, and limit the spread to the rest of the community. This will be done by identification, management and isolation of cases and tracing the contacts of cases and isolating them from the rest of the community to limit the spread.

How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 spreads primarily through contact with an infected person through respiratory droplets generated when a person, for example, coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

To prevent catching COVID-19 it is important that we practice good respiratory hygiene by sneezing or coughing into a flexed elbow or using a tissue and discarding it immediately into a closed bin. It is also very important that we wash our hands regularly with either alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water for 20 seconds making sure to clean all surfaces of the hands and in between fingers.

The average time from infection to onset of symptoms is 5-6 days. In the days following exposure, infected persons can transmit the virus to others before symptoms appear (1-3 days before symptom onset) and early in the course of illness. A person who touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose or mouth before they clean their hands can also become infected.

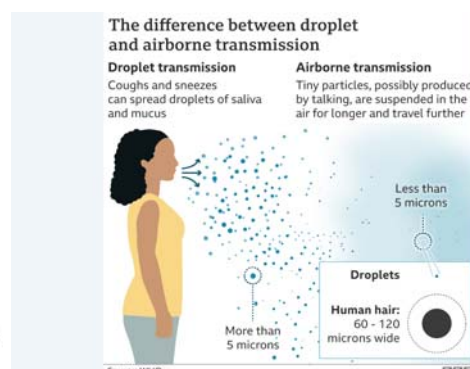
Will we get COVID-19 on St Helena?

In my last article we looked at how other Overseas Territories like the Falkland Islands, Anguilla and Ascension Island dealt with COVID-19 cases, highlighting the measures they quickly implemented to ensure no further spread within their communities.

On St Helena we have robust preventative measures in place to protect the Island but we must be realistic in that one day COVID-19 could possibly come here.

Sources: World Health Organization

Dr Roland Fasol
Chief Medical Officer, SHG
17 November 2020



WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN TO LAUNCH ON ST HELENA

An awareness raising campaign - 'Stand up and Speak out' against Domestic Abuse is being organised by the UN Development Programme Safe Haven Project and the Children & Adults Social Care Directorate starting on Friday, 20 November, and ending with a final event on Wednesday, 25 November 2020.

Around the world, White Ribbon awareness focusses on men taking a stand against domestic violence. The St Helena White Ribbon Campaign Committee has chosen to change the focus from targeting males and decided that the aim and vision is to use the voices of both males and females of St Helena to encourage all on the Island to 'Stand up and Speak out' against all kinds of abuse, irrespective of gender and age. This is also an opportunity to raise awareness of violence by working together to prevent violence and to make sure our communities and homes are safe for everyone.

Campaign activities are as follows:

Date	Event	Time
Friday, 20 November	Pre-launch of the White Ribbon Campaign 2020 via local radio	SAMS: 3pm Saint FM: 4.30pm
Saturday, 21 November	Private sector, staff of SHG and Non-Government Organisations to wear White Ribbon Campaign T-shirts and sign pledges	9am – 12noon
	High Tea at Rosie's Bar & Restaurant. The menu will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheese and plain scones with jam and cream Cucumber and tomato paste sandwiches Mini savoury quiche Orange sponge cake Cheese straws Chocolate slice Fruit tea loaf <p>Tickets cost £6 per person. For tickets, please contact Rosie on tel: 25507, Peta on tel: 23210 or mob: 63485, Nicole on tel: 22133 or mob: 51519 or via email: nicole@humanrightssthelan.org.</p> <p>The closing date for tickets is 12 noon on Thursday, 19 November 2020.</p> <p>Members of the public are encouraged to attend. Please dress in something white.</p>	1.30pm – 3.30pm
	Display and lighting of White Ribbon wooden cut-outs at the Post Office, Market, Coleman House and Brick House in honour of survivors and victims of domestic abuse.	7pm
Sunday, 22 November	Footballers to wear white ribbons and sign pledges during their football games at Francis Plain. Spectators encouraged to wear white ribbons.	1pm
Monday, 23 November	White Ribbon Stall set up in front of the Canister, Jamestown. Raffle tickets, in aid of the Women's Issues St Helena (WISH) Charity, and White Ribbon Campaign merchandise on-sale. During this time, White Ribbons will be distributed and pledges signed. Proceeds from the merchandise sold will be donated to the Making Ends Meet charity. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.	10.30am – 1pm
Tuesday, 24 November	Assembly at Prince Andrew School. Short speech about teenage dating and abuse delivered by the Equality & Human Rights Commission. White Ribbons and leaflets will be distributed and pledges signed.	9am
	White Ribbon Stall set up in front of the Canister, Jamestown. Raffle tickets, in aid of the Women's Issues St Helena (WISH) Charity, and White Ribbon Campaign merchandise on-sale. During this time, White Ribbons will be distributed and pledges signed. Proceeds from the merchandise sold will be donated to the Making Ends Meet charity. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.	10.30am – 1pm
Wednesday, 25 November	Closing of the White Ribbon Campaign 2020 via local radio	Saint FM: 8.30am SAMS: 9am
	Closing ceremony at Castle Gardens, including speeches and drawing of raffle in aid of the Women's Issues St Helena (WISH) Charity. Light refreshments at Anne's Place. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.	10.30am

#StHelena #WhiteRibbonDay #StandUpAndSpeakOut
<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>
<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

SHG
18 November 2020



**Join us at the St Helena Community College,
Education Learning Centre, Jamestown
For a ZOOM based webinar on the
EUROTAST Doctoral Training Network:
Sharing the outcomes of three PhD projects focused on St Helena's
liberated Africans and the history and legacy of the transatlantic trade
in enslaved Africans**

Thursday, 26 November 2020, 7pm to 8.30pm

For Island residents, this Webinar is open to all. There is no need to register. Just come along.

If you would like to register to join from elsewhere please contact

Hannes Schroeder: hschroeder@sund.ku.dk

EUROTAST Project Coordinator Dr Hannes Schroeder will be describing the Marie Curie doctoral training network that ran from 2011-2015. EUROTAST was designed to be a multi-disciplinary programme combining different perspectives from history, archaeology, social anthropology and human genomics and focused on three themes: Origins, Life Cycles, and Legacies.

The EUROTAST project supported 13 PhD projects on the history and legacies of the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans. Three of the Doctoral fellows, Drs Erna Johannesdottir, Marcela Sandoval Velasco and Judy Watson will be presenting and discussing the outcomes of their studies that focused on St Helena's liberated Africans.

Between the early 16th and late 19th centuries, an estimated 12 million Africans were transported to the Americas as part of the transatlantic slave trade. Following Britain's abolition of the slave trade in 1807, the Royal Navy patrolled the Atlantic and intercepted slave ships that continued to operate. During this period, the island of St Helena in the middle of the South Atlantic served as a depot for 'liberated' Africans. Between 1840 and 1867, approximately 27,000 Africans were disembarked on the Island (M. Sandoval Valesco).

The three studies are:

Osteoarchaeological perspectives on slave health and nutrition, Dr Erna Johannesdottir

This project used osteoarchaeological research methods to study the demography, nutritional status and health of enslaved Africans in order to gain new insights into their physical quality of life and the physical effects of enslavement.

Isotopic perspectives on slave origins and forced migration, Dr Judy Watson

This project used stable and radiogenic isotopes in skeletal tissue samples from archaeological sites associated with the transatlantic slave trade to reconstruct diet, and to study changing dietary patterns during an individual's lifetime and to identify geographical origins and to elucidate family or tribal groups.

Tracing the origins of African captives in the slave trade using aDNA, Dr Marcela Sandoval Velasco

Genome-wide patterns of genetic variation extracted from ancient DNA were used to identify the geographic origins of African captives. The sequences were compared with those of contemporary African populations to infer ancestry and population origins of selected individuals for 20 individuals recovered from St Helena. The results shed light on the origins of enslaved Africans during the final stages of the slave trade and illustrate how genetic data can be used to complement and validate existing historical sources.

"History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." – Dr Maya Angelou

For more information about the Webinar please contact Rebecca Cairns-Wicks: rebecca.cairns-wicks@sainthelena.gov.sh. For more information about the EUROTAST project please visit the website at: www.eurotast.eu.

