

THE ST HELENA Est. 2005 INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XV ISSUE 6, 17th JANUARY 2020, PRICE £1

No Direct Flight from Europe Means No Development – Paul O’Sullivan

What the New Government Arrangements are will be “is of Great Importance and Interest”



Pitch to Plantation - FINALE



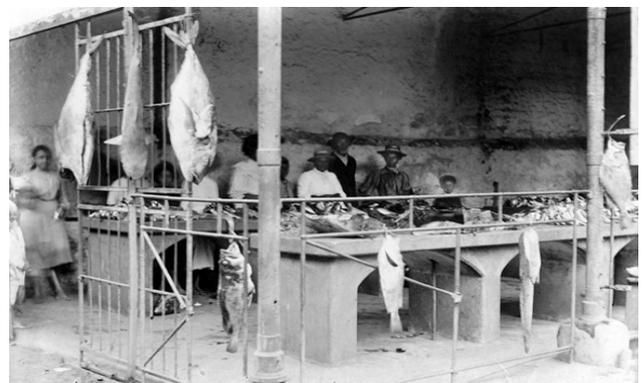
Another Funding Opportunity to Improve the Liberated African Burial Grounds is Lost



INDY PICTURE QUIZ.....

**Series 1 Blast From The Past
Picture 14...**

Regarding the Closure of Fisheries



ON WHICH STREET/ROAD IN JAMESTOWN WOULD YOU HAVE FOUND THIS WONDERFUL GATHERING IN THE 1920's?

Tune in to the next Shine Show with Sharon Wade to find out how to answer. There will be a prize for the first person with the correct answer.

(Entries are only valid by submitting to the Shine Show)

No direct flight from Europe means no development – Paul O’Sullivan

Paul O’Sullivan told a public meeting this week the Ocean Village development at Horse Pasture cannot go ahead until there is a second permanent weekly flight to St Helena. O’Sullivan’s judgement, like many others, is the second flight must be on a route from Europe to St Helena.

The CEO for Trade Winds Corporation made it clear that serious investment in St Helena cannot go ahead until there are more tourists arriving at the airport. He said he identified just two of the passengers on his incoming flight on Tuesday as real tourists. He added, a hotel management company is ready to operate the hotel at the planned development for a Broad Bottom golf resort and hotel but they are not willing to move forward on the proposal until a second regular flight is established.

Paul O’Sullivan is developing his own plans for an air service from Gatwick to St Helena. The plan depends on Cabo Verde Airlines starting their promised service from Gatwick to Sal Airport, Cape Verde Islands. In conjunction with Atlantic Star and others this service will be extended to St Helena on a weekly basis if the plan goes ahead. Cabo Verde Airlines opened three new routes last month and this week a sale of 39% of the shares in this previously government owned airline is expected to be fully subscribed. Icelandair took a 51% stake in Cabo Verde Airlines in March last year. Icelandair has a reputation for adding to its list of routes and targeted a further 10% increase for 2019. O’Sullivan believes working with this combination of small but ambitious, truly international, airlines has better prospects than relying on a “shuttle” between Jo’burg and St Helena.

It’s best to employ Saints on the Trade Winds developments

Members of the construction trades were well represented at the first public consultation meeting organised by Paul O’Sullivan to explain his plans for the Ocean Village. Held on Tuesday at the Jamestown Community Centre most of the questions put to O’Sullivan after his presentation were about prospects for Saints to get work on his development.

One of the Trade Winds Corporation publications states that between 140 and 180 jobs will be created over a five year construction period for the Ocean Village development at Horse Pasture and the Golf Resort and Hotel at Broad Bottom. Upon completion the developments will require between 20 and 40 full time personnel to manage and service the facilities.

At Tuesday’s public consultation meeting people were interested in what type of construction jobs would be available, when they will be required and will Trade Winds Corporation be importing job hunters from South Africa or recruiting Saints. O’Sullivan said training was already being organised for some Nigel George Construction and Plant Hire (NGCPH) employees. NGCPH has a minority stake in the Trade Winds Corporation developments in St Helena. He added that it will be better to employ Saints whenever possible. Training will be given when required to experienced construction workers as the timber built houses, similar to the show house at Sapper Way, will be assembled from prefabricated sections imported from South Africa. Some familiarisation with the assembly techniques is likely to be required.

As discussion on jobs for Saints continued, Paul O’Sullivan mentioned he did invite tenders from St Helenian construction businesses for building the Sapper Way show house but did not get any responses. Recruiting workers in South Africa and paying for their travel to St Helena and accommodation costs was the only option left available. This option he said he would prefer to avoid in future if Saints come forward.

Another discussion point on Tuesday evening was the type of houses which will be available. All houses are designed for the tourist market but buyers have various purchase options. A house can either be bought by an individual, by a group of people or on a time share basis. House buyers have the option of putting their house in a ‘rent pool’ when they are not living in it themselves. Trade Winds Corporation would organise the renting of the properties for the owners. In response to a question about how much the houses will cost to buy, O’Sullivan said the development is not expected to get off the ground for about 18 months to two years so the price of the properties cannot be set yet. However, the show house in Sapper Way, if it was for sale, would cost about £750,000. That price, O’Sullivan said, is cheap compared to what buyers of luxury holiday homes are normally prepared to pay elsewhere.



A £750,000 view of High Knoll Fort from the Sapper Way show house



High Knoll Fort seen from the Sapper Way show house



Announcement from Saint FM and the St Helena Independent



Saint FM Community Radio and the St Helena Independent newspaper are delighted to announce that Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC has renewed his generous funding of the two media organizations for the next three years.

The news, which means that the radio station and newspaper can continue to operate with financial independence, has been met with great enthusiasm by the directors of the board, staff and voluntary presenters.

The announcement means that the two media organizations will continue to have a stable footing for the next three years while they seek new opportunities for growth and development.

Lord Ashcroft is an international businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster whose links to the island go back more than 70 years. He had previously sponsored the two media organisations for three years and has now renewed this backing for another three years.

Lord Ashcroft's support means that Saint FM and the St Helena Independent can continue to provide a much-loved service to the local community, Saints abroad and a larger international listenership/readership.

Lord Ashcroft has continued to shine a spotlight on the island through regular blogs on the website www.conservativehome.com and just over a year ago he produced and presented a film about island life. He maintains contact with St Helena by keeping up to date with current events and offering his own analysis of the island's problems. He remains a loyal and staunch supporter of the Saints.

Directors of the board of Saint FM, Tammy Williams, Mike Olsson and Vince Thompson said *"Once again we are thrilled to receive this good news and we are equally proud that Lord Ashcroft has shown faith in our ability to continue the work of educating, informing and entertaining the community of St Helena. His support cements our vision for a strong independent media for the island which values freedom of expression while maintaining an open relationship with the government, all hallmarks of a healthy democratic society. We look forward to renewing our pledge to our readers and listeners by way of re-commitment to serving the needs of this very special community."*

Lord Ashcroft said: *"My great fondness for Saint Helena and its resident's spans seven decades. During my two recent visits to the island, I have been made to feel extremely welcome by one and all. My funding for the two media organisations is my way of making a small contribution to island life because I have seen that both Saint FM Community Radio and the St Helena Independent play an important role for Saints. As a remote British Overseas Territory, St Helena has a unique set of challenges but I intend to be a friend of St Helena and its people for many years to come."*



Would you like to know more about the work of Lord Ashcroft?

Visit: www.lordashcroft.com or follow him on Twitter [@Lord Ashcroft](https://twitter.com/LordAshcroft)

You can read his blogs on St Helena at www.conservativehome.com or watch his film on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=beeY6HL7Joo



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Editorial

This is the season for slaying white elephants. White elephants are not an endangered species, in fact, there should be a cull. Today is the day when interested individuals, businesses or groups should submit their proposals for filling the gap left by the downfall of the St Helena Fisheries Corporation which is due to fade away in two weeks time. The original deadline for proposals was 10th January but a further week was given to allow more time for business cases to be prepared and contract discussions to reach a conclusion.

Today is also the day when it is announced that Bertrand's Cottage is to close. Next Sunday will be the last opportunity you will have to order a meal in the house where Napoleon's trusted friend and ally Count Henri Gatien Bertrand, Grand Marshal of the Palace, once lived in exile.

The closure announcement for Bertrand's Cottage appears in this edition of the *Independent*. No reason for the closure is given and no reply was received before this page went to print to our enquiry as to what the reasons might be. The reasons for the failure of the Fisheries Corporation have been widely reported. Bertrand's Cottage is in a similar position; in a big hole with no way out. In early 2016 the alterations and renovation of Bertrand's Cottage was nearing completion; less than four years later the difference between revenue and costs together with the disappearing need for additional trained hospitality staff means the Bertrand's Cottage venture cannot be sustained. There are better things to do with the money. And, what can be salvaged by the sale of Bertrand's Cottage? Is a buyer lined up? Is it possible to sell it? ESH may respond to our enquiries made this week, eventually. Which is the next white elephant to be lined up for execution, I wonder?

I'm sure many will think I'm a very sad person because of this, but the truth is, I'm looking forward to Professor Jeremy Sarkin's second visit to lead further discussions on what

changes should be made to the way we are governed. What I find so very sad is that in a small community such as ours there should be so many barriers between the governed and those that govern us. The main reason is, I think, the current system is designed to fail us. I do not go straight to just blaming the councillors; there are many reasons why we are short-changed by the governmental system and councillors struggle with it along with the rest of us. It seems what we have now encourages decision-makers to NOT make decisions. Defer it, delay it, further information required, not the right time for it, no money for it; the list goes on – and on. Why is the required information not available? Why waste time talking about it if there is no money or it's not the right time?

There are other things which tend to create barriers. I find the extent of the ceremonial nature of proceedings at Legislative Council strange. This is probably because I'm not the sort of person to stand on ceremony. But when a President of the Council enters the council chamber at a very slow walking pace in an unbelievably old and faded full length gown, I have to wonder why. People are honourables or right honourables and stand to speak during council sessions but remain seated when in committee. There is always someone always who gets it wrong. I cannot understand why it is necessary to bother with all that. A more businesslike approach to discussions around the table would help to get quicker and probably better decisions.

Then there is the tradition or culture where decision-makers feel more comfortable reaching the decision by consensus rather than by vote. Reaching a consensus is certain to take longer and is no guarantee that a better decision has been made. I've seen one or two decisions reached by consensus when it is judged that all or most are in agreement because there is silence around the table! Putting a proposal to a vote

Bees, Bees, Bees.....

The St. Helena Bee Keepers Association had an urgent call from St. Paul's Primary School at lunchtime yesterday. School Children noted a large number of bees flying around in the vicinity of their play area. The teacher on playground duty confirmed that the bees covered a large area of the playing field and told the children to move back into school. A member of the bee keepers was on the scene within ten minutes of the call, and was shown where the bees were. A survey of the area was made and it was noted many bees were flying very low to the ground and settling in the grass lawn of the playground. The bees were actually finding moisture from the grass blades that could have occurred from a light shower of rain some hours earlier. Bees will find water when thirsty and especially during the honey flow season that is currently in progress.

The school was told to keep the children away from the playing field for the afternoon. The bees would sting if contact was made with the children. A spokesman for the bee keepers association said that this is very unusual and he had not come across this happening before and especially in such large numbers at the same time. No Bee Hives are in the area so it expected that the bees came from a feral swarm.

Tony Leo

Beekeeper's Association





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Editorial

concentrates the mind and encourages decision-makers to put the points for and against in sharper focus. No proposal is ever going to be perfect. It all boils down to a choice between a limited number of options and one of them must be preferred by those around the discussion table. Different people will prefer a different option, that's life. So go with the majority preference why you don't. We have one report in this week's *Independent* where too much time spent talking and not deciding caused the opportunity for some funding to be lost. How many other opportunities have been lost for the same reason? SHG are not going to tell us, are they? They do not even say publicly when there is money riding on a decision which needs to be made. Providing as little public information as possible is another barrier.

