

THE ST HELENA  Est. 2005  
**INDEPENDENT**

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***Finally -  
Flight From UK***



***Helicopter  
Flying  
Again***

***Still Paradise***  
*Tammy Williams*



**INDY PICTURE QUIZ.....**  
**Series 1 Blast From  
The Past  
Picture 18...  
Inside**

# The Government's Financial Statements

The Government's Financial Statements up to the end of March last year were given formal approval by Executive Council at the end of March this year. They have now been signed off by the Financial Secretary, Dax Richards and the Chief External Auditor, Phil Sharman. The highlights from the Financial Statements include:-

The 2018-19 financial year ended with a surplus of £6.4 million, compared with a deficit of £3.8 million the previous year. Government assets as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 were valued at £249.1 million

The Government's pension liability, SHGs obligation to pay pension payments, was estimated to be £74.4 million at the end of March 2019.

The General Reserve increased to £6.1 million at the end of the 2018-19 financial year. This was an increase of £5.3 million on the previous year.

Assets under construction at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 were valued at £76.2 million. Most of this value was in the Bulk Fuel Installation at Rupert's.

The Financial Secretary's report listed other significant events, including:-

The start to implementing the Digital Strategy, with almost £9 million being drawn off the European Funding for the Equiano fibre optic cable project

The creation of St Helena Airport Ltd, to fill the void left by Basil Read when they went applied for business rescue

The start of a 2<sup>nd</sup> flight per week during the peak season  
Visitor numbers significantly up compared with the previous RMS St Helena passenger service and in line with what was expected from year one of the commercial air service

Six Saints in TC posts with 14 more identified in succession plans

Stronger good governance and rule of law, through new legislation and strategies to promote investment, convictions by juries, and more specialised training for Police Officers

The Financial Secretary pointed out that the Financial Statements use the accrual accounting method, in accordance with the Public Finance Ordinance 2010. This means the revenues and expenses are recorded when they are earned, regardless of when the money is actually received or paid. For example, you would record revenue when a project is complete, rather than when you get paid. However the government's management accounts are prepared using a different accounting method, called a modified cash basis. Cash accounting is when payment receipts are recorded during the period they are received, and expenses are recorded in the period in which they are actually paid. In other words, revenues and expenses are recorded when cash is received and paid, respectively. Because of this the two sets of accounts do not align. A further set of figures is included in the Financial Statement to reconcile the figures produced by the two different accounting methods.

The Financial Secretary's report then goes on to mention the Bulk Fuel Installation which at the time of the report the works were "put on hold" after an independent review was commissioned and "The review undertaken will provide the neces-

sary technical input for determining the next steps on the St Helena Airport Project to ensure that it can be delivered as effectively as possible." It appears the cash involved with this part of the project were not reflected in the accrual accounts as the project remained unfinished. However it is stated there had been an 'impairment' of £1.077 million on the Bulk Fuel Installation due to leaking fire water pipes. Impairment in accountant's language means a reduction in the quality, durability, quantity, or market value of an asset.

Various forms of aid accounted for 71% of the revenue received by SHG with most of the rest being raised through local taxes. Trading activities raised 8% of total revenue which amounted to £64.776 million. Strangely, or maybe typically, but certainly inexplicably, trading activities also accounted for 24% of total government expenditure amounting to £58.396 million. Looking on the bright side, trading activities made more revenue than in the previous year and were the source of less expenditure too. It is helpfully explained that, "Special Funds are established by order and enable individual projects and trading activities to be accounted for separately to the Consolidated Fund. Special Funds are split between Projects, Trading Activities and Other Funds". However, one set of numbers shows expenditure on Trading Activities split between Special Funds and the Consolidated Fund and not "accounted for separately to the Consolidated Fund". There is of course a reasonable but probably not so simple answer. The Chief Auditor did not raise this in his report.

The Chief Auditor did give a 'Qualified Opinion' which means the Financial Statements are fairly represented, with the exception of a specified area. Happily, a qualified opinion is normally acceptable to lenders, creditors and investors so Standard and Poor (S&P Global) should not be thinking about reassessing St Helena's investment grade rating.

The excepted specified area concerned "Aid funded infrastructure amounting to £204.463 million."

The £204 million estimated value was for completed works within unfinished contracts. Accountants and other financial people call this 'estimating of earned value' and there is a lengthy and complicated method for calculating the earned value of an unfinished contract. The Chief Auditor pointed out, "there is a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the valuation of the airport, wharf and roads infrastructure." Which probably means the valuation method used by SHG did not keep close enough to the prescribed lengthy, complicated (and boring) method for calculating earned value.

The Chief Auditor also judged that the calculation of the material value of the roads infrastructure should be re-worked using a different method. The Chief Auditor's report states, "Management were unable to confirm the basis for initial recognition of the roads infrastructure at nil value." While the bad condition of the roads and the depreciating value through time will bring a valuation down to nil eventually, if the roads are not maintained, there is an economic value for the roads when they are still used. That must be a discussion for another time.

# The Government's Financial Statements

Interestingly, the Chief Auditor pointed out that the level of financial support from the UK Government for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 "has yet to be formalised". He continued by explaining, "In the absence of sufficient grant-in-aid and with limited usable reserves SHG would not be in a position to meet its liabilities as they fall due within the foreseeable future without significant curtailment of services." And that, "these circumstances indicate that a material uncertainty exists which may cast doubt on SHG's ability to continue as a going concern." Later in his report the Chief Auditor commented, "In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing SHG's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting." It appears the uncertainty over DFID the precise amount of funding, which has been an annual event in recent years, should be reflected in some way in the Financial Statements produced by SHG.

Another point raised in the Chief Auditor's report concerned the 'impairment' or write off in the value of an asset. £1.077million was written off the value of the Bulk Fuel Installation due to leaking fire water pipes. The Chief Auditor pointed out any



impairment required the involvement of the Secretary of State if the value of the write off is above £50,000. The audit of the 2018-19 Financial Statements found no evidence that this had been done. Apart from those points the Chief Auditor found the rest of it to be a fair representation.

## Invitation to Tender

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

### Upper Rupert's Valley Storm Water Mitigation Works

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from

**Miss Tiffany Lawrence**  
Procurement Officer  
Essex House  
Jamestown



St Helena  
Government

**Telephone No: 22270 or**  
**email [tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh)**

A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 23 April 2020, at 10:00am, meeting at the Security Gate in Upper Rupert's Valley.

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 Chartered Engineer, Mr Richard Wotton, on telephone number 25805 or email [richard.wotton@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:richard.wotton@sainthelena.gov.sh).

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

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

## For Sale

**Several Playstation 3 Games -  
£5 each**

**Several Playstation 4 Games -  
£5 each**

**Several PSP + Playstation  
Games - £40 each**

**Call: 22530**





Tel: [+290] 22327

Email: independent@helanta.co.sh

http: www.saint.fm

# Editorial

For too many weeks the news has been dour and sour. We have another 'dose' of coronavirus news this week; I suppose that is inevitable. But, I will try to keep it off this page.

News emerged yesterday of St Helena's first marine themed, and free, on-line game. It's called Secrets of St Helena and was developed by the National Trust and Blue Marine Foundation with Planetari. It's interactive, educational and links to the free, interactive Makerzines which were presented to St Helena's primary school pupils last year. Gamers become divers and can become immersed, or submerged, in the marine environment and familiar with what lurks beneath the ocean waves.

The call is out once more for nominations for the New Year Honours List. Deadline for suggested names is 1<sup>st</sup> May. I have noticed in recent years that individuals in the Tristan community have been more successful in being recognised than people living here. Surely someone somewhere must deserve something. There are many people who quietly and modestly give a helping hand and in the process make living much better for other people. There is also that smaller group of people who are often, if not always, the driving force for a fund-raising campaign or community event. While writing this I can think of more than one or two straightaway. As is so often the case you need a form to make a nomination. These forms are available from linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh.

## IMPORTANT MEDICAL ADVICE

Do you have feelings of inadequacy?  
Do you suffer from shyness?  
Do you wish you were a better conversationalist?  
Do you sometimes wish you were more assertive?  
Do you sometimes feel stressed?  
If you answered yes to any of these questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist about Cabernet Sauvignon.

Cabernet Sauvignon is the safe, natural way to feel better and more confident. It can help ease you out of your shyness and let you tell the world that you're ready and willing to do just about anything.

You will notice the benefits of Cabernet Sauvignon almost immediately and, with a regimen of regular doses, you'll overcome obstacles that prevent you from living the life you want. Shyness and awkwardness will be a thing of the past. You will discover talents you never knew you had.

Cabernet Sauvignon may not be right for everyone. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not use it, but women who wouldn't mind nursing or becoming pregnant are encouraged to try it.

## Side Effects May Include:

Dizziness, nausea, vomiting, incarceration, loss of motor control, loss of clothing, loss of money, delusions of grandeur,

table dancing, headache, dehydration, dry mouth, and a desire to sing Karaoke and play all-night Strip Poker, Truth Or Dare, and Naked Twister.

## Warnings:

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may make you think you are whispering when you are not.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to think you can sing.

The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio, Scotch, Vodka or Bourbon and of course Beer may be substituted for Cabernet Sauvignon, with similar results.



## INDY PICTURE QUIZ.....Series 1 Elast From The Past

Picture 18...

