

THE ST HELENA



Est. 2005



INDEPENDENT

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE 4, 6th JANUARY 2023, PRICE £1

Is Tourism Picking Up After Covid?



Tourists and Yachts Coming In



Lessons from St Helena



Meihuizen Muddle



Christmas Activities



Lord Lancaster New Veteran Patron



A Christmas Surprise

Lord Ashcroft visits St Helena

Tammy Williams



It was Christmas and all throughout the land not a sound was heard on Thursday 29th December except for the sound of Lord Ashcroft's private Jet which landed around lunch time at St Helena airport. Lord Ashcroft's arrival was not largely publicised as it was more of a social drop in, much like dropping in on your friends at Christmas for mince pies and Mulled wine.

News of Lord Ashcroft's arrival reached our ears at Saint FM and the Independent early enough and we were thrilled to be able to re-connect with him after world events and the pandemic kept us apart. Although expected on Wednesday the 28th December he was delayed by one day due to a minor technical issue. We were informed that Lord A (as I call him) was very much looking forward to seeing us after nearly three years.

Lord Ashcroft is extremely supportive of the people of St Helena often lobbying for islanders personally and through his online blog conservativehome.com. Our discussions are always focused on the way forward for St Helena which is often challenged by our isolation and the complexities involved in getting things done however during his short 26 hour stay Lord Ashcroft was also able to meet with Governor Nigel Phillips.

By now most people will know that he is Patron of Saint FM and the Independent and has provided funding to both entities for the past six years which I am elated to say has extended into the 7th year for Saint FM Community radio. Without his philanthropic support it would be extremely difficult for the radio station to maintain operations but more importantly the value of an independent media cannot be underestimated. Lord Ashcroft also visited the offices of the Independent newspaper and was thrilled to see the new in-house printing set up.

A historical landmark on St Helena dear to his heart is Jacob's ladder also an attraction loved and cherished by the community of St Helena holding many warm and happy memories.

In March 2021, Lord Ashcroft made a generous donation of £300,000 to the British Napoleonic Bicentenary Trust to support the preservation of the built heritage on St Helena. The repairs to Jacob's ladder, one of the seven wonders of St Helena is well underway and is expected to be completed soon. Lord Ashcroft also took the time to view the repairs in progress blogging on Twitter the following day *"Last Friday I was close to the front line in Kherson Ukraine and today a change of pace in St Helena, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic where I'm sponsoring the repair of the 799 steps of Jacobs ladder in memory of my dad who carried me to the top aged 2 in 1948"*

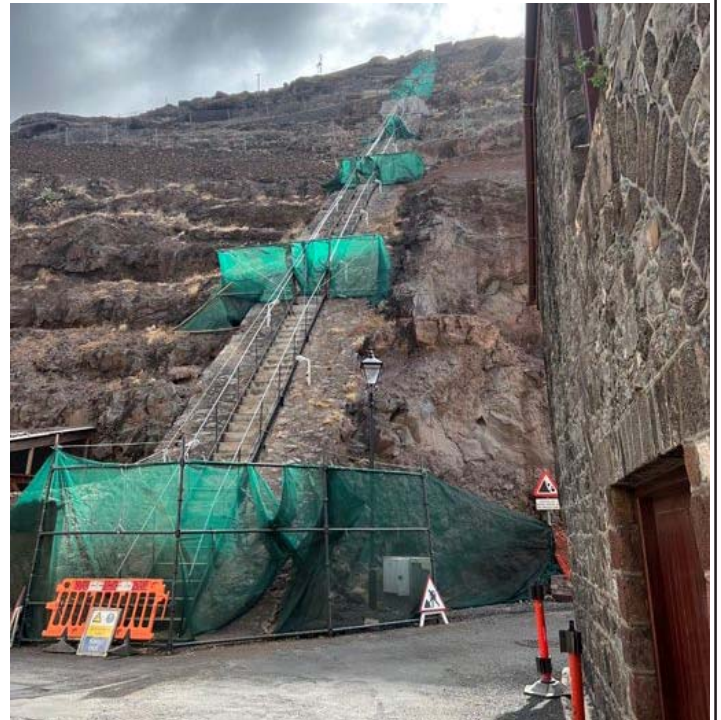


Photo taken by Lord Ashcroft

There were some Christmas parties outside the Standard bar on Thursday which gave a joyful sound to an otherwise quiet Jamestown, Lord Ashcroft was charmed to see folks still in the spirit of Christmas, we grabbed one of them to take our picture on the steps at the Independent's offices. *"Is she your family too?"* quizzed Lord Ashcroft, of course, we're *all* family on St Helena.

Our time together soon drew to a close which included coffee and a scone at the Consulate hotel, a first-rate replacement for mince pies and mulled wine.

Lord Ashcroft and his wife Susan continued their travels the next morning, next stop, East London, South Africa with a promise to return to St Helena later this year.

Nine Hour Power Black Out to Start the New Year

Vince Thompson - Nr Gordon's Post

On Sunday evening, New Year's Day, there was a power outage for about 30 minutes after the electric lights had dimmed and then brightened three or four times. When power was restored everything was back to normal, until about 10:30 the next morning.

The power outage on Monday lasted nine hours. It was island-wide. The Independent made enquiries and even the police did not know what was going on. The main questions were, what is the cause of the fault and how long will it take to fix it. As late as 4pm on Monday, staff at the power station seemed not to be certain of the cause and therefore could give no indication of how long the power would remain off. As it was getting late in the day thoughts turned to waking up on Tuesday morning with the power still off.

The only people who had an electricity supply were those with generators and those who had photovoltaic panels on their roofs. These people could have volunteered to put a notice on Facebook or Twitter to inform anyone else who was lucky enough to have their own power supply. Once a few people know, word gets around the Island like wildfire; the landline phones were still working. At least if it was known the power cut was due to a major fault, people can organise themselves for the worst possible outcome. It would be interesting to know what is included in the emergency planning manual on getting information out there as much as possible under these circumstances. Keeping the police and emergency services up to date with fault rectification must surely be a top priority.

Thankfully, as the Sun dipped below the horizon, giving way to the Moon and the Stars, the power came back on again. No messing about this time. No dimming and brightening of lights. No short power cut soon after the electricity supply was re-established. The power came back on – and stayed on.

An announcement issued by Connect on Tuesday afternoon

said it was a major fault and on-call engineers were called to the power station to help the regular staff find the fault. It was described as a complex exercise and it took until mid-afternoon to find the cause of the power failure. The fault was with busbars. A busbar is an electrical junction used for collecting electric power from the incoming feeders and then redistributing the power to the outgoing feeders. The main purpose of a busbar is to carry electricity and distribute it. Busbars can become pitted and worn with time and require replacement. Normal maintenance is to clean the busbars at regular intervals, checking for any possible loose connections at the same time. A Google search might tell you busbars are used to make the systems more efficient.

Having found the cause of the fault, defective busbars were replaced and then tested. It was around 6pm when the testing took place and then power was fully restored soon after 7pm.

Connect state the nine hour black out was an unforeseen event. They continued to 'normalise' network operations on Tuesday and thanked everyone for their "ongoing support and co-operation" – and patience?



An electrical busbar installation – not necessarily of the same type/design used at the power station

St Helena Coffee Shop

Is seeking to employ reliable full time staff to join their team.

Please contact Lorraine on telephone numbers 63268 or 24305 or call the Coffee Shop on telephone number 65321 for full details.



CONGRATULATIONS JEREMY!!

I am so pleased Jeremy Roberts has been rewarded for the years of work he has put in developing Information and Communications on island. I have known Jeremy since the IT Department was established, and well aware of the amount of work involved with setting up and training staff, what he has achieved is tremendous and was done without TC assistance. We are indeed very proud of him!

Kind regards
Ivy Ellick

Thank You from Saint FM

Saint FM Community Radio would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Mrs Linda Williams of Ruperts and Mr & Mrs Sammy Stevens of Horse Ridge for their kind monetary donations to the radio station during the festive season.

God bless you



Tel: [+290] 22327
Email: independent@helanta.co.sh
[http: www.independent.sh](http://www.independent.sh)

Editorial

Here we go again! A New Year and a New Start. All of us at the *Independent* hope 2023 will be, for you, 12 months of nothing but complete happiness and money building up in the bank account. I've been looking for one of those inspirational quotes which are appropriate for the New Year. I can't find any – nor any other time. Some are silly, many others lack conviction or even meaning and none of them can really be called inspirational. 'Yeah, yeah, I've heard it all before' is the usual reaction. The most realistic one I came across was one of Winston Churchill's many quotes which are still used 58 years after his death. "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." This tells you you've just got to keep on keeping on and hope that by the end of the year some things are better than they were at the start of the year.

Last Friday SHG issued a statement about all the bugs that are circulating around the Island after all the full flights just before Christmas. As always happens, some people arriving from overseas bring a bug (viral infection) with them and share it with others while they are here. The big Christmas social events are always, they say, places where rhinovirus, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are breeding grounds for bugs. They are common in the northern hemisphere winter so it's inevitable some of these bugs will be brought here. The announcement adds, "SARS CoV2 (which causes COVID) seems to be behaving in the same way as these other viruses." Covid 19 is now reduced in status to a "seasonal respiratory virus infections". So that's some good news to start the New Year.

Vince

Meihuizen Muddle

Vince Thompson

Two days before Christmas SHG announced a 12 month contract had been finalised with Meihuizen International to ship cargo to St Helena. The announcement continues, stating the new transshipment service begins this month but the first Meihuizen ship to arrive with cargo for the Island will not be until 2 months and 11 days later – 11th March.



Peter Meihuizen, founder and managing director of Meihuizen International

The shipping route for incoming cargo will be via Walvis Bay. There will be feeder routes from Cape Town and Tilbury, Essex to Walvis Bay for transhipped cargo. After unloading cargo in Rupert's, the ship will sail for Luanda, the capital of Angola and the country's main port. The sequence will start again with the ship leaving Luanda for Walvis Bay to load cargo transhipped from Cape Town and Tilbury together with Windhoek lager (and possibly other cargo) supplied from local sources.

The pre-Christmas announcement suggested the new route, or routes, will introduce the opportunity to use new shipping agents and freight forwarders and will open up new options to source goods and materials in Luanda and Walvis Bay.

The Meihuizen International cargo link is for 12 months only; it is debatable whether it is a profitable use of time and effort building up business relationships with new suppliers and others in the supply chain for such a short period of time. Importing and exporting goods relies very much on an excellent working relationship with individuals within businesses who can be depended upon to make sure the supply of cargo always runs as smoothly as possible. It can take many months to establish satisfactory new connections and networks along the supply chain. If ever any satisfactory working relationships are established it will, very likely, be just before a new and more permanent contact is agreed with another shipping company to start in early 2024.

Supply chains will probably remain routed very much as they are now for the next 12 months. Cargo will still come up from South Africa from the long established suppliers to be transhipped at Walvis Bay. Even if a satisfactory and reliable Namibian supplier can be found, that supplier will be bringing in most of the goods required from South Africa. For both Angola and Namibia one of their main exports is diamonds.

They cost a lot of money and you cannot eat them so that is a non-starter as a local source.

