

THE ST HELENA



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# INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XVII ISSUE 34, 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022, PRICE £1

## *Protests Against 'Opening Up' the Island Well Attended Despite Rain*



**Letters:**

*What is going on???*  
*Agents Provocateurs*  
*(of Covid & Associates)*

*"It is now time for you to reconsider the positions you hold"*  
*"Bull\*\*\*t baffles brains"*

## **Nick Stevens Receives Commonwealth Award**



## **Immingham to Walvis Bay and then MV Helena to Here**



***"More of a Dictatorship than a Democracy"***



# Rain Did Not Stop Protests

Last Saturday about 150 people joined the demonstration to the Castle to present a petition to the Chief Minister objecting to the lifting of all Covid related entry precautions. Despite rain and dismal conditions it was a lively affair which left our ministers in now doubt what the opinions are of those present.

It is not the first time our Chief Minister has stood up to face a gathering with strong opinions.

In all over 1,300 names had been gathered in support of the petition in just over one week. Almost one third of the people in St Helena signed up.

The main organisers of the event were Olive Brown and Faith Nicholls. Councillor Ronald Coleman read out the message from the petitioners.

## CHIEF MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO THE PETITION AND ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED DURING SATURDAY'S PROTEST MARCH

### Dear Constituents,

I firstly would like to acknowledge everybody who participated in last Saturday's protest held on the 23rd July 2022 and the concerns in respect of the decision taken to remove quarantine restrictions for our island as of 08th August 2022.

In preparing my original response which I attempted to deliver to Petitioners on Saturday, I relied on what was published in the St Helena Independent dated 15th July 2022 which purported to be the full message from the petitioners which summarised reads; **"We call on our Ministers to review their decision of 21st June 2022, that with effect from Monday, 8 August 2022, quarantine will no longer be a legal requirement on St Helena"**.



I was contacted by the organiser of the Petition, Mrs Olive Brown, on the evening before the Protest who outlined a somewhat different set of concerns, some of which were included in Councillor Coleman's opening speech on Saturday delivered on behalf of the petitioners, which reads;

**"We have doubts about Public Health preparedness to cope with an outbreak of COVID in the community, i.e.:**

**- On what basis were the numbers of nursing staff and carers required calculated and how long will the additional staff be available?**

**- How many working ventilators are we expected to require, how many do we have, are they all working and can they be properly maintained.**

**- Is the Oxygen plant at Bradly's now fully functional and can**

*Continued on PAGE 25*



The family of the late Nick Thorpe would like to advise the public that the interment of Nick's ashes will take place at the New Dungeon Cemetery on Tuesday 9th August at 2.30pm.

All are welcome to attend and anyone requiring transport is asked to call Carol Yon on 22781

# Immingham to Walvis Bay and then MV Helena to Here

Vince Thompson

Moving the transshipment of cargo from Cape Town to Walvis Bay has been one of the many discussion points in recent weeks. Some views expressed point to the difficulty in finding a regular and reliable shipping line to transport cargo from the UK to Walvis Bay, others doubt the Walvis Bay port and the freight forwarders in Namibia could cope with St Helena's imports which originate from Africa; either that or it will be more expensive than Cape Town prices.

A search for the shipping lines using routes from UK ports to Walvis Bay does bring up several lines which specialise in the shipping cars but so far there is one well established shipping line which ships containers, break bulk and general cargo on a regular basis on the UK – Walvis Bay route.



MACS Maritime Carrier Shipping is German registered, with offices in Hamburg, Cape Town, Houston (Texas) and Singapore. They work on three main routes, one is Europe – Africa. This route includes ports in Holland, Germany, Spain and Portugal together with a scheduled cargo feeder service from Immingham in Lincolnshire for onward shipment to Walvis Bay. The schedule displayed for this route on the MACS Shipping website shows ships on the Europe - Africa route serving Walvis Bay twice monthly. MACS Shipping claim to offer the fastest service in this route. Speed and cargo shipments are things which have not gone hand in hand for too long.

MACS shipping have been operating for more than 35 years

and describe themselves as offering specialised shipping solutions within three dedicated trade routes on a multipurpose fleet which can accommodate almost any load, from bulk and break-bulk, project cargoes and containers. The open hatch configuration and movable horizontal and vertical hold separations and the bulk-head design of the vessels enables the flexibility to cater for a wide range of cargoes in an optimally efficient and safe manner.

The charge for the MV Helena to have assistance berthing is about £500 at Walvis Bay and £350 in Cape Town. These charges are not too far apart and have to be considered in conjunction with the time and charges incurred waiting for a berth, loading and unloading. Walvis Bay is likely to offer a quicker service than Cape Town with the likelihood that overall the ports charges and operating costs at Walvis Bay are cheaper.

Walvis Bay and Namibia as a whole have a wide range of freight forwarders similar to Zedcore and others. St Helena's cargo requirements are very small compared to other countries and companies. There has to be a good reason to assume Namibian freight forwarders will have difficulty handling St Helena's import requirements.

Cargo rates from MACS shipping are 'on request only' and need to be taken into account. There is nothing in the public domain to indicate a detailed costing exercise has been completed to compare the cost of UK freight being transhipped at Walvis Bay and Cape Town. If this piece of work has been done, it would make a valuable contribution to the discussion; if it hasn't, well let's check this thing out.

## Your Opinion Counts

### Dear Editor

"Bullshit baffles brains" I hope that John Cranfield is prepared for several truckloads of the steaming brown stuff to be dumped on him and his petition as SHG attempt to make a perfectly sensible and do-able change in hub into a complex and implausible issue. Once again we can observe how Julie Thomas's administration lacks the political backbone and judgement to recognise an issue on which public opinion far outstrips Government orthodoxy. The blunt fact is that DFID (or the DFID rump which lives on in FCDO) have always disproportionately favoured an air connection out of Johannesburg – a bias which dates right back to clueless Nigel Kirby

and the design and development stages of the airport itself. For reasons which have never been explained, the 'aviation advisors' serving DFID and SHG (and still embedded in SHG's airport hierarchy) just appropriated the issue of hub selection and have resolutely stuck with that position and -so far- beaten off all suggestions, however rational, to operate flights from the UK, Namibia or Cape Town. The Cranfield Petition probably represents the most serious challenge to the established SHG position simply because it is founded on rock solid common sense augmented by such widespread public support. So there has been no substantive response from the woman supposedly in charge of Government whilst a massive dither goes on as the bullshit generator stutters into a maximum output setting in the hope that some spurious technical-sounding response can successfully be dished up to the frustrated waiting petitioners.

Nor should any blame for the Cape Town negativity be laid at the door of Airlink. Their CEO Rodger Foster has publicly

stated that there are no insurmountable technical issues which would prevent the hub switch if that is what SHG really want. A reliable source and former Airlink executive, has said that when air service negotiations were undertaken between Airlink and DFID/SHG after Comair dropped out the two Governments (UK and St Helena) never asked Airlink for anything but a Johannesburg service, so that was all that was discussed, despite Cape Town being 400 miles closer and the focus of all the island's previous historical contact with the African mainland.

So, the answer is simple: the Chief Minister has to stand up for what is clearly a desirable change and not be bashed around by so-called 'experts' who care nothing for the preferences of Saints facing life-threatening medical conditions, and co-incidentally also have no idea of what tourists think about being needlessly funnelled through the second-most dangerous city in the world.

**JOE TERRY**





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# Editorial

At 6pm yesterday the Commonwealth Games finally got underway with the opening ceremony. Over the twelve day event about 6,500 athletes and officials from 72 teams will go head to head as part of the biggest sporting programme in the history of the Commonwealth Games. For the first time at any major multi-sport event there are more medal events for women than men – 136 to 134. There is also a record number of 42 para-sports events. The athletes will compete in various venues located in fifteen sports arenas across the West Midlands.

It is a massive undertaking which looks as if it will be hailed as a great success by the time the lights go up on the closing ceremony on 8<sup>th</sup> August. Over a million tickets have been sold. We all wish our own eleven athletes the very best. I'm sure we can expect some of them to come back with an improved personal best; this always seems to happen when St Helena sportsmen and women have access to top coaching advice and better facilities. I continue to believe that helping our young athletes, footballers, cricketers, you name it, achieve a high standard in international arenas gets the best publicity possible for St Helena.

I like the mascot for the Commonwealth Games. It is supposed to be a bull but it's hard to see the likeness. It's probable a bull was chosen because Birmingham's 'Main Street' is called the Bull Ring and the mascot is called Perry, no doubt after Perry Barr, the part of Birmingham when the main athletics stadium is located.

The Fiji government told a filthy rich Russian 'you're nicked' other rather his multi-million pound yacht was. I don't know why they call these mini ocean liners yachts, there is not a sail in sight and I'm not even sure they need a rudder. You certainly don't see any of the crew leaning over the side, trying to balance the vessel against the force of the wind. But that's not the point.



The \$300 million 'yacht' *Amadea* was seized as part of the sanctions against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Fijians had been asked by the US government to seize the yacht, which was then taken to San Diego Bay in southern Califor-

nia. The seizures in the name of sanctions against Russia has caused £billions of assets to be seized from filthy rich Russians who probably gained their money through corruption and other forms of crime.

What made me smile most is that on board the *Amadea* the security personnel found a Fabergé egg. The House of Fabergé still exists. It was founded in 1842 by Gustav Fabergé who was an excellent and extremely gifted designer of beautiful trinkets. They are so beautifully and skilfully made it would cost you about £15 million to buy one from your next pay packet.

The Russian, Suleiman Kerimov, left his yacht and his valuables behind when he disembarked for what was unknowingly his last time. I bet he is really kicking himself now. There must be other riches he has got hidden away somewhere. Someone should cheer him up by finding more of his valuable ill-gotten gains and seize them on behalf of the Ukrainian people. The United States Justice Department intend to give the proceeds from the seized goods to Ukraine.



***A Fabergé egg made in 1898 called Lilies of the Valley. The lilies are pearls and most of the rest is gold***

## DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

**Stewardship Workshop:** Due to COVID19 restrictions we will not in all probability be able to have our Home Groups for Stewardship. We have arranged to have workshops from Monday to Wednesday 1-3 August 2022 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at St. James church, Jamestown. These evening workshops will be open to all parishioners of the diocese. Please bring your Bible pen and writing pad with you.