**CLUE: THE LETTER 'G' CAN BE APPLIED TO THIS PICTURE IN SEVERAL WAYS.....**

**GO BACK IN TIME....30+ years, AND SEE IF YOU KNOW WHO THIS MIGHT BE.....**

**(He hasn't changed much....testament to some great self-preservation!!!)**

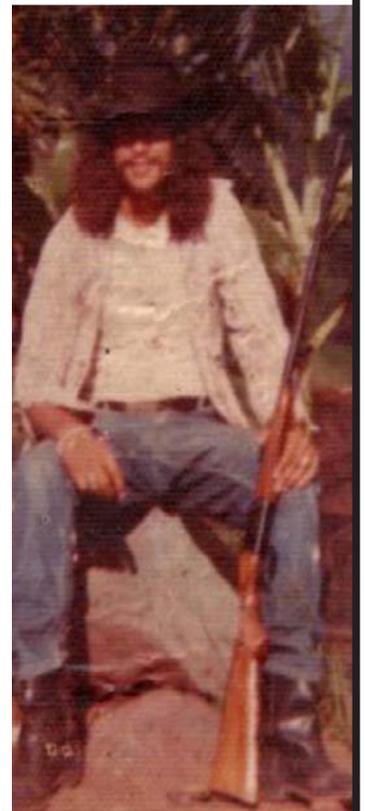
Tune in to this afternoon's Shine Show with Sharon Wade and submit your answers at the specified time...

PRIZE: Fresh red hot chilli peppers & parsley

ANSWER TO PICTURE QUIZ 17....

Governor R. Alford's car for the first few months of 1962...

(Winner: Jean March—Jamestown)



## ***End of the line for South African Airways? Will they take SA Airlink with them?***

The South African Government announced this week they will not provide any more subsidies to keep South African Airways (SAA) in the air. Already in business rescue and heavily in debt the SAA business rescue team informed SAA's creditors the cash transfusions from the SA Government had come to an end.

Reuters reports that the South African government told the airline's rescue team that it was unable to provide funding to keep the carrier afloat any further. While the airline has not yet folded, the rescue team continues to evaluate options and impacts on the carrier.

For nearly 10 years SAA has operated at a loss and relied on bail-outs from the SA Government to remain in business. Government cash given to SAA in just the last three years alone amounts to about 20 billion Rand or 1.1 billion US dollars.

SA Airlink is owed more than 510 million Rand by SAA and has taken legal action to get their money from the business rescue team before it disappears into the general fund used to pay all the airline's creditors. The latest episode in this legal saga is that SA Airlink has been granted leave to appeal to the South Gauteng High Court for the repayment of the money owed. SA Airlink is owed almost £22 million by SAA, a considerable sum for a small airline. Airlink's CEO Rodger Foster has stated in the past that the loss of this revenue to his airline will have significant consequences.

St Helena's biggest potential investor, Paul O'Sullivan, weighed into the controversy, blaming corruption throughout the ruling African National Congress Party and former president Jacob Zuma in particular.

He opened his article in biznews with, "Zuma's ANC allowed, no promoted, a primary school teacher to run Africa's biggest airline. Dudu Myeni-Zuma, was not only incompetent she was corrupt and totally dishonest. She single-handedly treated that airline as her own property and proceeded to strip away its asset value, its intrinsic value, its brand value and its good will." He continued, "Under Zuma's mistress, SAA is a shadow of its former self and, if certain people had their way, it would be left to the wolves out there. With SAA gone, the other airlines would have a field day with their prices and CPT/JNB would be priced out of the long-haul tourist market, costing the country hundreds of thousands of jobs."

Turning his fire-power to Pravin Gordhana former Minister of Finance in the South Africa Government. "You don't close down an airline because a crook had her grubby hands on it for six years. You fire the crook, fix the airline and make it work properly. If the same analogy being applied to SAA was applied to the other SOC's that have been bled dry by the Zuptas, then we would also have to shut down ESKOM, PRASA, Transnet, Denel, most of the water boards and most of the large municipalities.

South Africans seem to have short memories, as far as Gordhan is concerned. He was very quick to trot along to

the Zondo Commission in March 2019, to spill the beans on Moyane and Zuma and even related the sordid tale of how he could not do his job because of Zuma. He related crimes that had taken place in 2015, 2016 and 2017, yet he remained silent on why he did nothing about it."

After listing some of the things Gordhan should have done about it, O'Sullivan links Gordhan with Zuma's mistress. "I asked Gordhan in July 2016, at a presentation he gave to the Institute of Directors at EY's Sandton head office, when he was going to fire Dudu Myeni and stop the corruption? He gave me a dirty look and stated that he was in the process to change the whole board and we would have to wait and see.

This is how he fobbed me off. Yet he kept Myeni in place for a further 16 months, instead of stopping the rot right there and then. He gave her the time she needed to inject the final kiss of death to SAA and clean up her audit trail before vanishing quietly out of the door, with no sanction.

The inconvenient truth is that Gordhan must shoulder joint and several liability along with Myeni, Zuma and the whole cabinet and NEC of the ruling party, for the crooked mess created at SAA."

If all is not entirely clear, O'Sullivan adds some more, just to make sure all his readers get the full message, "If Gordhan had put his foot down and fired Zuma's mistress when the opportunities presented themselves, (and there were many of them) we would not have been in the mess we are in today. Now he wants to claim the Q-dos for stopping the bleeding, when in fact he was part of the cause of it and will simply cause hundreds of thousands of job losses in the tourism industry.

I note with pride the three month salary sacrifices Cyril Ramaphosa and the cabinet have taken to help the war on Covid-19. Don't stop there, make it a 50% salary cut, not only for the cabinet, but for all ANC MP's and let the salary cut stay in place, until they have covered the cost of the SAA debt brought about by their criminal conduct in the first place. They are dirty rotten scoundrels and a good few of them belong in prison. Sadly it is becoming clearer and clearer that they are immune from sanction at the hands of an impotent and captured DPCI, Police and NPA."

To end his article O'Sullivan praises SAA's cabin crew, "Finally, in case we don't forget, when Saffies got stranded overseas because of Covid-19, it was SAA that came to the rescue flying to places NOT on their normal routes, like Brussels, Miami, Wuhan and many other cities. When China and other countries desperately needed supplies for South Africa to combat COVID 19, it was SAA that flew to countries like China and elsewhere to collect the supplies and after filling up the cargo hold, put boxes on passenger seats with seat belts to keep them in place, or placed the boxes under the seats. The crews got extra-ordinary permission from the SA CAA to fly long-haul and back with no rest.

Put short, they are unsung heroes!

We are quick to forget and thank the SAA crews for helping us in our darkest hour and seem content to let Gordhan throw the baby out with the bath water. SAA is not the problem, it is the symptom of a corrupt ANC."

## The Plane Arriving on Monday is “ideal for group travel in ultimate comfort”

The Titan Airways Airbus A318 which is landing at St Helena airport on Monday afternoon joined the Titan fleet in June 2017. When announcing this new addition to their fleet Titan described the plane as configured with 32 lie-flat seats, offering a huge 72 inch seat pitch when upright and 6ft bed when in full lie-flat mode. The Airbus A318 is ideal for group travel in ultimate comfort. For greater convenience, all seats are equipped with in-seat power, including a selection of two and three pin sockets, enabling passengers to run and charge electronic devices such as laptops, tablets and phones. And that’s not all. Passengers are invited to “sit back, relax and thoroughly enjoy our 5-star service. With sumptuous in-flight dining, complemented by fine wines”



It is expected there will be ten passengers on Monday’s incoming flight from Ascension, including a physiotherapist, an anaesthetist, a surgeon, laboratory technicians and returning resident(s). With 32 seats on the plane each passenger has a choice of three places to have a lie-down.

For those who prefer to sit back and relax with a bottle of champagne there is more than enough leg-room for them to fully stretch their legs.

Passengers on Monday will have the leg-room and lie-down facilities but the service from the cabin crew’s galley is unlikely to be more than a snack and a fruit juice. The low passenger capacity means the operational range of the aircraft is increased to 3,600 nautical miles. The plane has a cruising speed of 540 mph.

In addition to the passengers, the plane will be carrying 960 Covid-19 test kits, five ventilators to help the breathing of coronavirus victims with respiratory infections and 2.5 tonnes of personal protective equipment.

The latest information is the plane is due to arrive at about 1pm on Monday but the airport will not have public access.

### Covid-19 Update across the British Overseas Territories

### Covid-19 Update across Other Countries

Territory	15 <sup>th</sup> April		
	Total Cases	Deaths	Total Recovered
Anguilla	3	0	1
Ascension	0	0	
Bermuda	57	5	30
British Indian Ocean Territory	Not known	Not known	Not known
British Virgin Islands	3	0	2
Gibraltar	129	0	104
Cayman Islands	54	1	6
Montserrat	11	0	1
Pitcairn	0	0	
St Helena	0	0	
Tristan	0	0	
Falklands	11	0	1
Turks & Caicos	10	1	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>145</b>

Data Source; Worldometer

Country	15 <sup>th</sup> April			
	Total Cases	Deaths	Total Recovered	Population in millions
France	143,303	15,729	28,805	65.27
UK	98,476	12,868	Not known	67.88
South Africa	2,415	27	410	59.30
Angola	19	2	5	32.87
Namibia	16	0	3	2.54
South Korea	10,591	225	7,616	51.26
Singapore	3,252	10	611	5.85
Germany	132,321	3,502	72,600	83.78

Data Source; Worldometer



St Helena  
Government

• JET Systems helicopter  
takes to the skies

• Rockfall Protection Project  
enters the next stage of  
construction



### JAMESTOWN AND RUPERT'S VALLEY ROCKFALL PROTECTION PROJECT

A JET Systems helicopter took to St Helena skies last week, 10 years since their last visit to the Island. The helicopter will be here for two months as part of the CAN France rockfall protection works. Using a helicopter speeds up the construction process as it allows heavy loads to be quickly transported to high, steep slopes with very little manual handling.

