

# THE ST HELENA Est. 2005 INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XVI ISSUE 18, 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021, PRICE £1

## ***Governor Calls Halt on Cheap Electricity***



## ***St Helena's Private Sector in Uproar***

***Direct Flights to UK  
Continue***

***'At Least Until August'  
South African Link Still Uncertain***

***Easter Events***

***'Better Safe than Sorry' Says Tony Brooks***

A collage of various British banknotes, including £50, £20, £10, £5, and £1 notes, featuring the Queen's portrait.

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£200  
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Independent**

**See Page 2 for the  
Questions and How to  
Submit Your Answers**



## ***False Economy (or Why Do We Try to Stop the World from Spinning?)***

***Opinion – Mike Olsson***

We had a little corner of space left in the Independent this week which I thought I could fill up with some issues bothering me at the moment.

This week's issue is full of reading about the Governor's orders to the Chief Planning Officer to stop processing planning applications for photo-voltaic solar panels. I understand his concerns and his short explanation why he did what he did. Still, we cannot stop the world from spinning and we cannot artificially stop the development of St Helena and our small private sector. The problem is that our electricity charges are set politically and not on commercial grounds.

As maybe the only place in the world, large consumers pay more per unit of electricity than small consumers. It is actually much more viable for Connect to supply electricity to a big cold store than to a small cottage in the country. The large cold store is actually subsidising the electricity to the little cottage using very little electricity.

Obviously we have to help low income earners and people who are not all that well off but that has to be done through the social security system not with punitive charges to the private sector. This mix of social issues and commercial facts must stop.

The electricity charges was one of the main reasons (together with excessive freight charges) for the Fisheries Corporation to collapse. They needed huge subsidy from government to pay for artificially high electricity costs to in turn subsidise low income earners. I remember when Argos run the fishing

complex in Rupert's and Peter Thompson, on behalf of Argos said that they paid more for the electricity than what they paid to the fishermen for the fish. This is a false economy.

I am sure that our Directors, Portfolio bosses and other decision makers will make the blunders when it comes to the fibre-optic cable. We already see the big users on the Island booking subscriptions with Skylink for their fast internet access, whoever gets the contract for the land based telecommunications will be left with low income earners and small consumers who have to pay excessive charges to keep the land based systems working.

Prices must be set commercially, not to cover over an inadequate social security system. We can easily get rid of half of the high income earners in Government without any negative effects to the Island and use this money to make it possible for people to pay for realistically priced services.

If commercial pricing these photo-voltaic panels would not be as big cost savers as they are now and Skylink might not be such an attractive proposal after all. Trying to stop development to keep the current system alive is just futile. Just a thought.

### ***Wanted***

Looking to buy second hand & in good condition  
2 beds – 2 single or 1 single 1 double  
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Small Patio Table & Chairs  
Contact 67583 after 5pm

## ***How to Have a Chance to Win £200***

**You can win £200 from the Independent if you answer these three simple questions which you can find in the St Helena Independent dated 1<sup>st</sup> April which you bought last week.**

- 1. According to the Independent on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, how many Councillors voted against the introduction of a Ministerial Government at this stage in the formal meeting of the St Helena Legislative Council on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021?**
- 2. According to the Independent on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, which 'tiny place' in the world is vaccinating (against Covid-19) fastest?**
- 3. In the Independent on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, who is advertising at the bottom of page 14?**

**This is what you do with your answers:**

- 1. E-mail your answers to the St Helena Independent on [independent@helanta.co.sh](mailto:independent@helanta.co.sh), write your answers and your name and address. Only one name from each e-mail address will be accepted. The e-mails must reach our office before midnight Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This is the best option.**
- 2. On Monday morning from 9am you can call in your answers to Saint FM on telephone number 222660 or 22488 and give your name and address. Only one name will be accepted from each phone call.**



***The Draw will take place at 10am live on Saint FM and the prize of £200 might be yours.***



# Titan Airways May 2021 Flight and Beyond

## St Helena Government

A Charter Flight, operated by Titan Airways, is scheduled to arrive at St Helena on or about the 10 May 2021. The current schedule is as follows:

Date	Flight No	Departure Time	Departure Airport	Arrival Airport	Arrival Time
10 May 21	ZT9511	0015 UTC 0115 Local	London Stansted EGSS / STN	Accra DGAA / ACC	0715 UTC 0715 Local
10 May 21	ZT9511	0800 UTC 0800 Local	Accra DGAA / ACC	St Helena FHS / HLE	1210 UTC 1210 Local
11 May 21	ZT9512	1000 UTC 1000 Local	St Helena FHS / HLE	Ascension Island FAW / ASI	1210 UTC 1210 Local
11 May 21	ZT9513	1410 UTC 1410 Local	Ascension Island FAW / ASI	St Helena FHS / HLE	1620 UTC 1620 Local
12 May 21	ZT9514	0900 UTC 0900 Local	St Helena FHS / HLE	Accra DGAA / ACC	1300 UTC 1300 Local
12 May 21	ZT9514	1345 UTC 1345 Local	Accra DGAA / ACC	London Stansted EGSS / STN	2055 UTC 2155 Local

Passengers considering travelling on the May flight must register their interest by 9am on Wednesday, 14 April 2021 (contact details are below). This strict deadline is necessary to allow flight arrangements to be made. Late requests will only be considered on an exceptional basis.

### June

SHG is in the process of making arrangements for a further Titan Airways charter flight to fly to St Helena in June 2021. The anticipated date for this flight is the week commencing 21 June. It is anticipated the aircraft will follow the same route as previous flights.

### August

SHG are in discussions with Titan Airways about a further charter flight to St Helena in August 2021. It is anticipated that any such flight would be the week commencing 9 August.

Further information on the June and August flights will be released over the coming weeks.

### Restrictions in South Africa

Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, such as curfews in South Africa and restrictions on travellers entering the UK from South Africa, remain in place. These restrictions continue to make it impractical for the scheduled Airlink service to resume at present.

## Minimum Income Standard

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) is the income that people need in order to reach a minimum socially acceptable standard of living in St Helena, based on what members of the public think.

Pricing of the MIS basket took place in late 2020 and early 2021. The MIS that resulted from the St Helena basket of goods for a minimum socially acceptable standard of living was £3.93 per adult per hour for each of two adults in a family of four. This does not include extra requirements for particular individuals and groups (e.g. people with disabilities).

The MIS of £3.93 per hour reflects changing expectations of what is a socially acceptable minimum standard of living on the Island. This is higher than the 2021 Minimum Wage rate of £3.25 per hour and will be one of the factors used to inform the process to set a target Minimum Wage and schedule for achieving that target over the next 3-7 years.

A report of the MIS exercise is available on the SHG website via: <https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/report-on-the-rebasing-of-the-minimum-income-standard-2020/>. It is also available from Social Policy Planner, Ann Muir, via email: [Ann.Muir@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:Ann.Muir@sainthelena.gov.sh).

### Planning for the Future

During March the Incident Executive Group (IEG) met to discuss and review SHG's Coronavirus Strategy.

Regulations restricting entry to St Helena were repealed with effect from Thursday, 1 April 2021. This means that individuals can now enter St Helena by land and sea, subject to normal Immigration Laws and requirements of the Public Health Coronavirus Regulations.

COVID-19 preventative measures remain in place in St Helena which include testing on arrival to St Helena, mandatory 14-day quarantine on arrival and a negative test result being required before the mandatory quarantine period is deemed to be complete.

Flights to St Helena will continue with a maximum of 96 passengers because this aligns with the Island's COVID-19 testing and quarantine security system capacity.

### Travel Requests

Travel requests for the May, June and August flights can be submitted now (noting again that the booking request deadline for the May flight is 9am on Wednesday 14 April 2021).

Availability of both inbound and outbound seats on these charter flights will continue to be assigned on a priority basis, but passengers should note the new entry rules as advised above which will allow Islanders and visitors to make travel plans to the Island once more.

Travel requests should be submitted to the SHG Civil Aviation team via email: [christina.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:christina.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh) or telephone: (+290) 22477. For those based on Ascension Island, or wishing to travel to or from Ascension Island, please contact the Shipping and Travel Office via email: [flight.bookings@ascension.gov.ac](mailto:flight.bookings@ascension.gov.ac).

Customers wishing to book commercial or governmental airfreight for carriage on the May, June and/or August charter flights are advised to use an appropriate freight forwarding agent to make the necessary arrangements.



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<http://www.independent.sh>

# Editorial

This week's *Independent* has many words reporting on the decision of the Governor not to allow any further development permissions for photovoltaic panels or 'home solar farms' on the roofs of houses or businesses. I will leave you to read what is written elsewhere in this newspaper and just provide the latest announcements, pronouncements and comments from three people who have a central involvement in this issue.

The Governor issued a short comment on Thursday morning. He pointed out the halt to any further privately owned photovoltaic panels is a temporary measure which will allow time for Exco and government officers to assess the effect of the growing number of development applications for the generation of free electric power by having the photovoltaic panels on the roof of your own house or business. He wants the government "to consider the impact on the whole Island's energy policy and, ultimately, the possible impact on electricity costs to other consumers." The 'other consumers' being those houses and businesses that do not have and presumably cannot afford to buy their own home generation power kit.

The immediate thought is how temporary is temporary? On past performance temporary can mean many months or a few years in government terms. The reason people are buying their own photovoltaic panels is they are fed up waiting for the government to do what they say they will do – stabilise electricity prices over the 25 year term of the agreement between Connect St Helena and PASH Global. While waiting for the government to make an assessment of something they should have seen coming some time back, a new major development in terms of the economy of St Helena, the money paid by people who have bought the required equipment for their own renewable energy and the people who have made a business in supplying and installing the equipment all lose money. Some could lose their livelihood, their future and the plans they had for the future.

For the government to expect the world to stop while they think about what to do next is an extraordinarily foolhardy, risky and damaging thing to do. The Governor added in his statement "there is no change to any planning applications already approved". If this was intended to make those who are affected by his call for a halt to further home energy systems feel a little better, the intention has undoubtedly failed. Any attempt to withdraw approvals for private renewable energy projects will lead to people preparing the legal case for costs to be awarded to them because of this.

The Connect St Helena CEO has said he does not think it wise to get involved in this; it would only confuse the issue. The renewable energy contract is between Connect and PASH Global. Connect is, or should be very much involved but SHG and the Governor have jumped in with both big boots. Who is

leading on this? Are there too many cooks ruining the broth? Is this another fiasco about to burst forth?