Finally, the information published in the *Independent* last week about possible customers on Ascension for traders in St Helena who may be interested in exporting fresh fruit, veg or may have ignited some interest. A meeting was organised this week to inform and help Saint businesses who want to take advantage of the offer of free airfreight to Ascension. Let's hope some people can use this opportunity to make a bit more for the back pocket.

Illegitimi non carborundum may look as if is Latin but it is mock-Latin; English words changed a bit to look as if it is

Latin. What is Illegitimi non carborundum supposed to mean? Don't let the bastards get you down.

The President is walking out of the White House and heading toward his limo, when a possible assassin steps forward and aims a gun.

A secret service agent, new on the job, shouts "Mickey Mouse!" This startles the would be assassin and he is captured.

Later, the secret service agent's supervisor takes him aside and asks, "What in the hell made you shout 'Mickey Mouse'?"

Blushing, the agent replies, "I got nervous. I meant to shout.....

"Donald , duck!"

9:31 AM

See you next week, Vince

PITCH TO PLANTATION - FINALE

The finale of the Pitch to Plantation was hosted by Governor Rushbrook at Plantation House yesterday.

In the lead-up to the finale a competition was launched whereby members of the public were invited to submit a business idea, this was to include workshops and a business 'boot camp' where participants were mentored and guided to completion of their business plans.

There were four entrants however two eventually withdrew which left just two entrants, Dalton George and Colby Thomas.

Dalton George's business plan entitled *Barnacle seas* presented a new and exciting idea of utilising the vast ocean bed to produce mussels naturally and sustainably for exporting, Colby's equally thought-provoking business plan entitled *Iconic* sought to introduce a new method to agriculture called Permaculture, which allows nature to 'take it's course' through a garden design approach that can improve the productivity and efficiency of farms and gardens without harmful pesticides.

Both Dalton and Colby presented their business ideas to a panel of judges who were tasked with scoring each candidate



from a strict criteria and after a difficult and lengthy session were able to announce a winner - 17 year old Colby Thomas.

In his closing remarks Governor Rushbrook declared both Colby and Dalton's business ideas as new, innovative and exciting ventures for St Helena and wished them much success in their future endeavours.

Our congratulations to both Colby and Dalton.

Pitch to Plantation was hosted by the Governor's office and FCO in partnership with Enterprise St Helena

What the new government arrangements are will be “is of great importance and interest”

Sir Simon MacDonald flew in last Saturday, spent Sunday and Monday flying rapidly from one meeting or event to another and flew out again on Tuesday. This is the usual arrangement for visiting VIPs but Sir Simon is a little different from others who have come before. He is the most senior civil servant in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is also Head of the Diplomatic Service. In his role he advises the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on UK foreign policy and manages the administration of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office – and many other things besides.

The first and most obvious question put to him was, “Why is he here.” The reason, he said, is because it is now possible to get here by plane. When the RMS was the only means of transportation it was not possible to take the time out to come to St Helena. This of course was already understood and readily appreciated. It was not the answer sought from the question asked. Even then it was not a complete answer. Scheduled flights have been operating for 27 months, why is it just recently that UK Government officials who are perched at or near the top of the tree are coming to St Helena? The Head of the Diplomatic Service also said St Helena is the third of the ten populated Overseas Territories under the wing of the FCO that he had visited and he will be visiting four more before Christmas comes around again; another indication of a heightened interest in the OTs by the Mother Country.

We moved on and eventually got the answer to the question. The main motivation for the visit, Sir Simon explained, was that “Formal responsibilities and accountabilities of Legco and Exco are lesser in St Helena than in other overseas territories. I’m aware this is a conversation you had before and referendums have rejected change but this needs to come up the agenda again and from my conversations since my arrival I think it is coming up the agenda again. What those new government arrangements will be is of great importance and interest.” During the 18 minute press conference Sir Simon returned to the current discussion on how St Helena should be governed a few more times. Professor Jeremy Sarkin’s second visit at the end of this month, to continue progress with public debate on what’s wrong with government and how



Sir Simon MacDonald makes a point

it should be put right was mentioned and he emphasised the vision for St Helena from St Helenians is very, very important. Sir Simon wanted to hear what the plan was – if we have a plan. Or is it still under discussion? As one questioner put it; everybody agrees we need a better system of government where there is more accountability, but how do we get from where we are now to this inspirational new beginning? That is a question Sir Simon is probably expecting St Helenians to answer themselves. He was careful to put the words responsibility and accountability together and pointed out, “the vision for St Helena, from St Helenians, is very, very important.” There are two main reasons for Sir Simon MacDonald’s recent visit. The second is the relatively recent air service and the soon to arrive Equiano cable which will provide the infrastructure to connect us digitally to the rest of the world in a way we could only dream about not so long ago. “These two events will shape your economy for the foreseeable future.” Once again the main question from Sir Simon was, what is the vision, where is the plan? He saw these two developments as an “inflection moment”. Not so long ago people would have said the airport together with the cable is a catalyst for a paradigm shift but once more the world has moved on. Sufficient to say both developments will, or should, bring about a fundamental change in how and why we do many things, if not everything. Changing the way we are governed to a governance system where we have accountability, responsibility and decisiveness is just one of the first changes linked to what appears to be St Helena’s onward march into the 21st century.

On the lighter side Sir Simon told the assembled media he knew of St Helena as a school boy. His interest in history meant he was familiar with St Helena’s importance to the East India Company and had followed this Island’s drift into the economic wilderness after steamships replaced sailing ships and the Suez Canal provided a shorter, quicker and cheaper route from the East to Europe. But, he said, “Nothing can prepare you for the impact of seeing St Helena for the first time. “You can fall in love with St Helena within 24 hours, it is absolutely a magical and unique place.”



What the new government arrangements are will be “is of great importance and interest”

Apart from seeking the opinions of “mostly government” people on all things connected and related to governance, the cable, tourism and the future The Head of the British Diplomatic Service did go out on the ocean with Anthony Nails and went bird-watching with Denny. On Monday evening he met with people in the business community at Plantation House.

One of the last questions put to Sir Simon was about St Helena being master of its own destiny; something which normally would naturally follow from responsibility and accountability, and how this squared with St Helena being completely reliant on Her Majesty’s Government for its existence; to the tune of £32million in aid for the last financial year alone. The answer to this got lost in Sir Simon’s response to other points made by the same questioner about accountability and responsibility.

The last question of all touched on St Helena having direct political representation in the UK. Once more there was no direct answer such as ‘not a chance of that happening’. Sir Simon did point out there are 65 million people in the UK and 4,300 in St Helena and the difference in the numbers does have its consequences. However, Sir Simon said the 4,300 people on the Island of St Helena do have a bigger voice in the magnificent halls of the Foreign and Commonwealth office than any group of 4,300 people on the Island of Great Britain. On that note the meeting finished; 35 seconds were allowed for a formal photo of the Head of the Diplomatic Service and Governor Rushbrook next to a photo of Her Majesty. After that, both went off to their next appointment with purposeful swiftness.

Another funding opportunity to improve the Liberated African burial grounds is lost

In 2008 £90,000 was made available as part of the mitigation works for the airport. The mitigation works were put in place to plant and replace endemic flora which had been lost due to airport construction work and to tidy up areas disturbed by earth moving and other disruptions. The £90,000 could not be held indefinitely and as the endless discussions and debates continued on how the Liberated Africans and their burial grounds should be most appropriately respected time ran out and the money that was made available was withdrawn.

In October this year the *Independent* reported that a bid for funding from the World Monuments Fund (WMF) to improve the Rupert’s burial grounds was unsuccessful mainly because a previous offer of funding from the WMF for heritage sites such as High Knoll Fort was not acted upon. It is reported the WMF offer £50,000 each year over a 10 year period to selected projects for renovating and protecting important historical structures.

As far as the lost £90,000 is concerned, it is hoped another application for funding can be submitted once the required decisions have been made and the necessary information on designs and costs has been worked out.

As things stand there is £20,000 available which was awarded through a Foreign and Commonwealth Office funding source. This money is being used to produce business cases and costed proposals for designs to be produced as well as implementation plans once the designs are completed. When this preparatory work is complete a realistic assessment can be made of what funding is required and if additional funding needs to be attracted with additional bids to other organisations.

It has been said that the £90,000 made available 12 years ago would not be enough to complete an improvement project for the Liberated African burial grounds. Who allocated £90,000 and why is not clear. What is clearer is the funding



would very likely have resulted in either an incomplete or inadequate improvement project.

As things now stand the £20,000 currently available appears to be sufficient to complete what is usually called the feasibility stage of a project. During this stage it is decided what is possible to achieve, and how, as well as what it is likely to cost to complete the project. Having obtained this information it is then possible to move forward to the implementation stage – subject to funding being available. It is very unlikely any funding source will allocate money for project implementation if the information normally gained from the feasibility stage is not available.

It is reported the Liberated African Advisory Committee, which is the organisation responsible for the feasibility stage of this project, will be publishing more detailed information soon on how this project is progressing and what is being planned.

Sankofa Park, East New York. Campaigners and civic officials celebrate as the remains of Enslaved Africans begin to be re-interred in July 2018 at their original burial ground. The project is expected to be completed this year.

JANICE IRENE YOUNG 1947 - 2019

Janice Irene Young nee Richards of Half Tree Hollow passed away peacefully after losing her battle with various illnesses on 24th December last year. Janice was an amazing woman and will be remembered for her life of dedication and commitment to our small community. She was a person we cannot let go with paying tribute to who she was, and what she did for our island and its people.

Janice was a very dignified and quiet person someone who had managed to split her life into three parts. Each part balanced with what was necessary to be effective. Her family meant everything to her - to caring for parents, and as a wife to Ronald Young (affectionately known as Panny) who she married on the 6th October, 1971; as a mother to Richard and Myra and an aunt and friend to many. Educated on island attending school at Half Tree Hollow and later at the Secondary Selective School at Ladder Hill, she had a successful career.

Janice joined the Civil Service of the St Helena Government in 1963 and the second part of her life she devoted to becoming an effective officer and gave 32 years of faithful service. Starting as a Clerical Officer working in the Secretariat at the Castle, she progressed through various departments of government, to becoming the Cashier in the Finance Department. Her interest in the care of people led her to want to work in Social Services Department where she became an Assistant Secretary and later reached the pinnacle of her career as Chief Employment and Social Services Officer. Whilst holding this position she went on overseas training in the UK at the Institute of Social Work in London.

If we take a minute to reflect on her life, these images stand out along with visions of one of the few St Helenian women at that time to hold such a prestigious post as a head of a government department. She was very excited when in the UK along with Ronald was invited to Buckingham Palace for Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Garden Party..

The third part of Janice's life was taking an active part in voluntary work in the community. Even whilst holding down a full time job, Janice also supported community and social life on island where she was the Parent Representative of the Church Lad's Brigade, Treasurer of the Children's Church Benefit Society up until recently, she was Secretary to the Girl Guide Association for many years and a member of the Disabled Persons Society.

On her retirement she took on the duties as Treasurer of the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre, volunteered to do Play Ground duty in Jamestown out of school hours; was Secretary to the Bishop's Citizenship Commission throughout the whole of its existence. She was a Lay Minister ministering to the housebound and the HRH the Princess Royal Community Care Centre, Sidesman, Cleaner, Chapel Warden, Sunday School teacher, chairman of the Women's Guild of St Andrew's Church as well the Secretary/member of St Paul's Parochial Church Council. Not only that, she went out to Broad Bottom, Blue Hill to do home help for an elderly person who lived in an isolated area.