Namibia is the world's largest exporter of uranium and thorium ore and includes copper, gold and radioactive

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Meihuizen Muddle

Vince Thompson

chemicals in their top exports. China is Namibia's biggest customer followed by South Africa. St Helena will not be including itself in the following group of countries buying what Namibia can offer.

Angola includes crude oil, diamonds, refined petroleum products, coffee, sisal, fish and fish products, timber and cotton among its major exports. Refined petroleum might be useful, but it would not be carried by Meihuizen in tanktainers because SHG say it would be more expensive than pumping it ashore. Coffee and fish we should be exporting rather than importing but there could be possibilities in sourcing timber from Angola – except it would only be a temporary measure because of the 12 month contract with Meihuizen – and therefore probably not worth it.

The Ship Schedule

The first cargo delivery by Meihuizen will be Saturday 11th March. The plan is for nine voyages in the year arriving St Helena every six weeks. The other known arrival dates are Wednesday 26th April and Friday 9th June. Other dates in the schedule will be published by SHG "in due course".

Freight Rates

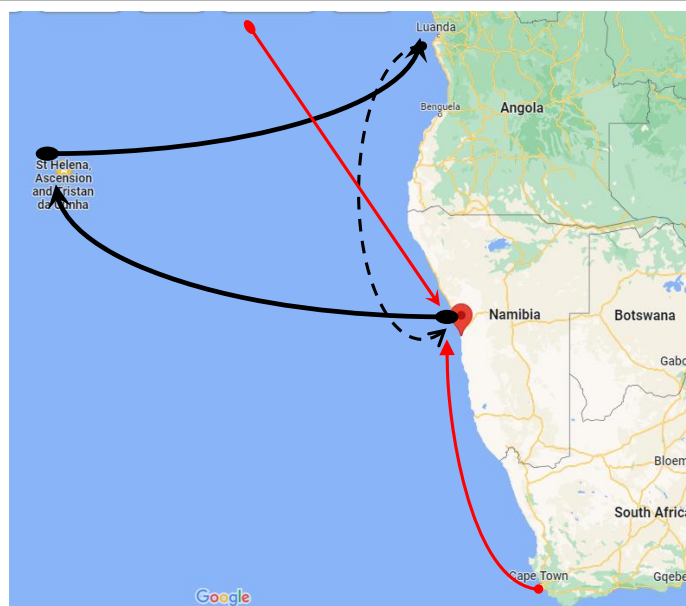
Not a lot is known about the freight rates. Chamber of Commerce members are among the large number of people who need to know what the cost of freight will be during 2023. All that has been stated by SHG is "Whilst rates for different types of cargo will vary, it is anticipated that these will remain similar to the current shipping rates for most cargo when compared to the current MV Helena operation, with a small reduction in rates on other types of cargo." However, many are wondering what the cost will be for the transshipment of cargo from Cape Town to Walvis Bay. The double-handling of cargo and two sets of port charges does not come without additional cost. In the meantime, there is no cargo being delivered in February so we are back to the too familiar situation where we 'buy now while stocks last' – if the money is available to do that. Requests for more information from SHG on these points have not, so far, resulted in any response.

Preparations for a New Cargo Shipping Service

In November last year SHG announced that Andrew Weir Ship Management had recently notified them they will not continue with the shipping contract after Voyage 60, which is due to arrive on 17th January.

The contract with Andrew Weir is in two five year segments. After the first five years the contract was reviewed and confirmation was required that the second five segment will go ahead. No confirmation was forthcoming; Andrew Weir has pulled out citing low cargo volumes making the shipping service unviable.

In the November announcement SHG stated they have been in discussions with Andrew Weir since "earlier this year" with the aim of reaching agreement that the MV Helena continues operations until August this year. The announcement ex-



Transshipments from Cape Town and Tilbury UK to Walvis Bay

Walvis Bay to Rupert's Bay with cargo

and Rupert's Bay to Luanda after unloading cargo

Luanda to Walvis Bay to load St Helena cargo

plained "This would allow SHG time to issue a tender to the market for a replacement service commencing around the time the MV Helena would be withdrawn from service in August." It must, therefore, have been the case that discussions on agreeing the second five year segment of the original contract had already fallen through "earlier this year" if the talk had shifted to asking Andrew Weir to extend operations through to August 2023.

The question has to be asked, why did SHG leave negotiations so late? Past performance strongly indicates it takes more than a few months for SHG to make a deal. The PASH negotiations continued for a few years before finally collapsing. The negotiations with OneWeb are still ongoing and it is exactly a year since OneWeb were given development permission to build a space park at Horse Point. The discussions, negotiations, trouble and strife about who and what should take over from the St Helena Fisheries Corporation dragged on for an extraordinary length of time. There is no reason to think the cargo shipping contract would be any different.

Due to pressure of time and painstakingly slow negotiations there are clear indications that SHG is on the back foot (again) with organising a robust supply chain for the vitally important import of goods needed for this Island to survive. It is without doubt a very difficult job finding a shipper who will regularly supply this Island with all the vital cargo required without charging an arm and leg for providing the service. Maybe SHG have backed themselves into a corner and now have only one year to negotiate with some shipping company somewhere a deal which will not result in sending the price of goods even further in an upwards direction.

Old Luffkins For Sale £100,000

Viewing Day Sunday 22 Jan 12pm-4pm

- Freehold title located at Horse Ridge, Nr. Blue Hill
- 3 or 4 bedroom property
- Recreational business opportunity subject to planning permission
- Historic stone cottage built in 1670
- Sits in approx. 2 acres of land with option to purchase additional 12 acres.
- Rural setting with views of Sandy Bay

For further details:
Contact Derek on Tel: 25836
or 67100
The Market, Jamestown,
www.dps.co.sh

dps
PROPERTY MADE EASY

PRESS RELEASE: NEW YEARS HONOURS 2023

Governor's Office, St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, 30 December 2022

HE Governor Nigel Phillips is pleased to announce the following New Year 2023 Honours Awards as endorsed by His Majesty The King, and to be published in the Overseas and International Honours list on Saturday, 31st December 2022:

- An MBE to Mr Jeremy Terence Roberts, ICT Section Manager/Equiano Project Manager, St Helena Government, for services in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and to the Community of St Helena.

- An MBE to Mr James Patrick Glass, Chief Islander, Tristan da Cunha, for services to the Marine Environment and to the island of Tristan da Cunha.

Jeremy Terence Roberts

Jeremy Terence Roberts is being recognised for his dedication and commitment to revolutionising Information and Communications Technology (ICT) within the St Helena Government (SHG) and for his contribution towards the sporting community of St Helena.

Jeremy has worked over thirty-eight years in ICT during which time he managed the implementation of various IT systems across government to meet the ever-changing needs of the organisation. Jeremy mentors his team of ICT specialists to deliver to the highest standard and goes over and above the remit of his role to ensure systems function optimally while pushing forward technological advancements for a more efficient St Helena public service.

One of the greatest transformational changes that St Helena will see is the introduction of superfast broadband delivered through the Fibre Optic Cable project. Jeremy has been at the forefront in delivering the key milestones on this project that will open doors and present a wide range of opportunities key to the island's future development.

In addition to his work in ICT, Jeremy is being recognised for his longstanding contribution of over twenty-six years to the sporting community of St Helena. As a member of the St Helena Island Games Association (IGASH) and the National Amateur Sports Association (NASAS), he has been instrumental in supporting athletes in both local and international sporting arenas, coaching and mentoring them to perform to the highest standard and become ambassadors for the island.

Jeremy commented:

'The aforementioned recognition would not have been possible without the support of my working colleagues and members of my immediate family, who understands in no uncertain terms the challenges that I have had to endure in terms of providing such an important and vital service to the community of St Helena.

Additionally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those individuals who nominated me for such a prestigious award.'

James Patrick Glass

James Patrick Glass is being recognised for his dedicated involvement in driving forward the establishment of the internationally acknowledged Tristan da Cunha Marine Protected Zone (MPZ) that was officially announced in October 2020. This zone covers 90% of Tristan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and totals almost 700,000km² of strictly protected ocean. This was a massive achievement and huge step towards the UK Government's objective of protecting the world's oceans. James is also heavily involved in the wider marine conservation, leading on projects to gather crucial data to monitor the marine environment and to develop protective measures for the various species.

With over twenty years of expert marine knowledge, James has contributed greatly to the sustainability of the Tristan Lobster fishery, which brings in over half of the island's income. The lobster fishery is Marine Stewardship Council-certified, due to a great extent of his work.

In addition to his outstanding contribution in establishing the MPZ and the Lobster fishery, James has been an invaluable figure of inspiration and leadership to the people of Tristan having served on the island's Council for over 30 years, and is currently serving his fifth term as Chief Islander.

James commented:

'Although surprised, I am honoured to receive such a distinguished award. I first went to sea tagging lobster at the age of 16 and since then have been involved with the Tristan fishery and many other conservation projects including setting up and managing Tristan's MPZ.

In 2017 my wife and I had the privilege to be guests at the United Nations in New York, where my grandson Kieran Glass represented the island and the wider UK family before the General Assembly. Kieran was among children from UNESCO's marine World Heritage Sites who pledged to world leaders that they would protect their ocean environments. I am proud that I continue to honour his pledge.

In the future I hope my contribution to Tristan's conservation will help deal with the impact of climate change, which should in turn help safeguard the species which live here, and the people who depend on them.'

Nominate Someone for an Honour

Honours are awarded to recognise outstanding achievements and service to the community. For example, long-term voluntary service, innovation and entrepreneurship, and improving life for people less able to help themselves. Honours are given to those working in various different fields of work. This includes community, arts and media, health, sport, education, science and technology, environment, business and economy. Anyone can nominate someone for an honour. To find out more on the Honours system visit: www.gov.uk/honours

Lessons from St Helena

By Ben Brown 4 January 2023

I firmly believe that our criminal justice system is on the cusp of collapse. That is not hyperbole, nor a snappy soundbite, but a well-founded observation from someone who has spent the past decade at the coalface of criminal justice.

I have recently returned to criminal defence following two years on St Helena Island, a tiny British overseas territory in the middle of the South Atlantic. I had the pleasure of taking up the role of Crown Counsel, the island's (only) prosecutorial role. Despite having a population of only 4,000, there is a surprisingly busy criminal justice system.

As a remnant of the British Empire, the legal system of St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha closely follows that of England and Wales. Whilst following most laws passed in the UK parliament (oddly enough only legislation enacted before 1 January 2006), the territory is ultimately self-governing and can pass its own laws. This throws up some interesting quirks – the legal drink drive limit is the highest anywhere in the world, defendants can opt to dispense with a jury and be tried by judge alone and some of the local laws have not been updated in decades (the maximum penalty for smuggling drugs into prison is a fine of just £5).

Perhaps most disconcerting is the 100-year-old law applying only to the island of Tristan da Cunha, which prescribes a maximum penalty of £2 for discharging a firearm to the danger of another person (ie possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life).

Despite the idiosyncrasies and curiosities of St Helena's criminal justice system – it just works. Actually, it works incredibly well. The two years I spent out there were some of the most professionally satisfying and eye-opening of my career. The contrasts are stark, and our own justice system could learn a great deal, despite the vast differences in scale.