EUROTAST

Exploring the History, Archaeology & New Genetics of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

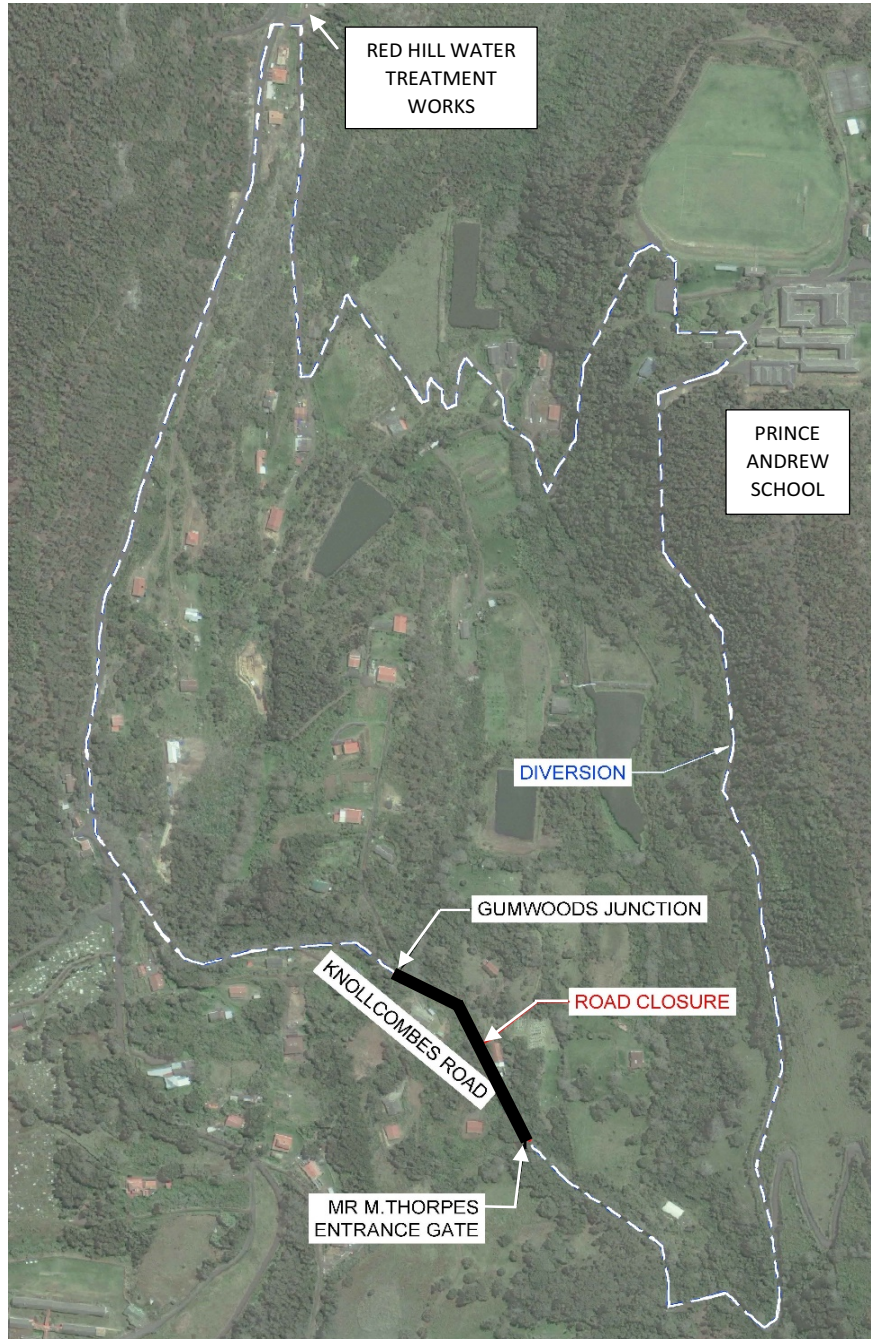


St Helena Island
SECRET OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC



ROAD CLOSURE AT KNOLLCOMBES

The Highways Authority has given approval for the road to be closed to vehicular traffic at Knollcombes, from Mr Michael Thorpe's gate entrance to the Gumwoods junction, from Monday 16th November to Friday, 27th November 2020 from 9am to 6pm on weekdays only. This closure will allow contractors to install a new water pipeline at Knollcombes. The alternative route will be via Prince Andrew School.



Signage will be in place to notify vehicular traffic of the road closure and the diversion route.

Only pedestrians, emergency vehicles and residents who live along this road will have access, however some delays are expected so please approach the work area with caution, adhering to any instruction given by workers onsite.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd thanks the public for their cooperation during this road closure.



INVITATION TO TENDER

The St. Helena National Trust warmly welcomes expressions from interested persons for tenders of a boat(s) to help facilitate research and data collection during the 2020/2021 Bone (whale) shark season.

Tenders should be able to provide:

Boat trips to and from Bone (whale) shark aggregation spots around the Island, (including - but not limited to - Barn Cap, Barn Ledge, Dawson's fishing grounds, Flagstaff Bay, Egg Island and Speery Island).

- Start date Dec 2020, (However, date can be postponed until sightings have increased significantly)
- End date 31 March 2021, (or when sightings have dropped off significantly)
- Half day (3 to 4 hours) and full day (5 to 6 hours) trips
- Minimum of 2-3 trips per week
- Maximum of 4-5 trips per week
- Deck space on board capable of storing research equipment



For further details please contact the Trust Marine Team on 22569 or email Kenickie.andrews@trust.org.sh
Interested persons should submit tenders in a sealed envelope addressed to Miss Amanda Constantine, Office Manager by no later than 16:00hrs on Friday 27 November 2020.

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Saint Helena Government (SHG) wishes to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the construction of a **Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)** at the General Hospital.

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

Miss Shelley Thomas
Executive Assistant
Programme Management Unit
The Castle
Jamestown
Telephone No 22470 Ext 246 or
Email – shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh



**St Helena
Government**

A site visit to view the proposed works will take place on Tuesday 17 November at 9.30am, meeting at the Main Entrance to the General Hospital. It would be appreciated if those attending would avoid parking in the immediate Hospital areas.

Contractors should note that site visits requested after the 17 November 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 Consultant, Mr Paul Scipio, on telephone number 23850 or email paul.impresaspione@helanta.co.sh

A hard copy of completed tenders should be submitted in the tender box located in the main Castle Foyer, Jamestown **by 12 noon on Thursday 26 November 2020.**

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

SHG

11 November 2020

JOB VACANCY

Wolf Creek Federal Services Inc. invites application for the following Job Position at the American Base, Ascension Island

Summary/General Description Of Job:

The Club Supervisor will be responsible for the day to day operations of all MWR locations – Snack Bar, Package Store and Bar. Candidate must be able to demonstrate a strong character, be flexible with working hours and ensure the rules and regulations of the Volcano Club are adhered to when dealing with the general Public.

Essential Duties & Job Functions:

- Handle U.S and St Helenian currency and all conversion ratios.
- Responsible for the daily cash receipts, transmittal and deposit of all moneys to the Accounting office.
- Prepare and track AIG taxation documentations.
- Responsible for Merchandise Inventories, and stock verification.
- Ordering and receiving of Marine items for all MWR locations.
- On occasions during staff shortage will be required to support Office Staff, will be required to fill in at the Package Store, Volcano Club Bar and also cover all aspects in the Snack Bar as listed below.
- Oversee food preparation with tasks such as; cutting, sorting and washing vegetables.
- Oversee Cleanliness of food preparation areas
- Ensure all heavy-duty cleaning tasks are carried throughout the food service and related areas.
- Maintain and ensure all work areas are in a clean and orderly manner, adhering to Federal regulations and all local policies and procedures.
- Ensure all food and supplies are collected from the Cold and Dry Storage.
- Ensures compliance with federal regulations, and all food handling standards, policies, and regulations. i.e. labels and date code, food storage, temperatures.
- Perform weekly Inventory Transfers in the POS to all MWR locations – training will be provided.
- Schedule weekly/monthly staff rotas.
- Ensure and train all personnel with Serv Safe/Food Handling as required.
- Manage all aspects of the event planning process and menu developing including collaboration with both Down Range Management and Up Range.

Accountable For:

- Timely and cost effective performance of duties.
- Harmoniously working with other employees and customers.
- Working with the Project Principals to fully coordinate all activities.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and team working skills
- Effectively coordinate and organize all Club functions and events to enhance patronage of the Club.
- Demonstrated ability to work well under pressure.
- Excellent time management and material and budget tracking.
- Effective written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrating initiative and problem-solving skills.
- Contributing to the successful completion of project initiatives

WCFSI provides free Accommodation, Food (3 meals per day) and Round trip passage to home of record after completion of a 1 year contract. Laundry and MWR facilities are free of charge. Must have a valid Passport/Visa minimum of 18 months to be able to sign an Offer Letter. Should not have any major offences with any law enforcement agency.

For further details or questions please contact Wolf Creek Administration on 247-62225 or e-mail

E-ROS.WolfCreek.Jobs@us.af.mil

Any interested persons should send Resume to E-ROS.WolfCreek.Jobs@us.af.mil no later than 27 November 2020.



Vacancy - Water Resource Monitoring Technician

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking a suitably experienced person to fill the position of Water Resource Monitoring Technician on a fixed term contract to March 2023.

The successful candidate will support all water resource data collection tasks associated with the Darwin Plus, St Helena Climate Change and Drought Warning Network research project. Other tasks include maintenance and operation of the Darwin Plus project surface water and ground water monitoring network. Organise and plan weekly data collection. Assisting with the drafting of project reports and supporting stakeholder consultation objectives with the project team at Saint Helena Research Institute.

Interested persons should have excellent communication skills, be computer literate and able to work flexibly to fit the demands of the project. Have a sound knowledge of Health and Safety in the workplace, experience working on environment projects and have a valid drivers' licence.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is an equal opportunities employer and offers a competitive salary, which includes 15% pension contribution of base salary and 25 days annual leave.

For a full job description and/or further details on this position please contact Lawrence Muranganwa on 22255 or email lawrence.muranganwa@connect.co.sh

Completed application forms should be emailed to Annalisa Young on email annalisa.young@connect.co.sh or handed in to the Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown by 12:00 noon, Tuesday, 1 December 2020.



Meeting of Enterprise St Helena Board of Directors

A meeting of the Enterprise St Helena Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 9:00am at the Head Office, Ladder Hill Business Park.