Having had a taste for travel in 2014 Janice and Ronald went on holiday to the UK, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa where she was able to visit family, some were here to say goodbye as well as sharing the grief that her passing brought to the family.

There is a temptation sometimes when people pass, it is easy to remember them a little too well and only those who have done less, make it into the version of them we remember. Janice was effective and got on with life in a quiet, clam orderly manner. She was a unique woman, obviously her faith meant a lot to her as well as giving this island and our community the best years of her life on this earth and a fine example for others to follow. .

Through tears and sorrow the number of people attending the demonstrated the high esteem in which Janice was held, this exemplary woman who dedicated her life to her family, to the Public Service of the St Helena Government and to the Community as a whole. The services she gave she did with willingness and dedication. In remembering her, we realise that: 'Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come'¹. Indeed, Janice's memory and legacy will live on. She certainly was a woman of substance. The world and St Helena is most definitely a better place because of her.

God rest her soul



Contributed by Ivy Ellick

(Footnotes)

¹ *Rabindranath Tagore*

– *Hindu poet, musician and artist*



Prices continue to rise – Wages continue to fall

Figures released this week by the Government Statistics Office do not carry a happy New Year message. Prices for the last three months of 2019 rose by 2.1% (or 2p in the £) compared with the October to December 2018. The cost of living in St Helena also rose slightly in the last three months of 2019 compared with July to September 2019.

While prices continue to rise the rate of increase is falling. The rate of inflation peaked at the end of 2016 when the annual rate of price increases was 7p in the £. The rate of increase has been on a generally downward trend since then despite a move in the upward direction in 2018.

The Statistical Bulletin on Prices, the second bulletin to be issued by the Statistics Office this year explains, "Most goods available in retail outlets on St Helena are imported from either South Africa or the United Kingdom, and so St Helena's prices are heavily influenced by price inflation in those two countries, the value of the St Helena pound compared to the South Africa Rand, the cost of freight, and import taxes. In both the UK and South Africa, price inflation has fallen considerably and this is one of the key reasons why the St Helena inflation rate has fallen. In the UK, the annual price inflation rate (using the Consumer Price Index) was 1.5% for November 2019, unchanged from October 2019. In South Africa, the Consumer Price Index was 3.6% for November, down from 3.7% in October. In addition, since early 2019 the value of South African Rand has weakened, from around 17 Rand per pound to around 19 in December; this has a counter effect to South African inflation, and in some cases may even have made South African goods cheaper to buy. On the other hand, there have also been some pressures which might cause prices to rise, such as increasing freight prices on the

MV Helena – although the impact on South African goods will have been cushioned by the weaker Rand."

Vehicles, cigarettes and fuel have seen the biggest price increases in the last three months of 2019 compared with 12 months earlier. The main reason for the big price increase in vehicles and tobacco is changes in the import duty. On the brighter side food and clothing

Chart 1. Median annual gross wages from full-time employment, 2012/13 to 2018/19, constant 2018/19 prices



Chart 1. Annual price inflation rate, St Helena, Q4 2013 to Q4 2019



showed the lowest increases while the Housing category showed no increase at all; the housing category includes water and sewage. Household energy prices have not increased since 2016 while water and sewage charges have remained the same since July 2018.

Wages Sliding

The figures used to provide the statistics on wages is the data from the Pay as You Earn system. The wage figures used are before tax is deducted. Not included is income from self-employ-

ment, investment income, benefits and the Basic Island Pension. Part-time and seasonal work is also excluded where it is identified in the data as not full time employment.

The average income for people who pay tax as they earn their money peaked in financial year 2016-17 and has drifted downward by £530 or £10 a week according to the latest figures. It is a 6% reduction in the average wage level since the 'Basil Read Effect' weakened and then reduced to nothing.



Charles Ilako, Chairman Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) and Andrew Radley (member) will be on island from 18 January until 25 January 2020.

The Public is invited to attend an open meeting to be held at the Jamestown Community Centre on Friday 24 January 2020 at 7:00 pm

This meeting will allow members of the public to learn about the work of the FSRA and to raise any issues about any entity regulated by the FSRA (Bank of St Helena Ltd, Solomon's Insurance and ESH loan products) that operate on St Helena and Ascension.

The FSRA looks forward to seeing you

Changing the Way We are Governed – Round Two

Professor Jeremy Sarkin will be flying back to St Helena next Saturday to continue the discussion on what changes we need to make to improve the way we are governed. Professor Sarkin was here in September for round one of this discussion. He met with all sorts of people and held public discussions to start to find out where things can be improved. In December he published his report on what he found during his September visit and now he is returning for a second time to find out a bit more.

On Monday 27th January Professor Sarkin will be at Half Tree Hollow Community Centre from 6:30pm to 7:30pm for his first public meeting.

His second public meeting will be at Harford Community Centre on Wednesday 29th January from 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

On Tuesday 28th January he will be at Anne's Place in the Castle Gardens for a drop-in session between 3:30pm and 5pm. During that time anyone can call in to have a word with Professor Sarkin on a one-to-one basis; all very relaxed and informal.

The Sarkin Report

The 16 page report by Professor Sarkin, published in December brought attention to several shortcomings in the way we are governed; shortcomings we all seem to be already aware of and complain about at frequent intervals.



Professor Jeremy Sarkin, listening, explaining, thinking and proposing

In his report Professor Sarkin wrote, “*there are a number of problems and the system is not as effective as it could be. It does not sufficiently promote transparency and accountability. A problem is that specific direction and overall direction is not provided to the Administration or Public Service that is called SHG. There is a need to promote more political vision and more processes to promote good decisive decision-making.*”

Professor Sarkin continued, “*There is some unhappiness about how decisions are taken. There is some dissatisfaction about the lack of transparency in the various processes.*”



It is with regret we inform the public that

**Bertrand's Cottage will close from
Sunday, 26 January 2020.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank staff for their hard work and dedication and the public for their support and custom.

We encourage you to make a booking to enjoy the services at the cottage prior to the closure by calling 25200.



**BERTRAND'S
COTTAGE**



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

Changing the Way We are Governed – Round Two

It is unclear sometimes, to some of the community on the Island, about who took decisions and why particular choices were made, and what advice informed these choices.

“There are also blockages in the system that impedes progress. There are perceptions that too little responsibility is taken on some matters and that this translates into a lack of accountability for some decisions.” And so it goes on. It is not a happy story.

Professor Sarkin’s second visit, to put it in general and informal terms, will concentrate on what needs to be done to improve the way we are governed; it’s a case of, OK, we know what is wrong, how do we put it right?

The Governor kicked off the governance discussion just before Professor Sarkin was due to arrive for his first visit. The head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office administration, Sir Simon MacDonald, focussed heavily on the better governance debate during the short time he was with us this week. Those in high places want to see a more responsive, effective and participatory St Helena Government but they will not make a move until they are certain there is public support for whatever proposals are finally put forward. Whatever the proposed changes turn out to be they will go to an island-wide referendum. It will all be a waste of time if the referendum throws out the proposed changes and it will not be in the least impressive if there is a low turn-out for the referendum. There is a strong feeling from all sides that this time the proposed changes have to find favour with the great majority of Saints and the changes are enough to cure the government of its weaknesses and ills.

The Sarkin Report does put forward changes to the way we are governed and his report states he will be discussing these possible changes during his second visit in the last week of this month.

Professor Sarkin proposes to discuss:-

- A Chief islander or Chief Councillor who takes respon-

sibility for the overall running of the government.

- Whatever changes are made to make elected representatives more responsible, transparent and accountable, they will need legal and technical support to deliver on the promises they made when elected.

- Elected representatives will also need training which should be available throughout their term of office as well as support with research together with the availability of a wide range of advice which is required to make informed decisions.

- The government administration, which is usually looked upon as ‘the government’ in the government set-up we now have, needs to be re-organised to make it more efficient, quicker and more aligned to the needs of a Chief Councillor and his senior councillors or ‘ministers’.

- The issue of how many constituencies there should be on the island will be discussed. If an elected representative is elected to serve a specific area it helps to introduce accountability into part of a changed system of government. The Sarkin Report recognises there are difficulties with having more than one or two constituencies in a small place such as St Helena.

- Other discussion points listed in the Sarkin Report include, should political parties be developed in St Helena? How many directorates (and directors) should there be? Should the Public Accounts Committee be given more powers to monitor the policy, administration and spending of all directorates within the St Helena Government and all state owned businesses and organisations.

There is a lot to think about and talk about in all of this and there will be more in the *Independent* next Friday, in advance of Professor Sarkin’s arrival. But remember, public discussion on all of this cannot follow the example given by our councillors and just go on and on with no result. Decisions have to be made; and with a referendum coming up, now it’s our turn to be decisive.

ST HELENA WATER LEVELS UPDATE

The Island’s water stocks have recently seen a gradual decrease and is now at around 35% - representing about 35 days of water. This is still a serious situation and with very little surface flows, after a decrease from already little flows, the Island has become reliant on water extracted from Bore Hole 5 at Prosperous Bay to keep water stocks from running dry.

Average daily consumption since the start of the year has been just above the targeted 1,000 cubic metre mark at around 1,030 cubic metres. The lowest daily consumption for the past week was 851 cubic metres which represents an excellent effort by the community in preserving our Island’s precious resource. This effort will need to continue for the situation to improve.

We have recently experienced some rainfall but, due to the ground being so dry, this water is absorbed before it can filter through to the reservoirs. It would take at least a few weeks of heavy rainfall for stocks to begin to replenish.

It is everyone’s responsibility to take great care in using our water and consumers are urged to continually reduce consumption. Those who have been issued exemptions from the water restrictions must ensure they also use water responsibly. Agricultural exemption limits are informed by the Agriculture & Natural Resources Division (ANRD) and exceeding these may hinder being granted further exemptions.

In the interim, Connect Saint Helena Ltd (CSH) will continue pumping water to ensure stocks do not run dry. In 2020 alone, CSH has pumped around 14,200 cubic metres of water to Island reservoirs.

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

15 January 2020



St Helena
Government



connect
SAINT HELENA LTD

Creative St Helena in Global Climate Change project

Just before Christmas, Creative Saint Helena was invited to get involved in a Global Climate Change Project called RESOLUTION organised by Decca / Universal Music and the World Wildlife Fund.

It was an opportunity for St Helena to be represented alongside many other countries worldwide. This is a project with as song at its heart and which is a song of hope but also a call to action.

The project was started to send a message of unity to the world and particularly to the United Nations, to act on the climate crisis.

2020 is said to be the year that we fight to win against the climate and environmental emergency as the world is at a critical crossroads, and not enough governments and people generally are understanding this or taking it seriously.

Creative Saint Helena was given a new song written by the platinum selling singer / songwriter Ed Sheeran to learn in a very short time. In 3 very brief sessions, it had to be learned, harmonies and solos worked out, the audio track recorded, and drone footage filmed at High Knoll Fort.

Ambassadors of this project include Sir Paul McCartney, Dame Emma Thompson, Keira Knightley, Jodie Whittaker etc

The singers who got together to complete this project on St Helena ranged from 14 years old to twenties, thirties and beyond! : Maria Francis, Lisa Joshua, James Fantom (+guitar), Megan Francis, Shanice Phillips, Abigail Yon, Shelby

*We can plant the seeds,
We can make a change right now.
For a better world, for a better place right now.
With our arms wide open – time for a change
For every drop in the ocean – time for a change
Make a resolution – time for a change
We say – tomorrow's a new day*

Bargo and Teeny Lucy (+piano)

Videos were filmed very quickly on iPad, phone and camera and Craig Williams from Phantom view filmed the awesome footage at High Knoll Fort.