# Recruiting Doctors, Against All the Odds

Vince Thompson

The St Helena Health Director and the Chief Medical Officer told us on radio last week that the health service is at full strength; this includes having all the doctor vacancies filled. The competition across the world is fierce to recruit and retain doctors. The fierce competition pushes the pay upwards which is another disadvantage for governments with small budgets. The best placed countries for recruitment are in the developed western world. A small remote island in the middle of the South Atlantic that cannot stand on its own two feet must be right at the bottom of the pecking order; this makes filling all the vacancies for doctors so remarkable.

## Irish Medical Council recruiting doctors in Pakistan



The Chief Medical Officer, Peter Moss, told the *Independent* this week that recruitment of doctors for the St Helena Health Service needs to meet the same standards as the NHS. He added, "This does not necessarily mean that they have to be British, or registered with the UK General Medical Council, as many other developed countries have equally high standards of training and regulation. However as a UKOT it makes sense to use the UK system as a reference point."

The General Medical Council (GMC) maintains a register of

doctors in the UK only. They also issue licences to doctors to practise in the UK. The GMC points out "The licence (issued by the GMC) to practise gives doctors legal rights and privileges in the UK only. For roles that are based wholly outside the UK, there is no requirement for a doctor to have a (GMC) licence to practise (except in crown dependencies). Doctors who work wholly outside the UK must comply with whatever regulatory requirements exist in the country in which they practise."

Peter Moss explained, "Unfortunately the GMC have no jurisdiction on St Helena. I have directly asked them if they would consider including the island and its dependencies in their remit, but they have declined. This means that we cannot explicitly apply GMC procedures or guidelines, as we have no underpinning authority or sanction. However our intention is to use a local system which as closely as possible follows the principles laid down by the GMC."

He added, "In terms of recruitment we currently follow exactly the same principles as we would in the UK, including a requirement to be registered and in good standing with a national medical council or body that would be recognised by the GMC for registration. We confirm that the applicants' CV and qualifications are genuine, and that their medical qualification comes from an institution recognised by the WHO (World Health Organisation). We also check that there are satisfactory references from recent relevant employment, and of course we interview the candidates (albeit remotely). Dr Burke (Health Director) had already made sure that these processes were in place before I arrived in May, and I am fully supporting him in making sure that we recruit doctors of a high standard."

## GOVERNOR DESIGNATE TO ARRIVE ON SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

The Governor Designate of St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, Mr Nigel Phillips CBE accompanied by his wife Emma, will arrive at St Helena on Saturday, 13 August 2022.

The Governor Designate and Mrs Phillips will be met at St Helena Airport by the Acting Governor, the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, and the Aide de Camp. The Governor Designate and Mrs Phillips will then be taken to Plantation House.

The Inauguration Ceremony will then take place in front of the Court House, starting at 4pm, when the Oaths of Office will be administered by the Sheriff of St Helena, Mrs Ethel Yon OBE.

As this will be the first public event following the lifting of quarantine requirements, the number of invited guests will be fewer than previous Inauguration Ceremonies and the traditional meet and greet for invited guests and members of the public will not take place on this occasion.

Following the Ceremony, His Excellency and Mrs Phillips will proceed to the Court House where they will meet Members of the St Helena Legislative Council.

**SHG, 28 July 2022**





# ***“The existing health resources are sufficient to provide a very efficient healthcare system”***

***Dr Derek Burke, St Helena Director of Health***

# ***“Massive NHS backlog is national emergency”***

***UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak***

The St Helena Health Service is at the dawn of a new era according to the Director of Health, Dr Derek Burke and the Chief Medical Officer, Peter Moss. Last week the Independent reported on their emerging plans to reduce queues at the pharmacy, clear the backlog of appointments for x-rays and surgery and introduce a phone consultation option for straightforward medical advice to allow appointments to see a GP to be quicker.

By comparison the NHS appears to be almost on its knees according to authoritative sources in the UK. This is despite the weekly ‘clap for carers’ at the height of the pandemic when outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson joined in enthusiastically. Of course clapping and smiling costs nothing.

## ***More Quotes on the State of the UK Health Service***

“In comparison to other nations, England has a very low proportion of doctors relative to the population. The average number of doctors per 1,000 people in OECD EU nations is 3.7, but England has just 2.9. Germany, by comparison, has 4.3. England would need the equivalent of an additional 46,300 full time doctors simply to put us on an equivalent standard with today’s OECD EU average of 3.7 doctors per 1,000 people” - ***The British Medical Journal***.

“Tackling the backlog in the NHS is the biggest public services emergency, Rishi Sunak has said, as he and Liz Truss vie to become the UK’s next prime minister. More than 6.6 million people in England are waiting for hospital treatment. Mr Sunak plans to eliminate one-year waiting times by September 2024 and get overall numbers falling by next year” – ***BBC News***

“Data from NHS England and NHS Improvement show a vacancy rate of 10.0% as at 31 March 2022 within the Registered Nursing staff group (38,972 vacancies). This is a slight increase from the same period the previous year when the vacancy rate was 9.2% (34,678 vacancies)” - ***Digital NHS***

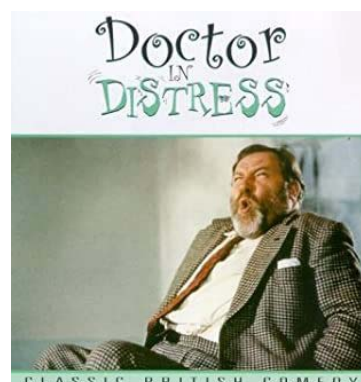
“Long NHS waiting times appear to be pushing people into paying thousands of pounds for private treatment. There were 69,000 self-funded treatments in the UK in the final three months of last year - a 39% rise on the same period before the pandemic. Experts said it was a sign of how desperate people had become. The BBC has seen evidence of people taking out loans and resorting to crowdfunding to pay for private treatment” – ***BBC News***

“A paediatrician accused of covering up the circumstances of a child’s death has failed in a bid to have some allegations against her dismissed. Dr Heather Steen has been accused of failings after the death of nine-year-old Claire Roberts at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children in 1996. She has

denied allegations from the General Medical Council that she acted dishonestly and engaged in a cover-up. The GMC brought a case to the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS). The MPTS independently decides a doctor’s fitness to practise” – ***Belfast Telegraph***

“The Welsh Government has announced that NHS nursing staff in Wales will get a pay increase of at least £1,400 for 2022-23. Director of the Royal College of Nursing Wales, Helen Whyley, said: “Nurses will be outraged to learn of this award. This will do nothing to fill over 1719 vacancies for registered nurses in NHS Wales. It won’t encourage nurses to stay nursing and it won’t inspire a next generation to join them. And it is our most vulnerable people who risk feeling the impact. Research shows that where there are lower numbers of nurses, patients are up to 26% more likely to die. Conversely, a 10% rise in the number of degree-educated nurses is associated with a 7% reduction in patient mortality” – ***Royal College of Nursing***

Britain’s state-run National Health Service (NHS) is facing its worst ever staffing crisis with thousands of vacancies and the government has no credible strategy to address the problem, a committee of lawmakers said in a report published on Monday. Tackling a health service staggering under the combined pressure of long waiting lists and staffing shortages will be one of the top tasks facing Boris Johnson’s successor as prime minister when they take office in September. “We now face the greatest workforce crisis in history in the NHS,” said Jeremy Hunt, chair of parliament’s cross-party Health and Social Care Committee and a former health minister. “Persistent understaffing in the NHS poses a serious risk to staff and patient safety, a situation compounded by the absence of a long term plan by the government to tackle it” – Euronews  
There was no shortage of things to talk about when HSJ sat down with some of the health service’s most respected trust chief executives recently. Milton Keynes University Hospital Foundation Trust chief executive Joe Harrison shared his worries for the NHS’s future, remarking: “I think we’re in danger of all sitting around the campfire singing ‘kumbaya’ as the Titanic sinks. We are presiding over a failing NHS” ***Health Service Journal, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022***



***A popular film from a time when the NHS was respected by the UK’s political leaders, 1963***

# **Response to the Petition Urging St Helena Government to Move the Hub for Air Service and Medical Referrals from Johannesburg to Cape Town**

**Mr John Cranfield**  
**Waterfall View**

**The Briars, 27th July 2022**

**Dear John,**

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the time it has taken me to respond to you substantively, since my initial letter sent to you on the 25th April 2022 and subsequent emails sent via Minister Brooks & Mrs. Catherine Turner, CEO/Commissioner of the Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in the latter part of June 2022.

As advised in my previous correspondence with you, the petition was focused on two specific areas, (i) the airport hub used by Airlink, our contracted air service provider, and (ii) medical referral arrangements in South Africa. I will therefore endeavour to provide you with an update on progress being made in respect of both areas. As previously advised, the full analysis is still to be completed, as it incorporates the completion of the current Tender process, which is seeking all areas of tertiary and secondary clinical care required by SHG as well as dedicated intermediary clinical care management that can be offered in South Africa.

Expressions of Interest for the current Tender process will close at the end of this month, following this, the procurement process will include physical visits to all potential providers to ensure that all elements of this service provision meets the needs of St Helena and the patients referred for clinical interventions. It is anticipated that the Procurement will be concluded within this financial year.

The contract is not specific to one area of South Africa, which will enable all providers across South Africa to tender for this contract and also to take into consideration the recent concerns raised by means of feedback and this petition.

Due to the high risk nature of the procurement taking into account the overall costs, complexities in commissioning tertiary and specialist health care, the Procurement Board will be responsible for the evaluation of the tender process. To enable a robust and efficient Tender to be completed the Procurement Board has agreed the extension of the existing medical evacuation co-ordination with MSO to continue until March 2023. Until this Tender is complete, I am unable to give you a definitive response in respect of what the medical referral arrangements will be for South Africa.