The test flight was carried out on Saturday, 4 April 2020, from the helipad in Rupert's Valley, with a short trip to assess take-off and landing conditions. Since Monday, 6 April, the helicopter has been seen around Rupert's and James Valleys, transporting drilling and grouting equipment. The helicopter will soon begin transporting rockfall catchfences and netting into place.

For Pilot, Francois Gillet, this is his first trip to St Helena, but he has worked with CAN France on many occasions. Mechanic, Olivier Merchat, was here for the 2010 Jamestown rockfall protection works.

Short closures of Field Road, near Wicked Wahoo, in Rupert's, will take place when the helicopter is carrying a load overhead. These closures will be for a couple of minutes maximum and will be controlled by traffic marshals. The closure of Rupert's Wharf and Jetty continues as previously announced. Access requests can be made to CAN France Contracts Manager, Arthur Bourret, at the site compound in Rupert's. The project team would like to thank the community for their patience.

Questions on any aspect of the Project can be directed to Project Supervisor, Catherine Inglis, via email: [catherine.inglis@fairhurst.co.uk](mailto:catherine.inglis@fairhurst.co.uk).

**#StHelena #RockfallProtection #AltogetherSafer**

<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

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**SHG/CAN France/Fairhurst  
14 April 2020**



*Helicopter Reassembly*



*Transporting a drill rig*

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## Spotting the difference between a hack and a wordsmith

There is a fake president we all know who keeps on complaining about fake news. There is no substance in either the accusations or the man himself; if he disagrees with what has been written he calls it fake. Recently three reports have been published about St Helena by on-line media, one of them is poorly written by someone who writes for the Sunday Mirror and the Sunday People newspapers in the UK.

Among the adverts and other distractions there are 487 words about the Mantis Hotel, how much it is costing us and several other items with numbers attached. The population of this island is claimed in the report to be "just 6,600". The cost of the airport is included together with the "world's most useless airport" tag. The £32 million from DFID is mentioned together with the possible extra £15 million for economic development. Among all of that is the £5.85 million the hotel has already cost and the recent £200,000 additional sum. Exaggeration is not excluded with "Big planes could not use its windswept runway and those serving it from South Africa, 2,000 miles away, had to be near-empty to avoid crashes." Very simply put, some might say.

While the point of the report, buried somewhere among the numbers, was the further £200,000 subsidy to Mantis for this financial year together with the low occupancy rate. What was overlooked in the numbers was the £500,000 paid from SHG funds in exchange for shares in Mantis to redeem the loan to Mantis from the Bank of St Helena which had become due. This loan was backed by a letter of intent signed by our previous governor.

The second report was published in the South China Morning Post by someone who spent a few months here in 1997-98. The change in tone, style and knowledge is immediately noticeable. "the RMS St Helena pulled into James Bay with all the pomp and circumstance of a returning, victorious fleet" was the description given to the writer's arrival. After fondly recalling this visit the writer turned to his main point which was also the airport. The airport is closed because of the coronavirus pandemic and the South African lock down. St Helena is isolated once more. He mentioned the island population of "now just over 4,600" and referred to, "A recent

documentary called *The World's Most Useful Airport* – looking at the Saints' long struggle for an air link with the outside world – puts the concept of isolation into sobering and timely perspective, and can be found on YouTube."

The third and last article was published by The Times South Africa and written by Paul Ash who can be recalled as one of the journalists who arrived here on the first commercial flight. His headline is "This Island is coronavirus-free and determined to stay that way" and the opening sentence reads "If St Helena Island's remoteness has put the brakes on its development before, its 4,300 residents are happy about it now." Mr Ash even has a quote or two from people who actually live here. "Our isolation has, for once, helped us," said Lawson Henry, councillor and chairperson of the island's economic development committee. "But we should not be taking that for granted." The article illustrates the lengths this Island has gone to, to keep Covid-19 at the other end of the Ocean. "The first stage involved 14 days of quarantine for the passengers who arrived on the last Airlink flight from SA on March 21. The airport was closed to commercial traffic, as was the seaport, except for the supply vessel MV Helena, the island's crucial lifeline to the outside world. With just one hospital, two ventilators and an ageing population, the governor's anxiety is justified. Schools were closed, shops cut trading hours and restricted the number of people inside at any time, and the island's inhabitants – who call themselves Saints – learnt the finer points of social distancing."

Isolation can only be taken so far. Speaking to Lawson Henry again about the MV Helena Lawson said, "We are hoping she will be able to pick up the next load of cargo," said Henry. "That's our only route to get provisions." If the situation in SA prevents the ship from loading, the short-term prospects for the island are not pleasant."

As a sort of response to the UK's Mirror Group of Newspapers, Paul Ash also mentions the Mantis Hotel. "There is currently just one guest staying in the 26-room hotel, an American sailor who abandoned ship when she and her sailing partner arrived in St James Bay. "That's the highest occupancy of any our hotels around the world," said Mantis chairperson Adrian Gardiner."

### **Kaleb Kane March**

**Born February 15th 2020**

**To proud parents Dion and Lee-Anne March.**

First and foremost we thank God for blessing us with Kaleb. We couldn't have done it without him.

We would like to take this opportunity in thanking midwives Rosie Mittens and Erika Bowers for all their help and support throughout and after the birth. Special thanks to Doctor Francisco and midwife Rosie for the safe delivery, and for mum Beatie for all her love and support throughout this wonderful journey. It was and still is an experience in a lifetime.

Thanks to cousin Jean Fowler and my wonderful sister Carol in the UK for their support and much needed words of encouragement. Also special thanks to Pastor Paul and wife Siziwe and Pastor Graeme and wife Hazel for spiritual guidance throughout.

Extended thanks also to our family and friends and all those who sent cards and gifts.



**NEXT PAGE**

## ***This island is coronavirus-free and determined to stay that way***

# Times SELECT

St Helena's isolation has been its saviour, but it is refusing to be complacent in the face of the pandemic

Paul Ash 14 April 2020



**CLIFFHANGER** A view of Jamestown, St Helena, from the bay. The island is taking strict measures to prevent coronavirus from arriving.

If St Helena island's remoteness has put the brakes on its development before, its 4,300 residents are happy about it now.

To date the British self-governing territory, 2,000km off the coast of Namibia, has escaped the coronavirus pandemic, and the St Helena government hopes to keep it that way. There are about 35 people per square kilometre on the island. "Our isolation has, for once, helped us," said Lawson Henry, councillor and chairperson of the island's economic development committee. "But we should not be taking that for granted." Henry said he and the islanders would be happier when testing kits arrived from the UK.

"Testing will really give people the confidence," he said. The vital kits are due to arrive on a special charter flight on April 20 that will also bring extra medical staff and equipment such as ventilators.

The medical staff will be based at an isolation centre built at Bradley's Camp, which previously housed the workers who built the airport.

Henry said St Helena was in the "prevent" phase of its three-stage plan to protect the island from the virus. The next stages are to contain the spread and then limit the number of serious cases.

The first stage involved 14 days of quarantine for the passengers who arrived on the last Airlink flight from SA on March

21. The airport was closed to commercial traffic, as was the seaport, except for the supply vessel MV Helena, the island's crucial lifeline to the outside world. With just one hospital, two ventilators and an ageing population, the governor's anxiety is justified. Schools were closed, shops cut trading hours and restricted the number of people inside at any time, and the island's inhabitants – who call themselves Saints – learnt the finer points of social distancing.

The cautious approach has paid off so far. Two people who displayed flu-like symptoms were placed under strict quarantine while the authorities traced anyone they had had contact with. In a letter to the inhabitants, Governor Dr Philip Rushbrook said contact tracing had led to further people being asked to self-isolate.

With just one hospital, two ventilators and an ageing population, the governor's anxiety is justified. Serious medical cases are usually flown to SA for treatment, but with the island's airport now closed to commercial traffic, that would require an expensive flight. Almost everything St Helena needs, from food to car parts to medicine, comes on the MV Helena, the supply ship that calls once a month.

The ship is currently en route to Ascension Island 1,300km away to fetch a quarter-ton of protective equipment sent by the British government to its military base there. The ship will make a brief call to offload the equipment before setting course for Cape Town.

"We are hoping she will be able to pick up the next load of cargo," said Henry. "That's our only route to get provisions." If the situation in SA prevents the ship from loading, the short-term prospects for the island are not pleasant.

Emergency legislation has been enacted to allow the government to implement rationing if the ship is not allowed to leave Cape Town. "I hope it won't come to that," Henry said. Meanwhile, life on the island continues at its slow pace with people going about their daily business – while keeping 2m apart from each other. The Mantis St Helena hotel is serving takeaways to the islanders and its restaurant remains open. "The streets are quiet," said general manager Andre van Niekerk. While he felt safe on the island, he was concerned about his wife and two daughters in Johannesburg.