The footage and videos were flown to the UK just before the Christmas deadline and were edited in London. They have now been uploaded to

YouTube #creativesainthelenaresolution song, #resolution2020 and shared on Creative Saint Helena's Facebook page.



MAURITIAN HEALTH DELEGATION EXPOSURE VISIT

- **Delegation from Mauritian Health Ministry visiting between 21 and 25 January**
- **Visit will be used to share information on initiatives to reduce non-communicable diseases**
- **Fantastic opportunity to forge an ongoing relationship with the Mauritian Health Ministry**

A delegation from the Mauritian Health Ministry – Director of Health Services, Dr Bhooshun Ori, Chief Health Promotion & Research Coordinator, Mr Sudhirsan Kowlessur, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative (Mauritius WHO Country Office), Dr Laurent Musango, and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mrs Renuka Devi Bissesur – will be visiting St Helena from Tuesday, 21, to Saturday, 25 January 2020.

The purpose of their visit is to share information on initiatives used in Mauritius that has helped to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases by early intervention. It will also be an opportunity for the St Helena Health Directorate to seek collaboration and a proposed Memorandum of Understanding that will provide opportunities for mutual support and learning.

Director of Health, Ted Rayment, commented:

"This visit follows the St Helena delegation exposure visit to Mauritius in January 2019 and is a fantastic opportunity to forge an ongoing relationship where we can explore mutual training, secondment opportunities between our two countries', research, and ways to enhance care for our patients with reciprocal professional advice."

During their time on-Island, the delegation will tour the Health facilities, meet with HE the Governor, Chief Secretary, Public Health Committee and Legislative Council. They will also participate in a Chronic Disease Management Conference with senior Health staff, chaired by the Director of Health.

Background information can be found at: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/2019/02/study-tour-to-mauritius-public-health-committee-supports-recommendations/>.

SHG

16 January 2020



**St Helena
Government**



Agriculture and Natural Resources
Division

TRIAL VETERINARY DRUGS DISPENSARY AT LONGWOOD

On 7th February veterinary staff will be selling flea and worm treatments for cats & dogs on Longwood Avenue between 12 and 2pm. Payment can be made by cash or cheque. This is being run on a trial basis, but it is hoped that this service will be continue to be available on the first Friday of every month.

Repeat prescriptions can be made available from this service only by prior arrangement.

For any other queries, contact the Veterinary & Livestock Section on 24724.

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION, SCOTLAND, ST HELENA, SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, STHL 1ZZ January 2020



St Helena
Government

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

REVISED MAP FOR ST HELENA

A revised map for St Helena, to replace the Ordnance Survey map previously produced in 1990, will be out for public consultation between Monday, 20 January, and Friday, 14 February 2020.

If you would like to view this map, please visit the Infrastructure & Transport's Geographical Information (GIS) Office at Essex House during the above mentioned dates. Any comments or suggestions should be sent to the GIS Office by 4pm on 14 February 2020.

Any enquiries can be directed to GIS Manager, Devlin Yon, on tel: 22270 or via email: devlin.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh.

SHG
14 January 2020

JOB VACANCY THORPE'S TINKERS SHOP



TILL/SHOP ASSISTANT

PART TIME or FULL TIME

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

- **Free home to duty transport**
- **Attractive leave and sick leave package**
- **Starting/Training salary at £3.50 per hour (£539.00 per month)**
- **Salary to increase considerably with proficiency in the job role and further increases with time spent in the company.**
- **Opportunity to progress to higher position at a higher pay rate**

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

Dear family and friends

Thank you for joining me to celebrate my 60th birthday here on St Helena.

I had a lovely party at the Rock Club and I am extremely thankful for all your gifts which will hold wonderful memories for years to come

Thank you to Melvin for the delicious food and Sandra Henry for the 2 gorgeous cakes

Much love from Jacky xx



St Helena
Government

Expression of Interest

The Saint Helena Government are seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified contractors to undertake the **Refurbishment of Government Landlord Housing No.22 Cow Path, Half Tree Hollow and Golf Club House, Longwood.**

The refurbishment works will include building works, new electrical and plumbing installation also interior and exterior painting.

For further information, please contact the Project Manager, Mr Mark Plato on telephone 22270 or email mark.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh.

The closing date by which Expressions of Interest are to be submitted is 12noon on Friday, 24th January 2020 and should be addressed to Miss Tiffany Lawrence (Procurement Officer), at Essex House, Jamestown.



St Helena
Government

Invitation to Tender

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

Proposed Concreting of Garden Areas at Community Care Complex, Ladder Hill

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**

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday, 20 January 2020, at 10am, meeting at the Community Care Complex, Ladder Hill.

If you are unable to attend the site visit during this time, please contact the Procurement Officer to arrange another date & time

Should you require any further details, please contact the Project Manager, Mr Mark Plato, on telephone number 22270 or email mark.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Tuesday, 04 February 2020.

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



St Helena
Government

Invitation to Tender

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

Refurbishment Works at the Community Care Complex, Ladder Hill

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**

A site visit to view the works will take place on Tuesday, 21 January 2020, at 10am, meeting at the Community Care Complex, Ladder Hill.

If you are unable to attend the site visit during this time, please contact the Procurement Officer to arrange another date & time

Should you require any further details, please contact the Civil Engineer, Mr Christopher Peters, on telephone number 22270 or email christopher.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Wednesday, 29 January 2020.

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



St Helena
Government

VACANCY – PAINTER/DECORATOR

The Infrastructure and Transport Directorate has a vacancy within their Building Maintenance section for a Decorator/Painter. The key tasks of the role will involve the execution of all painting and decorating related to Crown Estate and SHG Buildings using a variety of paints, varnishes and emulsions.

The candidate should have at least 3 years' experience in painting and decorating, a valid Drivers License in Classes A and C and an awareness of the importance of Health and Safety practices in the workplace.

The salary for the Painter/Decorator is at Grade B1 commencing at £6,722 per annum.

For further details regarding this post, interested persons should contact Mr Gilbert Young on telephone number 22054 (e-mail Gibby.Young@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms and Job profiles are available from Essex House and should be submitted to the Human Resources Manager, ENRD, Essex House or e-mail karen.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than Wednesday 29th January 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



St Helena
Government

VACANCY TEMPORARY COOK-PLANTATION HOUSE

Do you have an active interest in cooking and catering? If so, why not consider joining the small but busy team at Plantation House as Cook.

Corporate Services has an opportunity for a suitably qualified and experienced individual to provide cover for the post of Cook at Plantation House for a fixed-term period of six months.

The successful applicant will be directly responsible to the Plantation House Residence Manager for all matters relating to the supply and preparation of food at Plantation House.

Salary for this post is Grade C commencing at £8,613 per annum.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Mrs Deborah Yon, Residence Manager on telephone number 24453 or e-mail: ph.resmanager@helanta.co.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Monday, 27 January 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



Expressions of Interest for Training Opportunities.

Are you enthusiastic and creative?

Are you be interested in working with Flax?

Would you like the opportunity to share your skills?

If so, register your interest NOW!

Flax Training:

The St Helena Community College is seeking Expressions of interest from those persons who would like to work with Flax.

It is anticipated that this opportunity will enable you to gain knowledge and skills to work with flax in new ways. You will learn how to make artefacts using, unprocessed flax, and you will then be able to pass on your knowledge and skills to others who would be able, in their turn, to produce artefacts and teach others,.

For further information about the above opportunities and/or to register your interest please contact:

Carley Peters, Administration Officer or Cherilee Thomas-Johnson, Training Co-ordinator on telephone 22607 or email: shcc@sainthelena.gov.sh

Please register your interest by no later than 03 February 2020

Education & Employment Directorate | St Helena Community College | Market Street | Jamestown | St Helena Government | South Atlantic Ocean | STHL 1ZZ | Tel: +290 22607 | Email: shcc@sainthelena.gov.sh



St Helena Government

JAMESTOWN SWIMMING POOL

- Jamestown Swimming Pool will re-open today
- Water balance is now within acceptable parameters

The Jamestown Swimming Pool will re-open to the public from today, Monday 13 January 2019.

The Environmental Health Section has advised that water balance test results are now within acceptable parameters and the pool water is visually clear. The Health Directorate is satisfied with these results and has made the decision to re-open the pool to the public.

The Pool Operator, as well as the Environmental Health Section, will closely monitor the pool water upon re-opening. Should the water balance fall outside the acceptable parameters and/or poor water visibility occurs (e.g. cloudiness) then it will become necessary to close the pool again in the interest of public safety.

**SHG
13 January 2020**



SHAPE would like to extend a very sincere Thank you to Patrick Andrews and his team at PLKRA Services (Patrick Andrews, Lynette Crowie, Kelsey Andrews, Rhianna Andrews, Alexander Patrick, Ruth Crowie, Marty Leo, Steve Ward, Neil Connelly, Ursula Henry) for their kind donation of **£650.00**.

PLKRA has chosen SHAPE as their on-island charity to support and have been working tirelessly organising events across the South of England to raise money for SHAPE.

We at SHAPE are indeed grateful for this support and would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Patrick and his team and to the many people who come out in support of these events.

A special thank you to Patsy Williams who delivered and presented the cheque to us.

SHAPE continues to benefit from the generosity of others and we thank you all for your support and wish you all well in future efforts to raise monies in supporting the island.

A Happy New Year to you all.



Head Office

St Helena Island

Tel: +290 24690

E-mail: shape@helanta.co.sh

Sandy Bay

STHL 1ZZ

Fax: +290 24690

www.shapecharity.com

Registered No 38 under the Companies Ordinance – Registered No C00011 under the Charities Ordinance

VACANCY SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Do you have a passion for science and enjoy supporting children to learn?

If so, this is an opportunity for you! The Education & Employment Directorate is seeking to employ a suitable person to fill the post of Science Laboratory Technician within Prince Andrew School.

The purpose of the post is to under the direction of the relevant Subject Lead (Science), the Laboratory Technician will be required to service the science laboratories, prep rooms and chemical store at Prince Andrew School including the laboratory at the Harpers Agricultural Centre and make available equipment and related materials required for science lessons..

Some of the key tasks include:

- . Be responsible for maintaining all science equipment and materials and for ensuring compliance with Health and Safety regulations;
- . Be responsible for setting up equipment, experiments and other materials in laboratories as specified by members of science staff;
- . Be responsible for confidential external practical examination material preparation and set up all science practical materials and equipment for external examinations;
- . Be responsible for keeping and maintaining a science inventory and monitoring stock of all science equipment, text books, apparatus, chemicals etc;
- . Monitor the science local purchase budget and make requisitions for orders when needed;
- . Support the maintenance of health, wellbeing, safety and security of all pupils/students.

Applicants must be in possession of:

- . GCSE in Maths, Science and English at Grade C or above or equivalent;
- . NVQ/BETC Level 2 or equivalent qualification for Science Technicians and a relevant Health and Safety Qualification e.g. COSHH (applicants who do not have these would need to be willing to work towards gaining this within the first two years);
- . Previous experience with working with young people and working in a science lab would be advantageous.

The ideal candidate must be self-motivated, Innovative and creative and have a caring manner with the ability to show patience and understanding.

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

The Education & Employment Directorate is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to uphold these principles. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

For further details about the post and a full job description, interested persons can contact Mrs Penelope Bowers on telephone number 24290 or e-mail: penelope.bowers@princeandrew.edu.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 21 January 2020.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.

VACANCY HIGHER LEVEL TEACHING ASSISTANT

Are you a Teaching Assistant who wants to further develop your skills and take your career to the next level in the teaching profession? Or perhaps you are aspiring to become, if not already, an excellent classroom practitioner?