Specific items that will be discussed which are open to the public:

1. Management Accounts for period ended October 2020;
2. Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Project Funding Update;
3. ESH Funding to Agriculture Development: Rehabilitation to Pasturelands Update.

A copy of the Agenda and Papers open to public will be available from Monday 23 November 2020 on request to the Board Secretary via email: natasha.bargo@esh.co.sh or telephone No. 22920.

DRAFT IMMIGRATION POLICY 2020

KEY CONSULTATION POINTS

The draft Immigration Policy 2020 is currently out for public consultation until Friday, 11 December 2020. Members of the public are being invited to provide their views and comments on key points for discussion in the draft Policy.

Each week we will focus on a key consultation point. This week we look at proposed changes to entry controls for persons in service of the Crown and their partners/dependents.

Anyone wishing to make any comment on this consultation point or other points in the draft Policy may do so in writing to Executive Assistant, Nicole Plato, at the Castle, Jamestown, or via email: nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than Friday, 11 December 2020.

The draft Policy is available in hard copy at the Customer Service Centre, Public Library, from the Castle Reception in Jamestown and can also be obtained from Nicole Plato via the above email address or on tel: 22470. An electronic copy is available on the Public Consultation page of the SHG Website: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-consultation/>. Please check local media for dates and times of upcoming public meetings and drop-in sessions. Also check out the promo TV channel, listen out for radio interviews and view posters in key locations.

#StHelena #DraftImmigrationPolicy #PublicConsultation ; <https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/> ; <https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt> - SHG, 16 November 2020

Currently, persons in service of the Crown and their partners/dependants are exempt from entry controls.

It is proposed that these individuals now be subject to entry controls.

This change will ensure that all persons entering St Helena are subject to the same international-standard security checks.

THE ANCHOR SHOPS OPENING HOURS

JAMESTOWN NR THE BAPTIST MANSE:

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: 09:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SATURDAYS: 09:00 - 12:30 PM

KUNJIE FIELD

OPENING HOURS: MONDAYS - SATURDAYS: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Come and have a browse and start your Christmas shopping now!

Enquiries: Jean Fowler - Tel: 24044

Happy Shopping!!!



SAINT HELENA NATIONAL TRUST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Date: Monday 23rd November 2020

Time: 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Where: Education Learning Centre, Jamestown

Join us for our AGM to hear achievements of the 2019-2020 year and our plans for the future.

Followed by a presentation: 20 Years of Millennium Forest

Those wishing to join the Trust Council are kindly requested to inform the Secretary in advance of the AGM. Society members must, by notice in writing to the Secretary, nominate the person who may vote or stand for election on its behalf at the AGM.

Details online: <http://www.trust.org.sh/impact/>

Or contact Trust Council Secretary, Kelly Whitton
kellyfranceswhitton@gmail.com
C/O Broadway House, Jamestown

"St Helena's heritage for all, forever"



St Helena
Government

PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCY Communications Officers

The Public Service is looking for two Communications Officers to join the small but busy Press Office team for a six-month period

Communications Officer (COVID-19)

St Helena Government (SHG) is rebooting its COVID-19 Communications and Education Campaign to ensure that St Helena residents are provided with evidence-based information and all the latest updates on COVID-19 and St Helena's response to the pandemic.

You will lead on all COVID-19 related communications activities.

(Please request a Job Description for full details)

Communications Officer (Internal Communications)

With the Fit for the Future Programme well underway internal communications has never been more important to ensure that our employees are kept informed about what's happening in the organisation.

You will help to deliver successful internal communications to support the delivery of the Transformation Programme.

(Please request a Job Description for full details)

If you are passionate about communications and want to play a leading role in making sure people are informed and educated then these new and exciting roles could be for you.

We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic and passionate, with a media or communications background and related experience. Someone who is able to manage their own workload with minimal support. Working with different people across all levels is also an advantage.

(If you would like to apply for both roles please just submit one application form but mark on the application form you are applying for both roles)

Interested? Find out more by having an informal chat with Head of News, Kerisha Yon on tel: 22368, via email: kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh

Salary for the post is Band C – starting at £8,613 per annum
The deadline for applications is **4pm, Tuesday 1 December 2020**

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources or from 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 email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh

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.

UK government expands its Blue Belt of protected ocean – but something's fishy

THE CONVERSATION
Academic rigor, journalistic flair

November 18, 2020

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigor, journalistic flair

The UK overseas territory of Tristan da Cunha is the most isolated place on Earth. Despite the tiny population and secluded location of these four South Atlantic islands – which lie 2,432kms (1,511 miles) west of Cape Town, South Africa – 90% of Tristan's waters recently became the newest piece in the UK government's Blue Belt programme.

The Blue Belt brings together half of the UK's 14 overseas territories – vestiges of the country's colonial past – in the world's largest enclosure for marine protection. This network of marine protected areas (known as MPAs, for short) stretches over 4.3 million square kilometres of ocean and accommodates over 90% of UK biodiversity. According to the UK prime minister, Boris Johnson, the Blue Belt helps protect the world's oceans from global warming, plastic pollution and ocean acidification. It also helps the UK government act as a global leader in meeting the UN target for protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Such enclosures in remote waters can do very little on their own to mitigate climate change and plastic pollution. But Tristan's land and marine environment is already highly protected. The territory hosts a thriving community of unique wildlife, a UNESCO world heritage site and two wetland habitats of international importance. There's no airport or heavy industry, just a small dock and a lobster processing plant that provides most of the islanders with a steady income. With a permanent population of only 240 people, these rocky islands nearly 10,000 kilometres from the UK are one of the few remaining places where travel times from the rest of the world can be measured in days, and sometimes weeks (weather depending), instead of hours.

Beneath the surface

The UK government's commitment to protect vast swaths of the South Atlantic comes a month after revelations that seas closer to home lack basic restrictions on fishing. Despite official protection, 97% of MPAs off the UK coast are subject to the most destructive forms of trawling.

Like many overseas territories, Tristan da Cunha relies heavily on UK aid. But the UK government is investing in tourism infrastructure for Blue Belt territories, including a £285 million (US\$379 million) airport, a luxury hotel and a resort and golf complex on St Helena, Tristan's closest island neighbour, 2,161 kilometres (1,343 miles) to the north. According to a recent report from the Foreign Affairs Committee the goal is to phase out support for day-to-day spending from the UK Treasury, requiring the islands to develop international tourism and fishing to meet the income shortfall.

The aviation sector emitted more than 900 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2018. This figure is expected to triple by 2050. Increasing the number of flights to remote places will only accelerate this trend.

Tourism does not automatically protect local biodiversity either. Research has suggested that instead of raising aware-

ness and providing a stake for local people in conservation efforts, close encounters between tourists and endangered species can actually increase the likelihood of environmental crimes such as poaching.

Ulterior motives

Environmental concerns in the territories have provided cover for geopolitical interests in the past. In 2010, the UK's then foreign secretary David Miliband approved a 640,000 square kilometre "no-take" MPA around the Chagos Islands. While the move suited the UK and US, which operate a military base there, many exiled Chagossians see it as another attempt to prevent their return.

Despite their fragile ecosystems, the most politically sensitive and populous territories (the Falklands and Caribbean islands for example) have been omitted from the Blue Belt. New MPAs appear to be earmarked for territories more dependent on UK aid. If these territories do grow their economies through tourism or fishing, some will no longer qualify for Official Development Assistance, but will probably be too poor to manage without it.

A different approach

Blue belt territories shouldn't face a choice between poverty or environmentally ruinous growth. A conservation basic income – a universal payment to all residents, provided by the UK Treasury – could acknowledge the work of islanders in conserving the global oceans. In covering their material needs, it would prevent people having to turn to activities that harm the environment, such as unsustainable fishing.

The UK's investments in St Helena betray a tourism model based on fish guzzling, sprawling luxury and rapid visitor turnover. But studies have shown this approach more often harms ecosystems and increases deprivation in host communities. A slower kind of tourism, which swaps fast planes for slow boats and luxury resorts for family guesthouses would be a better strategy.

Britain's exit from the EU will entail radical changes in its fishing arrangements, perhaps increasing pressure on territorial waters overseas. Casting nets away from the EU and towards isolated islands might prove politically uncomplicated in the UK, but it will significantly affect citizens of those territories who were denied a vote on Brexit.

With a different approach, the Blue Belt could be an ideal opportunity to heal colonial scars, build resilient communities and, in some cases, compensate local people for maintaining these pristine islands for the UK's benefit.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the St Helena Independent. Also See Blue Belt article on page 12-13

Golf Report for 14TH and 15th November 2020

Contributed by: SHGC

The final round of the Zedcore sponsored 36-hole stroke play competition took place on Saturday 14th November 2020. The weather was great and the mood upbeat. Mr Larry Legg maintained his top performance by scoring net 132 to win the top prize for the men followed by Mr Leon Crowie who scored net 143. Mr Douglas Augustus dropped to 3rd place with net 144 to win third prize. In the ladies category Ms Christine Scipio scored 162 to win the top prize, ladies Capt Mrs Helena Stevens scored net 166 to take second place and Mrs Anne George net 170 for third prize. Mr Leon Crowie was the only two-ball pool winner. On behalf of our members, the committee of management wishes to express our profound gratitude to Zedcore for their generous sponsorship and look forward to future collaboration.