During the years the PASH Global project got exactly nowhere the situation has changed and changed irreversibly. The government cannot try to turn the tide; it will cause even more chaos. The role, purpose and business model for Connect St Helena must surely be the first thing to review. At the same time SHG should consider offering incentives to homeowners and businesses who plan to buy their renewable energy photovoltaic panels. In the UK the government offers £500 to people who install fast charging power points for electric cars outside their homes. A further £300 can be obtained from the Energy Saving Trust. SHG could do something similar here for photovoltaic panels installed on private properties. Certainly this would be useful for those who want to do it but have insufficient funds. It is just another part of the Climate Change – Carbon Footprint Reduction Policy.

The PASH Global agreement could be terminated, according to a very informed source. Both parties could use the pandemic as a get out. SHG due to projected visitors numbers and PASH as the global landscape has changed. As long as there has not been significant investment a way out could be found. St Helena could still become 100% renewable but local investors would need access to land and battery storage is vital. It would require a different approach; a gradual transition and a different economic model.

What we need now from SHG is some nimble footwork which responds to relatively fast changing circumstances. It would need to involve SHG reducing its direct and indirect involvement and giving the private sector the room to do the job. Government support in the form of practical or financial incentives would be welcome. Let's have some clear-minded leadership from government together with genuine co-operation with the private sector and maybe this job can be done without putting ourselves in the hands of overseas interests.

**Vince**

**THE ROCK**

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

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Jamestown, HTH  
Contact 23249 or 62552

**PRAISE & WORSHIP**



# Governor Calls Halt on Cheap Electricity

Vince Thompson

At a pre-meeting behind a locked door the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA) were told that no further development applications for photo-voltaic roof panels are to be considered or permitted by the LDCA. It is reported no reason was given for the instruction. The order was made by the Governor and already, the Governor's action has raised a range of issues about openness, transparency, accountability and even the legality of his instruction.

Some years ago it was clearly established that meetings of the LDCA should be held in public and the development applications and all documents connected with them should be available for public inspection. Closed session discussions were used when sensitive or personal information was involved and happened as very rare exceptions. In recent times the range of documents available to the public has been increasingly restricted and agenda items reserved for discussion in a closed meeting (public not allowed) have become more frequent. More recently still it has become a regular feature for the LDCA to meet in closed session before the meeting is opened to the public. On Wednesday the boundaries of non-public meetings of the LDCA extended further; the closed meeting took place again – this time behind a locked door. The Governor had written to the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) ordering that no further development applications for photo-voltaic roof panels, which would significantly reduce the cost of electricity, are to be allowed. The CPO informed the chairperson and members of the LDCA just before the formal meeting was due to start. To the members of the LDCA, the people responsible for making the decisions, it came as a bombshell. A bombshell that was so explosive the Governor's command did not stay behind the closed, locked door for very long; there are so many people affected and financially disadvantaged by this decision and they had to be informed.



A development application was due to be discussed by the LDCA on Wednesday for photovoltaic panels to be erected on the roof of the Queen Victoria. The savings envisaged

through reduced energy costs are in the region of £8-10,000 per year. Furthermore, the savings were seen as opening up the possibility for further improvements to the Queen Victoria as a modern, well laid out and easy to use main store for Jamestown. The QMS proprietors now see this opportunity to reduce costs and improve customer service as delayed indefinitely and are wondering if it is worthwhile trying to plan investment for increased business growth and improved services.



***"The challenge is to strike the right balance between economic growth and environmental protection" Ismail Mohammed – Chief Planning Officer***

The Development application which shows Gregory Cairns-Wicks as the applicant was to be discussed later when the LDCA meeting was open to the public. There were no objections from either statutory consultees or the public. In the officer's report to LDCA members the application had been recommended for permission to be granted. The assessment in the officer's report included, "Renewable energy is widely encouraged as it is beneficial for the environment and in reducing utility costs. The panels will take advantage of the configuration of the roof, where it faces a northerly direction. No alterations to the roof are needed in terms of raising its profile, where they will be sited on the same plane as the roof, limiting their visual impact from the street." All this came to nothing after the Governor's intervention. As a direct result of the Governor's intervention 60 photovoltaic panels bought for the roof of the Queen Victoria are now useless if the situation is not reversed. In addition the QMS proprietors have bought other panels for both domestic and business use bringing the total investment in renewable energy by just one Island business to £50,000. Other businesses and domestic users are in similar positions.

One intensely annoyed business owner has asked, "If Exco were to back the position that SHG must change policies & laws to ensure the people of St Helena MUST buy from con-

***Continued on NEXT PAGE***

# Governor Calls Halt on Cheap Electricity

Vince Thompson

nect to preserve the PASH deal then it would simply be putting the profits of the rich living abroad above the wellbeing of the people of St Helena. I for one will fight this with every effort possible." It is very possible the next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Jamestown Community Centre will be a highly charged affair.

One of the members of the LDCA, Karl Thrower, has been at the forefront of developing the installation of photovoltaic panels across St Helena. The very attractive reduction both in photovoltaic panel installation costs and the subsequent lower cost of electricity has meant conversion to 'produce-your-own' electricity has become increasingly popular. Mr Thrower has several orders to complete and has container loads of photovoltaic panels both ready on St Helena for installation and on order for imminent delivery. One such planned installation is for the Mantis Hotel. It is clear the owners of the Mantis Hotel, St Helena Hotel Development Ltd (a government owned company) saw this move as a very useful way to reduce the costs of running the hotel when it re-opens. This move for better efficiency in the operation of this loss-making government venture has been struck down by the Governor's decree.



**Karl Thrower's Green Island Energy takes a hit**

Karl insists he made extensive enquiries on a wide range of issues which may affect a small renewable energy business when establishing Green Island Energy Ltd. He quoted advice he received early on from an authoritative Connect St Helena source: - "People can install renewable systems for their own use but are not permitted to sell or give that electricity to anyone else so as long as they comply with the law I don't think there is any policy or regulation applicable. Connect is regulated because we sell electricity but for a home owner supplying electricity for their own use I don't think there is any need." Karl Thrower is now furious his careful research and through enquires have now come to nothing because of an eccentric ruling from the Governor.

Another complication is it is possible it can be proved the Governor has acted illegally. Within hours of it being known the Governor had dropped this bombshell, with the shrapnel spreading with high velocity in all directions, certain people

who are adversely affected by the Governor's decision were taking legal advice. Feedback on the initial legal advice offered is that the Governor may have a case to answer in a Court of Law. It can be argued that before a decision of the kind announced by the Governor on Wednesday morning can be enforced there needs to be a change in the legislation. There are some minor developments which can be undertaken without needing to apply for development permission from the LCDA. Photovoltaic panels are included on that list but subject to certain conditions. Also included in the legislation along with photovoltaic panels are the more common solar panels. More investigation is needed to establish whether the Governor's embargo on photovoltaic panels also, in legal terms, applies to solar panels.

Further criticism of the way the Governor announced his ban on photovoltaic panels includes the way he ignored the LDCA as the Authority which makes the decisions on development applications. His letter was addressed to the CPO, not the Chairperson of the LDCA. The CPO is there to advise the LDCA, not make decisions on their behalf. Lack of due process is one of the many bones of contention on this issue which is likely to develop as the controversy continues. The general view is the Governor should have taken his intention to make this announcement to a meeting of the Governor-in-Council and sought the advice of Executive Council on his intention to ban the use of photovoltaic panels. By making his announcement in the way he did it is thought by some that he has acted outside his powers and the announcement is unconstitutional.

At the heart of this controversy is the agreement struck between Connect St Helena and PASH Global. Within that agreement Connect St Helena, backed by SHG, agree to buy all the electricity generated by PASH Global. With an increasing number of homeowners and, more recently, high consuming businesses making the switch to 'produce-your-own' photovoltaic panels Connect St Helena foresee a situation developing where the electricity they have agreed to buy from PASH Global will be more than they need to supply the decreasing number of homes and businesses relying on electricity supplied by Connect.

It was almost three years ago when PASH Global announced it had been selected as the preferred bidder for the project to invest in new, bigger wind turbines and increase output from the Solar Farm, provide battery storage for renewable energy which is not used immediately and provide an initial 3.5MW which is sold by Connect St Helena to its customers throughout the Island. Connect is now concerned that if current trends continue, they will not be able to sell all the electricity produced by PASH Global to its Island customers. Buying electricity which cannot be sold on is the route to disaster; a disaster not only for Connect but for all residents and businesses which cannot afford to make the switch to using their own photovoltaic panels. It is for this reason the Governor made his much criticised announcement.



# Governor Calls Halt on Cheap Electricity

Vince Thompson

Part of the problem is that PASH Global is very late coming to St Helena to complete their part of the agreement. The formal agreement between PASH Global and Connect St Helena was announced by PASH Global on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020; more than two years after the announcement about PASH Global being the preferred bidder. Now, almost a year later, the private sector in St Helena has moved on and the situation with power generation has changed. Connect St Helena, SHG and PASH Global have been left behind as innovative solutions are found by imaginative business people in St Helena's private sector. The grim reality now surfacing is the renewable energy contract between Connect St Helena and PASH Global is out of date, irrelevant and unworkable; the succession of unexplained delays in getting started on this project has caused this to be so.

The solution to SHG and Connect being adversely affected by delays in moving ahead with the PASH Global agreement appears to be the denial of the advantages gained for home owners and businesses offered by small on-island entrepreneurs so that the risk to SHG and Connect of another failed public-private partnership is reduced.

PSH Global is known to have made advanced preparations to visit St Helena on three occasions. Each time the plans to visit St Helena to start the preparatory project work have been cancelled. When a reason has been given, the pandemic is blamed. This is in contrast to Marine Contractors and Consultants (MCC) who are based in Cyprus. A team from MCC are now out of quarantine and starting the preparatory work for the cable installation at the Cable Landing Station in Rupert's scheduled for the beginning of June. The MCC team in St Helena are from Greece; a country a bit closer to St Helena than PASH Global but the logistics and difficulties in getting from Greece to St Helena are much the same as those which defeat PASH Global. Why is it MCC can keep to the contract schedule while PASH Global fail abysmally?

The extraordinary and chaotic situation which has developed since Wednesday morning has raised many questions, as is often the case. Hopefully the elected members will lead in getting answers to them and a satisfactory solution to what has become a complex set of circumstances will be found.

## A story of an Islands enslavement to a mistake

Submitted by Karl Thrower

***This information is provided without prejudice and all the facts contained in this letter are correct as I understand them.***

Solar system, an on-Island term for either a solar hot water tank and panel or a Solar electricity system (technical term Photovoltaic or PV). They basically work the same, they take the energy from the sun and use it to either heat water or generate electricity. The installation and use of both types of system was promoted by SHG in every way possible.

This changed yesterday in the Land Development Control Authorities meeting when the LDCA told an applicant that they had been ordered by the Governor not to consider any applications for PV systems.