If so, this is an opportunity for you! The Education & Employment Directorate is seeking to employ a suitable person to fill the post of Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) within the Primary Sector of the Directorate.

The purpose of the post is to provide assistance to the class teacher by supporting teaching and learning in the school/classroom environment. In addition, the HLTA will be responsible for teaching 25% of the school teaching timetable independently, and will plan, prepare and deliver lessons and assess, record and report on development, progress and attainment of pupils.

Some of the key tasks include:

- . Planning, preparing and evaluating programmes of work to cater for learning needs;
- . Working with groups or individual pupils/students to support the teaching process;
- . Being actively involved with the preparation of individual pupil/group work plans;
- . Being fully involved with the monitoring and evaluation of the individual pupil's/group's work;
- . Keeping a record of work carried out and comment appropriately on pupils' performance;
- . Contributing to pupil review meetings with parents.



Applicants must be in possession of a GCSE in English and Math's at Grade C or above and have at least two years' experience of working as a Teaching Assistant or equivalent. The ideal candidate must be self-motivated, have a good interpersonal skills and have a passion for working with children.

Salary payable will range from Grade TA3, £8,235 to TA4, £8,828 per annum but is dependent upon qualifications and experience.

The Education & Employment Directorate is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to uphold these principles. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

For further details about the post and a full job description, interested persons can contact Miss Kerry Lawrence, Assistant Director, Schools on telephone number 22607 or e-mail: Kerry.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 21 January 2020.



Units available at the Jamestown Market and ESH Business Park, Ladder Hill

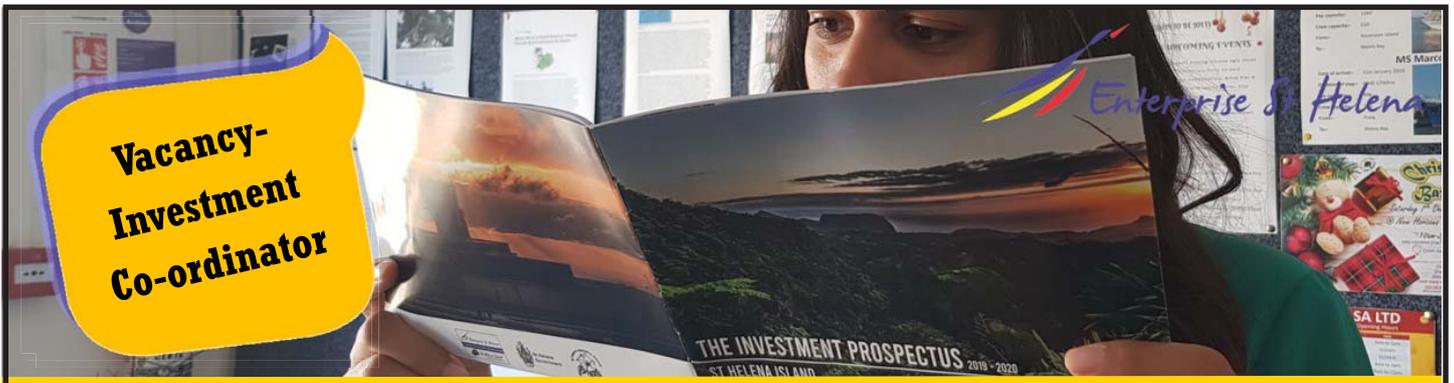
Enterprise St Helena (ESH) have units available for rent to local entrepreneurs for non-industrial / clean business at the Jamestown Market and ESH Business Park, Ladder Hill.

Applications should be submitted to Michelle Yon, Director of Resources, in the form of an extended business brief detailing your planned business and intended opening hours with a 3 year cash flow via email Michelle.yon@esh.co.sh or in hard copy to the Enterprise St Helena Office, ESH Business Park by no later than 1200 hours (GMT) on Monday 20th January 2020.

Terms and Conditions apply.



Head Office | ESH Business Park | Ladder Hill | Tel: +290 22920 |
Email: info@esh.co.sh



Enterprise St Helena is seeking to employ an experienced administrator to work within the Investment Team.

Reporting to the Investment Manager, the successful applicant will be responsible for providing a high level of administration support with all day to day activities carried out within the Investment function.

The successful candidate must have:

- Advanced general administrative skills/knowledge
- Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, and the ability to work well as part of a team

Completed application forms should be submitted to the HR and Administration Manager, Ladder Hill Business Park by no later than close of business Monday, 27th January 2020.

For further information please contact Martin George on telephone 22920, or via email martin.george@esh.co.sh



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

VACANCY SCHOOL SECRETARY – HARFORD PRIMARY

The Education & Employment Directorate is seeking to employ a highly motivated and organised person to fill the post of School Secretary within Harford Primary School.

Serving as the face of the school, you will be responsible to the Head Teacher for assisting in the running of the school office and giving support to teaching staff and students as required.

Some of the key tasks include:

- . Provide a first point of contact by receiving and addressing visitor enquires by telephone or in person, redirecting enquires as considered appropriate;
- . Undertake administrative duties which include collating and distributing information and correspondence to parents and staff;
- . Provide secretarial support to meetings as directed by the Headteacher, which includes taking Minutes;
- . Undertake various tasks in SIMs which include: entering student data as required, maintaining attendance data for students, exporting attendance, behaviour and achievement reports as required;
- . Assist with school fundraising events and count, keep record and secure funds raised;
- . Assist Deputy Headteacher with duties relating to the school library including issuing, cataloguing and cleaning of books;
- . Assist with the supervision of pupils in the playground and on school visits as required.



Applicants must be in possession of a GCSE in English and Math's at Grade C or above (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process), have work experience in an administrative role and cash handling. It would be an advantage to have experience working in an office environment.

The ideal candidate must be an effective team player, have good IT skills in Microsoft programmes, be able to produce accurate and clear written communication and the ability to apply objective judgement.

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

The Education & Employment Directorate is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to uphold these principles. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

For further details about the post and a full job description, interested persons can contact Mrs Carlean Crowie on telephone number 24719 or e-mail: carlean.crowie@primary.edu.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 21 January 2020.



VACANCY BUSINESS SUPPORT EXECUTIVE

Corporate Finance has an exciting opportunity for a Business Support Executive to join their team. The post holder will be responsible to the Business Support Manager and will provide administrative and accountancy support to the Business Support Unit, through achieving efficiency of operations, delivering a customer focused service and supporting Corporate Finance in meeting its statutory responsibilities. Corporate Finance provides an environment for professional development in the field of Finance and Accountancy. The starting salary for the post will be £6,722 per annum, and will be reviewed on the achievement of competencies in line with the Finance and Accountancy Cadre.

For further details about the post and a copy of the Job Profile, interested persons should contact Miss Sarah Greentree, Business Support Manager on telephone number 22470 or e-mail: sarah.greentree@sainthelena.gov.sh

Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Wednesday, 22 January 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



VACANCY ELECTRICIAN

The Infrastructure and Transport Directorate has a vacancy for an Electrician who will be responsible for carrying out daily maintenance on electrical installations and associated equipment and assisting with testing and inspections of electrical installation within SHG buildings in accordance with the BS7671 17th Edition IEE Electrical Regulations.

The candidate should have qualifications in Functional Skills Level 1 in Literacy and Numeracy, City and Guilds in Electrical Installations or St Helena Wireman's License and a Valid Driver's License at Class C. At least two years' experience working as a qualified electrician is also required.

The salary for the Electrician is at Grade C1 commencing at £8,613 per annum.

For further details regarding this post, interested persons should contact Mr Anders Bowers, Senior Superintendent (Installation) on telephone number 22054 (e-mail anders.bowers@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application forms and Job profiles for both posts are available from Essex House and should be submitted to the Human Resources Manager, ENRD, Essex House or e-mail karen.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than Wednesday 22nd January 2020.

All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



TIP OF THE WEEK

Dishwashers use less water, and is especially effective if it is an energy-efficient model.



St Helena Government

Expression of Interest Re-Design and Maintenance of SHG's International Recruitment website

SHG is seeking expressions of interest from interested parties for the re-design and maintenance of their international recruitment website, which is a platform aimed at providing information about vacancies and St Helena to international candidates. The aim will be to create a site that contains the most up-to-date and useful information about the island to potential candidates and also where we post all international vacancies.

Expressions of interest will need to include:

- The design and maintenance of site and content (uploading and removing adverts)
- Creation of content about St Helena and refreshing as required so that it relevant and up-to-date

Interested parties will need to be able to demonstrate their capability and experience in providing this service.

Expression of interest should be sent to Meliza Lawrence, Human Resources Advisor, Corporate Human Resources (meliza.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh) by 24 January 2020.



Professional Development Opportunities

Always wondered about fulfilling your true potential?

Enterprise St Helena is here to assist you with achieving just that!

Skills Development Grants are potentially available to assist with the costs of an accredited course and/or a structured training programme, both local or offshore, with the intention of upskilling the Private Sector, Non—Government Organisations and Social Enterprises with business related skills. ESH will grant fund at 75% of total cost of course up to a maximum of £7,500.00.

This grants is subject to eligibility criteria. Policy, terms and conditions apply.

For further information contact a member of the Business Development Team on tel: 22920, or email: delia.dupreez@esh.co.sh & mandy.obey@esh.co.sh



St Helena Island
Secret of the South Atlantic

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Visit us online Business and Investment: www.investinsthelena.com | Tourism: www.sthelenatourism.com





Enterprise St Helena is offering funding to support Social Enterprises. Grants will be offered up to 75% of an aggregate project cost or a combined proposal to a maximum grant value of £7,500 to assist with new and existing social enterprise projects.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Social Enterprises, Non-government Organisations, Associations and Charitable Organisations with a business approach and a social aim, or provide products and services that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the local community and generally have difficulties in accessing appropriate investment funding.

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Strategic plan preparation	Planning application requirements (e.g. design plans)
Business financial and administration systems	Equipment, fixtures and fittings, technology hardware and software
Technical and Legal Advice	Website design and implementation including promotional video development
Marketing advice including packaging and branding	Skills Development*

Grants are subject to eligibility criteria. Terms and conditions apply.

*Skills Development Grants are offered at 75% of the total cost of an accredited training course / and or structured training programme up to a maximum of £7,500 to develop the skills of the organisations.

For more information please contact Mandy O’Bey on telephone 22920 or e-mail mandy.obey@esh.co.sh



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VACANCY PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

Are you looking for a new and challenging career? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

The Education & Employment Directorate is seeking to employ a highly motivated person to fill the post of Public Examinations Administrator within Prince Andrew School.

The post holder will be responsible to the Deputy Head (Curriculum) PAS.

You will play a pivotal role in the registration and administration of all Public Examinations and vocational assessments for students, adult learners and members of the public in accordance with the requirements of the Awarding Bodies.

Some of the key tasks include:

„h Communicate with Awarding Bodies on all matters pertaining to public examinations/assessments and liaise on issues on behalf of Subject Leaders (PAS) and the Assistant Director (Lifelong Learning), St Helena Community College;

. Responsible for ensuring compliance with all regulatory examination bodies to maintain the integrity of examinations;

. Maintain the filing systems and effective organisation of school based candidate registrations, tracking records and qualification results data, to ensure data protection, security, confidentiality, accessibility and efficiency.

. Responsible for providing invigilators with documentation and guidance for invigilation, including training invigilators in accordance with published guidelines.

. Maintain financial and resource records for examination and assessment programmes and progress timely ordering and re-ordering of relevant materials.