Sunday Nov 15th twenty-two players turned up for another Turkey and Ham competition which was played in the bogey format. Solo leader and winner of the Turkey with +2 was Mr Pat Henry. The vice-Captain Mr John Colclough who seemed to have found his form tied for second with Mr Martin Buckley both having scored +1. On a count back Mr Martin Buckley won the Ham. Mr Leon Crowie scored a birdie on the 5th and Mr Larry Legg birdied the 7th to share the balls in the two-ball pool.

The winners of Eclectic competition Mr Keith Joshua aka KJ and Mr Larry Legg who both tied with 64 were presented their prizes. We wish to apologize for the delay in presenting the prizes to the winners of this event. A number of errors were made by most members in entering their scores. Lessons have been learnt and future eclectic events will be better organized.

Congratulations to all the winners. Your prizes are well deserved.

Next competition is a Three Team Texas Scramble competi-



Zedcore Winners

tion sponsored by Christine Scipio and Jeff Ellick in aid of St Mathews Parish. Two golfers will partner with a none golfer to form a team. Registration closes Saturday 21st Nov at 15:00 If you are not sure if golf is for you this is your chance to try it out by joining a team. Just approach any member or leave a message on 24421 and we will try to find a team for you. Juniors without handicaps will also be considered as none golfers. Parents and guardians are reminded that there will be a juniors competition/training on Saturday November 28th at 12:00

For more information check out our Facebook page @shgc.org.sh

Happy swinging.....!



Eclectic Competition Winners



Bogey Competition winners



The public is advised that due to the prolonged period of drought experienced last year, current stands of Christmas Trees have not produced trees of the required standard and regrettably the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division of the Environment, Natural Resources & Planning Directorate will not be accepting any further orders for Christmas Trees for this year. Those persons who have already placed an order for a tree will not be affected by this and will receive a tree as requested.

With no Premier League games to watch last week we could only assess how many injuries our teams' players were picking up on International duty. Liverpool seems to be the worst hit in terms of injuries to key players. Players are certainly being overworked. To have 3 matches during the international break instead of the normal 2 is crazy especially as this season is going to be compact anyway.

Liverpool injuries and expected return dates

- Mo Salah – coronavirus (2 weeks)
- Joe Gomez – knee (6 months)
- Trent Alexander-Arnold – calf (within 1 month)
- Andy Robertson – hamstring (will undergo assessment)
- Jordan Henderson – leg (will undergo assessment)
- Fabinho – hamstring (1 week)
- Virgil van Dijk – ACL (+6 months)
- Thiago Alcantara (1 week)
- Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (unknown)
- Rhys Williams – hip (will undergo assessment)

This weekend matches will kick off at 12.30pm on Saturday when Newcastle play Chelsea. At 3pm in form Aston Villa hosts Brighton. The 5.30pm match will see Tottenham Hotspur play Manchester City before Manchester United play West Bromwich Albion at 8pm.

On Sunday Fulham will play Everton at 12 noon; Sheffield United will seek their first 3 points when they play West Ham United at 2pm. Leeds United face Arsenal at Elland Road at



Some of Liverpool's injured players

4.30pm before Liverpool play Leicester City at 7.15pm.

On Monday Burnley will play Crystal Palace at 5.30pm and Wolves will play Southampton at 8pm.



Match of the weekend: Spurs v City



Christmas Food Bank 2020

After the success of last year's Food Bank, we thought we would give it another go this year. We are appealing for your support towards the Christmas Food Bank. We are now accepting donations of groceries, cleaning products, toiletries, vegetables, confectionary; anything that will help a family or individuals who are feeling the financial pinch this Christmas.

Last year over 90 food parcels were distributed to appreciative families around the island. If you have something you would like to donate, you can drop it off at New Horizons or give us a call on 22034 and we can collect it from you.



Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

SHFA Results and Fixtures

Jamestown was crowned District champions on Sunday with a two nil win over Longwood. The boys in red played some outstanding attacking football which saw them race to a two nil lead before half time.

Goals for Jamestown – Dane Wade, Mngqobi

The second game saw Half Tree Hollow secure the runner-up spot for a fourth year in a row with a five goal win over St Paul's.

Goals for HTH – Andrew Yon 3, own goals 2.

Sun 22nd Nov

1pm Harts v Rovers

3pm Saints v Lakers

Referee: Bellboys

Referee: C.Rangers



District Table

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Jamestown	3	2	1	0	9	5	4	7
HTH	3	1	2	0	9	4	5	5
Longwood	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
St Paul's	3	0	0	3	5	13	-8	0

Hotshots

Name	District	Goals
Andrew Yon	HTH	4
Brandon Harris	St Paul's	3
Brett Isaac	St Paul's	2
Dane Wade	Jamestown	2
Jace Williams	Jamestown	2
Mngqobi	Jamestown	2
Shane Stroud	Jamestown	2
Tyler Brady	HTH	2
Alister Buckley	Longwood	1
Joey Thomas	Longwood	1
Julian Henry	HTH	1
Matthias Young	Longwood	1
Rico Benjamin	Jamestown	1



District Champions

Knock Out Quarter Finals

Sat 21st Nov

1pm Wirebirds v Axis

Referee: Saints

3pm Bellboys v Crystal Rangers

Referee: Rovers

ST HELENA YACHT CLUB



SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2020

'SEA'
you all there!

FISHING

Fishing will be between
4am and 3pm

All Boats must be Moored
and Persons Shoreside by 3pm

£5 Entry Fee per Boat

Weighing the Catch
will be done at 4pm

Presentation
will take place at 5pm

Adult Prizes
for 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Biggest Wahoo, Tuna,
Bullseye, Conger and
Grouper
(Also, Novelty Prizes)

NEW: Junior Competition



with Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Biggest Wahoo, Tuna,
Bullseye, Conger and
Grouper
(Also, Novelty Prizes)

ENTERTAINMENT

Novelty
Games
between
1pm and 3pm
Adults & Kids
Egg & Spoon,
Pass the Parcel,
Musical
Chairs...
Prizes to be
Won

Three 3's Band

Fish N' Chips
on Sale

Ice Cream Van

Sweet Stall

Yacht Club Bar
open from
11am

Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

Junior Football Results and Fixtures

The last round of 9 aside and 11 aside games took place last Sunday. The Yellow Devils had already clinched the 9 aside league last weekend. The Galacticos finished as 11 aside Champions beating Fugees 3-2.

Match Results:

Predators 9 v Ranglers 1

G/S Predators: Levi Williams 1; Hugo Richards 1, Lebron George 5, Riley Yon 1 and Tyler Anthony 1

G/S Ranglers: Kurt Lawrence 1

POM: Lebron George & Aiden O'Dean

Yellow Devils 5 v Blue Arrows 1

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

G/S Blue Arrows: Lukas Robbeteese 1

POM: Harry Winfield & Finley McMonegal

Galacticos 3 v Fugees 2

G/S Galacticos: Jolan Henry 1; Taye Peters 1 & Musa 1

G/S Fugees: Blake Peters 2

PON: Aidan Plato & Lucio George

This weekend will be the Futsal Knock Out Cup Preliminary Round

Saturday 21st

9.15am K/O Prem Predators v Superstrikers

Ref: Nick Stevens

9.15 am K/O Prem Galacticos v Gladiators

Ref: Owen Richards

9 aside League table									
Position	Team	Play	Win	Draw	Lose	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Yellow Devils	6	6	0	0	36	2	34	18
2	Predators	6	4	0	2	27	10	17	12
3	Blue Arrows	6	1	0	5	5	26	-21	3
4	Ranglers	6	1	0	5	2	32	-30	3

11 aside League									
Position	Team	Play	Win	Draw	Lose	GF	GA	GD	Points
1	Galacticos	4	2	1	1	6	5	1	7
2	Rastabouts	4	2	0	2	5	5	0	6
3	Fugees	4	1	1	2	4	5	-1	4

9 aside top scorers			
Position	Name	Team	Goals Scored
1	Aden Thomas- Stevens	Yellow Devils	16
2	Lebron George	Predators	14
3	Harry Winfield	Yellow Devils	10
4	Riley Yon	Predators	6
5	Ryan Stevens	Yellow Devils	4
6	Tyler Anthony	Predators	3
7	Levi Williams	Predators	2
8	Darshan Patel	Blue Arrows	1
9	Dirk Peters	Ranglers	1
10	Ephren Stroud	Yellow Devils	1
11	Hugo Richards	Predators	1
12	Joshua Crowie	Yellow Devils	1
13	Kurt Lawrence	Ranglers	1
14	Louis Thomas	Blue Arrows	1
15	Lukas Robertesse	Blue Arrows	1
16	Zac Francis	Yellow Devils	1

11 aside Scorers			
Position	Name	Team	Goals Scored
1	Blake Peters	Fugees	4
2	Macoy Williams	Rastabouts	3
3	Musa	Galacticos	3
4	Callum Yon	Galacticos	1
5	Jolan Henry	Galacticos	1
6	Shaquille Benjamin	Rastabouts	1
7	Taye Peters	Galacticos	1



NGCPH



Bank of St Helena Youth Games update

On Friday night the bank of St Helena Youth games continued with the Volleyball Tournament sponsored by Queen Mary Stores.