"There's no way to get to SA. The MV Helena doesn't take passengers at the moment and there are no flights," he said. "I feel safe but isolated at the same time." There is currently just one guest staying in the 26-room hotel, an American sailor who abandoned ship when she and her sailing partner arrived in St James Bay. "That's the highest occupancy of any of our hotels around the world," said Mantis chairperson Adrian Gardiner.

While St Helena has traditionally welcomed seafarers, Henry was alarmed at the growing number of yachts dropping anchor in St James Bay, and appealed to yachtsmen to stay away from the island until the pandemic is over – please. "We will never turn anyone away. But we have to protect our population."

## After the storm

### Changes we can expect when the coronavirus is beaten

In St Helena we are happy to keep our heads down and keep the rest of the world on the other side of the Atlantic as the coronavirus rampages through communities and wreaks havoc with the financial planning of countries and companies. As Covid-19 spreads and the death toll rises there are already many changes in the way people live their lives; some of the new ways of doing things will become permanent for many people, organisations and governments long after the coronavirus has died out.

Many Papas and Nanas have forgotten about the phone and finally found out how to use Skype, Zoom and FaceTime to keep in touch with their children and their families. Buying on-line, despite already being very popular, has meant many who have never used it now find they need to. Home baking has also become a necessity, (and caused a national shortage of flour in the UK), with people who have never tasted a home-baked loaf or cake finding out for the first time how much better they are than the shop bought mass produced pale imitations. All of this and more can, and to some extent will, change the way things are done in the future. These changes will affect us in St Helena to some degree, as well as for those immediately affected by Covid-19.

Thousand of planes have never spent as much time on the ground during their entire operational life as they do now. People who once flew halfway across the world for meetings or a social visit now have virtual meetings or family gatherings using Skype or some other audio-visual communication. Many of them are now wondering why they did not use Skype many times before. In St Helena an international conference was cancelled because of Covid-19, will that conference be re-scheduled or will the organisers offer the fifty or so delegates Skype instead? Will promoting St Helena as a conference venue to build up the visitor numbers take a hit as people decide to use Skype because it is much less bother and very much cheaper? Will some of the meetings councilors travel overseas to attend be organised using Skype instead of paying the conference registration fee and for air travel, accommodation, food and drink?

Many in St Helena buy all sorts of personal goods on-line. The islands traders also buy some of their goods on line but will they go one step further. The wharf in Jamestown is the nearest we can get at the moment to a modern supermarket. You order what you want on-line, it arrives here; you go through the check-out (Customs) and then load your vehicle and take it home. This is of course not too different from going to a modern supermarket loading the shipping trolley with five to eight bags full of items. Paying at the check-out and loading it all in the boot of the car parked nearby in the big and convenient car park. Will our own very traditional shop-keepers offer their goods on-line? It would be cheaper than building a proper supermarket if the aim is to make shopping easier. Goods could be paid for on-line and either delivered or picked up from the shop. An order valued at over a certain amount could be offered with free delivery. Now wouldn't that be something! Or it could be nothing, with more Saints going for the quality, choice and lower prices offered by on-line ordering from supermarket companies overseas. The UK does not

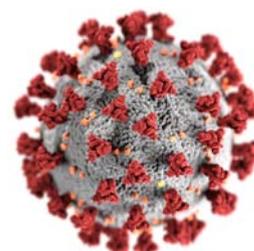
tax food items but there are the freight charges to take into account.

At a deeper level, that word 'resilience' is entering into supply chain discussions. Organising deliveries on a 'just in time' basis to keep down stock levels and the associated costs was the chosen way to go - until now - but less so in St Helena. Here it is so often feast or famine with so many different products. As Covid-19 spread across continents so the demand for a wide range of products rose dramatically. Production and distribution systems were not prepared for any of it; whether it is the demand for hand sanitiser, home deliveries of on-line supermarket orders, ventilators for hospitals or the looming food shortages, there has been an almighty struggle to meet demand. As one business analyst put it, "Supply chains built on just-in-time inventory and distributed component sourcing may well have to be reconsidered, given the way many have been disrupted. Instead, companies will want to build backup and safety plans."

Companies devising their own back-up and safety plans can mean one of two opposite things. It could mean companies protecting themselves by reducing the range of products they offer and choosing supply sources which are a much shorter distance away. Or it could mean devising more flexible ways to source components and distribute products when all the rules change; as they have with the spread of the coronavirus. Whichever way it goes St Helena is very vulnerable to changes in methods of supply which we cannot accommodate. St Helena needs to be more flexible too.

To quote the same business analyst again, "One possible next normal is that decisions made during and after the crisis lead to less prosperity, slower growth, widening inequality, bloated government bureaucracies, and rigid borders. Or it could be that the decisions made during this crisis lead to a burst of innovation and productivity, more resilient industries, smarter government at all levels, and the emergence of a reconnected world." Whether or not we get the coronavirus here, St Helena needs to think hard about how we will produce a "burst of innovation and productivity" in the way we react to and re-align with the rest of the changed world.

The changes are likely to affect all of us. As the business analyst quoted before points out about what lies in the wake of Covid-19, "For businesses, the consequences have been profound. Many have learned how to operate remotely—and at a high level and at far greater speed. These practices could well stick, making for better management and more flexible workforces—something that could be particularly useful for many women, the disabled, and those who prefer untraditional career trajectories."



# Still Paradise

Tammy Williams



Everything happens for a reason, while the world was reeling from the effects of the Corona Virus, St Helena had hit the TV screens of Germany once again but for good reasons. Last February saw the first screening of MareTV's 44 minute documentary about St Helena, Saint FM got a sizeable chunk of the film, writer and producer Michael S. McGlenn told us last year that, "We got about half a million for the first broadcast (only counting northern Germany) but now it gets rebroadcast everywhere so by the end it'll be 4 to 5 million" Quite by chance last week the film was shown again and despite being a year old it drew lots more interest as we were about to find out at Saint FM, the new link [https://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/sendungen/mare\\_tv/Die-Vulkan-Insel-St-Helena-Mitten-im-Suedatlantik,sendung872204.html](https://www.ndr.de/fernsehen/sendungen/mare_tv/Die-Vulkan-Insel-St-Helena-Mitten-im-Suedatlantik,sendung872204.html) points to "The sound of St. Helena comes from Radio Saint FM. From the weather station to the grocery store to the bathing bay, the sounds of the transmitter echo, which of course also provides the news, it deals with local politics, lost sunglasses and the daily specials of the takeaways"

The re-screening of the film opened up a new audience and therefore new interest because unlike most documentaries, people will watch the film, maybe Google a bit and then carry on as normal. MareTV not only promoted the island but also one of the most isolated radio stations in the world, good news for St Helena but excellent news for us, it follows that with a new TV audience we are also capturing new radio audiences. This article features more of other people's words than mine, the way it should be:

*"Hello to All Saint FM Radio Listeners around the world saw a beautiful report about St. Helena in German TV yesterday. Hope we will see us one day on your beautiful Island, after Corona Pandemic. Greetings from the Sunny South of Germany, from Lake Chiemsee, Bavaria, stay safe and healthy"*  
**Ralph Buchberger**

*"Hi St. Helena, we are just listening to your radio station and enjoy the music while having brunch. Yesterday we watched a report about your beautiful island in the south Atlantic on TV. Hug from Flensburg, the most northern and of course the most beautiful city in Germany. Take care, stay healthy"*

*and thank you for the [music]"* **York & Verena**

*"Yesterday there's a documentary in German TV that I saw about St. Helena. As of now I listen to your radio. Have a great time and stay healthy, lovely regards"* **Holger**

*"This evening we watched a Mare-TV report about your wonderful Island Saint Helena, it was a great experience, such a beautiful place. You must be happy to live there. Our request and question is: Could you find for us a pen pal from Island or round about your place? We like to keep touch friends round about the world but never before we could find a friend from St. Helena. It would be an especially pleasure, if you could help to find such person (till 50 of age perhaps) Thank you very much for your kindness. Dieter & Martina from Potsdam in Germany*

*"My name is Jonny and I'm from Denmark. Saw a program about your beautiful Island and saw your radio station too. Keep up the good spirit out there in no man's land"*

*"Hello everyone in the radio station, I saw on 2.4 a film report about your island and the station, it was very interesting for me. They take care of a lot of what happens there and is important for the residents. As a teenager I used to listen to radio stations on shortwave. That was often very adventurous. At the moment I can clearly hear your station via the app. I wish you continued joy in your work in the studio or outside at the scene"* **Karl-Herbert Pfau, Holzhausen**

*"Yesterday evening I saw a report about St Helena in German TV and whom have I seen? Mr. (Donald) Harris. At the beginning of March I planned to go to the ITB in Berlin. There I would also visit the team of St Helena Tourism, but the ITB was canceled due to coronavirus. I hope the coronavirus has not arrived on lovely island St Helena. We here in Germany must stay at home, in the latest newsletter of St Helena Tourism I read about the Napoleonic Bicentenary on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021. I think if corona is gone, you will have many tourists on St Helena. Many greetings from the northern hemisphere and*

**Continued on NEXT PAGE**

# Still Paradise

Tammy Williams

stays healthy' Hermann Klages, Edemissen

I particularly enjoyed one of MareTV's cheeky reviews which said "When the plane comes from Johannesburg, the Saints, as the islanders proudly call themselves, are ready, they wave and beam at the jet. Let people in distant London laugh at the supposedly most nonsensical airport in the world. Anyone who lands here will be greeted with joy, MareTV meets some residents of St. Helena at the end of the world" I want to take a moment to smack this around the ears of the Mirror, who wrote over the weekend about the Mantis hotel and could not help themselves by once again repeating "But the island also has the "world's most useless airport"



## Remember Michael, Jorge and Stefan?

Michael sent the only photo they had taken of themselves, proof of their stay on St Helena and one that he describes as "Us chilling in Wellington House" It seemed marvellous to me that a year on and after several showings the film was still drawing interest in St Helena and by large drawing listeners to Saint FM, Michael McGlenn, said last week "Lovely to hear from you. It is weird how popular the programme is in Germany, and probably even more so now that people are all stuck at home! I'm sure once the travel ban is over they'll all be over to visit you guys!" If any of our readers and listeners have not yet seen the film, you are welcome to get a copy at the radio station, bring a USB with you.