Applicants must be in possession of GCSE in Maths and English Language at Grade C or above or equivalent qualification (applicants without a Level 2 qualification in Maths and English may still apply and can undertake a functional skills assessment as part of the recruitment process), have a minimum of 3 year's previous experience and proven record in an administrative pressured environment. It would be an advantage to have a NVQ Level 2 in Business and Administration.

The ideal candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with an excellent command of the English Language, have excellent IT skills in Microsoft Applications and the ability to apply objective judgement when having to deal with delays and arranging examinations.

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

The Education & Employment Directorate is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to uphold these principles. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.

For further details about the post and a full job description, interested persons can contact Mrs Penelope Bowers, Head Teacher on telephone number 24290 or e-mail penelope.bowers@princeandrew.edu.sh Application forms are available from Corporate Human Resources and on the SHG website at: www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies and should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh by no later than 4pm on Tuesday, 21 January 2020.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.



**EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST FOR
CHAIR, ESH BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Enterprise St Helena (ESH), invites Expressions of Interest from persons in the Private Sector to serve as Chair of its Board of Directors. ESH is the lead body for promoting and facilitating economic development on St Helena, in line with the Island's Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP). The Chair is appointed by the Governor and is a part-time role; in addition to quarterly Board Meetings, the Chair is expected to attend occasional stakeholder engagements and public events as a key representative of the Organisation.

The Main Responsibilities of the Chair are:

- Provide strategic leadership of the Board and ensure its overall effectiveness in implementing the Organisation's Strategy;
- In consultation with the Chief Executive for Economic Development, set the Board's agenda, ensuring that the Board meets regularly, and receives high quality, accurate and timely information;
- Ensure that policies and actions support ESH's objectives, and that the Board's affairs are conducted with probity;
- Ensure that new Board Directors are briefed on their terms of appointment, duties and responsibilities, and that the annual performance review of the Board and its Subcommittee is implemented and actioned;
- Support the Chief Executive for Economic Development in managing the affairs of the Organisation.

Specific Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Previous Chair experience, preferably of a Private Company/Organisation;
- Knowledge and understanding of Strategic Planning, Corporate Governance, Quality and Performance Management, and Investment;
- Skilled in supporting and encouraging open discussion, allowing the whole Board to contribute to decision making.

Expressions of Interest, along with a current Curriculum Vitae, should be submitted to the Board Secretary by Monday 27 January 2020 via email: natasha.bargo@esh.co.sh or at the Enterprise St Helena Office, Ladder Hill Business Park.

**For further information please contact the Director of Resources, Michielle
Yon on telephone: 22920 or email: michielle.yon@esh.co.sh**



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Conservation boost for St Helena's endemic Boxwood

The St Helena National Trust has secured support from the Mohamed Bin Zayed (MBZ) Species Conservation Fund to deliver a project on the IUCN listed critically endangered St Helena Boxwood (*Mellissis begonifolia*). Assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Trust's work will provide an important boost for conservation of this endemic species.

MBZ is a philanthropic endowment which provides small grant funding to on-the-ground conservation projects for the world's most threatened species ranking on IUCN red list (www.iucnredlist.org) as Endangered, Critically Endangered or Data deficient. They also recognise leaders in the field of species conservation and support awareness raising initiatives

The endemic St Helena Boxwood is a short-lived plant which is heavily reliant on regular regeneration through production of vast amount of seed – especially before dying. The species is a part of the tomato family – Solanaceae – and currently has only one small wild population left in the wild; located on a steep, rocky hillside on the South side of the island, near Lot's Wife. This wild population was rediscovered by Mr. Stedson Stroud in 1998, before which it was thought to have been extinct.



This funded project will 'create a living seed bank reserve and raise awareness for the Critically Endangered Boxwood at Millennium Forest, St Helena' by establishing and maintaining larger numbers of Boxwoods in and around Millennium Forest by collecting and propagating seeds and planting seedlings whose growth and habitat conditions will be monitored. It will also increase the amount of seed stored in the seedbank at Scotland (run by EMD) to ensure that there is enough viable seed available in the event of extinction of the species. The project will update the species action recovery plan in conjunction with SHG's Nursery Officer, Vanessa Williams at EMD as well as providing education and awareness of the species to the local community through outreach activities and media pieces.

It is hoped that after this project the foundation for securing a sustained Boxwood population will be in place and that information gathered from the seedbanks creation will increase our knowledge to support this species in today's climate and landscape.

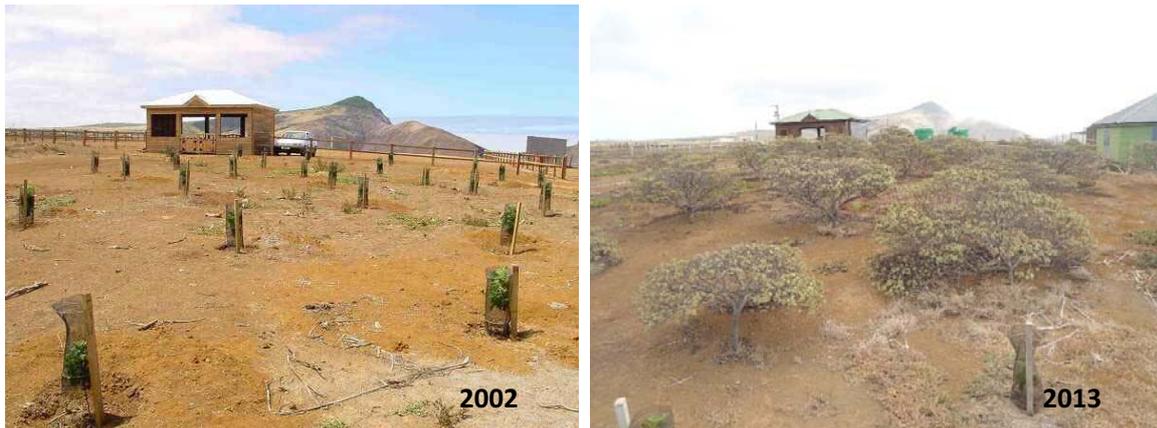
The Trust would like to thank MBZ for their support of this project as well as SHG's Environmental Management Directorate for their continued contribution and support.



20 YEARS ON AND THRIVING!

Oh, what a journey it has been! Taking on the vision of turning a barren, eroded wasteland into a forest of endemics planted by the community for the community and thereby restoring part of what was the former Great Wood, an ancient forest of Gumwoods.

Restoration work first started at Horse Point in the 1980's with the planting of endemics by former Forestry Officer Norman Williams and Conservation Officer George Benjamin. This early success provided the foundation and inspiration for the Millennium Forest Project conceptualised and initiated by Rebecca Cairns-Wicks and



which was officially launched in 2000 and has been managed by the St Helena National Trust since 2002.

In 2000 everyone was encouraged to plant an endemic Gumwood tree (*Commidendrum robustum*) in the forest. In that year every school pupil planted a tree and by the end of the year 4,000 trees had been planted. A competition to design the Gatehouse, the gateway to the Millennium Forest was won by Gina Henry (née Williams). A small tin hut was built that served as a shelter for three day workers providing support in the preparation for planting and later aftercare for the trees. It was later extended to create a small nursery for seedlings using materials salvaged from the Waste Disposal Site by Chedwyn Scipio and Clarence Youde. Funding to set up the forest was provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, supported in kind by the St Helena Government giving managerial and labour support and technical assistance to set up the irrigation system. As the years moved on the Millennium Forest was awarded funding from the UK Government (Darwin initiative), local island organisations (CDO) and the European Government (BEST 2.0) to carry out conservation works on the many dryland endemic species. Today there is a visitor centre shade house and standing out area enabling the Trust to grow strong healthy plants that will withstand the harsh conditions that the Forest experiences and we welcome visitors to come and explore the forest and support educational visits from schools and youth organisation e.g. brownies

20 years on and the Forest has grown considerably. It covers approx. 35ha with dryland endemic species mainly Gumwood but also the Ebony (*Trochetiopsis ebenus*), Rosemary (*Phyllica polifolia*) and Tea plant (*Frankenia portulacifolia*) and many more. Many of our plantings of rare endemics also represent valuable genetic stocks for conservation. The generation of school children who planted a tree at that time have



grown, completed schooling and will have children of their own. Now is the time to remind ourselves of the importance of our unique endemic species, and appreciate the life sustaining qualities that forests and plants provide us with on a daily basis. Staff have moved on to successes elsewhere, retired and we were sad to say goodbye to Vernon Duncan in 2015 and others have joined the team, dedicated to keeping to growing and developing the Forest. We would not have got so far without the hard work and dedication of not just our staff, but volunteers and support of donors. Thank you all.

We hope that you will join us in the many events the National Trust will be organising throughout the year, or consider making a donation to the Forest or planting a tree of your own or for others. Every little bit helps to grow the legacy for future generations.

#Millennium Forest2020



Join us at our first event of the year a Family Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, 25th January 2020, 1pm, at Millennium Forest. All you need is a team of 3-5 people, a phone/camera (including your cable), suitable clothing for the weather and a whole lot of enthusiasm! Face painting and other activities will also be on. Bonus points for creativity!

Winning team gets free whale shark trip with the SHNT Marine team!

Contact Martina Peters on Tel: 22307 or email: martina.peters@trust.org.sh to enter your team or for more information.



Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Think I will need to start this week's article by paying tribute to Southampton (my second favourite team in the EPL); their manager Ralph Hasenhuttl and board of directors. After losing 9-0 at home to Leicester it could have been so easy for Hasenhuttl to be sack as Southampton was struggling and were in the relegation zone. Credit to Southampton as they have certainly turned their season around since that trashing by Leicester. Having faith in their manager has certainly being a factor in the Saints upturn in form along with the goal scoring prowess of Danny Ings they have collected 20 points from a possible 36 available to them.

Saturday 2-1 away win at Leicester proves the uncertainty of the Premier League. This result shows that anything is possible when two Premier League sides meet regardless of form. That is why the Premier League is the greatest league in the world.

The south coast side are now five games unbeaten in the league and on the evidence of this performance against Leicester it is easy to see why. Southampton now sits in 12th place on 28 points.



Saints supporting the Saints in 2014

Liverpool now sits 14 points clear of Manchester City having played 1 game less than last season's Champions. Firmino's goal against Spurs earn the Reds a 1-0 win and ensure that they have mass 61 points from 21 games. This total is now a European record.

Liverpool fully deserved their win against a Spurs side that struggle to contain Liverpool in the first half. Despite having a couple of good chances to equalise late in the second half Spurs fans knew that the margin of victory for Liverpool should have being greater.

It pains me to say but it looks like the EPL trophy will be going to Anfield this season. Just hoping the wheels will come off their charge for the title starting this weekend.



Firmino scoring Liverpool's winner against Tottenham Hotspurs

Man City leaped frog Leicester into second place at Sergio Aguero scored his 12th Premier League hat trick in a 6-1 win away at Aston Villa. This record breaking hat trick made Aguero the highest scoring foreign player in EPL history moving ahead of Thierry Henry.

City has now scored 94 goals in 33 league and cup games this season.

This defeat for Villa saw them drop into the relegation zone with 21 points from 22 games.



Record breaker Sergio Aguero

In other matches Arsenal dropped points against Crystal palace as they drew 1-1 in a match that saw the Gunners captain Aubameyang sent off for a dangerous tackle. Chelsea remained in 4th place as they defeated Burnley 3-0. Everton beat Brighton 1-0 and is now level on points with Arsenal.

Marcus Rashford scored twice for Manchester United in his sides 4-0 defeat of the bottom side Norwich. Rashford became the 4th youngest Manchester United player to reach 200 appearances behind Norman Whiteside; George Best and Ryan Giggs.



Marcus Rashford 14 league goals so far this season

Despite hampered by injuries Newcastle played out a 1-1 draw against Wolves.