The Jamestown/Blue Hill/Sandy Bay team consisting of Allie Fowler; Latisha Fowler, Aiden Yon-Stevens, Christo Crowie, Colby Richards and Trystan Thomas won the gold medal beating the Half Tree Hollow team of Brooke Yon; Alijah Crowie, Philippa Castell, Aidan Plato, Jamie Peters and Jolan Henry..... 25-8 and 25-22

In the Bronze medal game the St Paul's team Cerys Joshua, Ethan Harris, Evan Constantine, Michel I Lawrence, Jerome Peters & Macoy Williams beat Longwood/Levelwood/Alarm Forest Layla Clarke, Ava Thomas, Renae Coleman, Tyranne Henry, Tristan Thomas, Ethan Johnson & James Duncan 25-10; 11-25 & 25-12

In the preliminary rounds

Half Tree Hollow beat Longwood/Levelwood/Alarm Forest 25-20 & 25-15

Jamestown/Blue Hill/Sandy Bay beat St Paul's 25-16 & 25-19



Volleyball Gold Medalist Jamestown/Blue Hill/Sandy Bay



Volleyball Silver Medalist Half Tree Hollow

Armchair Supporters View

by Nick Stevens

Bank of St Helena Youth Games 2020 shooting sponsored by island Images

Monday saw the conclusion of the Shooting competition sponsored by Island Images. There were two competitions running one with Shooters shooting off supports and one without support.

Thanks to the Jamestown and HTH Rifle clubs for hosting this event

With support:

Boys

Gold Medal: Kieran Williams JBS 198
Silver: Zayden Wallace JBS 177.1

Bronze: Shaquille Benjamin HTH 176.3

Girls:

Gold: Layla Clarke LLA 188.2
Silver: Emma-Lee Cochren JBS 175.1

Without support

Gold: Jacob Williams SP 97.2
Gold: Tatelyn Royles JBS 180.2



Bank of St Helena Youth games shooters

Friday 20th November the 5 aside Football sponsored by the St Helena Football Association will take place at New Horizons from 5pm.

Badminton sponsored by Wendy Benjamin will take place on Wednesday 25th November at Prince Andrew School from 5pm



JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE SKITTLES SEASON – 2020/21 RESULTS

DATE: 2 nd . November:				
Strugglers - 457			Bt	Youngstars - 415
Lady's H Sc.	Hannah Hickling	52		Demi George 52
Gent's H Sc.	David Thomas	64		Matthias Young 54
Lady's H Sp.	Kaylee Piek	9		Demi George 13
Gent's H Sp.	David Thomas	14		Ma-Kyle Fuller 16
DATE: 4 th . November:				
Extractors - 485			Bt	Guys & Dolls - 477
Lady's H Sc.				Patricia Essex 61
Gent's H Sc.	Deon Thomas	68		Neil Joshua 61
Lady's H Sp.	Kimmy Thomas	15		Joan Yon 16
Gent's H Sp.	Luke Johnson	15		Neil Joshua 15
DATE: 9 th . November:				
Never Readys - 482			Bt	Super Shots - 399
Lady's H Sc..				Merle Peters 57
Gent's H Sc.	Jason Thomas	60		Karl Thrower 50
	Fabian Peters	60		
Lady's H Sp.				Merle Peters 13
Gent's H Sp.	Jason Thomas	15		
DATE: 11 th . November:				
Parttimers - 524			Bt	Young Alcoholics - 396
Lady's H Sc.	Stacey Williams	60		Anisa Moyce 47
Gent's H Sc.	Gavin (Duff) Ellick	72		Kyle Yon 52
Lady's H Sp.				Anisa Moyce 9
Gent's H Sp.	Gavin (Duff) Ellick	147		Kyle Yon 9
Up coming fixtures:				
Monday, 23 rd . November: Guys & Dolls v Young Alcoholics				
Wednesday, 25 th . November: Super Shots v Parttimers				



St Helena Cricket Association
St Helena Island,
South Atlantic



SHCA

AGM


THURSDAY

26 November

Pilling School 7pm

- All members are encouraged to attend
- We will be reviewing the last year and discussing the upcoming season
- Captains hoping to register teams for the 2021 season can do so at this meeting

For further information, please contact any member of the executive committee.
Damien 22762, Derek 24620, Damian B 66689, Cliff 51652



Life

Addie Thomas

The grass underfoot so soft, like a carpet laid out in front of me at a film premier. Different shades of green, manifesting a picture of serenity as far as the eye can see. Colour, vibrancy, soft petals, breathtaking floral arrangements. Heavenly sounds of insects and birds. 'His' body no longer in residence.

Lilies gracing the sloping fields and valleys, purity in their hundreds and cows munching contently, their coats, so sleek and shiny against the emerald backdrop. A tiny little mouse sits on a bed of grass by the roadside, it doesn't scupper as I stand and watch its little antics whilst munching on some dried plant (*the mouse, not me*). Halley's Mount in the distance.

Tranquil waters, inviting me to dive in. Boats bobbing on the ocean, the sun some way in the sky, the wharf workers are getting ready for a full day's work. I sit on the rocks on the other side of the wharf and I feel the cool air brush against my skin as the white surf breaks against the basalt coastline.

Tall buildings, their peaks as far as the eye can see, bustling traffic, ventilation shafts spewing out steam from the subways, horns honking, people shouting, scaffolding everywhere, homeless people in sleeping bags.

There is so much to celebrate about St Helena Island. I have been in eight cities in the last fourteen months. All unique, all very interesting....but no St Helena Island.

It is so easy for me to overlook the peace of home for the bright lights of the 'big world'. I did for twenty one years. Covid changed the way many people see life and what they value most. It didn't change what I already knew and appreciated about this island. It simply endorsed the fact that there aren't many places like St Helena left on this planet. When we ask, "what do we have to sell to the international community?" I like to think that we have more than we think we have. The International community will confirm this, given half a chance.

Covid reminded us of the importance of science, earth, freedom of movement, health, collective entities working for the greater good, kindness, living responsibly etc. It reminded us that economic growth is only as successful as the stability of our species and environments. I experienced the 'abnormality' of life under Covid in London, Liverpool, Toronto and New York in the latter part of my travels.

They say life will return to 'normal' next winter (UK). What is normal may I ask? Consuming? Greed? Unnecessary amounts of wealth to a small percentage of the population? Power wielding over others? Deforestation? Over-fishing? Global warming? If this is the 'normal' we hope to return to then, then I'd prefer not.

That's why St Helena is so special. Even though there are attempts to increase our economic growth, this *must* surely run parallel with efforts to retain the island's unique bio-diversity. Politics and economics have too often failed to walk side by side with the sciences resulting in irreparable damage to our planet. Mother Earth will go on, with or without us. Let humans package our egos and conceit very carefully because with eight billion people plus already feeding off this planet, we can ill afford to continue to claim ignorance. Covid should have been a lesson to us all about our responsibility to this Earth and her species.

We humans have thought that we can continue to consume at a rate unknown. How is it that in the twenty first century, we have obesity and wastage increasing at an alarming rate and poverty and hunger still on a grand scale too? There should be enough to feed everyone and still retain our health, surely? I appreciate all extremes have deeper psychological connotations.

Unethical marketing practices on social media have duped societies into fear and greed buying. Social Media has become the new addiction. Those in Silicon Valley know what a monster it has become; it was never intended to operate in this way. Try prising the phone out of some people's hands, even over dinner. I have found the internet exceptionally helpful. Yet, the awareness of how it can take over life and cause unhealthy outcomes has become only too apparent to the world. Like any other addiction, it plays on 'fun times' to sink its teeth into society.

Vanessa Thomas Williams, thank you so much for taking the time to show me around the wonderful little sanctuary at Scotland. Your passion and knowledge outweighs any qualification. You are a testament to the fact that 'labels' are only part of the story. When you speak, it is such a pleasure to listen. Many of us spend our lives trying to reach a level of authenticity by which you operate on. Your smile, infectious. It's what the whirlpool of life needs. There are other 'scientists' like Vanessa who quietly go about their business but yet so often are overlooked.

As I stood outside Harkate on Saturday morning, I sipped a cuppa and watched little red birds darting back and forth, I heard the awakening of cockerels, watched mist and fog drifting dreamingly along the countryside, drank in the beautiful flowers and plants which had sprung up in the time I had been away and I felt utter peace. I didn't need to travel thousands of miles to 'the big world' to gain any semblance of a retreat, peace was right there.

I used to think, "my" life, now I think, life. I have come to believe that we are all connected in one amazing cosmos, one universe. It is why I feel such love for every living entity. What makes us think we are top of the food chain? Surely Covid-19 and Global Warming is whispering, *"truly, humans have such arrogance to think they can go on raping and pillaging the planet as they are doing without consequence?"*

People ask me, "are you home for good?" I say, "I am home", that's all. My peace goes hand in hand with my freedom to just 'be' at any moment of the day. When I am in pain, I run to nature. Nature heals. I know that I have a responsibility to the whirlpool of life to spew goodness, no matter the challenges. Yet greater than this is my responsibility to Mother Nature and future generations. Lest she turf me out for a species that can appreciate her vast **power** and beauty.

Have a super weekend.



Moderna follows Pfizer with exciting vaccine news – how to read these dramatic developments

Author: Simon Kolstoe Senior Lecturer in Evidence-Based Healthcare and University Ethics Advisor, University of Portsmouth

It is very exciting to hear another positive story about vaccine trial results – a good vaccine is the most likely way of ending the pandemic.