Despite relying almost entirely on UK government aid, the St Helena government still manages to provide a well-funded and well-resourced legal system. Islanders benefit from a properly funded public defender service staffed by UK qualified lawyers and supported by a number of St Helenian 'Lay Advocates' (akin to McKenzie friends). There is a well-funded prosecution service, a well-equipped prison service, and the positions of Chief Magistrate and Chief Justice (the equivalent of a District Judge and Circuit Judge) are both filled by British barristers on fixed-term contracts.

The professional and working relationship between the organs of St Helena's legal system is constructive, effective and built on communication. Early engagement between the crown and defence takes place weeks before the first court hearing (and pre-charge engagement before that). Papers are often served a month in advance. Disclosure issues are non-existent. The defence solicitors (who are properly and fairly remunerated) can pick up a phone and speak directly to the prosecuting lawyer (and not have to wait 7-10 business days for an urgent email to be ignored). Case management is undertaken flawlessly by the courts, and adjournments and wasted hearings are rare. Legal aid eligibility is simple, fair, and granted with-



out the need for a technically irksome portal (or irksome decision makers). Charging decisions (and decisions to deal with cases out-of-court) are made sensibly, swiftly, and without the need for onerous and meaningless red tape, targets or cumbersome bureaucracy.

The police refuse to allow cases which are 'released under investigation' to fall into the ether for months (and often years), but are in fact proactive, and unafraid to make decisions. Defendants and victims involved in rape cases do not have to wait years for justice. The probation service (a staff of two), effectively and proactively manage offenders with frequent assistance which focuses on rehabilitation and support. Court directions and the Criminal Procedure Rules are complied with. Pre-sentence reports are meaningful and tailored to address the individual needs of defendants. People are accountable, yet not afraid to make decisions and assume responsibility. The court building (the most remote in the world), whilst built circa 1600 is not mouldy, held together by duct tape, stuffed with asbestos or leaking sewage.

His Majesty's government provides the St Helena government with £30 million of funding each year which finances the majority of the territory's public services. Only a very small fraction of this is spent on the justice system. In contrast, HMG also recently paid £300 million for the rollout of the Common Platform case management system in England and Wales – a system so ineffective, useless and administrability burdensome that 97% of court legal advisors voted to stage mass walkouts over its inception. To put this into context, this sum could have funded the entirety of the St Helena aid budget for a decade.

The problems we have cannot be solved by repeated cries of 'more money!', but can only be fixed by wider, fundamental changes to the way our system works. An increase in funding – while undoubtedly vital – is only part of the solution. That money needs to be apportioned properly (yes – defence practitioners have not received a pay increase in real terms since the 90s).

HM government regularly asserts that the British legal system is the best in the world, but the reality is undeniably different. Britain could learn a lot from the workings of its overseas territories, where well-funded, adhocistic and effective legal systems are putting our own to shame.

Ben Brown is Law Society council member for criminal defence, and former Crown Counsel to St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

YACHT RACE

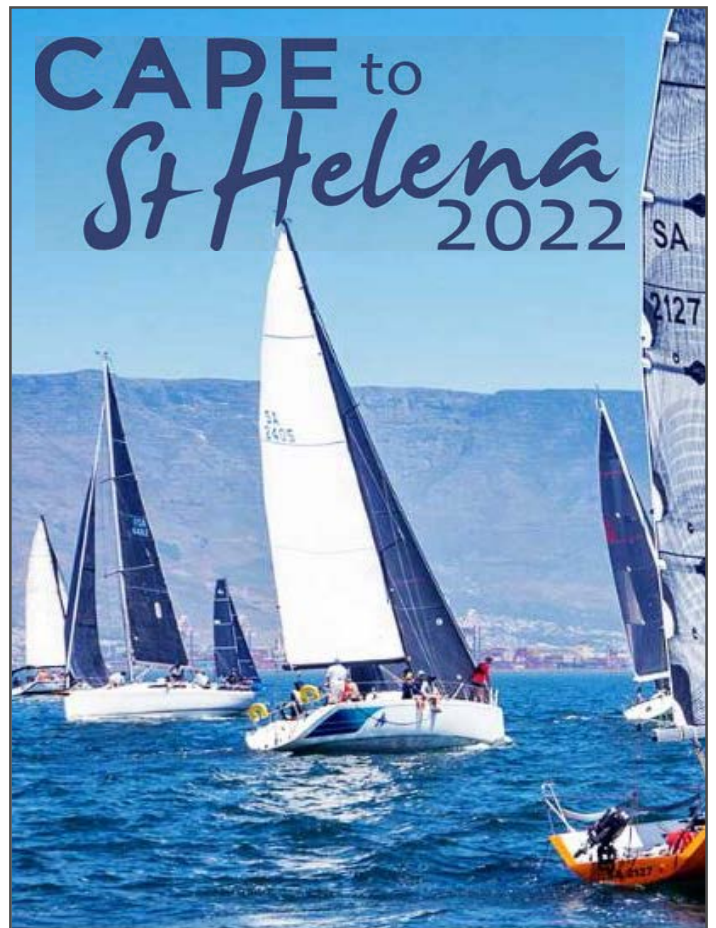
Initially known as the Governor's Cup, the 1700 nautical mile (3060km) **Cape Town to St Helena Yacht Race 2022** is underway.

12 yachts left Cape Town on 29 December and the fastest are expected to arrive on 6 January. Usually held every two years - but due to Covid restrictions - this is the first race since 2018.

St Helena Tourism in conjunction with the St Helena Yacht Club has organised a packed programme of events for the week 7 to 13 January, ending with the prize giving at Plantation House.

The Yacht Club is open every day during race week. All are welcome.

Follow the race at <http://yb.tl/c2sthelena22>



CRUISE SHIP

On Thursday 12 January the **Seven Seas Voyager** will call at St Helena for the day as part of the South Atlantic Wonders 24-night Cape Town-Brazil -Buenos Aires all-inclusive cruise with Regent Seven Seas Cruises.

680 Passengers

469 Crew

340 Suites

9 Decks

204m Length

28.6m Width

42,363 Tonnage

For more info: www.rssc.com



T: 22158

E: visit@sainthelena.gov.sh

W: www.sthelenatourism.com

2022 – Gone but Not All of it Forgotten

Editor's Pick of the News

January 2022

We reported the Decision Notice was issued to OneWeb on Christmas Eve (2021) giving development permission for the Space Park at Horse Point. As things stand, negotiations still continue between Connect and OneWeb, mainly on the charge for electricity.

Ticket sales for Airlink flights went 'live' on 3rd January – first post-pandemic flight, 26th march.

The MV Helena is delayed at Cape Town awaiting cargo over-carried to Durban

Work starts on Maldivia parking - St Helena is included on the Sky News weather map – vandalism reported in Castle Gardens – Movement in the Earth's magnetic field means the runway numbers at St Helena Airport were changed to reflect the one degree shift – Contract signed with Johnny Isaac on 10th January for the resurfacing of Side Path.

February 2022

The Verdict: Not Now – Maybe Later **'Unique Opportunity' Postponed**

Forty entrepreneurs, billionaires and philanthropists who wanted to come to St Helena on a special mission to find out more about the Island and possibly invest or donate sizeable amounts of cash were told they were not welcome; fears of the pandemic spreading to St Helena was the reason. The omicron variant took hold in November 2021 and remains the main Covid strain and is now considered very similar to the flu bug. Claims the visit would be reorganised for later in 2022 came to nothing.

Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 70th Anniversary as monarch.

Plague of Wild Cats at Horse Point Tip **say Pest Controller**

March 2022

The ministers released their Vision for St Helena – "A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT that creates OPPORTUNITY and inspires SOCIAL and ECONOMIC PROGRESS ensuring a better quality of life for all."

John Cranfield gets a good response to his petition to move Airlink flights from Jo'burg to Cape Town.

April 2022

Cape Town Petition handed into the Castle on 1st April. A response to the petition was published in May by the Chief Minister.

Mark Brooks' budget increased duty on tobacco and alcohol, government spending cut by 7.8% and kept personal tax al-

Atlantic runway repair reaches halfway point

March 2, 2022 from JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas

For the last two years, the Air Force Civil Engineer Centre has been working closely with a team of contractors, U.S. Space Force, United Kingdom Ministry of Defence and U.K. government officials to upgrade a strategically important runway on Ascension Island.



lowance pegged at £7,000.

Surcharge on MV Helena cargo jumps to £450, £135 more than the previous month but MV Helena arrivals continue to be unreliable.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association issues report containing 20 recommendations to improve island governance; most of them supporting ways St Helena should have a legislative council more independent of the Castle administration. The first Statistics Bulletin from SHG's statistics office shown prices increasing by 3.3% with food and construction materials leading the way.

St Helena Cricket Association install a new electronic scoreboard at Francis Plain.

After the far too familiar lengthy negotiations when dealing with SHG or one of their state-owned businesses, (this time 10 years) the development plans for houses at Bunkers Hill is signed off.

Heavy rainfall over Easter and a build up of silt and vegetation in the drainage channel running through Rupert's Valley cause an overflow from the channel into the power station. There was a high risk the power station would need to be shut down causing a "national crisis", as Connect described it. This was avoided by Connect staff diverting the flood water which had already entered the generator room.

May 2022

Ascension announces Covid quarantine will be lifted from 31st July.

SHG also issue a press release raising the prospect Covid restrictions will be lifted and starts talking about 'Living With Covid'.

The ministerial team in government issue a new 'Vision' for St Helena. In the first year of the Strategy, born out of the Vision, the government aimed to Developing a safe and reliable Health Service, Grow revenues and reduce costs, develop economic resilience.

Complaints that Airlink's airfreight is unreliable follow the complaints about the increasing unreliability of AW Shipping's MV Helena cargo.

SHG advertise for a Fuel Infrastructure Project Manager to lead the completion of the island's new bulk fuel facilities. The person appointed will "develop and effectively manage delivery of the Fuel Infrastructure Project."

2022 – Gone but Not All of it Forgotten

Editor's Pick of the News

Ascension hit by 'monsoon' rainfall with flooding and landslips.

St Helena Independent decides to bring printing in-house and to regularly use colour pages.

June 2022

The Museum of St Helena was 20 years old this month.

Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her Platinum Jubilee.

The Marine Centre at Jamestown Wharf is officially opened. The first strategy under ministerial government is published. It covers the "Altogether Wealthier" bit of economic development. It covers reliable food supplies by using modern techniques and introducing policies and legislation to help it happen. The aim is to expand the agricultural and fishing sectors. Making sure the Island benefits from enhanced and affordable internet and attracting people to live and work here are the final two statements.

The Maldivia car park spaces are completed, easing parking problems outside the hospital.

The Government Statistics Office estimated the Island population to be 4,199 at the end of April. That's 205 less (5%) than 12 months earlier.

SHG finds £2.12 million in its funds that can be used to ease the impact on the rapidly increasing cost of living. The main measure used was to reduce the import levy on essential goods. The airport also received additional funding.

Signal House mast was reinstated. The once familiar landmark was in place again at Ladder Hill.