The story behind this announcement is that the CEO of Connect St Helena wrote a letter to the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) regarding the Islands energy situation and the deal that SHG has signed with PASH for the installation of large wind turbines and a large PV system. The CPO forwarded this letter directly on to the Governor. The Governor then responded by sending the CPO a correspondence back to the CPO directing him to inform the LDCA not to consider any planning applications which included roof mounted PV systems.

The contents of the letter from Connect was presented to the LDCA members for them to read in the caucus part of the meeting and not the closed part of the meeting— I state this as I am a member of the LDCA (not sure how much longer for after writing this letter).

Connect was always going to have to raise concerns with how many of their larger customers were starting to generate their own electricity using PV systems. The question is why was the letter sent to the CPO and not Governing in council, EXCO, the EDC (Economic development Committee). Why did the Governor not raise the issues raised in the letter with the same groups? The LDCA and the CPO are about as far as you can get away from the Islands normal channels of governance for policies outside of planning concerns. As the LDCA we have no experience of energy policies or the due process that they have to go through.

Personally, have been expecting Connect to try and block people from installing PV systems for a few months, so the contents of the letter weren't a surprise. Anyone whom has been involved in similar projects (as I have) would have been able to foresee the issues the letter raised from the very early discussions between Connect and PASH. Connect had given PASH and SHG figures for the Islands current and future energy consumption, these figures formed the basis of the entire agreement. Now that a number of businesses and individual house owners had decided to follow the SHG initiatives for inward investment in renewable energy the demand for electricity from Connect was dropping below Connects estimates. This in turn would mean Connect (SHG) having to purchase electricity from PASH which it couldn't sell.

The problem is that there are no rules in place which prevent people from investing in PV systems (see email below) and the planning regulations, policies and ordinances are written to actively encourage them.

***Continued on NEXT PAGE***

# A story of an Islands enslavement to a mistake

Submitted by Karl Thrower

"From: Karl Thrower

[mailto:karlthrower@googlemail.com]

Sent: 17 April 2019 08:12 To: Connect Enquiries

<Enquiries@connect.co.sh>

Subject: Renewable Systems Policy

Good morning

I am looking for information on Connects / Saint Helena's current policy / regulations for people whom want to install renewable energy systems (Solar PV and Wind) on or at their properties.

Kind regards

Karl Thrower"

The reply was:

"Karl

People can install renewable systems for their own use but are not permitted to sell or give that electricity to anyone else so as long as they comply with the law I don't think there is any policy or regulation applicable. Connect is regulated because we sell electricity but for a home owner supplying electricity for their own use I don't think there is any need.

Does that answer the question?

Regards

Barry Hubbard

CEO Connect St Helena"

So why is the planning process being used to stop this type of investment?

What does the letter from Connect mean for the average person and business?

A number of people and businesses whom have already invested over £100,000 in PV systems but have not yet fitted them now won't be able too.

Connect are going to ensure that as an Island we are all enslaved to buying electricity at one of the Worlds highest prices for the next 20 years.

The high cost of electricity will hold back Island development to a trickle and vastly limit the options for investment due to the high running cost of doing business on St Helena.

That despite the £100's of thousands of pounds SHG invested developing our Islands strategies for investment they aren't worth the paper there written on.

Will it be PV systems first, solar water heaters next and finally LED lighting which Connect demands we stop using, to ensure their sale of electricity -they all reduce your electricity usage.

Moving forward it will also ensure that despite SHG driving us towards electric vehicles we will have to pay 1500% more to run them than we need to (46p per unit vs 3p).

All this because the people involved in the tender process forgot to take into account the fact that people might choose in the future to invest in their own energy generation as recommended by SHG. The PASH deal was always a flawed deal as the people involved always seemed more focused on making the Island 100% renewable and our off-island image than lowering the price for the Islands people and removing the Energy Poverty far too many of us struggle with.

Personally, I think Wednesday was a truly disastrous day for the development of our Island. Today Connect and SHG announced to the businesses trying to reduce their costs, to public trying to save money, to the SHG personal whom were simply trying to do their jobs by reducing costs – Stop you must pay for our mistake.

There is going to be a meeting of EXCO on Tuesday to talk about this issue– I recommend that everyone makes their feelings known to the EXCO members before we are all forced to endure another significant financial burden for the foreseeable.

Karl Thrower

Director Green Island Energy Limited

## Your Opinion Counts

Dear Editor,

With so much uncertainty around at present, and the possibility of Airlink not flying anytime soon to St. Helena, shouldn't St. Helena be planning for later in the year activities?

There are many people who might want to be on the island for Christmas and

New Year. I understand that there are many months to go but planning is a task that we all must do. Getting people to the island important but only if it is safe and is planned properly. My question is, shouldn't this planning start now? South Africa seems quite away from opening up, so shouldn't St. Helena start now by having Titan flights looked into for the festive period so that many who want to spend Christmas on the island can plan? I understand the contract the island has with Airlink, however why should everyone has to wait for last minutes decisions when simply planning ahead could ease all stresses?

I understand all the different areas that

must be covered like weather the isolation period etc. will still be in place, I still think COVID testing should be done before leaving the UK or anywhere else, and temperatures etc. checked when arriving on the island these should be done way into the year and maybe even to next year, with all this in mind Planning is a must. So in order to help the public to plan, St. Helena must plan.

Kind Regards

Pat Harris





# Thank You

The family of the late Doris Lilian Reynolds who passed away peacefully on 17th March 2021 would like to extend their sincere thanks to the Doctors and hospital staff for their professional care and support during Doris's illness.

Also to Bishop Dale and Deacon Ernest for ministering to her and conducting the funeral service.

Joy George for playing the organ and Eddie Duff and Marico George for the musical accompaniment at the graveside.

Roy Williams and his team for organising the burial, Betty Joshua for reading the eulogy and Lionel Joshua for taking the photos.

Davina and Colin Lawrence, Tina Peters and

Kurt Thomas for the making of the beautiful wreaths and to all who kindly gave flowers.



Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who attended the funeral service and for those here and overseas who sent cards and messages of condolence to support us during this difficult time.

Extended thanks goes to Valerie, Mervyn and Andrea for all your help, care and for always being there for our family.

***Doris has gone from our lives,  
but will forever remain in our  
hearts.***



## Job Vacancy

### Business Manager, Ascension Island

Sure is seeking a highly skilled Business Manager to lead and grow our business. Sure Ascension is part of the wider Sure Group delivering telecommunications to islands in the South Atlantic, Indian Ocean and Channel Islands. The ideal candidate will have a track record of outstanding managerial experience, day to day operational leadership, including human resources, customer service and finance. The role will require strong leadership, the ability to work in a small team and deliver the company's objectives whilst overseeing the day to day processes whilst managing operational efficiency.

Qualifications and experience for this role: 5 years experience as a business manager or relevant managerial role with a business, management or related qualification. Superior leadership skills, with a focus on employee engagement and development; experience working in a commercial entity/business environment with a drive to deliver and exceed. MS Office proficient and must be able to adapt to working on a small, relatively isolated sub tropical island.

Join us and you will enjoy some of the many benefits that Sure provides, including but not limited to: competitive salary, Incentive Scheme, Pension, Staff Benefits and opportunities for continued professional development.

Due to the nature of this position, the post holder must hold a Satisfactory Police Disclosure.

Interested person can contact the HR department: Shara Robinson on E: [shara.robinson@sure.com](mailto:shara.robinson@sure.com) T: +500 20807 or Chief Executive SHL & ASC, Christine Thomas on E: [Christine.thomas@sure.com](mailto:Christine.thomas@sure.com) or T: +290 22218

Applications and CV should be submitted to Human Resources by **4pm on Monday 12 April 2021.**



## ***The Yachties are Back***

### ***Special Report***

Since our borders closed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January, we haven't seen many yachties around. The few that stopped here for a rest stop of 24 hours or for repairs obviously never came ashore. But with the vaccination program well underway, we can welcome them again on our island. The first 'batch' of five boats arrived just before the deadline and did their quarantine on board. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> they were tested, all negative. And so they got stamped in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and are walking around Jamestown ever since.

I ran into Wietze and Janneke from the Netherlands, two happy faces on this bright Thursday morning. I seize this opportunity to have a coffee with them and ask them some questions. First of all, I want to know if they can tell me a bit more about the yachtie-lifestyle. Wietze smiles: "the yachtie-lifestyle? Well, the population of yachties is as diverse as the population of any given city: there are people of all ages, skills and backgrounds. Some are retired, some work from their boat, using the internet that is available where they go. What we have in common is that we have chosen a different lifestyle, which involves making a big choice: giving up the comforts of a house, a car and always a shop nearby. Instead we live on a small yacht. You can compare our living space with the size of your kitchen. This yacht gives the opportunity to sail around the world, learn about new cultures, meet new people and taste wonderful food". Janneke adds: "Most people think that yachties are very wealthy people. The opposite is true: most yachties live off their savings or off a small pension. They want to stretch the available money as long as they can".

When I ask if this is the first small island nation that they visit, both grin. Janneke says: "no, definitely not. The one thing that is great about sailing around in a small boat is that you get to go to small islands which are hard to get to without a sailboat. We have visited the most wonderful places on this planet. In the South Pacific Ocean for instance: the uninhabited atoll of Suvarrow. A hermit lived there once; now it is a national park. The coconut crabs we saw there were the size of a football! The two park wardens who live there 6 months per year were lovely and shared lots of information with us". Wietze adds: "Samoa was another beautiful destination: an island steeped in history with different royal families and their traditions. But also the Seychelles: we had such a wonderful time there. These islands are a melting pot of cultures and historic events, just like Saint Helena. In the 8 years that we have been sailing around the world, we have visited 42 countries and we have really learned to appreciate the diversity of cultures that our world has to offer".

What is their first impression of Saint Helena? Janneke laughs: "it is just so great to be able to go ashore here. We had never thought it would happen. Can you imagine: we are only one day away from Saint Helena at sea when a friend sent us an email, telling us that the borders are reopened. Our hearts sang. We love to walk the streets and see the historic buildings, have lunch in the restaurants and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere". Wietze muses while he touches his calf: "we did the Jacobs Ladder already". Janneke laughs and



***Wietze and Janneke enjoying St Helena***

continues: "being in the first batch, we surprised people who hadn't seen tourists for a while. On the first day, people approached us in the street, asking if we were tested. We understand that they were worried. But they need not fear a yachtie: we've done the hard quarantine for at least 14 days before being tested. And we are just as afraid to catch Covid19 as everybody else: we have to deal with it when we are at sea and most yachts only have a crew of two. A more careful person than a yachtie is hard to find".

Wietze adds: "from day one here we felt very welcome: during our additional six days after our sail here from Walvis Bay, Namibia and after we were allowed ashore. The Port Control team, Steve and Carl, Steve and Sandie of the Saint Helena Yacht Club and Jane of Ann's Place. Jane even improvised a wonderful Easter Lunch for the first group of yachties on Easter Sunday".