Last week, interim results from Pfizer suggested its vaccine reduces cases of COVID-19 with 90% efficacy. Now Moderna has gone one better, with interim results showing nearly 95% efficacy for its vaccine – with hints that it may protect against severe disease. Neither have reported any serious safety concerns and have tested their vaccines in tens of thousands of participants.

With so many COVID-19 vaccines in development, more results are likely to follow in the coming months. Their headline figures may, like these, be very impressive, but it's necessary to dig deeper to find out exactly what any new results mean.

With that in mind, here are six questions to ask about any new vaccine trial result.

1. Does this mean the vaccine is safe?

Almost certainly yes if it has successfully passed through a phase 3 trial with thousands of participants. Vaccines do not get this far if there are any major doubts about safety.

Historically, pharmaceutical companies have been able to suppress negative results, but it's now legally required for all trials to post their results so that other scientists can review them. As a consequence the sector is generally far more trusted than it used to be, although we should still be cautious if only interim results are being reported.

Some people are concerned that COVID-19 vaccines have been produced with unprecedented speed; however, the vast majority are based on platform technologies with excellent safety profiles. There are a few newer technologies being used, but the clinical trial and regulatory process is extremely rigorous and will pick up the majority of potential complications fairly early on in development.

Of course, it is still difficult to know yet about long-term side-effects, but these are rare for vaccines, and any risk is normally significantly lower than the risks from getting the disease being vaccinated against.

2. Do the headline figures reflect what the trial was designed to measure?

Trials often measure many things, but there is always a single primary research question or objective that a trial has been designed to answer.

Trials will also have several secondary research questions, but answering these is not considered a mark of success. If you test enough different objectives, a few will always be met due to blind chance. Misrepresenting trial data in this way is a form of research misconduct called p-hacking. You can find out the primary and secondary objectives of any trial by checking a clinical trial registry.

Again, it is important to consider whether these are interim results. Although such results can be promising – as Pfizer and Moderna have shown – they are not guaranteed to be the final result.

3. Did the trial measure the right thing?

Determining what counts as a medicine or drug “working” can be quite complicated for many diseases. But for vaccines, the question to ask is quite simple: did people who had the active vaccine get the disease? Any measure that's more complicated than this (often referred to as a surrogate out-

come) should be treated with caution.

4. Who was the vaccine tested on?

Are the results of a trial transferable to the real world? Here it's important to understand the difference between a population (in this case everyone who can catch COVID-19) and the sample of that population who took part in the trial.

In many cases, trials use two carefully matched (and so comparable) samples in carefully controlled conditions. One is given the vaccine and the other a placebo (such as saline injection or an already developed vaccine for another disease) to control for the effect of participants thinking they have been vaccinated – which does have an effect.

In phase 1 trials, safety concerns mean that samples are generally made up of young and fit people with few health concerns, who are probably not representative of the overall population. However, as trials progress into later phases and get bigger, researchers try to ensure a more representative sample of the population.

This is why the final-stage (phase 3) trials are so important, as the sample is chosen to represent the population that the vaccine is targeted at. Formal publications of trial results normally provide a table describing who was in the sample, and often efficacy rates for the different groups (broken down by sex, age and so on). Unfortunately, the headline efficacy figure (95% for instance) may not apply evenly across the population.

This is very important for COVID-19, as we know older people are much more vulnerable. We therefore shouldn't read too much into any results until we can see an age breakdown for efficacy.

5. Will the vaccine be usable?

Before we get too excited, some practical questions must be asked. How much will the vaccine cost? Can it be made in bulk? Is it easy to transport and store? And how many boosters will be needed? These logistic problems (for instance, the requirement to be stored and transported at very low temperatures) can easily prevent a new vaccine getting into the clinic.

6. Can we trust what's being reported?

It's an increasingly important skill to identify between reliable and unreliable sources. Social media is often superficial and prone to spreading misinformation. On the other hand, journal articles and clinical trial registries can be hard to interpret for anyone except specialists.

Trusted journalism is the answer. Seek out publications with editorial oversight and a track record of reliable scientific and medical reporting. Reading more than one interpretation can help you get a balanced view.

It's also important to ask where a journalist found the information they are reporting on. Referencing results published in peer-reviewed journals is a good sign – it shows some rigorous fact checking has occurred. Be careful if an article's main sources seem to be preprints (papers not yet peer reviewed) or other so-called grey literature, such as press releases or company reports.

Likewise, be careful if the main source seems to be interviews or quotes from people with PhDs or impressive sounding job titles. A quote from a scientist in an interview is not equivalent to a quote from the same scientist in a peer-reviewed academic paper.

GirlGuiding St Helena perform and entertain at annual Culture Night

Contributed by GGuiding St Helena

Culture Night has become one of Girlguiding St Helena's yearly fun events, and this year's was no exception. With Guide Council suggesting the theme for the event- 'an evening of fun, entertainment and performance related to different countries of the world through acts of drama, singing, dancing and much more', each District Unit selected a country of their choice and keeping it pretty quiet from each other, the Units – Sandy Bay, St Pauls, Half-Tree-Hollow, Jamestown and Longwood – got things underway during meeting times.

Then, on Wednesday, 21st October, during the Half-Term holiday week, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and their Leaders and Helpers from across the Island, eagerly came together at Prince Andrew School and performed a variety of interesting items based on their chosen place in the world - entertaining Parents, family members and members of the GG Association, who were helping with snacks and drinks for everyone.

The Evening's event started off with a 'horseshoe' formation of all girls and Leaders, at the front of the stage, for an opening speech by GGS's President, Mrs Ivy Ellick, who welcomed everyone to PAS for the event. She spoke of the amount of effort put into the event and thanked everyone for turning up to present their performances and to Parents and friends who were waiting patiently to be entertained. Each of the performances, according to the order of the Programme on the night, is being described by a Member of each District Unit. Filling the gaps between each performance were the Rangers from Jamestown and Longwood, singing Campfire songs they had learnt from their trip abroad last year.

The curtains opened on the Half-Tree-Hollow Unit displaying an array of dancers in locally flax-made outfits. How cool was that! This is what Laura Duncan, a HTH Young Leader, reported on behalf of their Unit:

"On Culture Night at Prince Andrew School, each unit showcased their take on a chosen culture; the HTH Girl Guide unit chose New Zealand as their place of study, and focused on the Maori culture. For our presentation we did the traditional Haka dance; this was a dance usually performed before war as a tactic to intimidate their enemy, through their show of pride, strength and unity. Everyone dressed in flax skirts which were hand made by the Unit; these skirts were our representation of the traditional war dress worn by the Maori people, and to complete our looks, we also painted our chins with our rendition of their customary face tattoo."

Next on was the Jamestown Unit who entered the stage set to entertain everyone with an amusing comedy skit. This is how Brownie Leader, Justine Joshua, described their contribution:

'We all need a little laughter in our lives- something to make us smile, especially in today's world. So at this year's Girlguiding Association Culture Evening event, when the Jamestown Units' (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders alike) chosen country was America - a comedy skit

emerged -...where COVID rules and fake remedies cause chaos; as daily walks to the park turn into marathons around the couch; and large families start evicting chickens from their coops to make way for that 6th family member; ...where comical protests, merged with great acting from the girls, and even some sing-song in between; where Omo Bleach becomes the magic cure-all, and the frantic hunts for loo rolls are relentless - even Granny's Go-Black is not safe! With all good intentions of good humour in good taste, and not in any way to dismiss the gravity of COVID around the world, we just wanted to make people laugh, make them smile, make them (just for a short while) forget the troubles of the world and be happy.'

After an interval during which everyone had a snack and drink and a chance to win a raffle prize, the curtains re-opened on the girls from Sandy Bay, and here is what they presented on stage amid laughter from the audience, described by Unit Leader, Joyce Williams:

"The map we drew to show where Mexico is situated, along with write-ups about the population, culture, minerals, tourism, farming, language and dances of the country, were displayed in the foreground of the Stage, and were the result of research done by the Units. Their research outcomes were used to create a poem which the girls recited during their performance, which received a good response. This was followed by a rendition of the Mexican Hat Dance, and again, brought on a hearty applause from an appreciative audience. I felt very proud of them."

The Longwood Unit followed, and Brownie Leader, Betty Joshua, welcomed everyone to their Units' presentation of the Caribbean Islands' culture and explained that:

"With the combined research efforts of Rangers and Leaders of a few of the many Islands making up this huge place, the Longwood Unit has taken a sneak peek of five of them to give you a colourful, representational taste of people, national flags, flora and fauna that can be found there. So without further ado, let's roll out the catwalk carpet, and give a round of applause to our group efforts displaying famous characters from the professional world such as singers, musicians, poets, environmentalists (recyclists, in particular), local/traditional dress, sports personalities, flag allegiance, animal and plant-life. Please, enjoy and we begin with....",

Following this introduction, a 'parade' of characters showed off the chosen five Islands' charm, natural beauty and tal



GirlGuiding St Helena perform and entertain at annual Culture Night

Contributed by GGuiding St Helena

ents, starting with the Island of HAITI, followed by BARBADOS, COSTA RICA, JAMAICA and finally, BAHAMAS. The colourful 'parade' then merged into 'streams' and flowed in carnival-style to reggae music down the stage steps, along the sides of the seated audience, coming together at the back and dancing their way through the middle alleyway, finally returning to the stage. To end this performance, Guides and Brownies performed a lively 'goombay' dance, characteristic of the goatskin drums used at festivals. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our final Unit performance of the evening was given by St Pauls Unit, which Brownie Leader, Eileen Hudson, has reflected on:

"St Paul's Guides and Brownies chose India as the country that has one of the World Guiding Centres - Sangam. In the lead up to the Culture Night, the girls learnt more about Sangam and were introduced to various facts about some areas of Indian culture. The Brownies made bracelets from plastic water bottles to wear for the dance, and both Brownies and Guides made rangoli patterns which are used to welcome visitors to the home during Diwali, the festival of

Lights, that is celebrated in October and November. Miss Teeny Lucy, from Creative St Helena, taught the girls an Indian dance which they learnt in two sessions. Although there are only two Guides and two Brownies in the St Paul's unit, the girls performed brilliantly with confidence and enjoyment on the evening."