In cricket, Levelwood win the District title for the first time in 8 years. Reading Sports Day is back after Covid lockdowns lifted.

40th anniversary of Falklands War commemorated.

Cllr Andrew Turner asks legislative Council to remove restrictions on the import of cannabis oil for medicinal purposes.

Contract awarded for renovation works on Jacob's Ladder. Contract awarded for further work at Rupert's Valley for buildings which form part of the cargo handling area.

The Health Minister, Health Director and Chief Medical Officer start talking in more detail about lifting Covid restrictions to coincide with the decision to lift the restrictions in August: Ascension and South Africa also lifting restrictions.

Prince Andrew School sixth formers complete the task of making 355 caskets for the re-burial of the liberated African remains in Rupert's Valley. The names of missing African

crew are added to the Waterwitch monument in Castle Gardens.

Queues grow at petrol filling stations before the price of a litre of petrol jumps to £2.22, an increase of 27p. SHG issue details showing the price of fuel almost doubles after reaching St Helena due to import duty, BFI mark-up and fuel station mark-ups.

July 2022

Essential cargo handling equipment at Jamestown and Rupert's wharfs are out of use, requiring attention to major faults.

The Health Minister, Health Director and Chief Medical Officer continue radio discussions, giving assurances that everything will be in place by 8th August when Covid restrictions are lifted. There is public concern that Covid will sweep through the Island.

Weekly flights start from Jo'burg – nothing from Cape Town. Godfather's Rock Club celebrates 25 years.

Continuing information released by the Health Minister, Health Director and Chief Medical Officer informs the public that the pharmacy is to be transformed with prescriptions eventually issued with three months supply instead of the usual one month. This to happen before Christmas.

St Helena's Commonwealth Games team are in the UK preparing for the start of the Games in August, in Birmingham. Nick Stevens receives the Commonwealth games Order of Merit from the President, Dame Louise Martin.

The reply to a question raised in the House of Commons reveals the UK Government is spending £2.1million on environmental protection projects in St Helena. The same amount as SHG is spending on easing the cost of living increases for island residents.

Protests continue against opening up the island by relaxing Covid restrictions.

There are complaints about no visible action in trying to move Airlink flights from Jo'burg to Cape Town.

The Health Minister, Health Director and Chief Medical Officer state on radio the existing health resources are sufficient to provide a very efficient healthcare system. They also give progress on the recruitment of healthcare professionals to fill the vacancies.

August 2022

Connect make the news with a triple whammy. They propose a restructuring the electricity tariff which will increase the electricity charges by 30% for most people. They also

Continued on NEXT PAGE

2022 – Gone but Not All of it Forgotten

Editor's Pick of the News

issue a warning shot that installations of PV panels - used by some homes and businesses to generate their own electricity – could be 'paused' again while Connect check the compatibility of the private and public electricity supply installations. Negotiations between Connect and OneWeb appear to be getting nowhere as OneWeb and Eutelsat merge – opening the opportunity for OneWeb to operate their satellite communications without the need for Earth stations. The risk of no Earth station(s) means the risk of another big hole in SHG's budgeting.

The details of the measures aimed at easing the rising cost of living are announced by the Chief Minister and the Financial Secretary.

Nigel Phillips is sworn in as Governor of St Helena.

The remains of the liberated Africans, exhumed in 2007-08 from the Rupert's Valley burial grounds are finally laid to rest once more in a two-day ceremony which covered the removal of the caskets from the No1 Building to the burial site and then the burial ceremony.

After some delays and revision of the plans, Side Path is announced as being 'open by Christmas'.

September 2022

Connect publish their proposed restructured electricity charges for public consultation. The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) will review the proposal; their authorisation is needed before the charges can go ahead. A petition is organised to the URA against the proposal.

Queen Elizabeth II died on 8th September ending a reign lasting 70 years 214 days. Queen Elizabeth II was born on



21st April, 1926. She married Phillip Mountbatten on 20th November, 1947. Their first child, now King Charles III, was born on 14th November 1948. On 6th February 1952 she ascended the throne at the age of 25 upon the death of her father, George VI. Her coronation took place on 2nd June 1953. The Queen's funeral took place on 19th September.

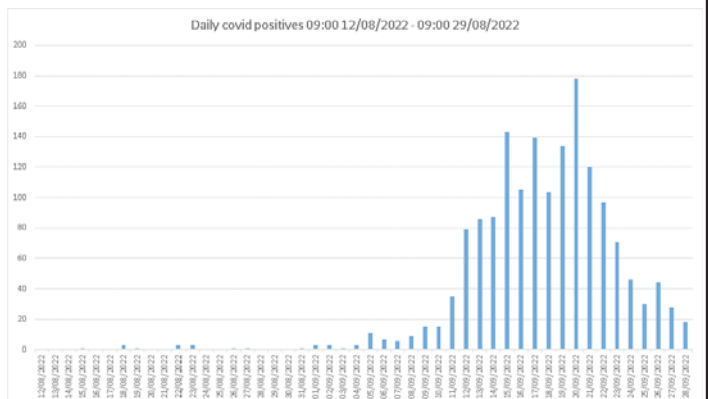
Signs of pre-Covid economic activity starting again as Paul O'Sullivan flies in on a flying visit to have a series of meetings about his Trade Winds Ocean Village and Golf Resort and Hotel developments at Horse Pasture and Broad Bottom. O'Sullivan told the Independent, "there must be direct flights from Europe".

SHG announce London based Maestro Technologies has been chosen as the preferred bidder to install a fibre-optic Island-wide network to match the Equiano cable link with the rest of the world.

The US Air Force Civil Engineer Centre announced (again) the Wideawake runway is now half complete. The same announcement had been made earlier, in March. The project costs had risen from \$170 million when the first announcement was made to \$309 million in the most recent announcement. Could Basil Read have done better?

St Helena National Trust succeeds in making the first recording of the whale shark mating ritual.

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) refused to authorise Connect's proposal to structure electricity charges. Saints breathed a sigh of relief as the proposed 30% increase in charges was unmanageable for most people at a time when the cost of living was rising rapidly. The URA report was damning, citing several shortcomings over several years.



The spread of Covid across the Island was thought to be almost over as the number of daily infections declined from a peak of almost 180 to less than 30 on 28th September.

October 2022

Bradley's Medical Centre is wound down as Covid infections continue to decline. The equipment at Bradley's will make a welcome addition to equipment at the General Hospital.

2022 – Gone but Not All of it Forgotten

Editor's Pick of the News

Another casualty of rising costs is the new port facility at the Falklands. Original estimates of between £50 – 70 million had climbed to £157 million causing the project to be cancelled.

All connections on the Equiano cable were tested and given the all clear.

A celebration was held at the General's Quarters, at the rear of Longwood House, to mark seven years of Saint Helena Napoleonic Heritage Ltd. A charity formed to manage the French Properties. Dax Richards reminded the invited guests, "The charity has an important role to play in St Helena's development, as well as securing a legacy, the Napoleonic heritage is a significant part of the Island's tourism product with virtually all visitors to the Island visiting at least one of the three sites managed and maintained through the charity."

The St Helena cricket team train hard for the ICC T20 qualifier in Rwanda while all Legislative Council members attend an intensive week long course organised by the Commonwealth parliamentary Association.

Airlink buys a stake in FlyNamibia and former Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, returns to lead the Development bit of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

November 2022

St Helena flaunted it in style at international events including the Youth Parliament held in the House of Commons which was streamed live and the World Travel Market, also in London. The St Helena cricket team turned a few heads by beating Seychelles and Malawi. At least one other game could have gone St Helena's way if the rain held off. Instead there were three rain affected matches and St Helena was placed 3rd in a table of eight teams. Marcella Mittens and Isaac Greentree spent a few days in Trinidad representing St Helena at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament and Chief Minister Julie Thomas increased and improved her network of connections visiting a wide range of officials in London after the cancellation of the Joint Ministerial Council of the Overseas Territories.

There was another consultation on Immigration Control.

UK Government handed over an additional £1.8 million to SHG for specific projects. Most of the money goes to healthcare to fund the improvements the Health Minister, Health Director and Chief Medical Officer were describing and explaining over several previous weeks along with Covid updates.

A new machine which should resurface roads more quickly and at less cost than is possible at present was also funded from the additional money. St Helena Airport also received some funding to improve the airport fire service, as required by the certification regime.

December 2022

It was Jonathan's big birthday. Reckoned to be 190 years old, at least, the events organised to mark Jonathan's birthday caught the imagination of many both here and overseas. The RRS Discovery arrived in December to continue further research on St Helena's marine environment.

The final details required before formal signing of the contract with Maestro Technologies for the new island fibre network were completed and more detail was made public by Dax Richards and Julie Thomas. The slowest speed for internet and emails is expected to be 100 megabits per second (mbps). Speeds vary in the UK from place to place but the average UK speed is said to be 63 mbps.

The story about the petition for flights from Cape Town continued until the end of the year. Seven months after the massive petition in favour of Airlink flights using Cape Town International instead of OR Tambo airport at Johannesburg was presented to ministers, SHG have issued a statement indicating there is some movement in providing the kind of air service the petitioners want. The discussions focused on using Cape Town as a hub during the summer months of November to April with Johannesburg, Airlink's main operational base, being used from May to October.

Another story continuing to the end of the year is the repair to Wideawake runway. A subcontractor is suing the main contractor for the costs claimed for delays. The whole story is messy and is about to get mucky. One party suing another is a major pastime in the United States supported and promoted by all parts of the US legal profession.

The football season closed with the presentation of 39 awards. The main ones being Rovers as league champions, Jamestown as district champions, Taylon Phillips as player of the season, Bethany Benet as best female player and Predators as futsal league and cup winners.

And a third long-running story came to a close. Side Path opened to traffic just before Christmas with no fanfare or ribbon-cutting. Johnny Isaac's men moved off for the last time and the road was open.

Another story about shortcomings with airfreight hit the headlines. Passengers' luggage was left on the tarmac in Jo'burg while eggs, tomatoes and cucumbers were all loaded in preference. After some shock, alarm and horror from passengers on the plane, the eggs, tomatoes and cucumbers came off and the luggage was loaded in its place. Anyway, eggs, tomatoes and cucumbers should be available as year-round local produce. There should be no need to import them.

And Finally . . . Jenny Corker retires after 40 years admirable service as a magistrate in the St Helena's Court.

WE'RE SEEKING A VIDEO CREATOR

To produce a video testimonial for the BEST 2.0+ Project Establishing a biological records database for St Helena.

Video must include:

- a brief introduction of the St Helena Research Institute and biological recording.
- 2-3 field based recordings and 1 office based to include interviews.
- A focus on the activities and achievements which have been implemented thanks to BEST 2.0+ funding.
- Future aspirations, challenges and, collaborations.
- Video must be no longer than 5 minutes.

Submissions of draft proposal and quote by Thursday 15th of January. Deadline for the completion of the video is the 7th of February.