With regard to the airport hub used by Airlink, our contracted air service provider, I can advise you that ongoing communication is taking place. To date, we are awaiting a conclusive response from Airlink as to whether they are able to commit to the use of Cape Town as an operational base for flights to St Helena. You will be aware that during the last two years, SA Airlink has grown to become Africa's second-biggest airline after Ethiopian Airlines with about 210 flights a day on 63

routes, with destinations serving 14 countries. In this context, you will appreciate that St Helena now represents a very small part of Airlink's business. Moving the St Helena flight base of operation from Johannesburg to Cape Town is a complex and costly matter. Extended Diversions Time Operations which relate to Flight Duty Periods for crew, who are trained and experienced to operate to and from our island, is a key consideration that must be taken into account along with the number of sectors flown and duty hours and minimum rest period before an ETOPS flight given the difficult operational environment at our airport.

To comprehensively consider changing the departure base from Johannesburg to Cape Town will require selection and comprehensive training of the Airlink Cape Town based crew and amendments to the Airlink approvals which will take time. One of the other considerations is the availability of ETOPs approved planes to be based and operating out of Cape Town, particularly given the high level of demand for domestic and regional services in light of the demise of other local carriers such as Comair and SAA. Given that we are prone to weather delays it is essential that a backup option for a delay can be accommodated otherwise we could end up with two sets of passengers awaiting to come to the Island on the following weekend, and passengers having to remain on island, in the absence of a back-up aircraft and crew.

With this said, I can assure you that Airlink are positively considering the recommencement of some Cape Town to St Helena services for the near future, as was the case pre-COVID. At this time however, I cannot confirm dates of when this recommencement is expected to take place, and whether this recommencement will be seasonal as was the case previously.

I do hope that this will give you the reassurance that we have not disregarded your petition and the content within, we simply need the adequate time to gather relevant information, which will enable us to make an informed decision.

As promised in my initial response to you I will be in touch again when in receipt of the full analysis. In the meantime I would like to advise you that this response will be made public.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Julie Thomas**  
**Chief Minister**  
**On behalf of the Ministerial Cabinet**  
**St Helena Government**



# Your Opinion Counts



**Dear Editor,**

It's very concerning that we have again got to the stage where so many people feel the need to protest against the Government.

I want to thank everyone for taking the time and effort to protest on Saturday in abysmal weather for such an undertaking. As a councillor, judging how people feel about specific issues is always tricky and how many people think the same way.

I attended the protest for several reasons, primarily to listen to what the public had to say and to judge how many people supported what was said. Secondly, I believe that one of the primary roles of a Councillor is to take into account the feeling of the public so that you can ensure that they are fully considered during any decision-making (it's a shame that the legislative councillors aren't included in most of the Minister's decision-making process).

Before I make a statement about my personal views about opening up the Island, I would like to state that I in no way support how EXCO closed its doors or how the Ministers make their decisions behind closed doors. I have been very clear about this since it was first announced that EXCO would be closed to the public. It makes our government more of a Dictatorship than a Democracy; you know the final decision but not why it was made, nor do you know to what extent other people's influence

guided it.

I do believe that we need to open the Island up. However, I don't think it should be without any restrictions, and I'm not sure that we are ready to open on the 8th of August.

The main reason that I believe that we need to open the Island is that the economy is dying, it has been struggling for the past two years, and the War in Ukraine has pushed it even further. Many people are currently struggling, but I believe there is the worst to come. We are very close to a stage where the cost of living will rise by a more significant amount than it has already; we don't have the money to cope with more increases. The inflation figures have just been released at 4.8%, but we can't increase all the payments by that amount, so in effect, all SHG payments have been reduced, as you can't buy as much with the same amount of money. Tourism does bring in money, and since announcing that we are opening, local companies have started to receive bookings. Airlink has also announced that it will provide weekly flights, which have also seen a good increase in bookings. Other positive points about opening up are that it will be easier to bring in specialists (including medical), air freight will become more reliable, it will allow us to hold international events etc. All of which help the economy, I realise that not everyone cares for such things, but they are what help us pay the bills.

That said, it doesn't mean that we have to open if we're not ready to, nor does it mean we have to remove all restrictions. The weekly flights don't start until October, so whereas it would be difficult to move the date, it's not impossible. I think everyone should have to be double vaccinated or have a letter from a doctor before travelling. I also believe that we should consider people having to wear masks in public for the first 4-6 weeks to help slow the spread at the beginning – and I hate wearing masks. People are very concerned, and Good Governance would see all parties' thoughts being taken into account and a compromise being taken.

I want to close by saying that over the last few weeks, many people have asked me why we don't 'just get rid of them. For the back benches/ legislative councillors to remove one or more Ministers from their position/s (making them legislative councillors), they have to take a vote of no confidence, which has to be passed by all seven legislative councillors, so if you feel that things have now reached the stage where that is the only way forward then speak to your councillors and let them know your opinion.

To have a fair and open democratic Government, the people have to participate, don't hesitate to let your councillors know your opinions and feelings.

**Regards,**

**Councillor Karl Thrower**

## INVITATION TO TENDER

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts:

### **Construction of a Toilet Facility at the Ex-ADA Site, Longwood**

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, at Essex House, Jamestown, on tel: 22270 or via email: [tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh).

A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 4 August 2022, at 10am, meeting at Ex-ADA Fields, Longwood. Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Capital Programme Section on tel: 22270 or via email: [shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:shelley.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh). Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Friday, 12 August 2022.

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

**SHG, 28 July 2022**





# Your Opinion Counts

**Dear Editor,**

Only a few years ago a group of people established what was then a party of people (Unified Saints) who would attempt to fight for the general public here on St Helena in an attempt to make life better, and act against certain decisions made by SHG. These involved some of the following:

- Protest against the proposed increase in electricity charges being made by Connect.
- Protest against the proposed increase in water charges by Connect.
- Form a delegation to protest against lowering the quarantine measures introduced following the Covid outbreak in the world involving a protest to the Governor as he was on his way to the airport when leaving for a holiday.

These measures did not materialise in a way to act against the SHG and as such fell on stoney ground and eventually vanished.

The tables have now reversed following the General Election of last year when the Unified Saints became duly elected members of the new Ministerial Government and subsequently became the prime ministers responsible for execution of the way in which St Helena would be governed.

These members are now in effect re-named as Unified Government and seem to have forgotten what they established themselves as only a few years ago.

These members of the New Government seem to have forgotten or left behind much of what they originally put themselves together for and were then attempting to make life better for the person on the street or lady down the hill.

Following on from the recent protest march against the way in which they wish to open up the island they now seem to have little or no regard for what the island may have to welcome, should this go ahead in the way they have de-

creed. Planning to have free entry to a small close knit population with little or no control or regard for a community which up to now has remained free from the virus in what ever variant it displays, shows little concern for the people they once wanted to support them and more latterly voted for them. After all anyone can read from a script but not everyone can make good sound decisions.

Surely they now need to revisit the documents they so only too willingly like to read from rather than listen to the voice of the people who elected them to their new high positions and think hard about the consequences this opening could bring in a short space of time to a friendly close harmony of people.

It is a time when the politicians and this only concerns a minority, holding higher office, should respect the electorate who could reduce in numbers by the time comes around for a re election of them and take heed and if necessary consider whether they are the right group to take the island forward since little has been heard about their new policies coming to fruition since being elected.

Being a body of people who seem to enjoy working independently of the rest of the elected members, they now need to work as a team to generate growth and well being here on St Helena, and also to win back the people they so willingly seem to have lost touch with. If they are unable to do this then they should consider leaving their post through resignation and hand over to a government that respects and recognises the people who elected them to office back in October 2021.

It is now time for you to reconsider the positions you hold if you wish the public to support you.

***Yours sincerely,  
A concerned member of the public.***

***What is going on???***  
***Agents Provocateurs (of Covid & Associates)***

We appear to be in RETRO mode; the foreseen Opening-up has developed into the general response in the public domain to where much of the world was 18 months ago with all defense mechanisms; what one sees is RETRO.

While being possibly advantageous to

the 'perceived & apparent Visitor', Family members, returning Saints and those taking-up contracts, we are now thrust into being on the mega defensive; we have become the 'Fall Guys'; almost like : It's your fault that you're Covid-free – grow-up!"

Despite all the promoted and advisory Medical details of what needs or should be done I still have not heard the rationale or Why we should Open-Up. In other words, the real reasons. I sense it ultimately has to do with fundamental issues that are not being conveyed to the public; then please say so...not saying we must Catch-up to the rest of the world and attune to becoming 'mildly sick'; this should not be a Fob.

From personal experience in Cape Town I visualize the queue of BOSH masked customers at 3m distanced from one another snaked down to and beyond the Canister and look forward to a masked waiter taking my drinks order at the Standard, Mule Yard, Black Horse or elsewhere and bringing it to my isolated table outside...a novelty will be seeing masked police officer rather than the crime perpetrators. The mind boggles with interesting features. And of course will this lead to cash-less business interactions or the issue of pristine £5 notes?

Recalling last Saturday's Chief Minister's Statement on behalf of the St Helena Government – stressing, from what I could hear! – I was saddened that a more profound sincere appreciation was not uttered to thank all Saints as to just how over several years they have Safeguarded our Island inhabitants by their patient resilience and practical application often involving close family members.

I am of the opinion our current greatest objection to Opening-Up - so rapidly, is based on the fact that over 2 years we have built up a sound Preventive Safeguarding 'Wall' expressed perhaps as Fear and to dismantle we need time and the attitude of Islanders, to slowly do so be in an agreed manner to adjust to the Outside world. This means those who are in authority before making any decisions need to very carefully consider our historic, medical and social profile developed over centuries and our innate vulnerabilities and draw on the desire to ultimately map-out our own future and progress.

***Sincerely, David***

## COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

The Health Services Directorate would like to inform the public that COVID-19 vaccination clinics will be held at various locations on Monday, 1, and Tuesday, 2 August 2022.

The clinics are for any eligible persons aged 18 + years who would like to receive a first, second, or the first booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Second booster doses will only be administered to persons aged 40+ years who have received their first booster dose prior to and including January 2022.

A flu vaccination will also be offered at the clinic to persons aged 50 + years.

Please see table below for the clinics available:

Week commencing 1 August 2022

### **Monday, 1 August**

Jamestown Community and Centre Community Care Complex, Ladder Hill 9am – 12noon 1pm – 3pm

### **Tuesday, 2 August**

Harford Community Centre and Kingshurst Community Centre 9am – 12pm 1pm – 3pm

You are reminded to please bring along your yellow vaccination card for recording purposes. If you do not bring along your card you will not receive your vaccination.