Dan Snow, popular BBC journalist and historian visited St Helena earlier this year and in interview at Saint FM he told listeners St Helena "Is a Treasure for all Mankind"

Dan was visibly excited about St Helena and all it had to offer; "It's position on the planet, the landscape is rich in flora and fauna as it is unique in aspect, towering in jagged cliffs and ridges, I just couldn't believe it, I mean I've travelled a lot of places but I just couldn't wait to get on top of those ridges and do those walks that you guys are famous for and then the curious fact is the history, you guys have had the Zulus, Boers, Napoleon and you've had your own adventures with Mutinies', liberated Africans, a little microcosm of the last 400 years of history in this one extraordinary place"

Far from being 'useless' and a 'drain on taxpayers', the people of St Helena take pride in humble and often poor beginnings, Dan was quick to observe something special about St Helenians "The people here, immediately when you land at that airport is the sense of the people here, a look, an attitude, a vibe, an accent, the people I've met are an amazing mixture of cosmopolitan, well-travelled, interested in the rest of the world but also fiercely proud of being from here, as an outsider I want to tell people that this is an extraordinarily special place"

We contacted Dan again this week who said "I miss the island so much! Particularly at the moment, the podcast will be out in the next few weeks- we will let the tourism team know of course, big love to all my friends on the island"

After Covid-19, it will take communities around the world working together to re-build, it will be painful and hard, there is no easy way out but it does seem that while the global aftermath from the Corona Virus will have far reaching arms affecting us too, hope has a way of driving us forward, Ricci Hedditch visited St Helena in 1988 and contacted us from Australia two weeks ago "Came in on a yacht in and stayed a week. Woke up the first morning to most of the town out on the dock for a Remembrance Day parade, my French sailing partner could not quite understand what was going on and with his limited English it was difficult to explain it to him. Now we are all basically isolated to home so I was only thinking where was one of the most isolated places I had been and of course St Helena came to mind. I'm sure everyone in St Helena is now very appreciative of the isolation they now have. I vividly recall how friendly everyone was, enjoyed a community dance one evening and came off worse for wear that night as everyone was so generous with the drinks. Thinking of the island once again and wondering if I will ever be able to come back?"

Rici's million dollar question of a return to normality is one that we all share and dream about, what a relief when that day comes.

# Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

St Helena has grappled with two types of fear over the last four or five weeks. Only one, Covid-19, is new but it has exposed the superior magnitude of the other – the people's fear of their own government.

As a result of asking questions in press conferences that reflect community concerns, not a day has gone by over the last four weeks or so where I haven't been contacted by local residents and Saints abroad, both worried about the government's handling of the new Coronavirus crisis; one or two of them in tears. Most surprising is the concerns here are not just coming from Saints. Yet even when local people are distressed for their health or for that of family members, it is still not enough to overcome the fear of representing their own concerns to official channels. The paralysing fear of being singled out for speaking out.

In the face of a killer virus it is an astonishing level of mind-control, that would be impressive if not so disturbing.

But it is no accident, either. SHG has cultivated this fear down the years by regularly pressing the subtle inference that opposing opinions belong to 'nega-

tive' people; non team-players; those not willing to work together.

Officials routinely allocate significant portions of radio interviews or public statements to remind the masses not to listen to "wild speculation" or "negative" people, or to suggest rational dialogue is not possible if we do not "leave the emotion at the door." A sprinkling of keywords to keep toes on the line.

The message: You're either with us or you're trying to undermine what we're all trying to achieve together. And when SHG drives three quarters of the economy, most can't afford not to pay heed.

As an increasing number of world leaders now deny accountability by railing against the media, recent events here would suggest that strategy has not gone wholly unnoticed.

Let's hope these crazy times can end soon.

**Yours sincerely,  
Darrin Henry**

"Where the people fear the government you have tyranny. Where the government fears the people you have liberty." —  
*John Basil Barnhill (1914)*

Dear Editor

PANDEMIC

Self isolation.  
Social distancing.  
Public Health messages  
The people are listening.

Taped floors at the checkout  
Don't stand so close to me –  
Police, Parliament, restrictions and  
New Laws!  
Temperatures rising, coughing &  
more...

NHS Heroes, battling bravely  
TV news specials  
Inform us all daily.  
Schools shut.  
Panic buyers.  
Stay indoors.  
Quarantine.  
The faceless enemy,  
COVID 19.  
Herd immunity – Try to flatten the  
curve  
Follow the trajectory.  
The numbers keep rising.

Lockdown.  
Stay indoors.  
Be safe, please DON'T ROAM!  
If you can, work from home.  
Unheard of in peace time  
None of this was planned.  
No Congregation for Easter.  
Sport & Leisure activities banned.  
This war we were unprepared for  
Europe is under siege.  
Let's hope Wuhan is healing.  
We too, need a reprieve.

A Human catastrophe  
People fighting & dying.  
I pray it ends soon  
And the numbers stop rising.

**Suzanne R Joshua-Stevens**

## Thank You

Richard and Jane Sim would like to thank everyone who helped in anyway during and after the fire at Anne's Place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Special thanks are extended to Station Manager Alan Thomas and team at the St.Helena Fire Service. Your quick response at the time of the fire and outstanding teamwork during the cleanup was very much appreciated.

Heartfelt thanks are also extended to Gavin and Alan Benjamin, John Williams, Andrew Darlow, Philip Robinson, Michael Glanville, David Constantine,

Adrian Duncan and his team, and our family who helped with the cleanup and repairs. We can not thank you enough, without your efforts, dedication and persistent hard work Anne's Place would not have been completed within a short time with quality and a fruitful result.

Thanks also to those people who kindly gave donations, you all know who you are. We are externally grateful for your acts of kindness. May god bless you all.

# Serena's Gift Shop



Phone : 22792

Will be reopening for business  
from  
Monday 20th April 10am to 5pm



## **RECRUITMENT – Marine Officer**

An exciting opportunity exists to join the Saint Helena National Trust's Marine Team, which has the overall mission of championing and supporting the development and delivery of St Helena's IUCN Category VI (Sustainable Use) Marine Protected Area (MPA).

As Marine Officer, you will be joining a small, dedicated team, working across a wide range of projects under our core work areas, including whale shark research. You will lead on our marine debris and plastic projects and assist with our dynamic island-wide education and outreach programmes.

The successful candidate must have an enthusiasm for the marine environment, strong communication skills and experience coordinating projects. We are looking for a self-organised, reliable team player that is keen to develop their own practical field and office based skills. The successful candidate will be trained and supported in the role, with the aim that they develop and take on more responsibility over time.

The starting salary for the full time post is £8,402 per annum (NB\* contract initially until the end of March 2021), with the possibility of a salary increase and contract extension based on performance and availability of funding.

To receive a full recruitment pack, please contact our Office Manager, Amanda Constantine, on 22190 or [amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh](mailto:amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh)

**Please submit your CV and cover letter to Amanda, by no later than 01 May 2020.**



St Helena  
Government

## ***St Helena Immigration Service Vacancy for Auxiliary Immigration Officer***

The St Helena Immigration Service has a vacancy for an Auxiliary Immigration Officer. The successful applicant will be responsible for applying the Immigration Ordinance, Regulations and Policies to ensure that persons on entering and leaving St Helena do so in accordance with the legislation regulations and policies. The main operational duties of the post although not limited to will be carried out at the airport and will include:

- Processing passenger arrivals and departures at the airport and sea port which will include boarding vessels and examining all passports and associated documents on arrival
- Assist with processing applications for both British and BOTC passports
- Provide cover to accommodate leave and time off in lieu for officers within the immigration team
- Any other duties as may be required by the Chief Immigration Officer or person acting under their authority

Applicants should:

- be 18 years of age or over
- have GCSE qualifications in both Maths and English at Grade C or above or the equivalent (If applicants do not have these qualifications they will be required to successfully pass a Functional Skills assessment in English and/or Maths.)
- be computer literate
- have experience in maintaining records and updating databases
- have the ability to communicate effectively both written and verbal
- have good Customer Service skills
- be prepared to work under pressure
- be in possession of a clean valid driving license
- be highly motivated and enthusiastic

The rate of pay for the post is £4.56 per hour for hours worked, plus a payment of £10 a month retainer.

For further details regarding other duties of the post, interested persons can contact Sunita Patel the Senior Immigration Officer on telephone number 22626 or e-mail [sunita.patel@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sunita.patel@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application packs are available from the Police Directorate and should be completed and submitted through Directors where applicable to Anya Richards HR and Admin Officer at Coleman's House (or email [anya.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:anya.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh)) by no later than Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Electronic applications forms are available on request from Anya Richards.