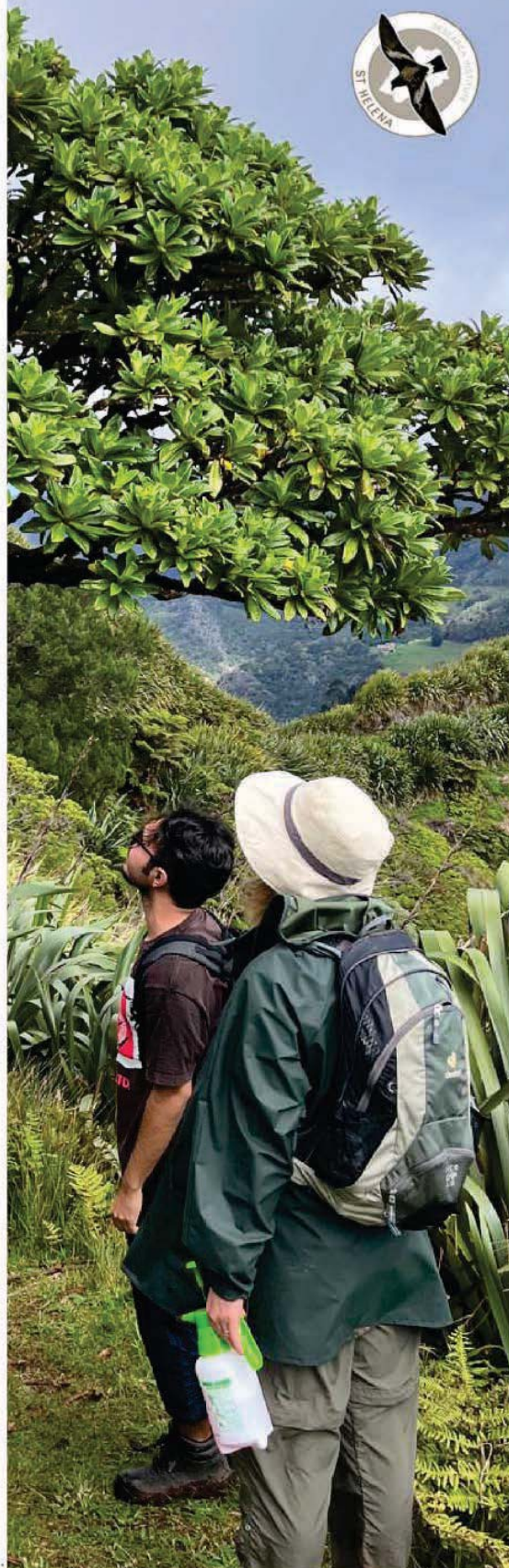
CONTACT

**SELENE.GOUGH@SAINTHELENA.GOV
.SH**

This BEST2.0+ project has received funding from the European Union.



**BEST
2.0+**



Motocross Competition

The 2022 Motocross Competition which was held at Bradley's track on Wednesday 28th December which saw youth, experience riders on the track, holiday makers and female riders showcasing their Motocross talents.

Throphies were awarded to first, second and third positions in all categories as seen below for male, female and kids.

Adults Races, Men

250cc Motocross

Keiran Williams

Adrain Sim

Joey Young

450cc Motocross

Chris Owen

Fabian Peters of Longwood

Josh Young

Open class

Chris Owen

Fabian Peters

Joey Young

250cc Sprint

Adrain Sim

Josh Young

Joey Young

450cc Sprint

Chris Owen

Fabian Peters

Gus Williams

Quad Motocross

Julian Thomas of the Briars

Rickie Thomas

Daryl Phillips

Hill Climb which the main highlight of the day

Fabian Peters

Chris Owen

Joey Bacon Thomas of Longwood

Relay

Joey Young & Julian Thomas



Gus Williams & Blaze Baldwin
Keiran Williams & Angelo Ellick

Women's Races

Quad Motocross

Rebecca Young

Jodie Scipo-Constantine

Tysa Anthony

Quad Sprint

Rebecca Young

Jodie Scipo-Constantine

Tysa Anthony

Kids Races

Motocross

Kirk Lawrence

Luis Thomas

Riley Yon

Sprint

Kirk Lawrence

kyle Williams

Luis Thomas

Relay

Zian Thomas & Kirk Lawrence

Peyton Wade & Luis Thomas

Riley Yon & Ziggy Yon



*Pictures: Lara Lawrence,
Creative Captions*

A St Helena Christmas

The Christmas spirit could be felt strong for 2022 in St Helena as we saw full flights arriving from Johannesburg during December with loved ones returning to spend the holidays back home even if only for two weeks.

Following on from an roaring successful Festival of Lights featured in the last Independent for 2022, Christmas Eve was just as successful with this years theme being Reggae Island Christmas.

As in previous years, the organising team invited all to join them as they circulate around the island visiting the care homes and individuals delivering gifts and spreading the cheer.

There was a large amount of people in buses, 4x4's, even a motorcycle lead by Mr Melvyn Benjamin's truck blasting well known Christmas numbers over his system adding extra cheer to those listening.

This year an extra stop was included and that was at the St Helena Airport which was very much welcomed by those awaiting arrivals from the incoming flight.

Following the ride around, many parked the vehicles and joined the Christmas Eve parade through the streets with music provided by Alex Vanguard which saw a influx of people this year.

This same group organised the boxing day and New Years Eve Street Party celebrations so it didn't stop there for Emerald and her small team.

Boxing Day traditionally started with the bikers and others starting their around the island ride at 12:30pm so they could make it back to town to showcase to all on the Bridge before dark.

The traditional sports started little later than usual by compères for the afternoon Debbie Yon & Gavin 'Jack' Thomas due to very little people on the bridge to participate in the sports but just before 4pm, a good crowd had arrived and the afternoon got on the way in full swing.



A St Helena Christmas



The highlight of the afternoon was the popular tug a war with 3 teams participating with the winning team enjoying a case a beer.

The boxing day events ended with a street party with music provided by Colin Peters and an acoustic session by Christian Castell, Marty Plato & Donny Stroud.

Santa would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the faithful and dedicated Elves for their support and assistance this festive season.

Thank you for making it a memorable one and know that you are all appreciated beyond words.

With best wishes for 2023!

Leigh Richards & Rob Newman



**Richard
James
International**

would like to advise their customers that the closing date for cargo on V01 under the new shipping arrangement is
**Wednesday,
11th January 2023**

BISHOPS BRIDGE REFURBISHMENT CONTRACT AWARDED

Following an open procurement exercise conducted in October 2022, SHG has entered into a contract with Ambledale Workshop Ltd of Nr Ladder Hill Rifle Range for the refurbishment of Bishops Bridge. These works will address the structural integrity of the bridge and associated health and safety issues.

The total value of this contract is £32,258.29 (thirty two thousand, two hundred and fifty eight pounds, twenty nine pence).

Works will commence from Monday, 9 January 2023, and are programmed to be completed by end of March 2023.

During the period of works, Bishops Bridge will be closed to all vehicles and pedestrians. Diversion routes will be signposted. Further details will be provided by Ambledale Workshop Ltd.

The project is being funded under the Economic Development Investment Programme (EDIP) Micro Projects. Executive Council previously agreed a number of smaller Micro Projects under EDIP, which can be implemented relatively quickly with a low total cost and which are not subject to detailed business cases.

The public will be kept informed of progress and are thanked for their understanding during this time.

**SHG
5 January 2023**



Fishing Competition

Friday 30th December, Wicked Wahoo in collaboration with the St Helena Yacht Club hosted another successful event which was the fishing competition.

This was a extremely well attended event with many enjoying a cold beverage and watching the fish being weighed and then take away.

Around 5pm the presentation was due to take place but was slightly running behind so Blue Magic band consisting of Cruyff Buckley, Marico George, Gavin Ellick, Nigel Joshua and Darren Hopkins took centre stage and kept the crowd happy until Joe was ready to do the presentation.

Prizes were given for first and second positions in the following :

Biggest Tuna - Ocean Wave with the weight of 24.6kg followed by Ocean Gypsy with the weight of 22.05kg.

Biggest Deepwater Bullseye - Pwuida with the weight of 1.26kg followed by Ocean Queen with the weight of 0.66kg.

Biggest Grouper - Pwuida with the weight of 3.5kg followed by Ocean Wave with the weight of 2.42kg.



Biggest Conger- Ocean Wave with the weight of 3.83kg followed by Sea Otter with the weight of 3.05kg.

Biggest Amberjack - Bonito with the weight of 11.13kg.

A new award this year for the boat with the most species was won by Ocean Wave with 13 species.

Following this Joe on thanked all especially the sponsors who made this event another success : Solomon & Company, Castell, BOSH for the trophies, AMD Engineering, Wicked Wahoo, Rose & Crown, Yons Brothers at Blue

Lantern and the Yacht Club before he hand the microphone back to the band who took it through until the late hours where Cas, Martin, Andrew & Tom brought a different vibe to the seafront.

Just as you thought lets wind down, New Years Eve celebrations was just around the corner and the big street party was held on the bridge.....what a awesome atmosphere and comments could be heard.

So that's sums the last few days of 2022 up.

Leigh Richards





VACANCY - CIVIL ENGINEER/NON-REVENUE WATER COORDINATOR

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ a Civil Engineer/Non-Revenue Water Coordinator.

A key priority for the company is reducing water loss. The successful candidate will lead on this initiative as well as providing technical leadership for support of the development of water and sewage infrastructure. The workload is both varied and challenging and the successful candidate will be a key player in all stages from initial concept design and planning to final commissioning. A number of engineering, procurement and construction projects run simultaneously and the Civil Engineer will be responsible for engineering practical solutions in an often challenging environment.

Qualifications and experience should include:

Civil Engineering Degree, 5 years + experience on Engineering Procurement Construction projects, Technical Analysis, Computer Design Skills, Health & Safety Awareness, Commitment to Environment and Experience in Water Leakage Reduction. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to produce clear reports, tenders and specifications. Adaptable and flexible approach and able to prioritise time and tasks.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits include 15% of base salary pension contributions and 25 days annual leave and support for further relevant professional training & development.

For further information on this position please contact Annalisa Young on email annalisa.young@connect.co.sh

Completed application forms can be handed in to the
Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email annalisa.young@connect.co.sh
By 9am on Tuesday, 31 January 2023.



VACANCY – FINANCE MANAGER

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking a professionally qualified Accountant to lead the Finance Department having overall responsibility for the Company's finance function that encompasses the Accounts, Procurement, Stores and Billing teams. The post holder will be responsible for the management and development of staff and ensuring that Connect Saint Helena Ltd is operating to internationally accepted financial standards and within the approved strategies, plans, regulations and budgets.

The successful candidate should:

- Be a full member of an Accountancy body (ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW or equivalent) with 5 years post qualification experience.
- Have experience with budget preparation and analysis of financial information at a complex level
- Experience with Access Dimensions or similar software.
- Have 3 years management experience, and be an excellent team leader and communicator and be able to think and plan strategically.
- Significant experience in Managing Audit Process.
- Commitment to best practice and good governance is also essential to this role.

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits include 15% of base salary pension contributions and 30 days annual leave and support for further relevant professional training & development.

For a full job description and/or further details on this position, please contact Janet Lawrence on (+290) 22255 or email janet.lawrence@connect.co.sh

Completed application forms can be handed into the
Connect Saint Helena Ltd main office at Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email to annalisa.young@connect.co.sh
by 9am on Monday, 16 January 2023.