Goals from Abdoulaye Doucoure, Troy Deeney and substitute Roberto Pereyra Bournemouth

Vitality Stadium saw Watford climb out of the relegation zone for the first time this season.

Watford now have gained 13 points from 6 matches under new manager Nigel Pearson.

The match of this weekend will no doubt be the clashed at Anfield between Liverpool and Manchester United. This game will kick off on Sunday at 4.30pm. Liverpool will no doubt go into the game as favourites but I have hope for United despite their mounting injuries to pull the rabbit out of the hat and slow down Liverpool's charge for that elusive Premier League trophy.

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens



Troy Deeney has scored 4 goals in 6 games for new manager Pearson.

Game week 23 will kick off on Saturday at 12.30 with Watford hosting Tottenham Hotspur.

3pm games will see Arsenal play at home to Sheffield United' Brighton host Aston Villa, Crystal Palace will travel to Manchester to play City, Norwich will play relegation rivals Bournemouth, inform Southampton play Wolves at St Mary's and West Ham play Everton at the London Stadium.

In the 5.30pm match Chelsea will travel to the North East to play Newcastle.

The 2pm game on Sunday will see Burnley host Leicester City.



Clash of the weekend

Golf Report for Sunday 12th January 2020

Fifteen golfers turned up to participate in the second golf competition of the year. The format of play was Par 3 stroke play competition which meant shortened fairways. Three eights of the handicap was used. Weather was great. There was sufficient cloud cover and a gentle breeze that made the golfing conditions so much bearable. Returning nett 61 which included a birdie two on the 6th was our new member Mr John Colclough. In second place there was a tie of nett 63 between Mr Gerald George and Mr Peter Johnson. On a count back Mr Peter Johnson emerged second and took the second prize. Both Peter and Gerald played a consistent game in the first and second nine. Other than Mr Colclough the other 2 ball pool winner was Mr Pat Henry who scored a two on the 11th. Congratulations to all the winners.

Sunday 19th January the club will host an 18 Hole Stableford competition. Registration is ongoing. To register, add



your name to the list in the club house when the club house is open, leave your name on the club voice machine 24421 or let us know through our Facebook page @SHGC.org.sh Members are hereby reminded to pay their annual subscription by the end of this month. Payments can be made to the Club's Bank of St Helena Account or in cash at the club house when it is open.

We wish you all a great weekend..!

Contributed by: SHGC

ANCHOR SHOPS NEW OPENING HOURS

Please note the new opening hours for 2020.

Jamestown Nr Seales Corner:
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Kunjie Field:
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturdays: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Please note we are still running our 10% discount on all items till further notice.

Take advantage of this fabulous offer and shop at the "Anchor" where there is "something for everyone!"

HAPPY SHOPPING!!!



Its All About The Allstarz

Levelwood Allstarz continued their unbeaten run in the SHCA's 35 over league tournament with a comfortable victory over Western Woodpeckers on Saturday afternoon. With just two matches left to play Allstarz are in pole position for yet another league triumph. All other teams have dropped points along the way. Jamestown Heat and Sandy Bay Pirates are three points adrift and will do battle this coming Saturday Afternoon. The boys from Sandy Bay will also go up against Allstarz in the final round of league fixtures. The next two weeks of cricket fixtures should make for an exciting league finale.

See below for results from last weekends matches...

Results 10/11 Jan 2020

Woodpeckers 178/9 (35)

Gary Benjamin 53
Jamie Ellick 19

Jerry Thomas 3/26
Gareth Johnson 2/18

Allstarz 183/5 (24.1)

Gareth Johnson 53*
Sanjay Clingham 43

Ralph Knipe 3/26
Trystan Thomas 2/35

Performance Points

Gary Benjamin 3, Gareth Johnson 2, Jerry Thomas 1

Lions 70 (11.3)

Philip Yon 18
Rhys Crowie 12

Damien O'Bey 5/30
Jason Thomas 5/35

Heat 74 (7)

Dax Richards 35*
David George 29*

Rhys Crowie 0/33



Dan Marlow 0/41

Performance Points

Damien O'Bey 3, Jason Thomas 2, Dax Richards 1

Mustangs 193 (33)

Makyle Fuller 92*
Dane Wade 42

Brett Isaac 3/14
AJ Bennett 3/42

Pirates 196/4 (17.2)

Matthew Benjamin 111*
Ian Williams 27

Shane Williams 1/28
Liam Adams 1/35

Performance Points

Matthew Benjamin 3, Dane Wade 2, Makyle Fuller 1

Fixtures

Sat 18 Jan 20
1.30pm
Heat V Pirates
Umpires: Woodpeckers

Sun 19 Jan 20
8.45am
Allstarz V Lions
Umpires: Mustangs

1.30pm
Challengers V Woodpeckers
Umpires: Pirates



**St Helena
Government**

APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION

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

- 1. Application 2020/02:** FULL Planning Application for **Construction of a Two Bedroom Dwelling**, Nr Rock Club on Parcel 1102 Half Tree Hollow, adjacent to the property of Mr Melvin Benjamin. Applicant: Simon Andrews
- 2. Application 2020/03:** FULL Planning Application for **Installation of Two Signs**, Millennium Forest Car Park and near the entrance to Horse Point landfill site, roadside of the Haul Road on Parcel 0455 Longwood North. Applicant: St Helena National Trust
- 3. Application 2020/04:** FULL Planning Application for **One Bedroom Flat Extension and Storeroom**, adjacent to the entrance to the Briars Pavillion on Parcel 0417 Francis Plain. Applicant: Michel Dancoisne-Martineau
- 4. Application 2020/05:** FULL Planning Application for **Change of Use from Residential Care Home to 10 x 1 Bedroom Social Housing Flats**, Barn View on Parcel 0344 Longwood North. Applicant: Property Division, St Helena Government

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

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

Public Representation Closing Date:

4pm – 31st January 2020

**Shane Williams
Planning Officer**

Jamestown Brownies on the Move Again !

The Jamestown Brownies did a movie night/sleepover/camp from 26th to 27th October 2019 at the Harford Community Centre.

Upon arrival, Brownies just couldn't wait to assemble tents. After registration and formalities, much excitement was conveyed with the pitching of tents, but disappointingly due to adverse weather tents were not fully erected to sleep in. Nevertheless, the option of indoors sufficed.

After devouring some lovely pasta, Brownies settled down to watch the movie *Incredibles 2* accompanied with hot chocolate. With energy still high, Brownies opted for a sing-a-long/dance and this was accommodated by Longwood Rainbow Leader, Lisa Joshua (Miss Hedgehog) who gave support throughout the entire event. Lights were out by 10:30pm and we all settled down ready for an early morning rise.

Saturday morning after breakfast, on the schedule saw a Brownies 'Cup Cake Bake Off'. With busy hands showing off their skills, there was a lot of productivity in the kitchen under the supervision of Justine Joshua (Blossom). Happy with their accomplishment, Brownies had a mid-morning snack ready for an observation walk through the Longwood Avenue. Alert with keen eyes they were able to spot things that are not normally seen in everyday life within their own living area.

Following lunch, various games took place inclusive of an activity relating to Bermuda conducted by Debbie Knipe (Tansy). Brownies opted for some more sing-a-long and dance and Miss Hedgehog was happy to oblige by accompanying them with the Ukulele. Grateful thanks to Miss Hedgehog for her support throughout.

Afternoon tea was showcased with delicious cupcakes made by the special little people themselves and surplus were shared with siblings.

Brownies have asked for a two night sleepover and seeing how well they adapted to the change of environment, we are negotiating to meet their request. Camp ended at 5pm and happy little faces were collected and headed home.

Brownies relished the change of environment, which also aided in building their confidence, having a voice, meeting challenges, bonding and discovering their homeland.

Camp feedback from parents indicated full satisfaction in all aspects of the camp.



On Tuesday 17th December, dressed to suit the festive season, the Brownies did their annual Christmas Sing-a-long fundraiser. Starting from the Hospital at 6pm, once again they were privileged to sing to some of the patients in the Hospital. Lively little voices carolled throughout the street and finished on the Bridge where light refreshments were served. The Jamestown Brownies would like to thank all of those who kindly gave donations. The amount of £100.11 was raised which will go towards resources for the functioning of their Unit with some amount going to a charity of their choice.

Thursday 19th December, Brownies attended the Christmas Youth Service at St James. Accompanied by a live band and their own musical instruments the Brownies were very much in their element. Christmas vibes couldn't go un-noticed with Brownies actively participating in the singing. Brave and confident Brownies also performed (via script) their version of the Nativity of Baby Jesus which was well received and one could hear little giggles being emitted from the congregation. Well done Brownies!

As Leaders we will continue to utilise Brownie meetings by encouraging Brownies to build confidence, meet challenges, develop and enjoy activities in harmony as a Brownie family. If there are any girls between the age of 7 and 9 who would like to join our Unit, please feel free to contact us.

Contributed by the Jamestown Brownie Leaders (Tansy & Blossom).

John Penrose MP: Invite the Overseas Territories to join the UK post-Brexit

John Penrose MP has held junior posts in the Conservative governments but is not a political personality who is readily recognisable. Below is an extract of an interview Penrose had with a journalist from The House; the UK Parliaments own magazine.

Many will take the view that what Penrose proposes below is more than just a little fanciful; however, as we enter round two of the public debate on how we in St Helena should be governed, it is added to the ideas that are being put forward.

Penrose argues that the Overseas Territories, which include Gibraltar, Bermuda and Anguilla, should be given the chance to negotiate an equivalent devolution settlement to those arranged with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and have representation in parliament.



"They would send MPs to the Westminster parliament here, they would have their own devolved governments like the Welsh Assembly or the Scottish Parliament," he says. "It would show that we are committed to being a global nation post-Brexit."

John Penrose MP: Invite the Overseas Territories to join the UK post-Brexit

Britain has 14 Overseas Territories which are fully autonomous while remaining under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the UK. Penrose says it would be up to the individual Overseas Territories as to how they secured consent for joining. "The important thing is there should be an open-handed, generous-hearted offer on the table for as many of them that want to pick it up," he says.

He argues it would depend on the devolution settlement as to whether the Overseas Territories, such as the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands – renowned tax havens – are subject to the same tax regime as the rest of the UK. And he says that it would present opportunities for the Overseas Territories to export goods, such as lobsters from Tristan da Cunha, into the UK internal market with fewer restrictions. "It just makes the trading ties and links between our respective parts of the UK a great deal simpler, a great deal more friction-free," he says.

The UK already has disputes over some Overseas Territories, including Gibraltar with Spain, the Falkland Islands with Argentina and the Chagos Islands with Mauritius. Penrose argues his idea could provide clarity. "If you haven't regularised and created a stable settlement of the one I'm describing, there is always a risk that somewhere around the globe some sort of geopolitical, tectonic plate will shift." He adds: "Until we have a stable settlement, there is always going to be a risk of something blowing up."

Does Penrose envisage this proposal solving the vexed issue of Gibraltar as the UK prepares to look at the future relationship with the EU? "If Gibraltar wanted to do it and we made the offer, then that would be what would go ahead," he replies. Though he is quick to dampen fears about war with Spain, he



adds: "Gibraltar is one example, but there are other Overseas Territories where you will need to mount a carefully diplomatic push to make sure that the neighbours understood what we were doing, why we were doing it, why they shouldn't feel threatened by it and see it as an opportunity. The crucial thing, of course, is local self-determination, local consent. It's got to be their choice."

Penrose is keen to stress that this would not be a return to Britain's imperialist past. But after leaving a 28-member bloc, would it not look like empire re-building? "No, I don't think it does," he says. "People might make that argument but because we are offering and suggesting that these territories become equal parts of the United Kingdom, it's hard to make an imperialist argument about this at all. It is clearly something that is talking about equal status."