If you are looking for a rewarding but challenging career  
**come and join us in the Police Directorate.**

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 FOR IMMIGRATION OFFICER (Fixed-term post until 30 September 2020)**

An opportunity is available within the Immigration section of the Police Directorate for an Immigration Officer on a fixed term basis.

The successful applicant will be responsible for applying the Immigration Ordinance, Regulations and Policies to ensure that persons on entering and leaving St Helena do so in accordance with the legislation regulations and policies. Some of the main duties include:

- Determining the admissibility of passenger and crew arrivals at the air and sea port including travellers arriving on the MV Helena, yachts, cruise ships and other visiting vessels.
- Assess applications for British and British Overseas Territories Citizen passports for compliance with documentary requirements and the right to nationality.
- Maintain a database of all arrivals and departures to the island.
- Prepare and present cases to the Immigration Control Board.

As this is a frontline service, applicants should have:

- GCSE qualifications in both Math's and English at Grade C or above or an equivalent qualification; If applicants do not have these qualifications they will be required to successfully pass a Functional Skills assessment in English and/or Maths.
- a Class A Driver's License;
- Good written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to deal with the public from diverse backgrounds;
- Good customer care skills, have an eye for detail and the ability to act on their own initiative within policy guidelines;
- Ability to maintain control of own emotions in difficult situations and work under pressure.

The successful candidate will be required to work varied shift patterns to cover the arrivals and departures at different entry points. However, the Immigration Service will seek to be flexible around hours not related to time specific operational duties.

The successful candidate possessing the relevant qualifications and experience will be paid at Entry Level Grade C, commencing at £10,704 per annum.

For further information about the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons can contact Sunita Patel, Senior Immigration Officer on telephone no. 22626 or email [Sunita.Patel@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:Sunita.Patel@sainthelena.gov.sh)

Application packs are available from the Police Directorate or Corporate Human Resources and should be submitted through directors, where applicable, to Anya Richards HR and Admin Officer at Coleman House or e-mail: [anya.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:anya.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 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.*



## ***Internet Outage***

Sure SA Ltd would like to advise customers that there will be an Internet Outage on Wednesday 22nd April commencing at 7am to 8am to undertake essential system maintenance.

International voice calls will not be affected during this time.

Sure apologise for the disruption to service and thank customers for their patience and understanding.



## **TIP OF THE WEEK**

If you are washing dishes by hand, don't leave the tap running for rinsing. Use a separate bowl of clean water for rinsing.



## ***AIRPORT CLOSED TO VISITORS ON FLIGHT DAYS***

In view of the measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on St Helena, the public is advised that no visitors will be permitted at St Helena Airport until further notice.

Only passengers who are due to leave on a flight will be permitted to enter St Helena Airport; those transporting passengers to the Airport will be asked to drop them off and then leave the Airport premises – the Terminal Building will not be open to them.

Passengers who will be arriving on flights will be processed through Immigration and Customs and then transported to a place designated by a Proper Officer to commence a minimum of 14 days of compulsory self-isolation. As such, other than when private transportation has been permitted for arriving passengers, there will be no opportunity for friends or family to meet and greet returning residents.

To assist with the management of persons arriving and departing the Airport, the barriers at the foot of Mole Spider Hill will be in place and manned. Only those persons with a legitimate reason to proceed into the Airport complex will be permitted to do so.

The public is thanked in advance for their support and cooperation.



St Helena  
Government

• Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office invites nominations for  
2021 Queen's New Year Honours List

• Nominations are also invited for Certificate  
and Badge of Honour Awards and Acts of Bravery  
Awards for 2020

### **NEW YEAR HONOURS 2021: OVERSEAS LIST AND CERTIFICATE AND BADGE OF HONOUR AND ACTS OF BRAVERY AWARDS 2020**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office invites nominations for the 2021 Queen's New Year Honours List.

Persons wishing to submit nominations for the 2021 New Year Honours are reminded that the overriding principle is that Honours are awarded on merit for exceptional achievement or any service recently carried out over and above what normally is expected. This can include making a difference to their community or field of work, innovation and entrepreneurship, improving life for people less able to help themselves and displaying moral courage. Where possible, nominations should place emphasis on voluntary services.

It should also be noted that age is not a factor in awarding Honours, and younger members of the community who have made an outstanding contribution or have given exceptional service should not be overlooked. **It is important that nominations are kept confidential and that nominees are not made aware that they are being proposed for award of an Honour.**

To find out more about the different types of Honours Awards please visit: [www.gov.uk/honours](http://www.gov.uk/honours). Approved New Year Honours Awards endorsed by Her Majesty the Queen will be announced prior to the start of the New Year.

In addition to the New Year Honours 2021, nominations are also being invited for the Certificate and Badge of Honour Awards and Acts of Bravery Awards for 2020. The Certificate and Badge of Honour Awards are available for the Governor to award to public servants for loyal and valuable service worthy of recognition or, in the case of other persons, for their loyal and meritorious conduct that has provided exceptional benefit to the people of St Helena. Nominees for this award should be residents of St Helena, either being born on the Island or have been residing on St Helena for not less than 10 years prior to the date of the award. The Certificate and Badge of Honour Awards will be presented later this year.

Furthermore, nominations are also invited for the Acts of Bravery Award. Nominations for this award should ideally be made to recognise Acts of Bravery that have taken place since the last call for nominations in February 2019.

To find out more on the above Awards please contact Miss Linda Benjamin on tel: 22470 or email: [linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh).

**Nomination forms for the New Year Honours, Certificate and Badge of Honour and Acts of Bravery Awards are available from Corporate Services at the Castle or can be requested via the email address above.**

**Completed forms should be returned to The Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' and addressed to 'The Executive Secretary, Honours Committee', by Friday, 1 May 2020.**

SHG  
14 April 2020

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

[kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:kerisha.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh) | [liam.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:liam.yon@sainthelena.gov.sh) | [jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:jodie.s-constantine@sainthelena.gov.sh)



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





St Helena  
Government

## ***EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR WORKERS***

Would you like to help your community to stay safe during these uncertain times?

St Helena Government is looking for additional support from persons who are able to start **IMMEDIATELY** to form part of the Operations Team to work in the Quarantine Area at Bradleys Camp.

Help is required to undertake the following duties:

- Delivering meals
- Undertaking laundry duties including bedding, towels and personal items
- General cleaning

This work is required on a shift basis between the hours of 7am – 2.30pm and 2 – 9pm.

You are assured that you will not be in direct contact with those persons who are in quarantine or medical staff.

SHG is offering the following:

- Free Home to Duty Transport
- Rate of pay at £4.71 per hour
- Free PPE

Interested persons should ideally have previous work experience in undertaking any or all of the above duties, able to work independently and as part of a small team.

Interested persons are asked to register their name and contact details with Madonna Henry, Corporate Human Resources on telephone no. 22470 or alternatively via email at [madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:madonna.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh)



For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, please contact Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer on telephone number: 22380 or via email address: HRO@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Reception Desk, in the Main Office Building, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via e-mail address: hradmin@solomons.co.sh and should be completed and returned to Miss Daryl Legg, Human Resources Officer, Solomons Office, Jamestown, By 28 April 2020

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

# Cleaner

Within the Main Office Building in Jamestown

### Job Outline

To maintain a high standard of cleanliness and retain total confidentiality within the Company.

### Interested Persons Should:

- Be physically fit, as the role requires regular manual handling
  - Have knowledge of Health & Safety and Hygiene
- Be able to work independently, with minimum supervision

Hours of work will be 13 hours per week

Salary will be £4.81 per hour

## Invitation to Tender

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

### **Fibre-Optic Cable Project Phase 1: Site and Trenching Excavation works**

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](mailto:tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh)**

A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 16 April 2020, at 10:00am, meeting at the Rupert's Public Toilets.

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](mailto:christopher.peters@sainthelena.gov.sh).

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Monday, 27 April 2020.

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



St Helena Government



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# Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

The last Premier League football we saw on our TV screens was Leicester City's 4-0 defeat of Aston Villa on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March which is now over 5 weeks ago.



## **Last Premier League action we have seen on our TV.**

Again this week there is no clear indication when football will recommence. See extracts below from BBC website:

**Football will “no doubt” return behind closed doors but it is “impossible” to know when that will be, says the body that represents Europe’s top leagues.**

Alberto Colombo, the deputy general secretary of European Leagues, said the suspension of the season because of the coronavirus pandemic was “a huge crisis”.

“The vast majority” of the association’s members, which include the Premier League and the English Football League, are prioritising a return to action, he said.

But he admitted that “a small number” of countries, including Belgium, were now considering cancelling their campaigns.



**Premier League clubs will discuss the option of putting a 30 June deadline on the 2019-20 season at a meeting on Friday.**

Not all clubs have been involved in informal discussions at this stage but, with a hoped-for May resumption to the season unlikely, club owners are looking at how to avoid potentially difficult contractual situations.

Numerous players’ present deals expire on 30 June, notably Chelsea midfielder Willian and Tottenham defender Jan Vertonghen.

In addition, Liverpool are due to change shirt manufacturers from New Balance to Nike, while Watford and Newcastle are also changing kit suppliers.

World governing body FIFA are aware of the problem and are looking at alternatives, like rolling contract extensions, with the season currently suspended indefinitely because of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, legally, players cannot be forced to sign them, raising the possibility of clubs losing key parts of their squad before the campaign has been concluded.