Vacancy

Grocery Sales Assistant



Salary for the post will commence at £7,751 per annum (£645 per month)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy within the Half Tree Hollow Supermarket for a Grocery Sales Assistant.

As the Grocery Sales Assistant you will assist with the day-to-day running of the Supermarket and to ensure a high standard of customer service.

Interested Persons Should:

- ◆ Possess knowledge and skills of food safety
- ◆ Be customer focused and target driven
- ◆ Possess experience in working in a customer facing environment and have excellent customer service skills
- ◆ Be competent in working in Maths, English and IT
- ◆ Possess experience in Cash Handling
- ◆ Be self-motivated and able to work well as part of a team
- ◆ Be able to undertake physically demanding and manual handling duties
- ◆ Have the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment
- ◆ Be available to work weekends, including Sundays.

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Marilyn Joshua, Grocery Manager (Country Outlets) via ☎ 25989/23559 📧 HTH-manager@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Anya Thomas, Human Resources Development Officer, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by **09 January 2023**.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Attractive Leave Packages including annual leave, sickness absence leave, maternity/parental leave
- ◆ Staff Discounts



St Helena
Government

LAND FOR SALE/LEASE

The Property Division of the Treasury, Infrastructure and Sustainable Development Portfolio has land for sale and lease:

For Sale, parcel number 424, within the Longwood South registration section, measuring 0.12 acres, located near Longwood Gate, Longwood.

For lease, parcel number 681, within the Scotland registration section, measuring 0.127 acres, known as the former Radio Station, Pounceys.

For lease, parcel number 1451, within the Half Tree Hollow registration section, measuring 0.69 acres, known as the former Nursery, Half Tree Hollow.

Closing date for bids are 12 noon, Wednesday 11th January 2023.

Please contact: Gina Henry, Crown Estates Officer on email address: gina.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh, or on telephone number: 22270, or you could collect particulars from Essex House, Jamestown.

INVITATION TO TENDER

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

Relocation of existing bus shelter at Scotland

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.

A site visit to view the works will take place on Wednesday, 11 January 2023, at 10am, meeting near the roundabout at Scotland, St Paul's. Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date (11 January 2023) 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 Procurement Services on tel: 22270 or via email: tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12 noon on Wednesday, 18 January 2023.

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

SHG, 4 January 2023



SHG VACANCIES

Chief Housing Officer (Permanent)

(Treasury, Infrastructure & Sustainable Development Portfolio)

This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your career and make a real impact on Island. As St Helena's subject matter expert on all housing matters, you will advise directors and Ministers. Responsible for all housing matters You will already have substantial experience of working in housing, understand the issues of homelessness, private sector as well as social housing. Be capable of managing large budgets and complex relationships. Highly motivated with excellent communication skills you will be joining similar minded colleagues in the Property Section.

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

Nikita Crowie, Deputy Head of Property on telephone number 22270 or email:

Nikita.crowie@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Application forms are available from:

Central Human Resources & Organisational Development or the SHG website at: 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 by no later than **4pm on Tuesday, 10th January 2023**.

To be considered for these roles, 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.

Property for Sale at Hutt's Gate

**Contact Tel 23163. Included is
a six metre Container with
building Materials**



Some of the Well Known who Died in 2022

Film and TV

Dame Olivia Newton-John

Began her career as the sweetheart of country-flavoured pop, but it all changed when the British-born Australian donned black spandex for the 1978 film musical *Grease* - starring alongside John Travolta. She was first diagnosed with cancer in 1992 and became a leading cancer research advocate.

Tony Sirico

Memorably portrayed Paulie "Walnuts" Gualtieri, a fictional mobster in the TV show *The Sopranos*. He also played gangsters in more than a dozen movies, including Martin Scorsese's *Goodfellas*.



Tony Sirico (right) in the limelight

Sidney Poitier

Broke down Hollywood's racial barriers and became the first black man to win a best actor Oscar - for *Lilies of the Field* in 1963. He later became a respected humanitarian and diplomat.



Sidney Poitier receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Barack Obama

Dennis Waterman

One of the best-known faces on British television. He played Det Sgt George Carter in police drama *The Sweeney*, Terry McCann in *Minder* and another detective, Gerry Standing, in *New Tricks*.

Leslie Phillips

Comedy Casanova remembered for his catchphrase "Ding dong!" - which he delivered in *Carry On Nurse* in 1959. The actor starred in more than 200 films, TV and radio series. Harry Potter film fans will know him as the voice of the Sorting Hat.

Lynda Baron

Best known for her role as Nurse Gladys Emmanuel in the BBC sitcom *Open All Hours* alongside Ronnie Barker and Sir David Jason.

Peter Bowles

Worked extensively on stage and screen before becoming a household name on UK television as the archetypal English gent opposite Penelope Keith in sitcom *To The Manor Born*.

June Brown

Won her place in British hearts playing the gossiping, chain-smoking launderette worker Dot Cotton in BBC soap *EastEnders*. Brown was in her late 50s when she arrived in Albert Square in 1985 - initially she was booked for three months' work, but ended up staying in Walford on-and-off for more than a quarter of a century.



Bill Treacher

Appeared in the first ever scene of BBC soap *EastEnders* in February 1985 playing Arthur Fowler - a character whose life unravelled over the next 10 years, before his death on his beloved allotment in 1996.

Robbie Coltrane

Cut his teeth in stand-up comedy before branching out into film and TV - comfortably inhabiting both funny and dramatic

roles. He starred in the Harry Potter films as Rubeus Hagrid, and played chain-smoking criminal psychologist Dr Eddie "Fitz" Fitzgerald in ITV's 1990s drama *Cracker*.



Singers

Loretta Lynn

Known as the Queen of Country, her songs were rooted in real-life experience, most notably on the autobiographical *Coal Miner's Daughter*. Other hits included *Don't Come Home A-Drinkin'*, *Honky Tonk Girl* and feminist anthem *The Pill*.



Loretta Lynn

Christine McVie

An integral member of the complicated cast of characters who made up one of the greatest bands ever. The British singer-songwriter was the songbird behind some of Fleetwood Mac's biggest hits, including *Little Lies*, *Everywhere*, *Don't Stop* and *Say You Love Me*.

Meat Loaf

The rock star's breakthrough and best-known album, *Bat Out Of Hell*, remains one of the best-selling releases of all time - it catapulted him to the status of musical icon. Born Marvin Lee Aday, but also known as Michael, his nickname originated with his dad, who said he looked as red as meat at birth - before a school football coach added the "loaf".

Some of the Well Known who Died in 2022

Politician

Mikhail Gorbachev

One of the 20th Century's most influential political figures, the former Soviet leader introduced reforms in the USSR, opened up the country to the world and helped bring the Cold War with the West to a peaceful end. But he was unable to prevent the USSR's slow collapse, and many Russians blamed him for the turmoil that followed.

Sportsmen

Pele

Brazilian footballing legend, regarded by many as the greatest player ever. He

won the World Cup three times - the only player to do so - lifting the trophy in 1958, 1962 and 1970. Fifa named him Player of the Century in 2000.

George Cohen

World Cup winner who played every minute of England's six matches in the 1966 tournament. The right-back was vice-captain for the 4-2 win over West Germany in the Wembley final. Cohen spent his entire club career with Fulham, making 459 appearances.

Rod Marsh

Legendary Australia wicket-keeper who effected 355 dismissals - a world record at the time of his retirement - in 96 Test appearances from 1970 to 1984.

Shane Warne

Comfortably history's best leg-spinner and arguably history's best bowler. Scandal followed Warne as closely as sporting adulation, but he remained in the public's heart and was a prominent cricket commentator in Australia and the UK until his death.



Around the World

Saving Expensive Energy

We all must be used to seeing energy saving tips in the *Independent* most weeks. Energy saving tips are now published just about everywhere you look on the internet after the steep rise in oil, gas and electricity prices right across the world. Sometimes there are tips which some of us may not have seen before. Here are two which don't get included in the usual tips.

Vacuum your fridge. The back of the fridge has coils which are part of the cooling system. They collect dust over time and that makes them inefficient. Pulling the fridge away from the wall and using your vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment to suck up all the dust will get the fridge working better. Another tip is to clean the rubber door seals which stop cooled air leaking out of the fridge. The grooves in the seals collect bits of just about anything. If the seals are not cleaned the rubber can degrade and eventually split, making it easy for the cooled air to escape.

Also, get rid of the solid residue from boiled water that collects in the bottom of kettles. The residue gives the heating element more work to do when boiling the water, using more electricity to do the job. A few minutes boiling a kettle and then pouring in the powder which is specially made to get rid of the residue will keep the kettle working with no wasted electricity. You know the powder is doing its job when the heated water fizzes.

Falklands Airbridge Flights Cancelled before Christmas

Bad weather in the Falklands grounded Airbridge flights from 20th December. People expecting to arrive at or leave the Falk-



lands for Christmas had to wait until 27th December – or cancel their Christmas arrangements. Falkland Islanders were not happy. Frustration was very evident on social media where the Airbridge was criticised for an “appalling service” and Falklanders were “prisoners in their own country” and the MOD was lambasted for “stealing Christmas”. The frustration was taken to a higher level when British Forces in the South Atlantic also explained the reason for the delays. Apart from the weather, UK defence commitments to NATO were also given a reason. It all seems very strange. Either a plane cannot fly because of bad weather or the service is cancelled because the plane has been diverted to another route for another purpose. It cannot be both.

Peru Politician Tells Argentina “the Falklands are English”

A Peruvian politician, Ernesto Bustamante, fired a verbal broadside at Argentina recently proclaiming “we must shout out to the world that Malvinas are not Argentine, they are the Falkland Islands and they are English!!” The reason for this outburst was not a strong love and long-lived support for all things English – or British. What caused Bustamante to almost Busta Blood Vessel is the Argentine president's continued support for the deposed Peruvian ex-president. Bustamante supports the new president of Peru and calls ex-president, Pedro Castillo, a criminal who is very rightly now in gaol.

Vacancy – IT Officer

Connect Saint Helena Ltd is seeking to employ an IT Officer to meet its ever-growing IT demands.

The IT Officer will be responsible for the effective, efficient and secure management, organisation and administration of Connect Saint Helena Ltd's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems, and the provision of technical support services.

In addition to the day to day functions related to ICT, the post holder will have responsibility for ensuring that the Company's systems are ready for fibre optic internet connectivity, particularly in relation to cyber security, and for managing these systems once connected.

The successful candidate should have:

- GCSE Maths and English at Grade C and above or equivalent
- Computer Science qualification at degree level or equivalent
- IT certifications in Networking and/or Microsoft and/or Security
- Five years' experience in a Senior IT role
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Linux +
- Driving Licence, A or C

Connect Saint Helena Ltd offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Other benefits include 15% of base salary pension contributions and 25 days annual leave.

For a full job description and/or further information, please contact Clare Harris, Business Support Director on (+290) 22255 or email clare.harris@connect.co.sh

Completed application forms should be addressed to Annalisa Young, Business Support Administrator - HR, Seales Corner, Jamestown or via email: annalisa.young@connect.co.sh by 9am on Thursday, 19 January 2023.