Any persons who have misplaced their yellow vaccination card, please contact Grace Richards prior to attending the clinic. Grace can be contacted on tel: 22500 or via email: [grace.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:grace.richards@sainthelena.gov.sh). Let's continue to protect ourselves, to protect St Helena.

**SHG**

**27 July 2022**

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



## PHARMACY TO TRIAL TWO MONTH SUPPLY FOR REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

The Health Services Directorate would like to inform the public that with effect from Monday, 1 August 2022, the Pharmacy will be starting a trial period in which a repeat prescription will consist of two month's supply of medication(s) instead of the normal one month supply. Customers will receive two month's repeat prescription supply, but will only be charged per item for one month's supply. Regular medication(s) that are only taken when required e.g. Paracetamol will not be included within the repeat prescription trial and must be requested separately.

The Pharmacy bus has limited storage and refrigeration capacity to stock sufficient medicines to be able to fulfil two month repeat prescription orders. Customers who would like to collect their repeat prescription order from the Pharmacy bus are required to place an order at the Pharmacy at least 72 hours prior to the day in which they intend to collect and request that their prescription be delivered on the Pharmacy bus.

The trial period will be used to reduce the number of people within the Pharmacy during the period in which community spread of COVID-19 is expected and to enable the Pharmacy to dispense medicines at a quicker rate. If successful, the Pharmacy aims for this practise to continue.

The length of the trial period will be dependent on stock levels and will be reverted back to the one month supply if there are any unforeseen circumstances such as delays with shipments on the MV *Helena*.

The public is reminded that all requests for repeat prescriptions are required 72 hours in advance of collection, these will be processed on weekdays only. The Pharmacy can be contacted via tel: 22500 for repeat requests.

The Pharmacy staff would like to thank the public for their cooperation and understanding during this time.

#StHelena #HealthServices #Pharmacy  
<https://www.facebook.com/StHelenaGovt/>  
<https://twitter.com/StHelenaGovt>

**SHG**

**27 July 2022**





# Serena's Gift Shop

Phone : 22792



**£10.95**



**£21.50**



**£21.50**



**£17.50**



**£22.95**



**£32.50**



**£17.50**



**£24.50**



**£21.50**



**£11.95**

# Serena's Gift Shop

Phone : 22792



**£23.60**



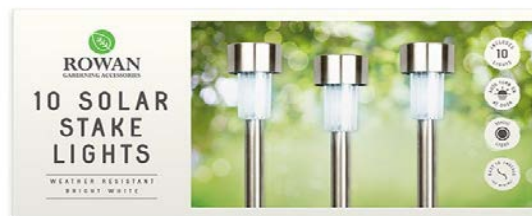
**£23.60**



**£15.90**



**£26.50**



**£17.65**



**£20.95**

# PHILIP JOHN'S SHOP - ALL DAY OPENING

## SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2022 - 10am to 5pm

CASTLE LITE BEER

**£30.00**  
per case

ALL CIGGARETTES

**£6.00** per pkt

### SPECIAL ON:

BABY MILK POWDER & NAPPIES  
CHILDRENS TOYS  
MOPS & BROOMS  
WESSEX MILL BREAD FLOUR

## LOADS OF SPECIALS ON VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS

Do come along and see what  
we have on offer...  
SHOP AT PHILIP JOHN'S

Everyone is feeling the pinch and struggling as the cost of living rises here on St. Helena; PEAKS Enterprises are taking a chance to help the older persons of our community. We will be giving away a **LIMITED AMOUNT** of small monetary gifts to any persons aged 70+ years who make a purchase of £25 and over on this day.

THE SHOP WILL CLOSE AT **2pm**  
ON SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY

## ON SALE AT PHILIP JOHN'S SHOP

### HAND SANITISER

STERIRUB 5ltr - Instant Bactericide for Hands  
PAPER HAND TOWELS - ROLLS

A SELECTION OF FROZEN FRUIT

GLUTEN FREE FOODS INCLUDING:

Pasta, Cereal, Cake Mixes, Flour

Warm, Cosy Blankets;

Various sizes and styles  
suitable for the cold winter  
nights!!....

Now on Special for only £30

GORDONS GIN 750ml -	<b>£23.00</b>
SPICE RUM 750ml -	<b>£24.50</b>
SMIRNOFF VODKA 750ml -	<b>£23.00</b>
HARRIER WHISKY 750ml -	<b>£20.00</b>
FIRSTWATCH WHISKY 750ml -	<b>£23.00</b>
SCOTTISH LEADER 750ml -	<b>£23.00</b>
WELLINGTON BRANDY 750ml -	<b>£23.00</b>
RICHELIEU BRANDY 750ml -	<b>£22.00</b>
KWV BRANDY 3yr 750ml -	<b>£22.00</b>
RUSSIAN BEAR VODKA 750ml -	<b>£21.50</b>



**JUST UNPACKED**

**A Selection of  
Frozen Meats:**

- Beef Burgers
- Beef Sausages
- Beef Mince
- Lamb Sausages
- Lamb Rib
- T-Bone Steaks
- Sirloin Steaks
- Rib-Eye Steaks



AVAILABLE FROM THE SAWMILL  
BAGS OF FIREWOOD

**£12.00** per bag







We are looking for someone with a passion for food and innovation, who is a great team player. Your communication skills need to be top notch, and your attention to detail second to none. Our patients are at the heart of what we do, so it's important that fantastic customer service is always at the forefront.

You must have:

- Basic Food Hygiene and Health and Safety Certificates
- NVQ Level 2 Professional Chef Diploma (ore equivalent)
- Knowledge of Special Diets and allergen awareness

Sodexo embeds a strong Safety culture in everything we do. There will be company procedures to follow, and good knowledge of HACCP procedures and Food Hygiene Regulation is vital.

#### **THE IDEAL CANDIDATE**

- Previous experience of working in a Mess in an operational role
- Able to work on own initiative within a team environment
- Able to demonstrate attention to detail and adherence to standards
- Good numerical and communication skills, must be able to demonstrate effective verbal and written communication in English
- Knowledge of health & safety and food safety
- Ability to communicate effectively with customers, clients, and staff
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Ability to achieve performance criteria.
- Positive approach to learning in role
- Self-motivated
- Sense of own initiative
- A CRC free from convictions

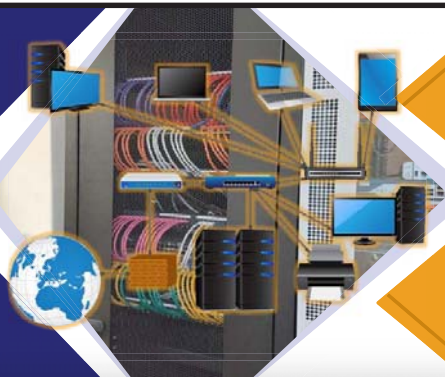
#### **BENEFITS**

- Pay - £22,136.40 per Annum
- 21 Days Holiday per Leave Year
- All Meals will be provided free of charge.
- You will be accommodated free of charge with the Single Living Accommodation with communal showers and toilets.
- Free Employee Assistant Programme

As a Chef, you will work 6 days per calendar week (55hrs per week). You must be flexible as you may be required to work unsociable hours.

If not a resident with the Falkland Islands, the successful candidate will need to comply with local Immigration Policies, Medical Requirements and Security Clearance to obtain a relevant Work Permit.

To apply for this position, please send your CV and a Covering Letter to [Christina.Williams@Sodexo.com](mailto:Christina.Williams@Sodexo.com)



EXCITING CAREER  
OPPORTUNITY

## IT SYSTEMS, SECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a Vacancy for an IT Systems, Security & Infrastructure Manager to lead the Company's IT Department

### RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

Set direction, lead and manage the IT Department, ensuring that the Company's IT infrastructure and systems are secure, functional and fit for purpose and that the IT department is adequately resourced

Provide specialist technical advice and guidance to Company Departments on IT infrastructure, systems and security

Recommend, research and lead on facilitation of IT projects

Set IT policies and procedures ensuring the Company is compliant with cyber and data security protocols

*Further information is contained in the Job Description*

### PERSONS INTERESTED SHOULD:

Possess strong technical skills with at least 5 years' experience in a Senior IT role

Possess least 3 years' experience in a supervisory/management role

Possess IT Certifications in Networking, Microsoft, and/or Cyber Security

Be knowledgeable of working in various operating system platforms, e.g. Microsoft applications, etc.

Be experienced in data protection

Desirably be knowledgeable of ISO/IEC 27000 series

Ideally have experience in POS systems

Ideally have project management experience

Salary for the post is £19,260 per annum (£1,605 per month)

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package, contact Julie Lawrence, General Manager (Mercantile, Marketing & IT):

☎ 22380 ✉ [julie.h.lawrence@solomons.co.sh](mailto:julie.h.lawrence@solomons.co.sh)

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via ✉ [hadmin@solomons.co.sh](mailto:hadmin@solomons.co.sh)

Completed Forms should be returned to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by Tuesday, 9 August 2022.



### VACANCY FOR MARINE ASSISTANT

An exciting opportunity exists to join the St Helena National Trust's Marine team which has the overall mission of championing and supporting the development and delivery of St Helena's IUCN category V1 (Sustainable Use) Marine Protected Area (MPA).

As Marine Assistant you will be joining a small dedicated team, working across a wide range of projects under our core areas, including whale shark research and assist with our island-wide education and outreach programmes.

Applicants must have an enthusiasm for the marine environment, be well organized, highly motivated and a reliable team player that is keen to develop their own practical field skills and office-based skills. The successful candidate will be trained and supported in this role.

The Trust is an independent non-governmental organisation driven by a passion for St Helena and our built, cultural, and natural heritage. We have a strong emphasis on team-work and collaboration and believe that our staff are the greatest asset.

If you feel you could contribute to the Trust's mission, then we would like to hear from you. The salary for the post is dependent on experience. A full job description can be obtained from Amanda Constantine at the St Helena National Trust office at Broadway House, Jamestown. Alternatively email [amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh](mailto:amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh) or call 22190. For further information please contact Helena Bennett on 22197 or email [helena.bennett@trust.org.sh](mailto:helena.bennett@trust.org.sh). Applications should be in the form of a CV and cover letter indicating how you meet the requirements of the job description.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 12 August 2022**





St Helena  
Government

# We're RECRUITING

**DROP-IN SESSIONS** at the Community Care Complex

**Tuesday, 2 August 2022** (from 9am-3pm)

**Interested** in becoming a Care Assistant or Support Worker?  
You could opt for a Permanent, Fixed-Term or Casual contract...