It has led to an increasing body of opinion that, no matter what the state of the Premier League at that point, 30 June should be the final day.

Such a move would also bring more clarity to the 2020-21 season, which BBC Sport has been told by numerous sources is more important than the current one.

Putting a deadline on this season is fraught with problems, particularly surrounding relegation and promotion.

One idea being pushed forward again is to promote current Championship top two Leeds and West Brom, not relegate anyone from the top flight and go with a 22-team competition, which would increase the number of TV games and potentially avoid the need to repay this season’s broadcast money. However, that would create a problem for the Football League as it would lead to an imbalance in their numbers.

These are all issues that will be debated by Premier League executives on Friday, although a definitive decision seems unlikely given Uefa has pleaded for leagues to give them time to return with their own proposals for ending the season across Europe, something they expect to do by mid-May at the latest.

Sheffield United boss Chris Wilder though does not expect a deadline to be set for the end of the campaign.

He told BBC Radio 4’s Today programme: “I’m sure that we will adjust accordingly. I think for the integrity of the competition and competitions, especially the top end of English football and European football, they’ll want to finish the season. “I believe that there will be an ability next year to adjust, with international breaks, with moving a few games into midweek. We have that ability through organisation and planning to finish this season off.

“But only as everybody said, and I’ll reiterate that, when it’s safe to do so for everybody. And that obviously we have to take our lead off the government and what they suggest and want us to do.”

(BBC Sports website Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April)

## **Top Football News of the week**

A Newcastle United takeover has moved a step closer after new documents show owner Mike Ashley has entered into a charge agreement with potential buyer Amanda Staveley. Financier Staveley is leading a bid which involves Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund and the Reuben Brothers. It is understood to be worth £300m.

The 31-page charge agreement lodged at Companies House lays the legal groundwork for a potential deal to be completed. Ashley said in October 2017 he wanted to sell the club after 10 years in charge.

Initially, the deal was said to have been worth £340m, but the latest development will encourage many Newcastle fans who want to see Ashley end his association with the club, having taken over in 2007.

Supporters have cited a lack of ambition and have also criticised his conduct during the coronavirus pandemic where the club has charged fans for next season’s season tickets.

# ***Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens***

***Organised football has been played on St Helena since at least the early 1920's. Below are two of my oldest photographs.***



*Wanderers 1926*



*Daffodils 1938*



## ***The Orange Tree Oriental Restaurant***

Daisy and Gilbert are pleased to advise all our patrons that the Orange Tree is now open for full Restaurant service and Takeaways, Monday to Saturday, for lunch and dinner. This is in accordance with the latest Government advice. We look forward to serving you all again, maintaining our usual standard of food and ambience.

## ***Cutting Edge Unisex Hair Salon Vacancy***

Cutting Edge Unisex Hair Salon is seeking a Qualified Nail Technician and have experience in beauty to work in the Salon.

If Interested please contact Sandie Coates on Tel: Work23826/ Mobile 62035 or Home 23089..

# Your Opinion Counts

## Dear Editor,

We write in response to the two articles published in the Independent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 in relation to SHG's Preferred Bidder for St Helena Fisheries.

The first letter is of a provocative nature and its primary objective appears to discredit the very people the investors claim they wish to work with – the local fishermen. Whether by accident or design, some of its content has served only to incense fishermen and simply questions what research was undertaken by these investors in terms of understanding the fishery they aspire to invest in.

For reasons only known to them, the investors wish to portray the St Helena Commercial Fishermen's Association (SHCFA) as anti-foreign investor. They go as far as attempting to use an abstract from an email sent to them on the 6<sup>th</sup> December, which in their opinion showed that “*the SHCFA is not interested in working with a foreign inward investor and that the Island's future fishing industry will be managed by islanders for the island*”. We feel that this assertion made by the investor implies that we are xenophobic and is therefore damaging to our reputation - in addition being wholly incorrect. For complete transparency we include here for the public, the rest of the email sent by the SHCFA to this potential investor and leave it up to your readers to decide if this is indicative of the SHCFA being an ‘anti-inward investor’ organisation:

“It is important to note however, that until we embark on this process, we are unable to indicate what additional fishing capacity is required to formulate a profitable venture. However it is recognised that additional fishing capacity will be required on the seamounts, therefore it is almost a given that we will remain in contact with you to determine if you would be interested in providing the additional capacity required.”

We feel that the investor appears to at-

tempt persuasion with your readers by stating that they have “*seriously sought to join hands and work together with the SHCFA*”. However, we are keen for the investor to provide proof of this, as we would argue that formulating a proposal with a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) in effect and after only meeting with us twice, consequentially resulted in the SHCFA being kept virtually in the dark, and by no means constitutes a serious endeavour to engage, join hands or work together.

We would like to advise that in terms of the two meetings that took place with the **SHCFA**, the first was electronically on the 01<sup>st</sup> November 2019 with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SHCFA, and the second was on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (as detailed in the following paragraph). We share this information so that readers are aware that there was in fact no serious, ongoing, regular engagement from the investors with the SHCFA - as one might expect from a party that proposes to work with fishermen and the industry, in a “*mutually beneficial business partnership*”.

The meeting in June mentioned by the investor was for an **entirely different** proposal concept they presented to us which was later downgraded from ‘full proposal’ by a member of the IEG to ‘just an EOI’ – this concept failed to reach fruition.

Fast forward six months and we reach their first meeting with **all** of our members to discuss their proposal – on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019. However, even during this proposal meeting, they did not come prepared to share important, yet basic details such as pricing structures, acceptable fish sizes etc. the information was still being protected by the NDA held with SHG.

We wish to respectfully remind the investor that it was the SHCFA and the owner of AMD Engineering who had to *persuade* them that we needed this vital information in order to aid our decision as to whether we could support them or not. It was because of labouring of our point that the investor agreed to a follow up meeting the very next day to share the actual proposal and full business plan.

Please note - that the only opportunity we were given to view detail of this proposal was on the 06<sup>th</sup> December 2019, which your readers will know was declined as the decision was taken by the

SHCFA and owner of AMD Engineering to submit our own proposal, which was communicated to the investors. Proof of such is included in the investor's first article whereby he confirms that we advised them that “*We believe it would be unfair and unethical for this meeting to continue, bearing in mind that at this stage we would like the opportunity to commence the creation of our own proposal via the Investment Prospectus route, as we sincerely believe that we have the required skills and in-house expertise to implement the necessary works to revolutionize our fishery.*”

We note that a significant part of the letter appears dedicated to attempting to discredit the SHCFA by undermining a petition submitted to SHG by the SHCFA relating to one-by-one fishing. The challenges made by the investor demonstrate deficiency in local industry knowledge and continue the trend of publicising unsubstantiated and false comments about the SHCFA. In our opinion, the investor has spent too little time communicating with the members of the community involved in the industry who could give them an accurate depiction of the fishery. It is also worth noting that the petition the investors based the majority of their letter on was submitted way back in April 2019, therefore has no bearing on their current proposal. They simply received a copy of this letter to demonstrate our willingness to include them as prospective business owners/partners of an offshore fishing business. In fact the letter didn't include their endorsement; hence we struggle to understand the investor's need to explain why they would not support such an initiative.

## Second article:

Regarding the second article, despite containing a few inaccuracies, it is not of the same provocative tone as the first.

Preferred Bidder, Mr Johann-Marais Bezuidenhout openly states that “*we have really tried very hard, with regards to the fishermen, to get them on board with our vision*”. Herein lies one of the problems, the vision is the investors, not ours. They have not actually tried very hard to get fishermen on board because they have not sought to develop their proposal with any ongoing input from the very stakeholders they claim they wish to partner with.

Perhaps the most important content of  
**Continued on NEXT PAGE**

# Your Opinion Counts

how SHG has agreed to repair the on island infrastructure for the use of the Co-Op. Mr Bezuidenhout states that SHG should be thanked because by doing this “they (SHG) have secured the inclusion of the local fishermen into the venture”. He adds that he mentioned all of this to us during our meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – this is **absolutely false**. The SHCFA knew **nothing** about the agreement made between SHG and the investor, an agreement which was apparently made before the open tender process had closed. Was this offer given to all other bidders? If the investor is correct in respect of why SHG approved this funding, it means that SHG made this decision without first engaging with us assuming that we would willingly join this Co-Op with no questions asked. No consideration was given to what would happen if we were not keen to join?

Given the current interim measures introduced following the winding up of SHFC, which now sees fishermen supplying fish only to the local market, the answer to the dilemma above is simple. The local market can only absorb a relatively small amount of processed fish per week in relation to the fishing fleet’s catching capabilities during these, our seasonal months when the fish are running. This means that there is just not enough of a demand for all vessels to be able to make a living from fishing. Some vessels are unable to fish at all and those which are fishing are only able to do so just 1 or 2 days per week.

The vessel owners who cannot make a living from their businesses have only one place to turn — and that is towards SHG’s Preferred Bidder; as the future based on current circumstances is bleak. We do not blame or judge these vessel owners given the situation – but is it right that local fishermen who have invested heavily in their businesses over many years, are now potentially being forced into aligning with an investor who states that the fish we currently produce is only worthy of ending up as *pet*

*food*?