Vacancy

Part-Time Cleaner



Rate of pay will be £5.03 per hour.

Hours of work: 13 hours per week (Mondays – Fridays, 1600hrs – 1800hrs & Every Other Saturday)

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc has a vacancy for a Part-Time Cleaner within the Main Office Building in Jamestown.

As the Cleaner you will be maintain a high standard of cleanliness and also ensure that cleaning routines are completed in the required timeframe.

Interested Persons Should:

- ◆ Be reliable, trustworthy and punctual with a flexible approach to work
- ◆ Demonstrate excellent attention to detail, and take pride in their work
- ◆ Be physically fit with the ability to undertake regular manual handling duties
- ◆ Have knowledge of Health & Safety and Hygiene
- ◆ Be able to work independently and manage time effectively, with minimum supervision
- ◆ Maintain total confidentiality within the Company

For further information, including the Company's attractive benefits package contact:

Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager via ☎ 22380 ✉ HRM@solomons.co.sh

Application forms may be collected from Solomons Main Office Reception, Jamestown or alternatively an electronic copy can be requested via hradmin@solomons.co.sh and completed forms should be returned to Madonna Henry, Human Resources Manager, Solomons Main Office, Jamestown by 17 January 2023.

Solomon & Company (St Helena) Plc offers an attractive benefits package to Employees which includes but are not limited to:

- ◆ Pension Contributions
- ◆ Attractive Leave Packages including annual leave, sickness absence leave, maternity/parental leave
- ◆ Staff Discounts

INVITATION TO TENDER

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

Infrastructure trail repair works at the following Post Box Walks:

- Lot's Wife Ponds
- Flagstaff
- Great Stone Top
- The Barn
- Prosperous Bay

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

A site visit has not been scheduled for these contracts. Should you require a scheduled site visit or any further details, please contact the Procurement Officer.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12 noon on Wednesday, 18 January 2023. Interested parties should note that this opportunity is **not** being advertised overseas.

SHG
4 January 2023



INVITATION TO TENDER

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

Fence repairs at Botley's Pasture Fence repairs at Fishers Valley Pasture Fence repairs at Man & Horse Pasture Fence repairs at Swampy Gut Pasture



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

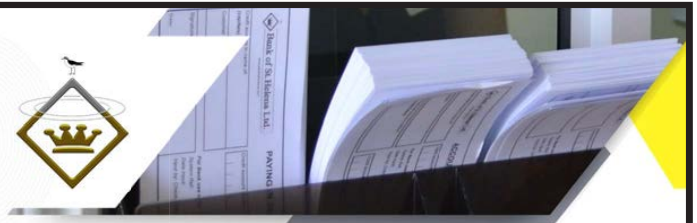
A site visit to view the works will take place on Tuesday, 10 January 2023, starting at 9.30am, meeting at Botley's, then onto Man & Horse, Swampy Gut and Fishers Valley. Contractors should note that site visits requested after this date will not be entertained unless there is a relevant reason why the contractor could not attend the scheduled site visit.

Should you require any further details, please contact Procurement Services on tel: 22270 or via email: tiffany.lawrence@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12 noon on Wednesday, 18 January 2023.

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

SHG
4 January 2023



CUSTOMER REMINDER - AUTHORISATION FOR CASH WITHDRAWALS

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to remind all customers providing written authorisation for third parties to withdraw cash on their behalf, that they must also call the Bank to confirm the withdrawal prior to the authorisation being presented at the Teller Stations or Remote Banking sites. The Bank will not accept forms if a call has not been received prior to the arrival of the authorised person.

Please contact us using the following telephone numbers:

Main Branch - 22390

Wharf Kiosk - 22032

Half Tree Hollow and Longwood Remote Banking Sites - 66803



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



[@sainthelenabank](https://www.facebook.com/sainthelenabank)



Bank of St Helena Ltd

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

INVITATION TO TENDER

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

Annual grounds maintenance services at the Castle Gardens, planted areas at the Grand Parade and Bougainvillea area at the Honeymoon Chair, Jamestown

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.



A site visit to view the works will take place on Thursday, 12 January 2023, at 9.30am, meeting at the Castle Gardens Gate, Jamestown. 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 Forestry Services Officer, Larry Stevens, or the Silviculture Officer, Rickie Thomas, on tel: 24724 or via emails: larry.stevens@sainthelena.gov.sh or rickie.thomas@sainthelena.gov.sh.

Completed tenders should be placed in the Tender Box at Essex House by 12 noon on Thursday, 19 January 2023. Interested parties should note that this opportunity is **not** being advertised overseas.

SHG, 4 January 2023

Around the World

OR Tambo Plane Cancellations Causes Minister's Sacking

On 29th December a fuel system breakdown meant 41 planes could not be refuelled and had to be cancelled. The cause of the problem was a fuel valve failure at the main storage tank. The valve jammed and no fuel could get to planes waiting on the apron. *Business Live* reports "senior management scrambled to find a solution, but found that their risk planning was woefully short of options." This probably means their emergency planning was non-existent.

As the embarrassing failure is still causing tremors through the government owned Airports Company South Africa the Transport Minister is getting involved and getting the blame. At a press conference earlier this week transport minister Fikile Mbalula said he is now under personal pressure and dropped hints that he may be on his way out because of the jammed fuel valve. We don't get that kind of reaction here over a nine hour power outage because of faulty busbars.

UK Voters Want a Closer Relationship with European Union

It's 6.5 years since England and Wales (but not Scotland and Northern Ireland) voted for Britain to come out of the European Union. It took a few years to get signatures on the divorce agreement and they are still arguing over who should have custody of various bits and pieces even now.

An opinion poll conducted just before Christmas indicates the number of people eager to do Greta Garbo impressions with "I want to be alone" is dwindling and more people in Britain support cuddling up closer to their European neighbours. The shift in support is a significant 17% more while



the Greta Garbo impressionists have almost halved. One of the main reasons for the shift in opinion is the staff shortages in the NHS and in agriculture.

Doom-Laden Predictions for Andrew Mitchell's Development Department

One of the many members of DFID staff who jumped ship when 'Development' was absorbed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office gave a bleak description of the current situation in Andrew Mitchell's Development bit of FCDO. Loss of control over development resources, an equally complete loss of a coherent development strategy and loss of capacity, expertise and achievement was just the start of the criticism.

Fractured accountability, limited resources, no clear direction, systems in shock or broken and staff still looking for the first opportunity to jump ship were immediately added. "I still struggle to wrap my head around how swiftly and completely the UK managed to annihilate one of the few genuine global strengths we had." This was the next swipe at the new regime but the grim assessment did not finish there. "What is perhaps worst is the complete lack of honesty about this: the claims that development still matters in FCDO. Without honesty, it is impossible to either accept or adjust to the new reality, or hope and work to bring some truth back to those claims." Phew! It would be instructive to take a close look at DFID's transition to FCDO. It's obvious some blood has been spilt.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CASTLE GARDENS AND SURROUNDINGS

Once again, anti-social incidents have been reported in and around Castle Gardens over the weekend of 17 and 18 December 2022.

St Helena Government (SHG) are working in unison to look at addressing the concerns of residents and the general public regarding this ongoing pattern of behaviour.

Incidents including criminal damage, graffiti, underage drinking, urinating in public, and threatening behaviour to residents and passers-by are all occurring in this area. People are worried about leaving their homes at night in case their properties are damaged or items are stolen.

It is regretted that such action is needed, but authorities will likely now need to deploy extra lighting, CCTV and other tactics to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

However, early intervention or prevention is better than cure and this is a community-wide issue. Individuals need to take personal responsibility for their actions and activities. We would ask that everyone - from the youngsters involved, to their par-

ents and entire community to ensure that this behaviour does not continue.

We are a small community and such behaviour tar the Islands reputation.

A statement from the Safety, Security & Home Affairs Portfolio highlights their concerns below:

"All members of the public should feel comfortable using public spaces, no matter the time of day or night. It is not right that a small minority are affecting the ability of others to enjoy Castle Gardens and the surrounding areas. This is a unique park area in the heart of Jamestown, but it is being turned into an area that people are afraid to enter at certain times, and somewhere that is acting as a catalyst for more serious antisocial behaviour and criminality.

"One of the defining features of St Helena is its people and its community. Is this really what we want Jamestown to be known for? With Christmas soon upon us, we urge people to show some respect to the others members of this community and hope that further anti-social behaviour stops. SHG will do its part in tackling the issues, but the community must also do its part. Please think about the long-lasting damage this is doing to our Island."

SHG, 23 December 2022

VACANCY FOR ENDANGERED ARCHIVES PROJECT OFFICER

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the St Helena National Trust's team in a supporting role for six months. We are looking to recruit a Project Officer to carry out the day-to-day digitisation of the archival materials. Applicants must have an interest in preserving St Helena's cultural heritage, be willing to learn and 'get stuck in' and be highly motivated. Excellent verbal and written communication skills and ability to undertake repetitive tasks will be strongly favoured. Specialist training will be provided.

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 and would like to join a team passionate about seeing good things happen on St Helena then we want to hear from you. For further information on this post please contact Helena Bennett, Director on 22197 or email helena.bennett@trust.org.sh.

A full job description can be obtained from Amanda Constantine at the Trust office, Broadway House, Jamestown. Alternatively email amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh or call 22190. 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: 19 January 2023

“THANK YOU”

FROM THE BLUE HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

The Committee of the Blue Hill Community Centre would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Sing-a-long that was held on 11 December 2022. Special thanks to Gavin Jack who never failed to make the audience smile and to the musicians Gay, Jackie, Ralph and Geoff.

The Committee would also like to thank those who supported the Christmas Multi –Raffle, especially Carol and Christine who donated prizes; to Glenda who made the splendid Christmas cake; those who helped to sell tickets and all the many people who bought tickets.

A total of £617 was raised. The raffle was drawn at the Christmas Sing-a-long and the winners were as follows:

- Locally made occasional table – Kathleen Crowie, Deadwood
- Iron and ironing board – Luke Bargo, Half Tree Hollow
- Iced Christmas Cake – Mai Fowler, Glen Cott
- Large Food Hamper – Lucky Coleman, Blue Hill
- Small Food Hamper – Rosie Flatman, Red Hill House
- Vegetable Hamper – Gillian Stroud, Blue Hill
- LED Desk Lamp – Helena Bennett, Half Tree Hollow
- Bottle Amarula – Sylvia March, Blue Hill
- Tub of Quality Street chocolates – Carol Henry, Alarm Forest
- Kenwood Kitchen Scale – Sylvia Johnson, Chubbs Spring
- Bottle red wine – Clarence Peters, Sandy Bay
- 6-pack Beer – Gavin Jack, St Pauls
- Packet Quality Street chocolates and diary – Joan Scipio, Longwood
- Box Dairy Chocolates – Ralph Peters, Woodlands
- Box Christmas Crackers – Brenda Stevens, Alarm Hill
- 6-pack cream soda drinks – Alwyn Yon, Blue Hill
- Box savoury snack mix – Dawn Thomas, Barrack Square

The Committee looks forward to your continued support and wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

St Helena Veteran's Association (SHVA) Announcement

The SHVA are pleased to announce the appointment of Brigadier the Right Honourable the Lord (Mark) Lancaster TD PC as their new Patron. Brigadier Lancaster's patronage will include;

- Use of his name on SHVA letterheads and formal communications;
- Offer general support for Veterans, especially those on St Helena which includes the Merchant Navy because of their strong affiliation with the Falkland Islands Conflict; and
- Represent the SHVA in the UK (if required).