**Not qualified?** ...then bring your skills and experience and we will work with you to support those in our care.

## **For further Information, Job Profiles and Application Forms**

Contact Rosalie Brown e.[rosalie.brown@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:rosalie.brown@sainthelena.gov.sh) t.23090  
Nicole Hercules e.[piccolo.hill@helanta.co.sh](mailto:piccolo.hill@helanta.co.sh) t.25936  
Sharina Williams e.[sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:sharina.williams@sainthelena.gov.sh) t.22470

*compassionate... patient... caring... kind... respectful... considerate... supportive...*

**Our VISION** 'Working together to promote the wellbeing and safety of vulnerable children and adults in the community of St Helena'



**St Helena  
Government**

## VACANCY

### FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAMME MANAGER

(Fixed-Term Contract — up to 2 years)

*Are you passionate about making a difference, improving the experience of our customers and employees, and identifying efficiencies and better ways of working? Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a challenge and the chance to develop your project management skills and progress your career? Do you have excellent planning and organising skills and the ability to build productive working relationships across the Public Service? If so, this opportunity is just for you!*

We are looking for a **Fit for the Future Programme Manager** to manage Phase 2 of the Programme.

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

- Project or Programme Management Qualification or willingness to study
- Experience of managing and delivering Projects or Programmes, or experience of managing and delivering large, complex pieces of work
- Excellent verbal, written and presentation skills, including the ability to explain complex ideas and engage people
- Excellent time management and planning and organisation skills

**We offer the following:**

**Salary:** Band F (£18,114 — £22,643) per annum

**Leave:** 30 days per annum

**Pension:** 15% pension contribution into approved Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

**Paid Sickness Absence**

**Training Opportunities**

**Further information:**

For more information about the duties of the post, please contact Lindsay Shankland on telephone 22470 or via email [lindsay.shankland@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:lindsay.shankland@sainthelena.gov.sh).

For a copy of the **Job Profile and Application Form**, interested persons should contact:

Central Human Resources & Organisational Development or visit 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 Tuesday, 2 August 2022**.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of staff 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.  
SHG reserves the right to have information provided on the application form independently verified.



**St Helena  
Government**

## VACANCY

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

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

*Do you have the ability to provide quality care and protection for children of all ages? Are you able to communicate and interact fully with children, showing commitment and dedication to safeguarding and promoting the families welfare?*

*If so, Children's Services is seeking to recruit **Female Support Workers** to join their team within the Children's Residential Home.*

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 home to duty purposes, if necessary)
- Experience of working with young people and children

Interested persons should note that [this role requires shift work](#).

**We offer the following:**

**Salary:** £9,259 per annum

**Leave:** 25 days per annum

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

**Paid Sickness Absence**

**Training Opportunities**

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

Nicole Hercules, Acting Residential Children's Service Manager on telephone number 25936 or email: [piccolo.hill@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:piccolo.hill@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**Job Profile and Application forms** can be accessed here or alternatively from:

Central Human Resources & Organisational Development 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 Tuesday, 2 August 2022**.

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**

## VACANCY

### Painter/ Decorator

(Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development Portfolio)

*If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, the Building Maintenance Section has an opportunity for you to join their team.*

*Working as part of the Building Maintenance Team, you will deliver painting and decorating related tasks and maintenance services within the building maintenance section*

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

- Good command of Maths and English
- Drivers License A, C & D
- A minimum of three years experience in painting and decorating
- Competent in industrial painting – preparing work areas using special treatment

**Further information** about the duties of the post, interested persons should contact:  
Rex Young, Foreman on telephone number 22054 or email: [Rex.Young@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:Rex.Young@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**Job Profile** and **Application forms** are available from:

Central Human Resources & Organisation Development 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, 3 August 2022**.

**To be considered for this role, you must complete our application form. Failure to do so will mean that your application will not be considered. Please do not submit your CV.**

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.

#### We offer the following:

**Salary:** Grade B £6,722 per annum

**Leave:** 25 days per annum

**Pension:** 15% pension contribution into approved Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

**Paid Sickness Absence**

**Flexible Working Hours Scheme**



**St Helena  
Government**

## VACANCY

### Plumber

(Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development Portfolio)

*If you are physically fit, a good communicator and an effective team player, the Building Maintenance Section has an opportunity for you to join their team.*

*Working as part of the Building Maintenance Team, you will deliver maintenance tasks in relation to domestic plumbing and general plumbing related maintenance services within the building maintenance section*

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

- Functional skills level 1 in Numeracy & Literacy
- Drivers License A, B, C & D
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in domestic plumbing to include installation of hot and cold water systems.
- Experience in erecting and working from scaffolding and other work platforms.

**Further information** about the duties of the post, interested persons should contact:  
Leroy Plato, Foreman (Plumber) on telephone number 22054 or email: [Leroy.Plato@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:Leroy.Plato@sainthelena.gov.sh)

**Job Profile** and **Application forms** are available from:

Central Human Resources & Organisation Development 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, 3 August 2022**.

**To be considered for this role, you must complete our application form. Failure to do so will mean that your application will not be considered. Please do not submit your CV.**

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.

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**Paid Sickness Absence**

**Flexible Working Hours Scheme**

## VACANCY FOR PROJECT MANAGER



An exciting opportunity has arisen for a conservationist to join the St Helena National Trust's team in a leadership role. We are looking for a Project Manager to lead a team for the newly awarded Darwin Initiative project "Turning the tide on plastic pollution: Ascension and St Helena". This project aims to deliver effective marine analytical methods and educational outreach to decrease the amount of plastic waste pollution on St Helena.

The successful candidate will be required to work in partnership with the Zoology Society of London, St Helena Government, and others to achieve the project by 2025.

Applicants must be well organized, highly motivated, and have an understanding of project delivery, preferably in a management role. They must build key relationships with the St Helena Island community, explore innovative solutions to plastic pollution, and co-create project outputs and reports.

The Trust is an independent non-governmental organisation driven by a passion for St Helena and our built, cultural, and natural heritage. We have a strong emphasis on team-work and collaboration and believe that our staff are the greatest asset.

If you feel you could contribute to the Trust's mission, then we want to hear from you. The salary for the post is dependent on experience. A full job description can be obtained from Amanda Constantine at the St Helena National Trust office at Broadway House, Jamestown. Alternatively email [amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh](mailto:amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh) or call 22190. For further information please contact Helena Bennett on 22197 or email [helena.bennett@trust.org.sh](mailto:helena.bennett@trust.org.sh). Applications should be in the form of a CV and cover letter indicating how you meet the requirements of the job description.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 5 August 2022**

## INVITATION TO TENDER

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts:

**Alien plant clearance at Botley's/Ball Alley Pasture**  
**Alien plant clearance at Man & Horse Pasture**  
**Alien plant clearance at Thompsons Wood Pasture**

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, at Essex House, Jamestown, on tel: 22270 or via email: [tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh).

A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday, 25 July 2022, starting at 9.30am, meeting at Man & Horse. Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Farmers Support Officer, Frederick Green, on tel: 24724 or via email: [frederick.green@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:frederick.green@sainthelena.gov.sh).

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Monday, 1 August 2022.

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

**SHG, 19 July 2022**



## PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE TRIAL OF OPENING HOURS

The Education, Skills & Employment Portfolio conducted a survey in April 2022 to review the opening hours of the Public Library Service.

Taking into consideration the feedback received from the survey, the Public Library Service will alter their opening hours on a trial basis with effect from Monday, 1 August, and until Saturday, 1 October 2022.

The Public Library Services' revised opening hours for this trial period will be as follows:

**Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays**

9.30am – 1.30pm 2pm – 5pm

**Wednesdays**

9.30am – 1.30pm

**Fridays**

9.30am – 1.30pm 2pm – 6pm

**Saturdays**

10am – 1pm



St Helena  
Government

The Public Library Service appreciate any feedback you may have during this trial period and look forward to your continued support. If you have any queries, please contact the Public Library Service on tel: 22580 or via email: [Publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh](mailto:Publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh).

**SHG, 20 July 2022**





## FOR SALE BY TENDER

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has for "sale by tender" a Peugeot 207 Hatchback, formerly registered as vehicle number 1845 and with a reserve price of £500.00.

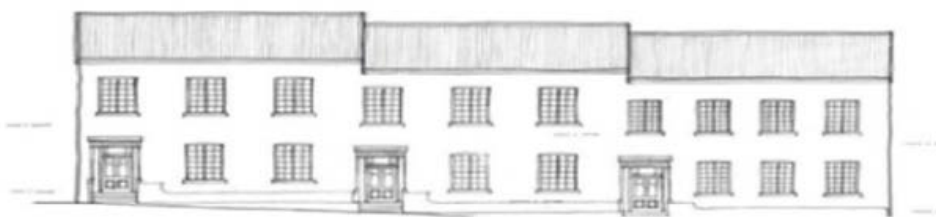
This vehicle has been damaged as a result of road traffic accident and will be offered on an "as is, where is basis", with no warrantee given or guarantee implied.

Viewing has been set for Wednesday, 3 August 2022 at 10am and persons interested in viewing should, in the first instance, contact Solomons' Insurance Office on telephone number 22860.

Offers should be made in writing to the Tender Board Secretary, clearly stating the registration number on the envelope and placed in the Company's Tender Box in their Main Office Foyer by no later than 4pm on Friday, 5 August 2022.

**27 July 2022**

### ST HELENA HOTEL DEVELOPMENT LTD



#### CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS TO SERVE ON THE ST HELENA HOTEL DEVELOPMENT LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. is seeking Expressions of Interests from suitably qualified persons to serve on its Board of Directors as a non-Executive Director.

The Board of Directors has responsibility for setting the strategic direction of the business and for monitoring the performance of the St Helena Hotel, in line with the Hotel Management Agreement in place with the operator, Mantis.

After being closed for 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hotel is now preparing to re-open for the 2022/23 tourist season. This is an exciting period to join the Board and input to this 4-star hospitality establishment.