Scientific data:

It is noted that in both articles, references are made to issues which would require access to scientific data. As the investors have decided to use the media as their preferred way of communicating with fishermen and the general public, we would like to ask the investors the following questions based on their statements:

1. “It has been confirmed by SHG and proven by the research conducted that the juvenile fish migrate from St Helena to Bonaparte seamount and from there further on to Cardno”. Please can they confirm how they know this and what are the actual numbers of tuna recaptured at Bonaparte and Cardno which were originally tagged at St Helena?

2. “In fact overfishing juvenile tuna fish and denting the live bait resource severely...” Can the investor please confirm what scientific evidence is currently publicly available which allows them to make such a statement?

3. A ratio comparison is included in the second article in part relation to bait usage. We are unfamiliar with this sort of rationale as any pole & line commercial fishermen will know that bait used to “catch” a fish is rarely the same as bait used to place it on the hook – chumming is a major component of virtually all pole and line tuna fisheries, so one cannot actually use a 1:1 ratio in relation to landing a tuna. Can the investor explain what scientific data has been used to come up with this peculiar ratio as it could be construed as simply misleading?

We understand to an extent why some of the statements made in their articles are incorrect – they simply haven’t spoken to the right people. The “example” however utilised by Mr Bezuidenhout in relation to question 3 above is of particular concern to us. If he feels confident enough to place questionable information like this in the public domain to try and muster support - what else has he been telling our decision makers that could be classified by any commercial fisher as nonsensical?

The SHCFA are understandably concerned by the current state of affairs within our sector. We felt that when these two articles were placed voluntarily in the public domain by the investors,

it would have allowed Council to engage with us on matters relating to the now **public information; unfortunately this was not the case**. We have tried to convene meetings with Council to discuss the public articles but they have declined our multiple requests.

We tried a different approach and invited them to attend our members meeting to passively observe our discussions in an effort to kick-start cooperation; however of those who could have attended **only one** accepted. The majority of council advised us that they were unable to discuss the public letters as the “on going live procurement exercise” and “NDA” prevents them from talking about anything relating to this proposal.

The investor states that the SHCFA “*denounced the mere idea of foreign investors taking over the local fishing industry*” – this is factually correct but should not be taken out of context. We believe that foreign investors could be integral to the sustainable development of the sector but that they should be incorporated in a supportive role and should not be in a position where they are developing plans with SHG for the future of the industry behind closed doors, while local fishermen continue to **know nothing about it**.

Local fishermen should genuinely be a part of the entire decision making process and should not be an afterthought, or pushed into a position whereby they have no option but to agree and shake hands.

Whilst we understand that the situation is not easy to navigate, we again ask council and in particular Executive Council to find the conviction to engage with the local fishing industry to discuss the content of the articles which are public information. It is essential that these discussions take place prior to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being endorsed. We implore our government to acknowledge our investments in what has been testing times in this troublesome industry and not forget the dedication and efforts we have made over the years that have resulted in us accumulating expertise which has actually been overshadowed by factors we had little control over. Shutting us out at such a pivotal time could prove to be a mistake and this industry has suffered more than its fair share of mistakes.

**-SHCFA-**



St Helena Government

- Red Hill and Chubb's Spring area still under hosepipe ban
- Steady increase in stored water volume across all Island reservoirs
- Connect Saint Helena Ltd continues to optimally pump water to Red Hill



St Helena Government



### ST HELENA WATER LEVELS

St Helena residents are reminded that while the hosepipe ban has been lifted for areas fed from the Levelwood, Hutt's Gate and Longwood reservoirs, the areas fed from Red Hill and Chubb's Spring Water Treatment Works as well as the untreated areas of Blue Hill, Head O'Wain, Burnt Rock, Horse Pasture, Thompson's Hill, Guinea Grass and St Paul's remain under the hosepipe ban.

Red Hill Reservoirs have a stored water volume of 39% which is a slight rise from 34% last week, and Harpers 2 (Earth Dam) is still very low with only 8% stored water.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd (CSH) continues to pump water at optimum level to supplement Red Hill supplies.

There is a steady increase in stored volume with the Island-wide stored water level now at 59.6%, however the community is reminded that while reservoir levels are increasing, our stored water volumes can quickly decline if consumption rates increase. The community is still encouraged to use water responsibly.

Please contact CSH on tel: 22255 if you are unsure whether the hosepipe ban applies to you.

**#StHelena #WaterShortage #EveryDropCounts**

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**St Helena Resilience Forum  
16 April 2020**

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

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# **Press Conference – Wednesday, 15 April 2020**

## **Top Lines**

- We are still in the Prevent Stage, which is implementation of proportionate measures to prevent Coronavirus coming to St Helena and to educate everyone on proportionate safety measures.

- Those people who were in self-isolation have all been released following the 14 days of self-isolation. They were checked on daily by phone and there has been no indication of COVID-19 symptoms. There is no evidence of the virus on the island.

- The enhanced Social Distancing Measures came to an end on Tuesday, 14 April 2020, which means we are no longer advising vulnerable people to stay at home or work from home.

### **Medical Supplies/Test Kits/Staff**

- 960 test kits are due to arrive on the charter flight scheduled to arrive on Monday, 20 April 2020

- Once the kits are on Island, St Helena Hospital Laboratory staff will undergo remote training with Public Health England (PHE).

- Test kits will be used on those people displaying COVID-19 symptoms

- A quarter of a tonne of PPE arrived on the MV Helena from Ascension Island on Tuesday. Approximately 2.5 tonnes of PPE will arrive on the charter flight

- Five additional ventilators are currently being procured and once received will bring the total number of ventilators on-Island to nine

- We expect some medical staff to be on the charter flight and will be able to confirm numbers shortly.

- Six nurses from South Africa have expressed an interest to come to St Helena to support our Health Service.

### **Flights**

- The target date of arrival for the charter flight from the UK is Monday, 20 April, at 1pm following an overnight stop at Ascension Island

- Following arrival the aircraft will carry out a number of training and proving flights at St Helena Airport before departing for the UK via Accra on Tuesday, 21 April

- A maximum of 28 people will be able to travel on this flight to the UK. British Nationals and people with confirmed Hospital appointments in the UK are being prioritised.

- There may be also residents returning to St Helena from the UK, depending on the amount of freight on the aircraft.

- Seat allocation is being finalised. All those who have expressed an interest in travelling will be contacted to let them know if they have a seat or not.

- South Africa has extended their lockdown for another two weeks therefore there will be no Airlink flight this weekend.

### **Bradley's**

- A number of people are working around the clock to get Bradley's ready to receive passengers on the flight arriving on 20 April

- Work is on track to be completed by the end of this week.

- SHG is grateful to those people who responded to the appeal for urgent equipment

- Security arrangements including some fencing around the site perimeter are being finalised

- A Facility Manager and Assistant Facility Manager have been designated

- The Equality and Human Rights Commission has started to gather games, books, magazines for people in quarantine and the Red Cross is also providing support.

- St Helena Government (SHG) is urgently seeking items to complete Bradley's isolation facility. The St Helena Government Coronavirus (COVID-19) Live Q&A page lists equipment needs and contact information on assisting with the project.

### **Supplies**

- International shipping is continuing around the world and Cape Town Port continues to operate, but on a reduced scale. We currently expect the MV Helena to be able to go back to Cape Town and restock and return in May

- SHG continues to work closely with merchants and suppliers to ensure supplies to the Island can be maintained

- The St Helena Pharmacist and Paul Hickling from the St Helena Distillery have been working together to produce additional hand sanitiser following World Health Organization guidelines. 20 litres of hand sanitiser have been produced and will be used in the Hospital.

### **MV Helena**

- Three passengers arrived on the MV Helena from Ascension Island on Monday

- All three passengers have the right to enter St Helena and have been transported to Bertrand's Cottage where they will be quarantined for the next 14 days

**SHG**  
**15 April 2020**



St Helena  
Government

- St Helena's first marine-themed online game launched
- The game, developed collaboratively as part of the DEFRA Plastics Project, is available to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store

## **ST HELENA'S FIRST MARINE-THEMED ONLINE GAME LAUNCHED**

St Helena's first marine themed free online game – ‘Secrets of St Helena’ – has recently launched.

‘Secrets of St Helena’ was developed collaboratively by the Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) Marine Team, Blue Marine Foundation and [Planeteri](#). This interactive, educational output was part of a much wider collaborative Plastics Project: ‘Sustainably managing plastic waste on St Helena to reduce marine debris’ that was funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The Island-wide Project involved St Helena Government’s Marine Section, Waste Management Services, SHAPE (St Helena Active Participation in Enterprise) and the SHNT.

Young gamers will no doubt notice that the game also links to the free, interactive Makerzines that were presented to St Helena’s Primary School pupils last year.

SHNT’s Head of Marine Conservation, Beth Taylor, commented:

*“Given the focus of the DEFRA Plastics Project, the game is aimed to immerse our young community in the marine environment of St Helena, where they (as a diver) can learn about our IUCN Category VI, Marine Protected Area, our unique marine wildlife and what can they do to protect it! The digital nature of the game ensures longevity - and we would love to see it developed more in the future for all age groups and with further levels.”*

SHG’s Marine Conservation Officer, Rhys Hobbs, added:

*“This is a fantastic additional legacy for the Plastics Project, and especially timely with the current school closures. Hopefully the app will serve as a tool to help further engage the Island’s children and teach them more about the marine environment and what lives in it.”*

The game is available to download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

**#StHelena #MarineGame #DEFRA #PlasticRecycling #Partnership**

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**SHG**  
**16 April 2020**

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

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