It remains to be seen whether this is a proposal currently being considered in No 10. A spokesperson for the UK Overseas Territories Association says: "We are unaware of any formal consultation with the elected Governments of the UK Overseas Territories on this issue."



THE CONSTITUENT

Dear Electorate,

Following the last public meeting, facilitated by Unified Saints, for constituents and their elected representatives, elected members held a Debrief during an Informal Legislative Council meeting on Friday, 10th January. The Speaker was informed that some Councillors were “hostile” to the public during the public meeting. As such, I consider this a serious accusation that must be addressed accordingly.

The purpose of the public meeting was for elected representatives to respond to the statements & questions recorded in the minutes of a public meeting held by Unified Saints on Thursday 12th December. Councillors were asked to be open and honest.

I personally took the decision to speak on the recorded statements questioning the loyalty, commitment and dedication of elected representatives serving on Council. Reference was made to the Code of Conduct for Members of Legislative Council, and attendees were told that any complaints by members of the public alleging that the conduct of a Member is in breach of this Code, must be made in writing and addressed to the Speaker.

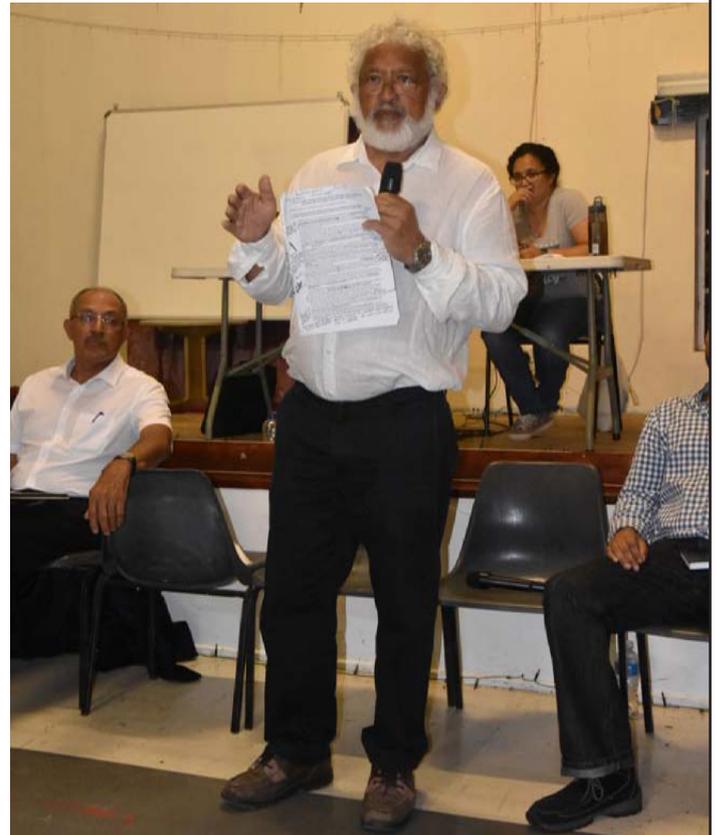
It is difficult to know if the following is representative of all 2145 registered electors, however, as the public’s faith in their Councillors has seriously evaporated and there is a wish to have council dissolved, guidance on the formal procedure according to the Constitution for such an action was provided.

At no time during the meeting were elected members “hostile” towards constituents. However, please contact the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker (who incidentally was present at the public meeting) if you would like to provide evidence to the contrary.

I was asked at the meeting to point out what statements in the minutes of the 12th December public meeting questioned my integrity. The relevant recorded public statements questioning my loyalty, commitment and dedication as an elected representative called into question my integrity in serving the people of St Helena. Therefore, the people who made the public statements were encouraged to take them through the proper formal channels. If the people who made the public statements now choose not to take them through the proper formal channels for address, then maybe, just maybe, you should question your own conscience and integrity.

Public meetings and constituency meetings will be crucial to achieving successful social and economic outcomes as the island moves forward. Tendencies to subject elected representatives to public humiliation distracts from the core substance of meetings that the majority of those who make a special effort to attend wants to focus on.

At the end of the meeting I thanked those attendees for their passionate input. I believe that mature passion for progress from Saints is required to help decide the future of St Helena. As a part of the wider world, St Helena, with its makeup of negatives and positives, has the potential to excel way beyond its size.



There were other recorded statements and questions I was prepared to respond to but unfortunately time did not allow. However, another round of constituency meetings will begin soon, and constituents are encouraged to attend.

In the interests of awareness and preparing for the crucial next stage of the St Helena Political Governance Review, can I recommend that in addition to familiarising oneself with the current Constitution, you may want to obtain a copy of the ‘St Helena Government Corporate Governance, Guidance to public officers – Version 2 – July 2017’. The document will provide useful information on our current system of governance. Consequently, this will help towards understanding where improvements to our current governance system are required.

Cyril Leo (Chair to Elected members for the month of January)



ST HELENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIFELONG LEARNING AWARDS CEREMONY 8 JANUARY 2020

The St Helena Community College's (SHCC) annual Lifelong Learning Awards Ceremony took place at the College Hall on Wednesday, 8 January 2020.

The ceremony was opened with a welcome speech from Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning Services, Angela Benjamin.

Angela said:

"It gives me great pleasure to congratulate all 51 awardees for their success. Learning is not easy and sometimes testing, but the commitment and dedication you have given to your personal development has paid off. Your self-belief and hard work has and will always earn you success."

Presentations were made by His Excellency, Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook, and the Chair of the Education Committee, Councillor Clint Beard. Awardees received certificates for achieving qualifications in:

- Functional Skills Maths and English
- GCSE Maths
- IGCSE Design & Technology and First Language English
- Level 2 Certificate in Environmental Conservation
- Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation
- Level 2 Diploma & Level 3 Diploma in Customer Services

- Level 2 Diploma & Level 3 Diploma in Health & Social Care
- Level 3 Assessor Award
- Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management
- Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management

Certificates were also presented to those who have completed their Apprenticeship Programme.

His Excellency, The Governor, gave a speech following the presentations.

Governor Rushbrook said:

"The awards today are exactly the type of skills and knowledge we need to build up on our Island. Providing the opportunities for learning is the best way we have to ensure the right capabilities are developed within our working population. Capabilities that are needed to provide the services we require and to move forward our economy in innovative ways.

"Those who have now finished here, I urge you to not let this be the end of your personal education and development. In your chosen career and pathway in life there will always be good reasons to increase your professional and personal skills."

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks from the Director of Education & Employment, Wendy Benjamin.

SHG, 10 January 2020

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SAINT HELENA JUDO CLUB



Judo St Helena is one of the remotest Judo Clubs in the World. The Club was founded on 12th October 2019 when Senseis (Teachers) Carlos Soto, 3rd Kyu [Green Belt] and Alan Shaw 3rd Dan [Black Belt] met to decide if a Judo Club could be formed on the remote South Atlantic Island of St Helena.

This meeting was followed by the Club's first training session at Prince Andrew's High School (PAS) on 8th November 2019. Regular sessions then followed at both PAS and at the St Helena Police Training Centre (SHPTC).

Club nights are generally Fridays at PAS from 5pm to 6pm when all are welcome and one night per week, depending on work schedules, at SHPTC. The latter is targeted at those wishing to advance more quickly through the Judo Grading System and for the Senseis to develop lesson plans for the general Club sessions and the Cub grading syllabus etc. The Friday PAS Club night is likely change to another night during the week in the near future.

Judo, which means "gentle way" in Japanese, is a martial art created in Japan by Jigoro Kano in 1882. It was derived from the ancient techniques of jiu-jitsu. It is the most widely-practiced martial art in the world, and the second-most practiced sport worldwide behind football. The combat sport develops self-discipline, politeness, courage, sincerity, honour, modesty, friendship, respect for one's self and others and can be described as maximum efficiency for minimum effort.

Judo joins Taekwondo as the only Asian martial art sports



included in the Olympic Games. Men's judo was introduced in the Olympic Games of 1964, and women's judo followed in 1992.

Females and males can practice and enjoy Judo. We recommend age between 8 and 10 years old as the best age to start and, to be honest, there is no upper age limit as evidenced by Sensei Alan's 'mature' years.

At this moment, January 2020, the Club has 6 practicing Judoka (Judo practitioners) and we welcome people dropping in to see what we do, what Judo is all about and maybe even try it.

The SHPTC sessions will be posted on Facebook on a weekly basis and for the time being PAS sessions will be on Fridays between 5pm and 6pm starting on Friday January 24th.

Carlos and Alan can be contacted by email on judosthelena@gmail.com or mobile phone 290 51559.

Objectors argue Development Application approved by Exco is Invalid

On Tuesday Exco gave the go-ahead for a rough-surface road to be built so that quarried material from Donkey Plain can be taken to the shore line at Breakneck Valley and transported by sea instead of transported on the Island's roads; sometimes through Jamestown.

There were objections to this development application when it was considered by the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA). The National Trust and the Heritage Society argued there was insufficient information about the archaeology and endemic fauna in this undisturbed part of the island and an Environmental Impact Assessment should be completed. It was also argued plans should be put in place to protect the old fortification wall at the shoreline of Breakneck Valley from destruction.

There were some remaining points of difference between the conservationists and the planning department after the LDCA recommended Exco approve this development application with certain conditions attached. One difference of opinion arose as the application was being considered by the LDCA.

There were three members of the LDCA in attendance when the Breakneck Valley application was discussed. The LDCA Ordinance specifies the membership should be between 5 and 7, including the chair, but at least three need to be present if the business scheduled for the meeting is to go ahead.

For the development application on the Breakneck Valley road, the Chair declared an interest and took no further part in the consideration of that particular application. The LDCA Chair is also the current president of the National Trust Council. The National Trust has submitted an objection to the application which meant it could appear that the Chair is biased.

The LDCA Ordinance requires that any member of the Authority who has an interest in any development application must declare that interest and take no part in either the discussion or the decision. The Ordinance also states the member who has an interest should leave the table and sit in the public area while the application is considered.

The crucial bit is that after the Chair declared an interest it reduced the number of members of the Authority present at the meeting to just two and, as such, there were insufficient members present to make a decision on the application.

For reasons not explained this particular development application was discussed with just two members present and the decision was taken to recommend to Exco that approval be given with conditions attached. Despite a formal objection being lodged and a claim made that the decision made by LDCA was invalid the development application continued as normal to be considered by Exco and approved. A full official explanation is the least that can reasonably be expected but the fact remains the LDCA stands accused of conducting part of its business outside the requirements laid down in the LDCA Ordinance and should be answerable. If a satisfactory explanation is not soon forthcoming this episode is definitely

one for Professor Sarkin's good governance casebook.

A story of neglect



What remains of a neglected East India Company historic fortification

The Breakneck Valley fortification wall is at least 340 years old and is now threatened with demolition by the construction of a private access road.

Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

In last week's Independent 10.1.20 there were two job adverts; one for a quantity surveyor and one for a construction manager, both paying £14,138.00. Can someone please explain to me, why is it both of these vacancies are being advertised on SHG's website abroad for £45,000, plus all the expenses and perks, why isn't a local worth this? I find this shocking that both wages are so far apart for the same jobs being advertised.

Many thanks,

A very shocked and disgusted local.

Dear family and friends

Thank you for joining me to celebrate my 60th birthday here on St Helena.

I had a lovely party at the Rock Club and I am extremely thankful for all your gifts which will hold wonderful memories for years to come

Thank you to Melvin for the delicious food and Sandra Henry for the 2 gorgeous cakes

Much love from Jacky xx