A copy of the terms of reference for the Board, together with an application form, can be requested via email to the Board Secretary, Nicole Plato on [nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:nicole.plato@sainthelena.gov.sh) or collected from the Castle, Jamestown. Expressions of Interest should be made using the form accompanied by a current CV, to be returned to the Board Secretary by 4pm, **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

Please note that registering an interest does not guarantee an appointment to the Board as this is subject to applicants having the relevant knowledge, skills and experience. This position attracts a monthly Directors fee.

## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **RENTAL OF JAMESTOWN MARKET BUSINESS UNIT**

The Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development Portfolio is inviting Expressions of Interest for the rental of business unit 9 in the Market, Jamestown.

Persons requiring further information should contact Sustainable Development Support Officer, Danni Thomas, via email: [danni.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:danni.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh) or on tel: (+290) 22470, Ext 268.

The closing date for Expressions of Interest is Monday, 8 August 2022.

**SHG**  
**26 July 2022**

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Wednesday 3 August 2022**

A formal session of the St Helena Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will take place at 9.30am in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 3 August 2022.

The programme of business will focus on the following:

- Saint Helena National Trust Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Years Ended 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021
- Equality & Human Rights Commission Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Years Ended 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021

Members of the public and interested persons are invited to attend.

The meeting will be broadcast live via SAMS Radio 1.

## **INVITATION TO TENDER**

St Helena Government would like to invite suitably experienced contractors to submit tenders for the following contract:

### **Replace crittall windows with aluminium windows at St Pauls Primary School**

Copies of the tender document can be obtained from Procurement Officer, Tiffany Lawrence, at Essex House, Jamestown, on tel: 22270 or via email


A site visit to view the works will take place on Monday, 1 August 2022, at 10am, meeting at St Pauls Primary School.

Should you require any further details, please contact the Project Manager, Theron Henry, on tel: 22270 or via email:

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12noon on Thursday, 4 August 2022.

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

**SHG**  
**28 July 2022**




**Darwin Plus project (DPLUS104): Conserving St Helena's endemic invertebrates through Invasive Invertebrate Control Project**

will be hosting a public information session at the Museum on Tuesday, 2 August 2022 at 6pm, refreshments will be provided

Many of these endemic invertebrate species are under threat from invasive non-native invertebrate species. This project aims to help endemic invertebrate recovery and re-establish their associated ecosystem functions, by testing and establishing invasive invertebrate control methods. The three targeted species the project is focusing on are the Common Wasp, the Springbok Mantis and the Big-Headed Ant.

Learn more about the control methods the team are trialling and how they will implement this method in the endemic sites.

For further information contact Project Manager, Natasha Stevens on telephone 22224 or email [natasha.stevens@trust.org.sh](mailto:natasha.stevens@trust.org.sh)



# ***Invitation to tender***

## ***Painting and refurbishment Two Boats School***

### ***October 2022***

#### **Background**

The Ascension Island Government seeks a registered company to provide maintenance services as described in the enclosed contracts.

The project is a fixed term contract.

Due to the nature of the island, if the company that is successful in the tender process is not already in Ascension, flights and suitable accommodation, as well as a food stipend, will be provided.

Visas are required for all contractors coming to Ascension.

The intending tenderer must have in its name as a prime contractor experience of having successfully completed similar works during last 7 (seven) years ending last day of month previous to the one in which bid applications are invited (i.e. eligibility period) should be either of the following :-

- Three similar completed works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost; or
- Two similar completed works each cost not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimated cost; or
- One similar completed work costing not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.

The successful company will have qualified scaffolders and scaffold inspectors.

#### **Information to be submitted by tenderers**

If you believe that your company is able to sufficiently deliver against the responsibilities previously outlined kindly respond stating:

- Experience
- Availability
- Pricing
- High Level Construction Plan
- Business Financial Statement for the last three years
- Current References (within the last three years)
- Evidence of appropriate Insurance



The Ascension Island Government requests interested parties to respond with an initial full proposal no later than **5 August 2022**, the format of which may be determined by the tenderer.

#### **Instructions and information for tenderers**

Tenders must be submitted by email to Frikkie Myburgh no later than **19 August 2022**. 3 April 2022 – V1

Tenders received after the date for receipt of tenders set out above may, at the sole discretion of the Ascension Island Government, be disregarded and returned.

If tenderers have any queries or requests for further information they should be submitted directly to Frikkie Myburgh. The Ascension Island Government does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

Tenderers shall treat the invitation to tender documents as confidential and restrict their circulation and distribution to a 'need to know' basis within the tenderer's organisation. Tenderers shall not disclose their tender in whole or in part to any third party prior to either the award of a contract by the Ascension Island Government or receipt of notification that the tender has not been accepted as the case may be.

Tenders shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than sixty calendar days from the final date for submission of tenders.

Proof of qualification for all professional staff they propose to use for the execution of the contract will be required of any successful tender.

#### **Contact details**

The point of contact within the Ascension Island Government for this tender is Frikkie Myburgh, Project Manager.

**Email** Frikkie.myburgh@ascension.gov.ac

**Telephone** (00 247) 66215



# Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

The curtain raiser for this Premier League Football Season will take place this weekend when the Champions Manchester City face Liverpool in the Community Shield at the King Power Stadium on Saturday at 4pm GMT.

City and Liverpool have been involved in the last four Community Shield clashes, with Pep Guardiola's side clashing with Jurgen Klopp's boys back in 2019.

City won 5-4 on penalties that day, after a 1-1 draw through 120 minutes, as they claimed the ultimate prize for a sixth time.

Liverpool has lifted a giant shield aloft on 15 previous occasions, but not since 2006, with their last two appearances in the Community Shield resulting in shootout defeats.



The 2022 FA Community Shield will be the 100th FA Community Shield, an annual football match played between the winners of the previous season's Premier League and the winners of the previous season's FA Cup.

The Community Shield evolved from the Sheriff of London Charity Shield that had been introduced in 1898 as a professionals vs amateurs cup (the gentlemen and players tradition). The Football Association Charity Shield, as it was known at the time, was designed to replace the Sheriff of London Charity Shield after the leading amateur clubs fell out with the FA. The new format was to have the Football League First Division champions play the Southern League champions, and the first match was in 1908 between Manchester United (the First Division champions) and Queens Park Rangers (the Southern League champions). The match was drawn 1-1, so the game was replayed when Manchester United won 4-0. This is the only

Charity Shield game to go to a replay. Both games were played at Stamford Bridge.

The competition format varied over the years: in 1913 the Shield was contested between Amateurs and Professionals XIs, while in 1921 the Shield was contested between the Football League and FA Cup winners for the first time. The format continued to vary in the 1920s, usually along the lines of Amateurs vs Professionals, including one year (1927) where the Professionals were represented by the FA Cup holders Cardiff City and the Amateurs by the Corinthians, echoing the format of the trophy's predecessor, the Sheriff of London Charity Shield.

In 1930 the Football League winner v. FA Cup winner returned, and with a few exceptions, this format has remained to the present day. Notable exceptions include the 1950 Shield, which involved the England World Cup team against an FA team that had toured Canada that summer, and the 1961 Shield, when Tottenham Hotspur became the first team of the 20th century to win the Double, and so played a Football Association XI.

The game was moved to the start of the season from 1959 onwards. The question of which two teams should contest the Shield should one team win both the FA Cup and League continued to linger. In 1971, Arsenal became the second team to win the Double since the Shield's foundation, but owing to their previously arranged pre-season friendly matches, they could not take part. Leicester City were invited as Division Two champions to play FA Cup runners-up Liverpool instead and went on to win the trophy, despite having won neither the League (until 2016) nor the FA Cup (until 2021).

In 1972, league champions Derby County and FA Cup winners Leeds United both declined to take part in the Charity Shield, so Manchester City, who had finished in fourth in the First Division, and Third Division champions Aston Villa were invited to take part; Manchester City won 1-0. After league champions Liverpool and FA Cup winners Sunderland declined to play, despite finishing the season 11th in the league City also contested the 1973 Charity Shield but lost 1-0 to Second Division champions Burnley.

**Kingshurst  
Community Centre  
AGM  
is to be held 7:30pm  
Tuesday 9th August  
2022**

# Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

In 1974, the then FA secretary, Ted Croker, created the current format with the match being played at Wembley Stadium, and being contested by the reigning League and FA Cup holders.

Between 1949 and 1991, the Shield was shared on 11 occasions, after the matches ended in a tie.<sup>[14]</sup> Four drawn games in the 1980s and early 1990s resulted in each team holding the trophy for six months, but in 1993 penalties were re-introduced to decide drawn games.

With the formation of a new top league, the FA Premier League, the Shield became a showcase match between the Premier League and FA Cup winners from the 1993 competition onwards.

In 2002, the Charity Commission found that the Football Association had failed to meet its legal obligations under charity law, by failing to specify what money from ticket sales went to charity, and delaying payments to the charities nominated. As a result, the competition was renamed the Community Shield. Arsenal were the first winners of the re-

named Community Shield with a 1–0 victory over Liverpool.

In 2016, the FA's official silversmith Thomas Lyte restored and rebuilt the Football Association's original 1908 Charity Shield to mark 50 years since England beat West Germany in the 1966 FIFA World Cup.



The FA Community Shield

## What Happens Next? Stories of Change and Opportunity

### South African Medical Referrals Tender Invitations Close

The invitation to tender for the Provision of Medical/Healthcare Services in South Africa contract closed at 5pm yesterday. The contract needs to be in place by March 2023 when the current contract, which was extended by a year, comes to an end. It would be interesting to know the level of interest shown in tendering for this contract. This is not possible as SHG keep all aspects of tendering processes a closely guarded secret to avoid any claims that an unfair advantage was gained by any company competing for a contract if information of any sort leaked out.

### Omicron Variant Nicknamed 'Scariant'

Most of us will be familiar with omicron sub-variants BA.4 and BA.5 which are globetrotting at the moment. In our 8<sup>th</sup> July edition of the *Independent* we reported "A science website points this week to omicron sub-variant BA.2.75 as 'poised to take over from all the other omicron variants' in India. BA.5 was expected to do that but BA.2.75 looks like overtaking it." First detected in India in May, BA.2.75 infections remain relatively low with researchers finding more recent evidence that BA.2.75 thrives best in areas where BA.5 is not established. BA.2.75 spreads more in areas where BA.2 is, or was, dominant. BA.2.75 evolved from BA.2.