I notice two backpacks next to them. Provisions for the next leg? Janneke muses: "yes, that is the hard thing of a yachties life: we always have to say goodbye to the places we love. But the wind and tide wait for no one, as the old sailors used to say".

Their next stop is Ascension Island, then Azores and then on to their home country again. Most yachts who stop at Saint Helena make the Caribbean their next stop. When I look out over the moored boats, I see flags of at least 8 different countries flying from the back of the yachts. The Saints don't need to travel the world: the world comes to us. We only need to stop and listen to them.



***Wietze and Janneke on a tropical Island in French Polynesia***



# **ST HELENA JOINS THE WORLD'S LARGEST OCEAN MONITORING SYSTEM TO PROTECT WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY**

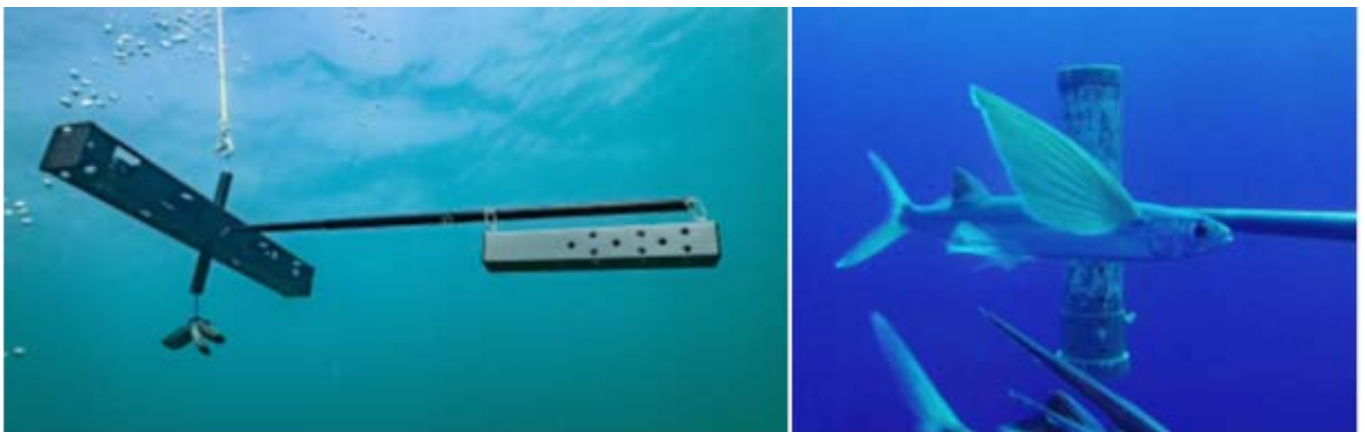
The ocean wildlife and diverse ecosystems of St Helena and other UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) will soon be more visible than ever thanks to pioneering work to establish a major network of underwater camera deployments known as the Global Ocean Wildlife Analysis Network.

Funded as part of the UK Government Blue Belt Programme, St Helena Government's Marine Section will work with scientists from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the University of Western Australia and Blue Abacus, in a world first to supply and analyse the data collected from 66 non-intrusive stereo-Baited Remote Underwater Video Systems (BRUVS), which will be deployed in open ocean and coastal habitats.

Consisting of two small action cameras embedded within a base bar, a bait arm and a vertical upright, BRUVS record all animals that appear in the cameras' overlapping field of view. The first BRUVS were deployed in the early 2000s to document the fish communities in shallow coastal waters, expanding in 2014 to open ocean monitoring. Since then Professor Meeuwig's University of Western Australia team has completed over 70 surveys in 35 international locations, obtaining records for more than 140,000 animals.

The BRUV camera systems will allow St Helena and other UK's Overseas Territories to see below the surface and provide a benchmark of scientific understanding of the marine species within their maritime area, allowing the more informed decisions about protecting and managing the marine ecosystems. Other UKOTs involved in the project are Anguilla, Ascension Island, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, and Tristan da Cunha.

This initiative builds on progress to date through the Blue Belt Programme to improve our understanding of the marine environment of the UKOTs, and to ensure these diverse ecosystems are protected and managed for future generations. Through the programme, the UKOTs have put in place large-scale marine protection and management measures which cover an area of over four million square kilometres.



Images of the BRUV camera deployments

**#StHelena #BlueBeltProgramme #BRUVS**

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**SHG**

**6 April 2021**



**St Helena  
Government**

## **NEW YEAR HONOURS 2022: OVERSEAS LIST EXTENDED DEADLINE**

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office invites nominations for the 2022 Queen's New Year Honours List. Persons wishing to submit nominations for the 2022 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 and the service must be recent.

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.

**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. Nomination forms for the New Year Honours are available from Corporate Services, at the Castle, or can be requested via email: [linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh).

**Completed forms should be returned to the Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' and addressed to 'The Executive Secretary, Honours Committee', by the extended deadline of Monday, 26 April 2021.**

**#StHelena #FCDO #NewYearHonours**

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**SHG**

**26 March 2021**



## **CERTIFICATE AND BADGE OF HONOUR AND ACTS OF BRAVERY AWARDS 2021 EXTENDED DEADLINE**

Nominations are being invited for the Certificate and Badge of Honour Awards and Acts of Bravery Awards for 2021.

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 ten 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 April 2020.

**It is important that nominations are kept confidential and that nominees are not made aware that they are being proposed for an award.**

Nomination forms for both the Certificate and Badge of Honour and Acts of Bravery awards are available from Corporate Services, at the Castle, or can be requested via email: [linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:linda.benjamin@sainthelena.gov.sh).

**Completed forms should be returned to the Castle in a sealed envelope marked 'Confidential' and addressed to 'The Executive Secretary, Honours Committee', by the extended deadline of Monday, 26 April 2021.**

**#StHelena #CertificateAndBadgeOfHonourAwards #ActsOfBraveryAwards**

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**26 March 2021**







## APRIL OPENING HOURS



### Main Branch

Monday to Friday	08:45 - 15:00
Saturday	08:30 - 12:30

### Wharf Kiosk

Thursday and Friday		09:00 – 14:30
Saturday	17 April	08:45 – 12:30
Saturday	24 April	08:45 – 12:30

### Remote Banking

ANRD, Scotland	Wednesday	21 April	09:30 - 13:00
HTH Supermarket	Friday	23 April	09:30 - 13:00
Longwood Enterprise Park	Monday	26 April	09:30 - 14:00



**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

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



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



@sainthelenabank



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



Bank of St Helena Ltd



## THE BEST WAY TO PAY - ST HELENA PAY



To mark the new financial year, Bank of St Helena Ltd rebranded their Card Payment Service as St Helena Pay.



St Helena Pay will cover all current payment services by the Bank (i.e. Local Debit Cards) and any future products the Bank introduces. This will soon include the Bank of St Helena Tourist Card which will allow visitors to apply for a card with the Bank that can be used at all establishments offering St Helena Pay, increasing customers for our partnering local businesses.



**Bank of St. Helena Ltd.**

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



info@sainthelenabank.com



www.sainthelenabank.com



@sainthelenabank



+290 22390



Market Street, Jamestown



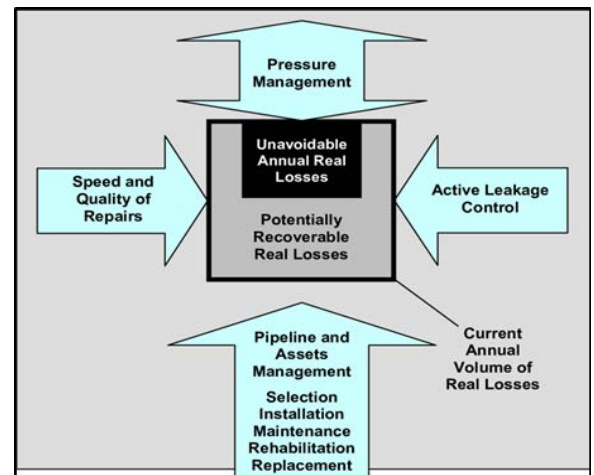
Bank of St Helena Ltd

## UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER LEAKAGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The four pillars of a leak management strategy include pressure management, speed and quality of repairs, active leakage control, and asset management as illustrated on the diagram below. These factors influence how leakage is managed and therefore the volume and economic value of leakage in a water distribution network.

The large square in the diagram represents the Current Annual Volume of Real Losses (CARL), which tends to increase as the distribution network ages. The rate of increase can be constrained by an appropriate combination of the four components of a successful leakage management strategy.

The black shaded box represents the Unavoidable Annual Real Losses (UARL), or the lowest technically achievable volume of real losses at the current operating pressure. Introducing or strengthening any of the four components will have an effect on the potentially recoverable losses.



Active leakage control strategies aim at prompt detection, localization and repair of pipe bursts to control their average run time and thus reduce volume of water lost. We used the zoning approach to be able to monitor flows into zones which allowed us to quickly analyse a zone and locate bursts or leaks within a zone.

Pressure management involves installation of pressure-reducing valves (PRV) at key locations in the water distribution system that could be subject to excessive applied pressure and therefore subject to potentially higher levels of leakage. Connect has successfully installed PRVs along the distribution network in a bid to manage pressure. Part of the improvements on the new pipe installations is a detailed hydraulic analysis to ensure that the pressure is managed within the network.

Asset management (such as the replacement of water mains, pump stations, storage facilities, etc.) is most cost effective if carried out in accordance with targeting studies and water audits, which can determine and even predict the parts of the water system most prone to breaks and leaks. Work in HTH Phase 2 is currently ongoing where the old pipes are being replaced with new below ground pipelines. Completion of upgrading works in HTH Phase 1 has yielded a positive result by reducing the need for attending to these areas

Speed and quality of repairs is also crucial to managing water losses. Obviously, the less time a broken pipe has to leak, the less water will be lost. On the work we have been doing, the operations teams and the out of hours contractor have been attending to leaks as quickly as they can thereby reducing the leak run time.

06 April 2021





## VACCINATION PROGRAMME

### SECOND DOSE ROLL OUT- WEEK TWO

The Health Directorate will continue the roll out of the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine during the week commencing Monday, 12 April.

Please check your AstraZeneca appointment card for the date on which you will receive your second dose.

The Health Directorate would like to ask all persons to please attend on the day specified on your Oxford AstraZeneca appointment card. Please also attend the same vaccination clinic at which you received your first dose. This will allow the continuation of efficient vaccination and administrative processes.

It is imperative that you bring your yellow vaccination card when you go to receive your second dose. If you do not have your card with you, staff will not be able to provide you with the second dose. The yellow vaccination card is required for administrative and record keeping purposes.