All performances of the evening are to be applauded – this was an event that not only opened up a world of cultures from other GGuiding countries, but allowed our Units to showcase them and compare them with our own, and find lots of similarities in so doing. The activities displayed for performance and entertainment were such that, without realising it, all Units were encompassing badge work and theme awards in their efforts to make it an evening of fun and reward.

We look forward to other events as time goes on that promote guiding in this way, and hope that what we do will appeal to others and help to inspire them to want to be part of girlguiding. We encourage all girls from all walks of life to join us because, as one of our key messages shouts out: **WE ARE FOR ALL GIRLS!!**

FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER AWARENESS & SUPPORT CHARITY

A cheque totalling £1700 was presented to members of the Cancer Support & Awareness Charity by Garry Yon, Anthony Clingham and Mandy Constantine on Friday, 13 November 2020. The presentation took place at the General Hospital's Oncology Unit.

The total monies raised was achieved through fundraising events organised throughout the month of October including from a raffle and selling cakes, savouries, and lunches during Carnival Day held on Saturday, 31 October 2020. £253 of the £1700 was donated by recent residents quarantining at Bradley's Camp.

Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Charlie Ihao, commented: "We decided to raise money for the Cancer Support & Awareness Charity so that they can help more people suffering with Cancer.

"We'd like to say thank you to everyone who supported us, especially Mandy Constantine, Anna Thomas, Garry Yon, Lyn Buckley, Sandra Sim, and Fe Scanes who made a big effort to cook and sell some snacks and lunches. To all sponsors who donated the lovely prizes, including Dr Mohamed Elnagar, Dr Tshinyambala Mbaie, Edward (Ted) Rayment, Anne Colclough, Dr Imran Hasan, Dr Carlos Soto, Jane Augustus, Mandy Constantine, Dr Charles Laubscher, Pamela Ward Pearce, Tony Clingham, MTB's Pick & Pay, Colin and Peggy Thomas, Frabeas' Cleaning Service, Rosie's Bar & Restaurant and Noleen Stevens. Also to those who made donations, including Adrian Hudson, Roy Williams, residents of Bradley's Camp, Paula Cooper, Peter Thomas and Carolyn



Greentree. Finally, we would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to sell raffle tickets and to those who bought them."

SHG, 18 November 2020

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

We read with some interest the letter submitted by the Honourable Cyril Leo in last week's Sentinel. It was noted that Councillor Leo focused a portion of his article on the St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association's petition. Attached is a letter sent to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) prior to their formal sitting to discuss our petition. The letter was a desperate attempt to redirect Councillors attention **back** to what the petition was actually asking for – this unfortunately did not work and the Councillors concerned spent more time discussing proposals than they did the actual process.

Councillor Leo informed readers that he voted in favour of "option 2" which was to not agree with the petition and continue with the proposal led by PQT (SH) but that he included a recommendation for Executive Council to consider. A part of

his recommendation was that a rep from the SHCFA and the local group of fishermen who supported PQT (SH) be allowed to join the existing working group tasked with progressing the MoU work streams.

ExCo consequentially tossed out Councillor Leo's recommendation with barely a mention of it during their follow-up meeting. We thought it pertinent to inform your readership of this because we noted that this conclusion was not added in his submission last week.

The issue of the £500k for factory upgrades is indeed a contentious issue as highlighted by Councillor Leo. We are fully aware of why the change was made from a loan to a grant and it directly relates to tuna Total Allowable Catches (TACs) - this has been stated by the SHG's preferred bidder in a public meeting.

ExCo meanwhile have gone to ground and are refusing to communicate with our organisation. A new licensing system is soon to be implemented and this is being done by our government at exactly the same time as they are working towards a "green light" with the current fisheries investment proposal. This approach has obviously caused problems,

but as the "issues" are encountered/dealt with behind closed doors, SHG have been saved from most of the embarrassment. In an effort to ensure that our members are well prepared for significant changes looming in the near future, we have reached out to Executive Council with a number of important questions. Unfortunately for us, it has been three weeks and no answers have been forthcoming.

As mentioned above, below is a copy of the email sent to the EDC on the 23rd September 2020 with all the remaining members of council, HE Governor and Ex-Officio members of Executive Council copied in.

"To Members of the EDC"

Upon hearing the public announcement made yesterday via local media, whereby we were advised that EDC will holding an open meeting tomorrow to discuss our petition, we have taken it upon ourselves to download the information to incorporate our comments. This in our opinion was necessary, as although we will be present in the meeting tomorrow to witness the discussion, we have not been invited to participate, therefore as per normal practice we understand that we will not be permitted



TIP OF THE WEEK

Make the most of natural light.

Open curtains and blinds during daylight hours instead of turning on lights.

MISS ST HELENA 2020 RAFFLE

Below are the prize winners of the Miss St Helena Group raffle, drawn on Sat, 24 Oct at Prince Andrew School. A total of £760.20 was raised and we would like to thank everyone who participated and donated.

1. Panasonic Mini Hi-Fi - **Ann Bowers** | 2. Nomadica Sunset Cruise for 6 - **Anita Thomas** | 3. £20 Anchor Shop Voucher - **Ann Muir** | 4. £10 Top-up Card - **Gonny Pitlo** | 5. Red Wine - **Linda Richards** | 6. Tin of Heroes - **Sophie Crowie** | 7. Waffle Maker - **Mark Henry** | 8. Consulate Coffee & Cake vouchers - **Di Roberts** | 9. Hoodie - **Linda Yon** | 10. Lashes Gift Voucher - **Sylvia Stevens** | 11. Busy Lizzie's Floral Arrangement - **Ruth Banyard** | 12. Two Hanging Baskets, Compost & Seeds - **Nessy Baggett** | 13. Tyanne Williams St Helena Painting - **Audrey Constantine** | 14. £15 Rosie's Voucher - **Christine Scipio** | 15. Ruby's Thread & Gels Voucher - **Colin (Shu) Thomas** | 16. Essence Mini Manicure Voucher - **Patricia Williams** | 17. Cutting Edge Voucher - **Barry Hubbard** | 18. Craig Williams Photograph - **Ruthie Young** | 19. G-Unique Voucher - **Priscilla Henry** | 20. FCUK Perfume - **Tysha Anthony** | 21. Meal for 2 at Moonshine's - **Steve Kirk** | 22. Bottle Laundry Detergent - **T-Jay Coleman** | 23. Miss St Helena Cake - **Marilyn Bargo** | 24. Inkwell £10 Voucher - **Gillian Francis** | 25. Emma Sparks Clownfish Painting - **Cynthia Bennett** | 26. Sub-Tropic Adventures Discover Scuba Experience - **Barbara Greentree**.

Your Opinion Counts

to contribute. This is unfortunate as we had requested in our petition cover letter that we be given the opportunity to meet with Governor in Council, elected members and relevant SHG Officers to discuss next steps; it is obvious from the route being taken tomorrow, this suggestion has been denied.

The comments we have made are comprehensive therefore in an effort to provide you with a condensed version of our primary concerns we would like to focus on the following:

- The evaluation process not addressing the main aims of our petition. It is evident from both the Advice Note and the Memorandum compiled that the SHG Officers responsible for undertaking this task has completely misinterpreted the essence of our petition. Our petition primary focus was to oppose the current investment procurement process, unfortunately this has been interpreted by SHG Officers as opposing PQ Trading (STH) and/or the St Helena Fisheries Co-Operative initiative, which has led them to include unnecessary comparisons between these two entities and NEWCO.

- Inclusion of a letter from John Melliss Fishing Limited. Bearing in mind that the John Melliss Fishing Limited voluntarily ceased business operations in January of this year to seek alternative employment instead of making a concerted effort to support the local fish-

ing effort, we find it somewhat devious that this lone business felt the need to express their support for the process to be continued, primarily for their personal business and gain. We feel this letter was included to manipulate EDC's thinking, yet other relevant correspondence that have been shared by the SHCFA remained excluded.

- Who were the SHG Officers that evaluated our petition? In our attempt to obtain an update on the progress being made with our petition, bearing in mind that it was submitted on the 24th August, some four weeks ago, we were advised by a member of Executive Council that the Director of ENRP had been tasked with analysing our submission, yet when this was addressed with the Director he advised that a group had undertaken the work. Since being made aware of this, we have tried to obtain confirmation as to who the members of this group were. Unfortunately, this information has yet to be received. We would like this information to be made available to us to determine if our petition was independently appraised or whether it was analysed by officers who have been heavily involved in this process dating back as far as October last year.