BA.2.75 has also been identified in the UK, Australia, Germany, the United States and several other countries. The World Health Organisation has classified BA.2.75 as a variant of interest which is seen as less of a problem than a variant of concern. BA.2.75 has not established itself well in any country where BA.5 is the main infecting virus. In India, recent data suggests BA.2.75 may already have passed its peak – causing the variant to be nicknamed scariant.

### A Chance to Improve Airlink Connections

Skyscanner, a website used to make on-line airline bookings shows a new late British Airways flight from Johannesburg to London starts in November, departing at 10:15pm. The Airlink flight from St Helena arrives Johannesburg at 9:15pm on the current schedule. With some small adjustments to the St Helena – Johannesburg flight schedule it would be possible to connect with the British Airways flight to London and avoid the overnight stay in Johannesburg.

Another addition to flight schedules as airlines respond to growing demand resulting from the world emerging from the pandemic is an additional flight between Frankfurt and Windhoek. If Airlink is able to negotiate with the Namibian aviation authority for permission to transfer passengers as well as refuel at Namibian airports it will also be possible to have a slightly re-scheduled flight which calls at Windhoek on its way to Johannesburg which offers connections at Windhoek for the new Frankfurt flight. There would be onward connections from Frankfurt to London, Manchester, Paris and other European destinations.

In addition to making the Jo'burg change of planes far more convenient for Saints by avoiding the unpopular overnight Jo'burg stay, taking advantage of the later British Airways departure from Jo'burg would add to passenger demand for the Jo'burg – St Helena flights and improve the financial viability of the service. All of which should help delay and reduce the very real threat of already high airfares increasing in line with the rising price of aviation fuel.

An alternative link with other international flights for the Jo'burg – St Helena route at Windhoek can only offer the opportunity for more travel choice and flexibility for people travelling from and to St Helena. Airlink have already said they are prepared to call at Windhoek instead of Walvis Bay if permission is obtained for the airline to transfer passengers at Namibian airports.



# Rising Oil Price Means Falkland Oil is Back in Business

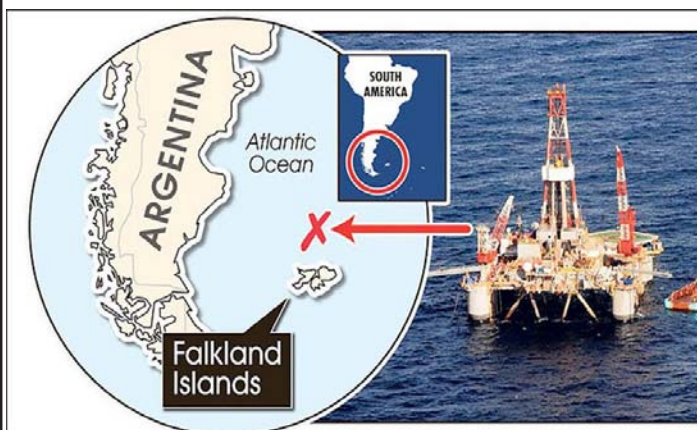
Rockhopper Exploration who have been prospecting in the Sea Lion oil field off the Falklands for the last 12 years have struck a development deal with Navitas an Israeli oil company with a reputation for bringing difficult prospects into production.



Navitas chief executive, Gideon Tadmor, was an influential figure in the opening up of the eastern Mediterranean as a big new source of gas, and the company recently completed a deal to develop the Shenandoah field in the Gulf of Mexico, which had previously been discounted for being in water too deep with well pressures too high.

If all goes according to the Rockhopper plan, and there are regulatory hurdles still to overcome, including a sign-off with the UK government, a final investment decision could be taken in two years' time.

The Falklands has been the next big thing in oil several times in the past. Industry giants, including Shell, explored without luck in the 1990s, and there was a flurry of interest around 2010 when a rapidly-rising oil price sparked a prospecting rush. In 2010 Rockhopper struck oil on Sea Lion, not far from where Shell had been working more than a decade earlier. "They missed it only by about 1,000 meters," Rockhopper's CEO Sam Moody said. The discovery, is estimated to contain at least 500 million barrels.



## The Sea Lion oil field – north of the Falkland Islands

"We are closer than we have ever been to it actually happening," says a senior oil and gas analyst who made the trip to the Islands to examine the project when it last looked likely to happen.

"It will transform the economy of the Falkland Islands," says Sam Moody, Rockhopper's chief executive. "And it is big enough to make a difference to the security of the UK's energy supply."

There was a flurry of interest in Falkland oil around 2010 when a rapidly-rising oil price sparked a prospecting rush. After that rush of activity, however, the oil price dropped and mar-

ket interest fell. Rockhopper, a tiny company headquartered in a Wiltshire farmhouse, is one of those to have stayed the course, and has the license not only for Sea Lion but other potential fields.

Sam Moody, Rockhopper's co-founder as well as its chief executive, first got involved in 2004 after having conversations with Richard Visick, the one-time owner of Weddell Island, the third-largest in the Falklands. "The acreage that Shell and others had been exploring was coming off license — it was open for someone else to come in. Richard said 'I think there is an opportunity here', and we set it up together."

Desire Petroleum, Falkland Oil and Gas, Argos Resources and, Borders & Southern are other prospecting companies who raised money from investors to drill for oil in Falklands waters. Desire Petroleum was bought by Falkland Oil and Gas in 2013. Falkland Oil and Gas merged with Rockhopper Exploration in 2016. Argos Resources had trading in its shares suspended. The suspension was only lifted this week with shares offered at 2p each. Borders & Southern have completed three seismic surveys and drilled two wells but are not confirming any finds. Rockhopper is 60% owned by Premier Oil an independent UK oil company with gas and oil interests in the UK, Asia, Africa and Mexico. The company is valued at over £800 million.

The Falkland Islands government, which is already flush with money, will take a 9% royalty on each barrel of oil which is brought up from under the seabed and will also charge corporation tax on the Sea Lion operations.

Esther Bertram, chief executive of Falklands Conservation, a charity that is devoted to protecting the Islands' wildlife, said that the group did not oppose all oil development but wanted additional environmental safeguards, including new laws, protection for inshore waters and funds in place for any remedial work required.

"I think it will be quite interesting to see what happens because in the recent elections many voters talked about the environment being one of the big issues for them," she said.

While some Falkland Islanders may hope that the deal with Navitas will bring their dream of riches closer, others will remember that much has been promised before, and that much hangs on the oil price. Rockhopper and Premier Oil calculated that the Sea Lion field had a break-even cost of about US\$ 40 a barrel, well below the current US\$100-plus.





# Rain Did Not Stop Protests

Continued from PAGE 2

**the island produce sufficient oxygen for the worst-case scenarios?**

**- The island has recently been experiencing shortages of vital medicines, what steps have been taken to ensure the continuity of supplies, including the anti-viral for covid treatment that we will need?**

**Have the Ministers taken account of the alarming news from World Health Organisation re the rapid spread of new variants of COVID?**

**The Forecast from IMF of worldwide recession by the end of the year, the effect of war in Eastern Europe along with continued increase of number of cases of COVID do not augur well for St Helena. Whatever happens in the outside world, eventually affects us. All our essential supplies have to be shipped/transhipped and as evidenced by the empty shelves in our shops a lot of goods are not reaching us. Have measures been taken to ensure food security?**

**The goods that are reaching here are becoming much more expensive. There is great doubt whether the income from visitors will be enough to cover the cost of living for all of us. Will you be able to increase the paltry sum of £75 for our senior citizens to be able to buy the extra necessities in order to stay safe.**

**The majority of Islands feel the timing is wrong.**

**We are COVID FREE AND WE SHOULD DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO REMAIN SO. Anyone wanting to get away from COVID, whether they are a VIP or Joe Blogs they are very welcome but they must be prepared to spend 5 days in lockdown. Everything comes at a price."**

On receiving the Petition, the actual request is:

**"We, the undersigned, object to the Chief Minister's and Cabinet Minister's decision to allow visitors to enter our Community without first being screened for COVID-19"**

My original response therefore has now been updated to address the additional concerns raised.

Regarding the preparedness of the Health Service to cope with community spread of Omicron BA.4 and BA.5, my Ministers and I have been assured that there will be adequate health staff resource in place. We are fully staffed with five General Practitioners, and our Nursing complement will be up to establishment by the 08th August 2022. We have 10 ventilators, our oxygen supply is ready and we have a more than adequate supply of antivirals.

I can assure you that we have taken account of the most up-to-date information from WHO regarding variants of SARS-COV2. Throughout the pandemic there have been numerous variants, these include variants of interest (VOIs) and variants of concern (VOCs). Currently Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 are the prevalent variants of concern and this is what our decision has been based on. The advice issued by Health as guidance to the people of St Helena has also been based on this advice.

With regard to concerns raised about food security, SHG has been working with local importers since the start of the pandemic to monitor food supplies. Currently no importer has indicated that they have come up against issues with securing food orders. This Government recognises the need to produce more food



locally to reduce our reliance on imported foodstuff. This requires a longer term plan and details relating to strategies in support of this can be found in our Vision and Strategy document which is a public document.

We are aware of the rising cost of living and the subsequent impact of inflation, we have spoken about this in recent constituency meetings and will shortly be announcing a package of support to alleviate some of this pressure. It needs to be noted however that we do not have a never ending pot of money, and funding this package of support does mean that other planned work will not be able to take place because of this.

We are aware that many of you are concerned about the timing for making our decision to remove mandatory quarantine. There have been many variants of the virus over the last two years, and we will continue to see further variants during the next few years. Based on this fact, we acknowledged that there is no "ideal time" to remove quarantine or re-open St Helena, but we firmly believe that it is the "right time". We have taken the decision to remove restrictions based primarily on the evidence that the Omicron variant, which is now the prevalent variant, is the least likely to cause serious harm to people who become infected as was evidenced by the Falkland Islands recent experience.

We understand that people are naturally apprehensive and nervous about opening up. It is correct that "everything comes at a price", keeping the Island COVID free for the last 28 months has come at a huge price for this Government, and unfortunately as long as we stay closed, this price will continue to increase.