You will be required to keep these cards thereafter as proof that you have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

The upcoming vaccination clinic locations and times are below, please note that all vaccinations clinics will now open from 9am and the mobile clinics will now end at 5pm.

Date	Venue	Time
Monday, 12 April	Flu Pod, The General Hospital Levelwood Clinic	09:00 – 16:00 09:00 – 17:00
Tuesday, 13 April	Flu Pod, The General Hospital Sandy Bay Community Centre Blue Hill Community Centre	09:00 – 16:00 09:00 – 12:30 13:30 – 17:00
Wednesday, 14 April	Flu Pod, The General Hospital Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	09:00 – 16:00 09:00 – 17:00
Thursday, 15 April	Flu Pod, The General Hospital Harford Community Centre	09:00 – 16:00 09:00 – 17:00
Friday, 16 April	Flu Pod, The General Hospital Kingshurst Community Centre	09:00 – 16:00 09:00 – 17:00
Saturday, 17 April	Flu Pod, The General Hospital Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	09:00 – 16:00 09:00 – 17:00

If you have not yet received your first dose and have decided you now would like to, please call Peta Henry on tel: 22998 or email: [peta.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:peta.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh)

However members of the public interested in receiving the first dose should be aware that the Health Directorate has only a limited supply of vaccines available. Vaccines are only available to residents of St Helena. Saint Helenians who reside on St Helena, persons in service of the Crown in the right of the Government of St Helena and their dependants, persons exempt from immigration by virtue of their employment and their dependents, persons with long term entry/work permits and their dependents are classified as residents and are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Transit passengers, tourists and others who do not fall within the above categories will be declined. The Health Directorate apologises for this inconvenience. However it is a necessary measure to ensure the efficient use of the available supply of vaccines for the island's community.

If you have any further queries, please email: [communitycovid19@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:communitycovid19@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**#StHelena #COVID-19 #VaccinationProgramme**

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**SHG**

**07 April 2021**



St Helena  
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- Training conducted to underpin work to save cloud forest trees and their associated endemic plant and animal communities

### **DPLUS099 PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TRAINING**

In conservation, we've learnt that it is only through continuous learning, continuity of effort, and timely intervention that builds on the experiences and knowledge gained by people over time, that progress can be made and sustained.

The work to save and restore the fragile cloud forest habitat on the Peaks is a good example of this. Work has been ongoing since 1995, after it was highlighted that the cabbage trees and tree ferns were disappearing. Back in 1995, the concern was the uncontrolled spread of flax. Today, the threat from invasive species is much greater, with over 23 species of invasive plants requiring control. In this time, other invasive non-native species threats have also increased including rats, mice, rabbits, myna birds, European wasps, mites, mealy bugs, and Scobius and Fuller's rose weevils.

Conservation on the Peaks has had to adapt to the changing threats and conditions. Lessons learnt, from successes and failures, help us to build more robust approaches resulting in our weed control and ecological restoration techniques being continually refined and developed.

Invasive species threaten the future of the cloud forest and the security of our water resources – around 40% of our water comes from the Peaks. Unless we find a way to upscale the restoration work there is a real chance that we will lose the battle and more endemic species will become extinct. The current Darwin Plus (DPLUS099) funded project has provided funding to employ six extra staff to reduce the imminent threat of loss of the last remaining wild dogwood, whitewood and black cabbage trees and the plants and animals that depend on them.

Over 115 individual sites, or fragments, were identified under the earlier Darwin funded (DPLUS029) "*Securing St Helena's rare cloud forest trees and associated invertebrates*" project which contained one or more ancient cabbage trees. These fragments are critical to the restoration of the Peaks because they contain an essential pool of the genetic diversity of the species, necessary to maximise the genetic diversity of future plantings, giving them the best chance of having some resilience and ability to adapt to change. As ancient remnants, these wild cabbage trees also support a rich biodiversity of associated endemic plant and animal species,

*continued on next page...*





acting as reservoirs, from which these unique species can expand out from, populating new areas as new suitable habitat is created.

Under the current programme, work is being conducted across prioritised areas to control weeds, reinforce with plantings of endemics grown in the nursery, and to connect some of the fragments through 'corridors' through which species can 'move' – physically in the case of an invertebrate, or via pollen or seed movement for plants.

The Peaks teams however need to know much more than the various protocols for controlling weeds in order to work safely and effectively in their jobs and to sustain the benefits of their efforts. To grow and retain skills, training and application of new knowledge is needed and this is just what has been happening over the last few months at the Environmental Management Division (EMD):

**Safe working practise with ropes** – many of the sites that both the DPLUS project team and the core EMD Peaks and Species Teams work on are steep, unstable slopes, and cliff sites. Six staff from the Peaks Team and two from the Species Team have been undertaking training with St Helena's Fire and Rescue Service Brigade Manager, Alan Thomas, supported by Watch Manager, Jason Lawrence, and Firefighter, Daniel Yon.



Rope Training with the St Helena Fire & Rescue Service

**Safe use of pesticides** – while chemicals are not used generally to control invasive plants or pests on the Peaks, there are some cases when they are needed (e.g. in the nursery to control pest infestations or to apply directly to the cut stump of a quinine tree). In the nursery we prefer to use organic treatments for control, but even these need to be used safely. The training was delivered by James Fantom and covered the theory of environmental vegetation management, herbicide selection and calculations, herbicide safety, and knapsack spraying.

*continued on next page...*



**GPS training** – the cloud forest habitat might not be very big (16ha) in area, but it is very difficult to navigate because of the steeply incised ridges, deep gulleys and valleys, and the density, height, and rate of re-growth of vegetation. Therefore, finding suitable working sites and recording where species is found is an important skill to have. This course was delivered by GIS Manager, Devlin Yon, and covered how to setup a handheld GPS, how to pick up waypoints and define them, and plotting new points.



GIS Manager, Devlin Yon, delivering GPS Training

**Team working** – we recognise just how important team work and good working relations are to achieving positive progress and maintaining the health and wellbeing of the teams, particularly given the remote, and sometimes challenging, working environment. A presentation on inclusion and diversity was delivered by Senior Human Resource Officer (Learning and Development), Jackie Moyce, and Human Resources Business Partner, Bronwen Yon.

**NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Environmental Conservation** – this is a work-based qualification and two members of staff have registered as candidates with City and Guilds.

Staff also attended a training session on how to use the control method on the wasp and the big-headed ant - this was run by the National Trust Invertebrate Team.

This formal training is also being supplemented with on-the-job training covering a range of activities and protocols including seed collecting protocol and nursery scheduling and production, both of which are important to ensure that the conservation work protects the genetic integrity and diversity of all species. Further training is planned in the coming months in the use of drones for surveying and monitoring, invertebrate ecology, and surveying and plant surveying.

A huge thank you to all the trainers and well done to all staff for your commitment to your professional development for work and congratulations on your achievements.

The DPLUS project is being managed by Nursery Officer, Vanessa Thomas-Williams, supported by Coordinator of the St Helena Research Institute, Rebecca Cairns-Wicks.

**#StHelena #EMD #SHRI #DPLUS #EnvironmentalConservationTraining**

**SHG**

**31 March 2021**

# Allsorts Shop

Location: Sandy Bay Contact No: 23280

## *NEW* OPENING HOURS

**Sundays – 9am to 1pm**

**Mondays & Tuesdays – 10am to 5pm**

**Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays – 10am to 6pm**

**Saturdays – 9am to 4pm**

*Now available:* Copies of the weekly *Newspapers & Fresh* Bread

**Allsorts Shop** - *"Catering for your grocery needs"*



### Vacancy – Accounting Technician

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ an Accounting Technician. The Accounting Technician will provide support to the Senior Accounting Technician and duties include: Project and Contract accounting; preparation of monthly bank and debtor reconciliations, posting of payroll journals and bank payments; checking and processing of payments; maintaining the purchase ledger and ensuring compliance to Financial regulations, Procurement procedures and Company policies and procedures for all payments and receipts.

The successful applicant must have strong financial and commercial awareness and be highly organised and motivated. They should be an effective communicator with excellent organisational skills and attention to detail, and must be able to work under pressure, make sound decisions and meet deadlines.

### Qualifications & Experience

GCSE's English and Maths/Accounts; 2 year's experience in an accounting environment; experience with Microsoft Office and Access Dimensions or similar accounting software; ACCA qualification (CAT) or working towards qualification.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits includes 15% of base salary pension contributions and support for training and development.

For a full job description and/or further details on this position please contact Annalisa Young on 22255 or email [Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh](mailto:Annalisa.Young@connect.co.sh)

Completed application forms should be sent to Annalisa at the above email address or handed into Seales Corner, Jamestown by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, 14 April 2021.





**St Helena  
Government**

## VACANCY

### SUPPORT WORKERS (CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOME)

Fixed-Term 1 Year Contract within Health & Social Care Portfolio

*Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a career change or to progress career? Do you have the ability to provide quality care and protection for children of all ages?*

*If so, Children's Services is seeking to recruit **Support Workers** to work as part of their team!*

#### We offer the following:

**Applicants should have the following qualifications and/or equivalent level of experience:**

- Functional Skills Entry Level 1 in Maths and English or equivalent experience
- Valid Drivers' Licence (and access to own vehicle for work purposes)
- Experience of working with young people and children

Interested persons should note that this role requires shift work.

**Salary:** £6,722 per annum, as per the Social Care cadre

**Leave:** 25 days per annum

**Pension:** 15% pension contribution into approved defined contribution pension scheme

**Paid Sickness Absence**

**Flexible working hours scheme**

For further information about the duties of the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons should contact:

Shanade Bedwell, Acting Children's Residential Home Supervisor on telephone number 23312 or email: [crhsupervisor@helanta.co.sh](mailto:crhsupervisor@helanta.co.sh)

Job Profile and Application forms are available from:

Corporate Human Resources or the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies). Applications should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Sharina Williams, Human Resources Officer, The Castle, or e-mail [recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than **4pm on Wednesday, 14 April 2021**.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview.  
All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.  
Benefits are subject to change and may only apply to certain roles.



**St Helena  
Government**

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Benefits are subject to change and may only apply to certain roles.



## TIP OF THE WEEK

Recycle your  
washing up  
water to water  
your garden.



## Orders for Seed Potatoes

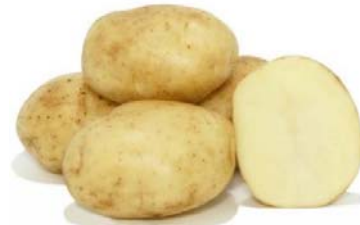


Thorpes are taking orders for 25kg bags  
to arrive V40 (ETA: 09/03/2021)  
The consignment has been delayed from V38-  
we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Contact Melanie Williams in Thorpe's

Wholesale store on 22393 or  
[wholesale@thorpes.sh](mailto:wholesale@thorpes.sh)

Variety:	SIFRA
Tubers per Bag:	400
Generation:	5
Price:	£32.00
Notes:	High Yield. Actual price may be less than quoted price.