- SHG's determination to forbid open communications with all stakeholders present continues. As mentioned in our opening paragraph, the SHCFA have determinedly requested meetings to enable elected members and relevant SHG Officers to collectively meet with the SHCFA to discuss this topic, however the opportunity to commence such open discussions have been denied. Similar practices continue by way of not accepting our invitation to meet to discuss our petition. If such an opportunity had been permitted it is likely that the primary focus of our petition could

have been explained and would have avoided the misinterpretation of our petition objectives.

In addition to making comments to the EDC Memo and Advice Note, we have also compiled a letter of response to the letter submitted by John Melliss Fishing Limited. This has been done in order to provide additional information to aid your understanding given that this letter has been included as part of your deliberations.

In closing, we the SHCFA would like to openly state that it is our opinion that EDC should find this appraisal undertaken by the unknown group invalid, as it doesn't acknowledge or address the claims made within our petition. Nor does it include any evidence or explanations to support the statements made, to instil confidence in us that a thorough investigation has been carried out to ensure that the allegations made regarding this process can be eradicated. We simply do not have this faith from the documentation presented."

Footnote – It is worth noting that the morning of the EDC meeting 24th September; it was confirmed using the Public Access to SHG information Code of Practice that the SHG's technical advisors to the EDC were tasked with providing advice to the Committee in respect of the petition. These advisors were Financial Secretary – Dax Richards, Deputy Financial Secretary – Nicholas Yon, Director of Environment Natural Resources & Planning – Darren Duncan and Chief Economist Nicole Shamier.

St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association



THE ROCK

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON
SUNDAY 22nd November @ 11 am
FOR
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
At No 3 Unit Longwood Enterprise
Park

Transport is available from
Jamestown, HTH
Contact 23249 or 62552

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Why not shop at 'Roman's' in Upper Jamestown, where you will find all your Christmas gifts, decorations and lights.

There is a variety of children's umbrellas, clothing, toys and books; ladies and gents clothing as well as gift sets, xmas paper, tags, cards and large & small decorations in various colours and much more.

Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes: Another Game with Skill Benefits

By Mic-kail Harris

Last time we talked about a game that benefits your “detective” and problem solving skills. The game was called “Among Us”, and as I said in my last article this game was launched 2 years ago but only recently grown in popularity. In fact it grew so much that the developers (Innersloth), who were working on a sequel called “Among Us 2”, cancelled the development of that game so that they “could focus more on [Among Us]”. Well, that was last week’s article and still that game is played by many players around the world. This week’s article however, is a game that was released all the way back in 2015 and is the exact opposite of Among Us.

Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes (abbreviated to KTANE for your convenience) is the name of the game and it literally explains the purpose of the game in the title. Unlike Among Us which requires all players to be silent when the game is running, KTANE requires players talking AT ALL TIMES (as it does require 2+ players)!

The rundown of KTANE is that one person needs to defuse the bomb. There are between 3-11 modules on a bomb which randomizes each turn with dozens of possible puzzles, and can total up to 2 bombs. As per usual with bombs, there is a countdown timer which has a maximum of 3 errors before it detonates, with each strike increasing the timer’s speed. This might sound difficult if you don’t know how to defuse a bomb, but luckily the developers of this game (Steel Crate Games) has uploaded a bomb defuse manual to help you out www.bombmanual.com. The twist to the game is that the bomb defuse player cannot look at the manual but instead has to depend on his friend/s to walk them through it, which at the same time the player/s with the manual cannot look at the screen.

Sounds difficult?

Well, it is. With so many different modules and defusing methods to learn with having to scroll through 20+ pages of the manual to find the right module puzzle and a really short countdown timer it can become increasingly difficult. But that is where certain skill benefits come in.

Because the game requires constant talking with your friends to work through the different modules to defuse the bomb, it means that the more you play your COMMUNICATION skill increase. Not only that, with constant communicating back and forth over what the player sees, how many wires are on the module and what colours they are, what symbols appear on the keypad module, how many batteries are on the device and how long they have left before the bomb explodes etc, the game greatly enhances your TEAMWORK skills.

Now, for those who know me, I don’t usually play many games seriously. I either exploit the game’s mechanics (like in Halo MCC with the “Civilian Fiesta” Gamemode) or try to sabotage my friends (like in Among Us and nearly every 2+ player game available), however on Tuesday when fellow YouTuber LDB and I had our first session in this game, I was actually more helpful than ever before. In fact I even said to him after our

session that “there must be a disturbance in the force” because of how helpful I was. When I was the bomb defuse “expert”, LDB and I had to communicate like crazy to successfully defuse the bomb. There was actually one time when I had 1 second left because one of the tasks requires you to execute the command when the timer has the number 1 in any position. When I was the manual holder I assisted Luke through his challenging puzzles (we failed a few times but we got there in the end). So by me explaining our little session that we had on Tuesday you can see just how communication and teamwork is key in this game.

This game is extremely fun with friends and also is more challenging than Scrabble, but there’s one slight problem with the game.

Before you can even start, you have to download the bomb manual PDF. On that manual is the code that gives you access to the game. That isn’t too bad because it’s a small file size, but it’s really awkward searching on Google www.bombmanual.com. Obviously the manual created for the game is just for defusing the fictional bomb, but for those who don’t know the purpose of the game would become a bit suspicious.

Now, you might be thinking “that’s great ‘n’ all, but how does that benefit me in real life?” Well, many work environments does require you to have excellent communication skills, and for businesses with a small team working to deadlines, they do require you to be able to work as part of a team. Maybe for those seeking employment or think that you need to get better with communication or teamwork in your current workplace, playing this game with friends or other people in the community a few times might give you that boost you need. I mean, the whole point of the game is communication and teamwork, two of the skills needed for good ethics in the workplace.

For those who want to see a video of this game, you can check out our recorded Tuesday Online Session via “TEAM BUGZ GAMING” on YouTube, which will be uploaded soon. To stay up to date with new video content be sure to friend me on Facebook @Mic-kail Harris or follow me on Twitter @kail_mic.



A maze puzzle in one of the module: you can’t see the walls, but the manual holder can identify which sort of maze you are doing with the description you give about where the circles, the white square and the red triangle are.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE QUESTIONNAIRE

St Helena Government (SHG) is inviting feedback from the public on the Public Transport Service. Feedback is being sought via a questionnaire which will be available from Wednesday, 18 November 2020.

Copies of the questionnaire will be available on the public transport buses, at the Public Library and the Post & Customer Services Centre in Jamestown, and also available on the SHG website via: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/public-information/>.

Completed questionnaires can be deposited in boxes available at the Post Office & Customer Services Centre and can be also handed to bus drivers. Alternatively, electronic copies can be downloaded and submitted via email to: customer.relations@sainthelena.gov.sh.

All completed questionnaires should be submitted by Monday, 30 November 2020.

SHG

16 November 2020



Quality Window Blinds



ORDERS can be made for
Vertical , Venetian , Roller , Roman ,and Bamboo
blinds from 200 colour
samples and to suit your Measurements.
Standard Patio slide doors
1.5 , 1.8 , 2.0 , 2.1 , 2.4 , 2.7 , 3.0 metres
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White aluminium Windows - 1750 x 1270, 1800 x 900,
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**A 48 Volt Go Kart
Call Chris Bargo on tel 23163**



PASSPORT SURGERIES REMINDER

The public is reminded that the St Helena Immigration Service will be holding Passport Surgeries outside of the Canister, Jamestown, between 9am and 12noon on Thursday, 26 November, and Friday, 27 November 2020.

The purpose of these surgeries is to highlight the importance of holding a valid passport and to provide information as well as assist anyone wishing to make an application for either a British passport or a British Overseas Territories (St Helenian) passport.

The St Helena Immigration team look forward to engaging with the public.

SHG

17 November 2020



**St Helena
Government**

The Women's Corona society would like to thank those who supported their multi raffle

the winners are as follows:

- 1st Mrs Patsy Flagg- A Bathroom Cabinet
- 2nd Mr Melvin Benjamin- A Dinner Set,
- 3rd Miss Lesley Benjamin-Breakfast hamper,
- 4th Mrs Vilma Cranfield - 7 piece cookware Set
- 5th Elizah Buckley-Duvet cover set,
- 6th Mr Clint Beard – A Joint of pork,
- 7th zyana Henry – Cake box,
- 8th Mrs Nicola Crowie – A large picture,

**Thanks are also extended to those who donated prizes
and gave their support**

Serena's Gift Shop
 Phone : 22792

£9.40 for 20

£2.50 Earrings

£5.30

£6.95

£23.90

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£1.95

£7.55

£10.90

Prayer & Praise Service

**Catholic Church of the
Sacred Heart,
Upper Jamestown**

Sunday 22nd November
at 6 p.m. / 18.00 hrs

A voluntary collection will be taken and
tea, coffee & biscuits available after the
Service.

This not an Advent or Christmas
Service but a simple opportunity to
listen, sing & pray



12 DECEMBER 2020

FINE DINING MASQUERADE BALL

18:00 - LATE

A FOUR COURSE, FINE DINING DINNER FOLLOWED BY A MASQUERADE BALL
 Fine dining tickets £30.00 – Includes a complimentary glass of Bucks Fizz
 Masquerade Ball Tickets £3.00



A: Rosie's, Ladder Hill T: 25507

Fine dining tickets includes entry to the Masquerade Ball