In addition to the "cost" of remaining COVID free, there are other challenges facing us:

- We are finding it increasingly difficult to attract people to come to the Island to work. For example we continue to experience difficulties in recruiting Medical Staff, many specialists (e.g. ENT specialists) are not keen to come to the Island to spend prolonged periods in quarantine.

- Saints abroad have been vocal about how many of them cannot return to visit family and friends as they do not have adequate time, especially if a significant portion of their holiday is spent in quarantine. In tandem with this, we should not underestimate the growing incidence of mental health issues linked to prolonged periods of quarantine.

- We have a declining working age population, we need to reverse this trend to ensure that St Helena is able to take care of our growing ageing population.

- We need to reduce the flow of St Helenian's leaving the Island. Since the last census, we have lost 312 people who have left to start a new life elsewhere. This number includes our economically active people and young families.

# Rain Did Not Stop Protests

**Continued from LAST PAGE**

- We have seen a number of local businesses struggle during the last 28 months, particularly businesses which rely on visitor footfall. Some businesses have had to close because of a lack of visitors. Despite the statement made on Saturday that "people want to come to St Helena because we are COVID free, and therefore won't mind quarantining for 7 days" the reality is very different. The number of non-Saint visitors visiting the Island this past year is less than 100 and the overwhelming response from tour operators is that people will not come as long as there is mandatory quarantine in place.

During the past two years there has been a huge shift in the way that COVID affects people. The virus itself has changed to become much less harmful. This is normal as 'new' viruses adapt to humans: over time variants of the virus which do less damage to the host tend to replace the more harmful forms. This is indeed proven by the strain of the virus that we are seeing at the moment ('omicron').

People have also now got much better immunity to the virus, partly through having been exposed to infection, and partly through immunisation (being vaccinated). Highly effective vaccines have been developed and rolled out rapidly around the world: St Helena has been particularly successful in getting people fully immunised, and as a result we are nearing 100% of our population, which is an outcome we should be tremendously proud of, as it demonstrates that we are a 'responsible community' and we are well protected.

COVID is not nearly as dangerous an infection as it used to be. Most vaccinated people who catch the virus now, only experience a very mild illness (and many may not have any symptoms at all). It is now extremely unusual for people with COVID to need to be admitted to hospital, and those that are admitted, commonly make a full recovery.

Here on St Helena, we are taking every measure to ensure that our senior citizens are protected as much as possible. You will be aware that we are committed to offering an additional booster vaccination to our senior citizens, whereby we started with those 75 years and older and we are moving down through the age groups. You will also be aware that we have robust plans in place to minimise risk to our clients in our Hospital and Care Homes.

From the 8th August 2022 there will be designated areas in which people must follow strict rules. Parts of the General Hospital, and other care settings such as the Community Care Complex (CCC) will be designated as COVID Free Zones; these are places that we will endeavour to keep free of COVID-19. In an effort to achieve this, all persons needing to enter these designated 'COVID Free' areas for work or visiting purposes, will be required to carry out a COVID-19 test prior to their visit, and to wear a face mask for the duration whilst they are in these areas.

Numbers of visitors will be limited and children will not be allowed to visit in the first instance. It is anticipated these rules will be able to be relaxed in due course. Visitors to all care homes (e.g. the CCC) will be limited. Testing and the wearing of face masks will also be required. Families of clients have already been contacted by our Residential Development Manager to make them aware of the procedures for visiting their loved ones after the 8th August 2022.

Adapting to living with COVID will require personal responsibility, but it will also require teamwork and quite simply a caring ap-

proach to one another; features which make St Helena special and unique and have done so for decades.. We are therefore encouraging you all to take responsibility for your health by following the Health Service Guidance which has been published regularly in the local papers, on the radios and the promo channel on TV. We will need to make changes to the way we go about our daily lives, to slow down the community spread so that essential services and businesses are still able to operate and maintain service provision. This will mean practising social distancing and maintaining good hand hygiene – washing hands with soap and water regularly, or using a hand sanitiser. If it helps you feel more comfortable, you should wear a mask or face covering as we face this new chapter together.

With a view to alleviating some of the concerns raised, we will be encouraging all persons planning to visit the island, to become double vaccinated. This will not be mandatory, noting that on the 15th July 2022 the World Health Organisation issued a statement recommending that no country should continue to require a proof of vaccination against SARS Cov2 as a condition of entry. Most countries (139 according to WHO) have lifted all restrictions on entry and travel. This is a recognition that there is really no way to 'partially' live with the virus, or to restrict its spread around the world. In addition, it has been agreed that in consideration of concerns raised by you, we will also encourage arrivals to the Island to wear a face mask during their first five days when in public spaces, as a courtesy to our local community. Again, this will not be compulsory, but we hope that this will not lead to individuals being targeted or ostracised, and I would ask that in keeping with our reputation of being friendly and community spirited, that we ensure that all arrivals continue to feel welcomed.

It is unfortunate that there has been a lot of scaremongering going on by people who are deliberately manipulating the expert advice being published, which is making this transition more difficult than it needs to be. Likewise, the Internet is a wonderful tool; however, it is also possible to gather information that will tell you what you want to hear. This is why our Health Service is relying on two key sources for information; the UK Health Security Agency and the World Health Organisation (WHO). We have been relying on and following the advice of these organisations since the Pandemic started in early 2020, and we have no reason to doubt this advice.

We understand that you are nervous, we all are; however, given that the virus is likely to be with us for the foreseeable future, we recognise that we have to take the plunge and re-join the rest of the world along with our sister Island Ascension which is due to open on the 1st August and the Falkland Islands which has now been "open" for the last two months and is "living with COVID" and coping very well.

I sincerely believe the same can be achieved here on St Helena if we continue to work together with the aim of looking after ourselves and those around us. I therefore urge you to keep following the advice of our medical professionals, as they continue to broadcast messages on local radio, TV and the local paper. If you have further questions, then please don't be afraid to ask them through your respective district councillor. Collectively we will endeavour to always come back to you and provide you with the relevant answers. We can overcome this and build a brighter better St Helena for everybody.

**Yours sincerely**  
**Julie Thomas**  
**Chief Minister**  
**St Helena Government**



# Scouts Own Ceremony for Shackleton and Shackleton's Scouts



On Tuesday 26 July the 1<sup>st</sup> Jamestown Scout Group (Scouts, Cubs & Beavers) held a Shackleton Scouts own ceremony in Castle Gardens to honour the memory and 100 years since the famous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton and two Scouts that embarked on this amazing journey with him. In 1921 Scouts (Norman Mooney & James Marr), were chosen from 1700 other hopefuls to join the expedition.

A hundred years later Kent Scouts planned a voyage by sending a team of scouts to help crew a classic ship on a journey similar to the original whilst undertaking a research project. One of the objectives of the project is to inspire and educate thousands of young people about the important lessons of peace, environment and heritage to be learned from Antarctica. To promote the project the team have developed a Scouts Own which they hope Scouts will hold at all the different ports that the original expedition route would have stopped at. St Helena along with most of the other South Atlantic Islands were some of those ports. The 1<sup>st</sup> Jamestown Scouts was introduced to Kent Scouts by **Commander Tom Boeckx of HMS Protector** after his visit to St Helena several months

The ceremony took the form of volunteers reading out aloud the prepared text on the back of cards that spell out S-H-A-C-K-L-E-T-O-N. Eleven members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Jamestown Scout group did the reading in the presence of their fellow Scouts. The ceremony was filmed by former Scout, Damien O'bey, and will be uploaded on YouTube to join fellow Scout groups on the expedition route.

The first message was: "This Scouts' Own was first held at Gilwell Park (UK Scouting HQ) at 11am on Sunday 5th September 2021 when a commemorative plaque to Scout's Marr & Mooney was officially unveiled. The intention is then to pass on, share and hold the Scouts' Own with fellow Scouts around the world all along the original route of Quest's 1921-1922 voyage, exactly one hundred years after Quest arrived at each location. This will include the Antarctic peninsula using a facsimile of the commemorative plaque. After returning from Antarctica the REQUEST2021 team plan to hold a final reunion Scouts' Own ceremony at Fordel Firs (Scottish Scouting HQ) where a replica commemorative plaque will also be installed."

***BRAVO! "Shackleton & Shackleton's Scouts!"***







## Nick Stevens Receives Commonwealth Award

Dame Louise Martin, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, presented the Commonwealth Games Order of Merit to several deserving recipients this week. Among them was Nick Stevens the President of the National Sports Association of St Helena (NASAS)

The description of Nick's involvement with sport in St Helena was an impressive list of jobs Nick has done to help St Helena's sportsmen and women over 16 years, at least.

Dame Louise said that Nick had been President of the National Sports Association since 2014. before that he served as Secretary-General from 2010 to 2014 after joining as a member in 2007.

Nicks also established the New Horizons Athletics Club in 2007 where he trained young athletes who want to compete for the Island. He has also organised the St Helena Youth games every year since 2006. He also trained athletes for the NatWest Island Games in 2015, 2017 and 2019.

Nick also has a heavy involvement in the St Helena Football Association, St Helena Cricket Association, the junior football league and the International football team.

Nick has been awarded the Queen's Badge of Honour for service to sport.

## Golf Report for Sunday 24th July 2022

**Contributed by: SHGC**

After an early showery morning last Sunday turned out to be a beautiful sunny day. A welcome relief from the recent rains the island has been experiencing. Thirteen players showed up to take part in the July monthly medal stroke play competition which teed off at 10:00am. Perhaps the soft ground presented a unique challenge as there were no scores returned in the 60s. Top on the leaderboard and winner of the monthly medal was Mr Gerald George with net 70 followed in second place by Mr Keith Joshua aka KJ with net 71. Mr Gerald George also collected all the balls in the two-ball pool by scoring a birdie on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Prizes were presented by the ladies' captain Mrs Helena Stevens.

For those who thought they had avoided carrying the cross due to bad weather that disrupted the last start, I am sorry to disappoint you. The game of the cross officially known as the Tombstone Competition is back on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Tee off 12:00noon. Registration closes on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

**Happy swinging and keep warm.....!**



## Baptist Church Gospel Outreach



*sing!*

**When: Sun 31 July 2022**

**Where: Kingshurst Community Centre**

**Time: 15:00**