St Helena  
Government

## VACANCY

### HEAD OF VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICE

*Fixed Term Post—Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development Portfolio*

**Are you a highly motivated individual and willing to accept a challenge? A vacancy has arisen to be the figurehead of 'tourism' on St Helena, outlining and delivering our vision and managing the Visitor Information Service; to deliver a quality tourism and business experience and to encourage and support people to live, work and visit St Helena Island (Fixed term until 31 March 2022 with possibility of extension)**

Applicants should have the following qualifications and/or equivalent level of experience:

- A Bachelors or Masters degree in tourism or business studies or related field or equivalent level of demonstrable attainment or experience
- Significant experience of developing and implementing tourism strategy and policy
- Significant experience of leading and developing tourism functions/services
- Good written & verbal communication skills
- Strong customer service ability
- Ability to manage a team, undertake budgeting, and strong human and financial management skills is desirable.
- Experience living, travelling or working internationally and/or working with other cultures is desirable.

We offer the following:

**Salary:** £23,209 per annum  
**Leave:** 30 days per annum  
**Flexible working hours scheme**  
(some Saturday working hours will be required when flight patterns return to normal)

**Further information** about the duties of the post and a copy of the job profile, interested persons should contact: Nicole Shamier, Chief Government Economist on telephone number 22470 or email: [nicole.shamier@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:nicole.shamier@sainthelena.gov.sh). Note that this role replaces the VIS Supervisor role previously advertised due to a re-evaluation of tasks required for the role.

**Job Profile and Application forms** are available from Corporate Human Resources or the SHG website at: [www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies](http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/vacancies). Applications should be submitted through Directors, where applicable, to Dianne Venning, Human Resources Officer, The Castle or e-mail [recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh) by no later than 4pm on Friday, 16 April 2021. Interviews scheduled for 20 April 2021.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and will consider all applications on the basis of merit, in accordance with the person specification. All disabled applicants meeting the minimum criteria listed in the job profile will be guaranteed an interview. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, including a medical check and vetting/DBS clearance. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may only apply to certain roles.

We are taking the opportunity this week to share some of our news regarding the activities we have been actively involved in **outside** of our weekly meetings at our Longwood Hall.

**In January**, whilst still on School holidays, the first big event we attended was a Disney-themed 'County' Camp at Blue Hill with all other Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and their Leaders and Helpers from around the Island! Well, Rainbows came for the day, but the rest of us stayed for two nights from Friday to Sunday. It was great, and we did all kinds of exciting activities girls would normally do at Camp, because as we all know, one thing that attracts girls of all ages to Girlguiding is enjoying the out-of-doors, and to camp out is such a cool adventurous thing to do!

**February** came and our Leaders and Helpers were very busy organising the first of our three fundraising events which had been planned at our meetings. This was a **Bingo and Raffle Event at the Jamestown Community Centre** on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month. The support we received from prize sponsors, Bingo players/caller Olive, donors, GG members and the general public was extremely encouraging, without whom we would not have had an enjoyable and successful event that we did. Our takings for this amounted to £464.00, so thank you all very much for your generosity, everyone.

During the same month, we were surrounded by all kinds of bakes for our **Pre-Valentine's Bake Stall** which was held

outside the Canister on 13<sup>th</sup> February. On this occasion, our Brownie Sixers and Seconds participated and their job was to encourage people to 'guess the number' of different (dried) fruits and jellied fruits that were in jars. This was the 'healthy' corner of our Stall – away from the iced heart-shaped cookies and cakes (some of which we had helped our Mums to make and bake) and other sweet but delicious-looking bakes! We even ventured out around the area and invited people to have a guess and everyone willingly had a go, and we were happy with our takings - £41.52 – now that was a job worth doing to help raise funds for our Units, and we had fun! However, from the rest of the Stall bakes, our leaders were delighted with the money they made from the delicious bakes that generous people and sponsors had donated, as well as Raffle takings and money donations – it all amounted to £414.02 from our Bake Stall efforts. Once again, we are grateful to everyone who gave, made, donated and bought all the delicious bakes for this event. Thankyou very much for everyone's support!

**World Thinking Day** took place, as is traditional, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and was hosted by our Units of Longwood at Harford Community Centre. This was a Day of fun, (food) and friendship for all members of our Island's Girlguiding sections, and very much a day for our Longwood Units to look forward to all GG members turning up in buses to spend time in our area this year. Our Units all participated in the many activities during the day with our visiting Units, and in the afternoon there were proud moments for Rainbows Annalyn and Renee when they crossed over the rainbow into our Brownie Unit, and for Tori, Kaelize and Qhi who moved out of Brownies into our neighbouring Guide Unit. Equally proud were Joyce, Lily and Shakira who made their Brownie Promise and received promise badges pinned onto sashes. The awarding of the 'Brownie of the Year' award was extra special this year for Kaelize and Qhi who



**Welcoming Annalyn and Renee**

were there to enjoy their last WTD as Brownies, and were joint winners! Well done girls, and well done too, to Jaemie and Shakira who gained a certificate for their Journal efforts. For our girls and all others who made Promises or Moved-on to another section, or gained certificates for various reasons, this must not only be a proud moment, but a memorable occasion to have taken place on WTD, a special Day in the 100<sup>th</sup> Year of Girlguiding on St Helena.

Now there's an occasion never to be forgotten! And with an excellent memorable and quite outstanding display of photo-

## CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS

The public is advised that Elected Members will hold a round of constituency meetings during April.

These meetings are an opportunity for you to meet with your Councillors and raise any issues you might have.

Constituency meetings will take place at 7pm as follows:

Venue	Date
Kingshurst Community Centre	Monday, 19 April
Half Tree Hollow Community Centre	Monday, 19 April
Jamestown Community Centre	Tuesday, 20 April
Harford Community Centre	Wednesday, 21 April
Guinea Grass Community Centre	Wednesday, 21 April
Blue Hill Community Centre	Monday, 26 April
St Mary's Church, The Briars	Monday, 26 April
St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Tuesday, 27 April
Silver Hill Bar, Levelwood	Wednesday, 28 April
Sandy Bay Community Centre	Thursday, 29 April

You are encouraged to attend a meeting in your district.

**SHG**

**6 April 2021**

<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh>







graphs taken over the years, depicting all different packs, units, sections – whatever they were called over the one hundred years of fun and friendship- and ages of girls: the young and not-so-young women in the numerical shape of 100, there's a reminder for the rest of the year and years to come of this wonderful feat of service to the Island of our Girlguiding journey. This display, put together by Lisa and Winnie- our Rainbow and Guide Leaders, started out on a journey of display and view from the walls of Harford Community Centre where the initial set-up was for WTD '21, to the concave window of the Tourist Office where it showed itself as an interesting and much-looked at scene, to who knows where it will next be placed – an around the Island trip no doubt – where stories over the ages will be recalled and reminisced and retold to our

younger generations. This historical display will not be the only reminder of our 100 years celebration as GGSH has plans to promote this BIG BIRTHDAY in many other ways throughout the year... so watch this space!

**March** came all too quickly and our third fundraiser – A Movie Night – took place at Harford Community Centre on Friday night of the 5th. We were very pleased to have an audience, however, this was an event that did not receive as much support as we would have liked... but we are grateful to those who turned up and supported us and helped us raise £75.00. This sum added to the Bingo/Raffle Night and the pre- Valentines Bake Stall/Raffle amounted to £953.02. For that we are truly thankful.

Our Longwood Units are proud to be part of such a wonderful tradition, and would welcome girls to our Brownie and Rainbow Units if they are between the ages of 5 and 7 (Rainbows) and 7 and 10 (Brownies), and enjoy being challenged with all kinds of fun activities and events. We would love to have you join us. Contact Betty Joshua (22780) or Lisa Joshua (24922). 'WE ARE FOR ALL GIRLS' is one of our Key Messages! Come and see what we do!

**Contributed by Betty Joshua and Lisa Joshua - Leaders**

## From the St Helena Golf Club

**Contributed by: SHGC**

### Golf Report for 4th April 2021

As expected last Sundays Par 3 stroke play competition had a fairly low turnout as it fell right in the middle of Easter holiday. Those who turned up were rewarded by perfect weather conditions for golfing. Not too hot and not too cold with sufficient cloud cover. For those golfers who are not long hitters Par 3 competition with its shortened fairways gives them a fair chance of winning. However, it is never always as easy as it sounds. Three eighths (3/8) of the full handicap was applied. Top on the leaderboard and winner of the first prize was a man who has remained consistent with his golf. Mr Larry Legg playing off two handicap scored net 61 to emerge the winner followed in second place by Mr Jeffrey Stevens also playing off 2 handicap with net 63. Larry beat Foxy by scoring one stroke better on both the first and second nine. In the two-ball pool Mr Peter Johnson opened his round with a birdie on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The other birdies were Larry Legg on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Paddo Johnson on the 10<sup>th</sup> and Bramwell on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Next competition on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 is the Annual Furrows Strokeplay Competition sponsored by Fox Motors. Normal tee off at 12:00. Registration closes on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 15:00. The rules will be simple first try and Keep it on the correct fairway and if you hit it into the wrong fairway one stroke penalty will apply, just drop the ball at the point of entry into the wrong fairway.

**Happy swinging.....!**



**ST. HELENA**



**GOLF CLUB**



## **JOB VACANCY**

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

### **Summary/General Description Of Job:**

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

### **Essential Duties & Job Functions:**

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

### **Accountable For:**

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

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

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

[E-ROS.WolfCreek.Jobs@us.af.mil](mailto:E-ROS.WolfCreek.Jobs@us.af.mil)

Any interested persons should send Resume to [E-ROS.WolfCreek.Jobs@us.af.mil](mailto:E-ROS.WolfCreek.Jobs@us.af.mil) no later than 22 April 2021.

# GREEN ISLAND ENERGY LIMITED

Tel: 25104 Mobile: 61720

karlthrower@greenislandlimited.com



## **Why pay one of the Worlds highest electricity prices when you can invest in a system to produce your own?**

PV solar panels are designed to provide electricity for over 30 years and the batteries are designed to last over 10 years.

On St Helena well designed PV systems without batteries are proven to fully pay for themselves in 18-24 months and the ones with batteries in 36-48 months.

That means you could enjoy over 23+ years of free electricity, minus the small maintenance costs.

**There are a large range of options available priced form a few hundred pounds to ten's of thousands.**

**£5750 System** with 5.4 kWh of battery storage for people whom use more electricity at night times and shops etc where your using electricity at night times—Ideal for the average 2 -3 bedroom house or small shop.

**Ground mounted and Off-grid systems are now available and cost about the same as a roof mounted system.**

**Call to arrange a site visit.**



Due to the fact that I was at camp and away from technology I didn't get to see any of the Premier League matches over the Easter Weekend. I had to depend on the BBC World Service for the results.

I did predict that Arsenal would beat Liverpool; however it was the Champions who was outstanding on the day and beat the Gunners 3-0.

From this good performance I thought Liverpool would have been favourites to beat Real Madrid in their first leg quarter final in the Champions League; this was not to be as Liverpool was terrible in the first half and Real Madrid won the leg 3-1. Liverpool did get a crucial away goal and although it is going to be difficult for them to overturn a 2 goal deficit especially with Anfield being empty I wouldn't write them off. I am certain Klopp will have his team motivated for next Wednesday second leg.



**Diogo Jota scored two for Liverpool against Arsenal**

Manchester City now just needs 11 more points from 7 matches to clinch the Premier League title after they beat Leicester City 2-0.

City followed up this Premier League victory with a 2-1 win at home against Borussia Dortmund. After conceding an away goal it is not going to be easy for Man City in the return leg in Germany.

City has yet to win the Champions League.



**Manchester City closing in on the Premier League title**

The surprise result of the weekend saw relegation candidate West Brom beat Champions League hopefuls Chelsea 5-2. This result dented Chelsea's hopes of a top four finish.

The Blues did however bounce back in the Champions League as they deservedly beat FC Porto 2-0.



**First time in 10 years that Chelsea has conceded 5 goals in the Premier League**

West Ham replaces Chelsea in 4<sup>th</sup> place as they defeated Wolves 3-2. The Hammers race into a 3-0 nil lead with on loan Jesse Lingard once again the centre of all good attacks by West Ham.

Since moving from Manchester United to West Ham Lingard has been sensational; he is the in-form player in the league at the moment.

Personally I think he should be called back to our United at the end of the season as he is something we currently don't have in our team; a player who is prepared to run at and beat players.



**Sensational Jesse Lingard has scored 6<sup>th</sup> goals for West Ham**

Manchester United consolidated 2<sup>nd</sup> place but needed a late goal from Mason Greenwood to beat Brighton 2-1.



**Mason Greenwood's first old Trafford goal for this season gave United all 3 points against Brighton**

In other matches Tottenham Hotspur players once again came under criticism from their manager Jose Mourinho as they drop



points against a struggling Newcastle side. The match ended 2-2.

Aston Villa came from behind to beat Fulham 3-1.

Southampton came from 2-0 down to beat Burnley 3-2.

Leeds continue to have a solid return to Premier League football as they beat Sheffield United 2-1

Everton miss out on the chance to go level on points with neighbours Liverpool as they could only draw 1-1 with Crystal Palace.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April

7pm Fulham v Wolverhampton Wanderers

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

11.30am Manchester City v Leeds United

2pm Liverpool v Aston Villa

4.30pm Crystal Palace v Chelsea

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

11am Burnley v Newcastle United

1.05pm West Ham United v Leicester City

3.30pm Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United

6pm Sheffield United v Arsenal

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

5pm West Bromwich Albion v Southampton

7.15pm Brighton & Hove Albion v Everton

## What's happening at New Horizons

On Monday afternoon 12<sup>th</sup> April we will switch our Primary school session to Francis Plain 3.30pm to 4.45pm. We will be concentrating on Football training. For Prince Andrew School members and Primary school members we will be running Athletics training at the same time.

Tuesdays' afternoon is Basketball at New Horizons; this is open to adults as well (£1 per session)

Wednesdays' centre opens from 3.30pm-5.30pm for indoor games. Bootcamp 4.30pm-5.30pm

Thursdays' 5 aside football 15+ (£1 per session)

Fridays' 5.30pm- 8.30pm club night (50p per session)

Saturdays' 8am-9am (Boot Camp) 10am -12 noon (Basketball £1 per session)

A reminder to the public that we need your help with the organising of St Helena's day; we are looking organisations to build floats; enter stalls and provide live music.

If you want to play a part in celebrating our National Day contact us on 22034 or email youth@helanta.co.sh

Remember our theme for St Helena Day 'Cultural Diversity'. A great opportunity for us to celebrate the country and culture of our ancestors



## Update from SHFA

International football training will recommence on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 5pm-6.30pm. Interested in representing St Helena in the next football tournament? Turn up to Francis Plain on Monday afternoon.

The SHFA is planning to have their Annual General Meeting before the end of this month. So far we have 7 teams entered for the upcoming league season; we desperately need at least one more team.



## The Story Behind the Ramses Dous

The fishing vessel Ramses Dous is Spanish so it's reasonable to expect the vessel to have a Spanish name. But that is only half true. Ramses was an Egyptian pharaoh who walked this Earth more than 1,200 years before the birth of Christ. Ramses Dous means Ramses the Second, also known as Ramses the Great. He was around at the time of Moses. Pharaohs were thought to be half man and half god. They owned all of Egypt, were absolute rulers and the High Priest of every temple. The little fishing vessel just outside James Bay has a lot to live up to.



The mummified remains of Ramses Dous



An image of Ramses Dous in healthier times

# Small Development Application Causes Big Problem

Vince Thompson

A row erupted at Wednesday's monthly meeting of the Land Development Control Authority (LDCA) between the LDCA members and the Chief Planning Officer (CPO). The heated discussion was about who gives the advice, who makes the decisions and what the CPO should tell Exco on behalf of the LDCA. The focal point of the argument was not a big as the bust-up.

The St Helena Yacht Club finally got development permission last month to fix a notice board to the front of the yacht club building. This was reported last month in the *Independent*. The final decision on this application was made by Exco Members who wondered why they were discussing such a minor development application. An application so insignificant the 'development' is hardly noticeable – apart from the fact there is a notice board involved.

The LDCA discussed this notice board in February. Exco are required to make decisions on all development applications affecting locations which are within 50 metres of the shoreline. Nobody seems to know why. In these circumstances the LDCA can only make a recommendation to Exco. The LDCA recommended the application should only be permitted if a smaller notice board is erected. The proposal was to fit a notice board which is wider than the wall it is intended to be fixed to. This was considered not appropriate for a prominent landmark building.

It is the job of the CPO to present development applications to Exco, and so he did with the yacht club notice board. From all accounts it appears the CPO is happy to see the fixing of the notice board on a wall that is too narrow for it; contrary to the opinion of LDCA members. Eye witness accounts maintain the CPO told Exco members he thought the notice board should be permitted and, more than that, did not state with sufficient clarity that LDCA members would only recommend permission if the size of the notice board fitted well with the size of the wall.

On Wednesday, back at the monthly meeting of the LDCA, it was formally reported that Exco had permitted the notice board without saying a smaller one was needed. This led to a heated discussion on who said what and why, as well as what is supposed to be said by whom and when.

LDCA members told the CPO he was there to give professional / technical advice to LDCA members and the members make the decisions after taking into account the advice given. Certainly in the UK, members of a Planning Committee can be held legally responsible for costs incurred arising from a decision which is legally or procedurally flawed. What happens in St Helena seems much less clear.

The CPO was also told by LDCA members he went to Exco to convey the decision or recommendation of the LDCA and not to express his own views. Reading between the lines it appears the LDCA members suspected the CPO of either not expressing the recommendation of the LDCA members or giving it a very low profile in favour of his personal views. The



**The notice board protrudes about one inch from the wall on both sides**

relationship between officer and committee member was brought into sharp focus during this discussion and is something our elected members should try more often.

The minutes of the February meeting of the LDCA, when this application was discussed, have not been posted on the SHG website. This is curious because the minutes on the March meeting are available for anyone who wishes to see them. In view of Wednesday's meeting, it will be interesting to see how the minutes record the outcome of the LDCA discussion on the now famous notice board.

## Baptist Church Gospel Outreach



*sing!*

**When:** 18th April 2021

**Where:** KINGSHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE

**Time:** 15:00

*sing!*

Gospel in Song

Refreshments

Preached Word



# Bits and Pieces

Vince Thompson

## **Education and Employment Directorate had New Charging Policy**

This is the time of year when shops closed for stock-taking and the government issues a succession of announcements about increased charges. The Education and Employment Directorate this year are 'rebranding' their announcement about increased charges as a New Charging Policy. Page 1 is the Introduction and the only bit which can possibly be thought to be a bit of a 'policy'. The Introduction tells us they are increasing charges to cover the costs of providing the services. The next 14 pages tell you what it costs to hire a room, a hall, a squash court or take an examination; that kind of thing. The document has 51 pages. The remaining pages give you a complete set of application forms for hiring a room, a squash court etc. A strange policy.

## **Women v Men in Motor Racing**

The first Extreme E race – the Desert X Prix – finished this week in Saudi Arabia. Each team consists of a male and female pairing. How did speedy men compare with fast women? Several of the women gave the male drivers a run for their money when split times were checked. Most notable was Italian Christine Giampaoli Zonca who gave her male counterpart, Briton, Oliver Bennett a regular trouncing.

## **AstraZeneca Stop-Start Continues**

The National Institutes of Health reported on Wednesday that a study has started on allergic reactions to Pfizer and Moderna coronavirus vaccines. Another report states that people who get the Moderna jab have more side-effects than those who have the Pfizer vaccine. Medical News Today refers to 'leaked emails' which show the Pfizer vaccine raised concerns last year because it was not doing what it was claimed to be doing. In among these stories there are others which point to encouraging data being gathered for other aspects of both vaccines. Thing is, we never hear about use of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine being suspended while some remote risk is closely investigated. With AstraZeneca, the use of the vaccine seems to be suspended somewhere, sometime, on a weekly basis because a very low or insignificant risk has been identified.

While the pandemic continues the AstraZeneca vaccine is being sold at cost price and the technical know-how is being given to other pharmaceutical companies so they can produce the vaccine too. The Serum Institute of India is the most notable pharmaceutical company producing the AstraZeneca vaccine. The Serum Institute is the largest company of its kind in the world but is now having difficulty obtaining urgent supplies which are imported from other countries. Export bans and other restrictions on the free flow of equipment and medicinal products is given as the reason. Competition over required vaccine related products appears to be getting increasing 'dirty' instead of governments and pharmaceutical companies concentrating on increasing production.

## **It Was a Miracle**

Someone who shall remain nameless (or incognito, to be pan-

national about it) was admitted to hospital recently after suffering a stroke. It looked serious. Paralysis down one side of the body and other effects from a blood clot in the head were not encouraging. Then, something either mysterious or mystical happened. The patient yawned and the paralysis in the left side of the body disappeared. The other unwelcome effects of the stroke also dissolved, disappeared and/or dissipated. The results of tests taken while in hospital will not be known until next week. In the meantime, the person concerned is walking the streets as if nothing had ever happened.



## **Sure Suspected of Anti-Competitive Practice**

Sure, headquartered in Guernsey together with Jersey Telecom have recently admitted they were wrong to discuss a 5G network sharing deal. As a result, The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority and its counterpart in Guernsey are dropping an investigation into the agreement. The deal included the two firms signing a Memorandum of Understanding to share elements of their mobile networks across the two islands.

Ian Kelly, Group Chief Executive of Sure, said: "Sure is committed to ensuring that markets are fair and open, because our customers expect the freedom to choose." Sure St Helena comes under the Sure Guernsey headquarters but what they have in Guernsey – the freedom to choose – is a world away from what we have here. But, we now know the Sure Chief Executive will welcome competition in St Helena – if he is as good as his word.

## **Health and Social Care Report makes Grim Reading**

A recent meeting of the Social and Community Development Committee included an update on the social and adult care services offered by the government. Residential and supported accommodation run by the directorate are at full capacity apart from three beds at the Princess Royal Community Care Centre. At the committee meeting it was reported the vacant beds would not be filled soon because the dependency needs of recent arrivals are high. Despite that intention, between the time of the meeting and the publication of the report of the meeting the three vacant beds had been filled.

Further comments to members of the Social and Community Development Committee pointed out that ambitions to raise standards of social care were 'challenged' because of the need for better equipment such as pressure relieving mattresses, mobility aids, adaptations and seating. Staffing levels are also a problem as is providing training and development for staff.

## Extreme E - the story off the course

Extreme E completed its inaugural X Prix last weekend in AIUla, Saudi Arabia with Rosberg X Racing taking victory

But maybe the real victory was what the championship did off the course around climate change – one of the main drivers behind this unique sport for purpose.

Extreme E is a series with a mission, to highlight the devastating effects of the climate crisis and demonstrate positive steps that can be taken to protect the planet. It has selected five remote locations for its X Prixs, with the first completed in AIUla, Saudi Arabia, which was chosen to highlight desertification, where biological productivity is lost.

### Alejandro Agag, Founder and CEO of Extreme E, said:

“It has been two years in the making, but I’m thrilled that Extreme E’s first X Prix – the Desert X Prix – is complete.

“The weekend delivered on its promise of exciting racing, but more importantly our mission to race without a trace and leave a long-lasting positive impact. I’m very proud of what we have achieved in Saudi Arabia, from our talks on the St. Helena by world-renowned scientists focussing on the global climate crisis and solutions, through to our turtle conservation project with the Ba’a Foundation.

“Extreme E is much, much more than just motorsport and I hope people have taken away from it that the climate crisis is a major issue we are facing right now, and that there are many small actions we can take to save the planet.”

### Legacy Programme

At each of the race locations, Extreme E will leave a long-lasting positive impact through its Legacy Programmes. In Saudi Arabia, the series joined forces with the Ba’a Foundation to support turtle conservation along the Red Sea coastline.

Specifically, the Programme centres around protecting the endangered Green turtle and critically endangered Hawksbill turtle, which are under threat for a variety of reasons including entanglement in fishing gear, coastal developments and climate change causing rising sand temperatures and flooding of turtle nests by rising seas.

### St. Helena

The championship’s floating centrepiece, the St. Helena, took centre stage in the Red Sea and hosted a number of workshops ahead of the inaugural X Prix focussing not only on the Legacy Programme, but also the wider climate change issue as well as solutions.

Guests were able to hear from some of the most respected scientists in the world including Professor Mani Sararhy (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology - KAUST), Roland Kaepfner (NEOM), Altnay Kaidarova (KAUST), Dr. Shannon Klein (KAUST), Extreme E’s Scientific Committee member Professor Richard Washington and newly-appointed Professor Carlos Duarte. The experts spoke not only about climate issues and impact, but also the solutions and steps we can all take to help our planet.



In addition, a panel discussion about a holistic approach to climate and environmental stewardship was moderated by HRH Princess Mashael Alshalan and HRH Princess Noura Turki Al Saud.

### Richard Washington, Member of Extreme E’s Scientific Committee, said:

“Accepting the invitation to be involved as a scientist in Extreme E took all of 30 seconds. Inspired projects like this only come your way once in a blue moon.

“Racing electric vehicles powered by 100 per cent clean energy in hot and dusty extreme desert environments is the sort of demonstration we need to accelerate the adoption of new climate friendly technologies. Sport strives to break boundaries, to cross seemingly impossible thresholds, often in a team setting. That is also what we need to do to solve the climate problem. Extreme E is a convergence of these endeavours.”

### Hydrogen Fuel Cell

AFC Energy, which provides the championship’s hydrogen fuel cell – enabling the fleet of ODYSSEY 21s to be charged emission-free – used the Desert X Prix to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Altaaqa, owner and operator of one of the world’s largest mobile diesel generator rental fleets. This will support the transition of the region’s power generation industry to zero emission solutions using AFC Energy’s hydrogen fuel cell technology.

### Sustainability

There were many measures put in place to ensure Extreme E would be the most sustainable sport possible, from zero single-use plastic on-site, communal water stations so reusable bottles could be filled, sustainable and biodegradable food packaging from Polymateria, and even bin police to ensure people were recycling properly.

Water extraction and consumption was also a high consideration, and Extreme E worked with local companies for its water supply and utilised water generated from its hydrogen fuel cells for car cleaning, with any excess water shared amongst local communities.

This process of ensuring Extreme E races without a trace started many months ago. In association with EY, the championship’s Official Innovation Partner, the two organisations worked together to complete a Social and Environmental Impact Assessment alongside the Royal Commission for AIUla (RCU), with these findings informing the way the Desert X Prix was managed.

**Extreme E’s next event is the Ocean X Prix, which takes place from 29-30 May at Lac Rose, Senegal, Dakar.**



# Easter Camp with the Scouts

Terry Richards

Preparations for the Easter camp began as early as Sunday, 28 March when groups started to pick their spots by erecting a tent/shelter to lay claim to their patch.

Wednesday/Thursday 31 March – 1 April when most of the major groups started to arrive to erect and finish their camp sites they were greeted by this notice attached to gate entrance to the camping ground.

Apparently the Syndicate who uses this pasture for cattle grazing decided that any household (not camping group) using this site would be required to pay £10 – so if you had a group of six people from different households in your group you would be required to pay £60 – alas the legality of this will need to be checked out. It is believed that most campers ignored this notice any way.

In the end a total of 66+ tents ranging from marques (6 x 10 metres) to the smaller 2-4 man tents were scattered around



the field with the smallest group being two people – there were lots of innovations on different camp sites even with their own toilet facilities and including hot showers. At any one time it was estimated that there could have been up to 300 persons camping.

The weather was kind to the campers as most heavy rains fell at night or during the early mornings.

Some camps started to break-up on Saturday and Sunday with the diehards lasting Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> April.

There were some birthdays celebrated during the camping period and some horrific karaoke sessions with some cater-wauling lasting until the wee hours of the morning – 3 a.m. It could be said that a great time was had by all.

## Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Editor,**

I have received comments from members of the public who have read my emails sent to all Elected Members and have requested me to publish in the local papers my email sent to the URA and also asked who is the URA?

The URA is the Utilities Regulatory Authority which is chaired by the Chief Magistrate with two members of the public who currently have a commercial business, which is empowered to regulate the development and provision of the public utility services, especially Connect St Helena.

**The Utilities Regulatory Authority**

**The Castle  
Jamestown**

### **PROPOSED ELECTRICITY AND WATER TARIFFS COMMENCING 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2021**

**Dear Yvonne,**

On behalf of all water consumers on the Island I wish to thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned proposed tariffs advertised in both on Island media's recently. I therefore wish to make the following comments concerning the proposed tariffs:

1. Connect St Helena still RECEIVE a sizeable subsidy from SHG to remain solvent. Does this mean we can expect to see tariff increases for the next five to seven years UNTIL Connect St Helena can reduce their system losses? When system losses are estimated at 442.75 cu m per day at a cost of £894.35 per day times 365 days = £326439.57 per year. One would expect that losses of such magnitude would warrant more ur-

gent attention?

2. Will the low income earners in our society ie Carers, Nursing Assistants, Shop Assistants and Single Parent Families receive any assistance with the proposed increased tariffs?

3. Have all elected members of the Council agreed to the proposed increases? It is disheartening to know our Elected Representatives allocate precious financial resources to a Government own Company only to see it poured into the ground to disappear almost without trace and we the public are expected to pick up the tab for it.

4. Reference is also made to a subsidy that is available to agricultural producers. However, most producers complain that the system is too cumbersome and time consuming for the rewards offered, hence very few claims for subsidy is made.

**Regards. Cyril George.**



# Good Friday

**Text: Tammy Williams - Pictures: Mike Olsson**

Good Friday, our day of remembrance, our Lord's death, Easter eggs, Easter bunnies, hot cross buns and fish dawned like any other, returning boats brimming with fish sailed quietly into the harbour the night before, happy campers lazily turned in their sleeping bags, who would be the first to get up and put the kettle on?

At Saint FM we were treated to a special Easter program by DJ Dustin Cornelson before I took airways at 8am, I had no plans for the day but Gavin and I decided to stop by the Standard on the way home, outside there was plenty of activity, fish frying over open fires, KJ and Alison were cooking, supported by Peter and 'Midge'. Chef Roy was alongside with a specially made batter to cover the wahoo and tuna, there was an array of tasty fish, including soldiers, bullseyes and conger all caught by Richard Sim, Sally Hicking's brother.

The Good Friday celebrations at the Standard were started by Sally five years ago, ensuring that no one is left alone, each year it has grown in numbers and bowls, people who attend make contributions to the table which was beginning to groan under the weight.

We were not planning to stay for lunch, er, I had made no contribution to the table but it was firmly insisted that we stay, which we did. There was an abundance of food on the table, lots of fish in all shapes and sizes, including a marvelous pickled fish made by Chef Roy which Mike says reminded him of the pickled fish my granddad used to make years ago, a ton of salads, rice dishes, chilli beans, garlic bread all gen-



erously donated to the table for everyone to share.

I enjoyed every moment at the Standard because I saw people genuinely caring for each other, an overflow of love and tenderness through delicious food and togetherness and of course Sally, the ineffable host, like her mom Anne Sim with the biggest of hearts, full of love and kindness towards the community.

I can't imagine being alone but if I was, it would be obvious to me, as it already is to others, to know that there was a place I could go, thank you to all who cooked, came and shared, after all Easter is about the celebration of life and we had much to celebrate.