We look forward to engaging with Brigadier Lancaster on SHVA matters and welcoming him back to the island in due course as he last wrote; *'I have every intention of coming back before long'*

He may be remembered, somewhat infamously, from his last visit in 2009 to decide if the then incoming Government would build an airport, when he ended up spending a night on the Governors bench having been locked out of Plantation House.



BRIGADIER MARK LANCASTER TD PC

Brigadier the Right Honourable the Lord (Mark) Lancaster TD PC was commissioned into the Royal Engineers from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1988, his first posting was to Hong Kong as a Troop Commander in the Queens Gurkha Engineers. Transferring his Commission to the Reserve in 1990, he trained as an EOD Operator, commanded an EOD Squadron and has seen operational service in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Post Command he has held various staff appointments including

Deputy Commander 77 Brigade, the UK's information manoeuvre Brigade. In 2020 he was appointed Chairman of the Reserve Forces 2030 Review before taking up his post as Director Reserves at UK Strategic Command. He retains strong ties to the Brigade of Gurkhas in his role as Deputy Colonel Commandant of the Brigade as well as being Colonel Commandant of the Cayman Islands Regiment and Patron of the

St Helena Veterans Association. He is a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and was appointed as the Prime Minister's Defence Export Advocate in Dec 2022.



Elected to Parliament as the Member for Milton Keynes in 2005, Brigadier Lancaster subsequently held various Ministerial posts in Government, first as a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in 2012 before moving to the Ministry of Defence, initially as the Under-Secretary of State for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel in 2015. Promoted to Minister of State for the Armed Forces in 2017, he was responsible for the political oversight of tri-service recruitment and retention, reserves, force generation and UK Military Operations, a role he served until his retirement from Government and the House of Commons in December 2019. He was appointed to the Privy Council in 2017 and was raised to the Peerage as Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton in September 2019 and continues to sit in the House of Lords. He is a Non-Executive Director of Hampshire Cricket Club and sits on the advisor board of GFG Alliance a multinational company specialising in steel, aluminium and energy.

He is married to Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE, Member of Parliament for Gosport and they have a 'collection' of children between them. He collects and restores classic cars and motorcycles as a hobby.



EARLY CLOSURE AT MAIN BRANCH

Bank of St Helena Ltd would like to advise customers that the Main Branch will close from **2pm on Wednesday, 11 January**. Normal opening hours will resume on Thursday, 12 January.

The Bank apologises for any inconvenience this may cause.



Bank of St. Helena Ltd.



info@sainthelenabank.com



+290 22390



www.sainthelenabank.com



Market Street, Jamestown



@sainthelenabank



Bank of St Helena Ltd

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

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

Part of my first article for 2023 has to be dedicated to Edson Arantas Do Nascimento (Pele) who in my opinion was the greatest Footballer that have ever lived.

Pele died last Thursday at the aged of 82 and was laid to rest in Santos on Tuesday.

Pele was declared a National Treasure by his country which was a blessing and a curse as because of this he wasn't allowed to play outside of Brazil until he was coming to the end of his career.

In his 21-year career, Pelé — born Edson Arantes do Nascimento — scored 1,283 goals in 1,367 professional matches, including 77 goals for the Brazilian national team. Pele started out as a young boy at Bauru FC in Sao Paulo state under the guidance of former Brazil international Waldemar de Brito. When he came to the attention of Brazil's elite, he chose to join his mentor's former club Santos. It was not long before he was making his senior debut, aged 15, on 7 September 1956, scoring the first of more than 1,000 career goals in a 7-1 win against Corinthians Santo Andre.



A young Pele

Pele scored 619 goals in 638 games for Santos before leaving for New York Cosmos in 1975.

His final match game was an exhibition game between Cosmos and Santos at New York's Giants' Stadium in October 1977 after he had led them to the title in his third and final season at the club.



Pele playing for New York Cosmos

Pele's greatest achievements came in the colours of his National team Brazil as he became the only player to date to

win three World Cups.

His first was as a 17 year old in 1958 where he scored a hat-trick in the semi-final against France and two in the final against the host Sweden to secure Brazil's first World Cup win.



Pele starred for Brazil in the 1958 final

In the 1962 World Cup Finals; Pele was regarded as the best player in the World; he scored in the opening match but was injured in the second match. Garrincha inspired Brazil to their second World Cup win.

Brazil failed to reach the knockout stages of the 1966 World Cup in England as Pele was brutally kicked to bits by his opponents. He vowed never to play in the World Cup again. Luckily he was persuaded to return to play for Brazil in the 1970 World Cup in Mexico where he was part of what, many of us would say was the greatest World Cup Team ever. Pelé, Rivelino, Jairzinho, Gérson, Carlos Alberto Torres, Tostão and Clodoaldo, were outstanding as Brazil beat Italy 4-1 in the final.



Pele scored the opening goal against Italy in the 1979 World Cup Finals

Pele was arguably football's first global superstar, a standing that lived on after he finished playing. Pele, will always be associated with "The Beautiful Game" - and arguably no-one played it more beautifully.

Brazil's government declared three days of national mourning after Pele's death, and the country's new president - Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva - travelled to Santos to pay his respects. Covered with a Brazilian flag, Pele's coffin was carried on a fire truck through the packed roads of fans.

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

"Success isn't determined by how many times you win, but by how you play the week after you lose."

PELE

Firstinspire.com



The procession also passed by the house where his 100-year-old mother, Celeste Arantes, still lives.

Santos FC said more than 230,000 people had attended his 24-hour wake in the Vila Belmiro stadium, where a steady stream of mourners continued through the night.

The funeral cortege ended at the port city's Memorial Cemetery, where a Catholic funeral service was held before Pele is interred in a 10-storey mausoleum that holds the Guinness World Record as the tallest cemetery on Earth.

Premier League football returns to our screens on Boxing Day and so far most teams have played three matches. Arsenal continues to go from strength to strength winning two and drawing one of their three matches. They currently lead Manchester City by 8 points having played a game more. Newcastle who drew 0-0 with Arsenal in their last match is just one point behind Manchester City but has played two more matches.



Newcastle frustrated Arsenal in a 0-0 at the Emirates

Manchester United is one of two teams, who have won all their matches since the Premier League restarted, scoring 7 goals and conceding none.

United is now level on points with Newcastle with a game in hand.

Spurs now sits in 5th place after losing to drawing with Brentford and losing to Villa. They did however close the gap to within two points of Manchester United and Newcastle after beating Crystal Palace 4-0.

Liverpool won two of their three matches but lost their last one to Brentford 3-1.



Casemiro have been in great form for Manchester United

New striker Nunez is struggling to score goals despite getting a load of chances to do so. Liverpool fans would be pleased with the signing of Dutch forward Cody Gakpo, maybe he will fire Liverpool up the table.



Liverpool's new signing Cody Gakpo

Fulham sits in 7th place level on points with Liverpool. They are the other team that has won all three of their matches since the league restarted.

Southampton is in deep trouble losing their last 6 matches and sits on the bottom of the table. Wolves and Everton are also in the relegation zone.

West Ham, Bournemouth, Nottingham Forest, Leeds and Leicester are also in the relegation dogfight.



Southampton lost 1-0 to Nottingham Forest on Wednesday night



Armchair Supporters View by Nick Stevens

This weekend we break for the FA Cup third round. The third round of the FA Cup is when the Premier League teams join: FA Cup Fixtures:

FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY

THIRD ROUND

• **20:00 Manchester United v Everton**

SATURDAY 7TH JANUARY

THIRD ROUND

- **12:30 Crystal Palace v Southampton**
- **12:30 Forest Green Rovers v Birmingham City**
- **12:30 Gillingham v Leicester City**
- **12:30 Preston North End v Huddersfield Town**
- **12:30 Reading v Watford**
- **12:30 Tottenham Hotspur v Portsmouth**
- **15:00 Blackpool v Nottingham Forest**
- **15:00 Boreham Wood v Accrington Stanley**
- **15:00 AFC Bournemouth v Burnley**
- **15:00 Chesterfield v West Bromwich Albion**
- **15:00 Fleetwood Town v Queens Park Rangers**
- **15:00 Hull City v Fulham**
- **15:00 Ipswich Town v Rotherham United**

- **15:00 Middlesbrough v Brighton & Hove Albion**
- **15:00 Millwall v Sheffield United**
- **15:00 Shrewsbury Town v Sunderland**
- **17:30 Brentford v West Ham United**
- **17:30 Coventry City v Wrexham**
- **17:30 Grimsby Town v Burton Albion**
- **17:30 Luton Town v Wigan Athletic**
- **18:00 Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle United**
- **20:00 Liverpool v Wolverhampton Wanderers**

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY

THIRD ROUND

- **12:30 Bristol City v Swansea City**
- **12:30 Derby County v Barnsley**
- **14:00 Cardiff City v Leeds United**
- **14:00 Hartlepool United v Stoke City**
- **14:00 Norwich City v Blackburn Rovers**
- **14:00 Stockport County v Walsall**
- **16:30 Aston Villa v Stevenage**
- **16:30 Manchester City v Chelsea**

MONDAY 9TH JANUARY

THIRD ROUND

- **20:00 Oxford United v Arsenal**

What's happening at New Horizons?

New Horizons staff and members were involved with some of our Christmas festivities in the Community. We managed to deliver 90+ food parcels to members of the community, we also assist Emerald Yon, Tina Yon-Stevens and their team in delivering gifts to all clients and staff in the various care homes around the island.

On Tuesday 27th December 38 people took part in the 14km Port to Port sponsored walk starting at the Airport and ending in Ruperts. Blaine Bennett was the first in completing the walk in 1 hour 17 minutes. All walkers completed the walk in 2 hours and 45 minutes. **(See picture on back page)**

So far £406 of sponsors was taken for the St Helena International Team and £2185 for the New Horizons Athletics Club. Tina Yon-Stevens collected the most sponsors; she collected £1685.

We would like to thank all those who turn up to support both the Footballers and Athletes and big thanks to all who sponsor this event.

On behalf of us all at New Horizons we would like to wish everyone and Happy and Healthy 2023.

Update from St Helena Football Association

The St Helena Football Association will be having an important meeting for all players who have sign up for the Island Games in Guernsey on Tuesday 10th January at the New Horizons Leisure Park starting at 6pm. It is essential that all Players, Coaches and Committee members attend this meeting.

It was with regret we were unable to do the draw for the Grand raffle on New Year's Eve. Date for the draw will be set at Tuesday's meeting. Tickets are currently still on sale. Star Prize is a brand new Sym Scooter.

National Sports Association of St Helena

The National Sports Association of St Helena would like to advise the public that they have brought forward their Quadrennial Election to Tuesday 31st January at the Jamestown Community Centre starting at 7pm.

NSASH are looking to be able to fill the following positions on their committee: Chairman; Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to five committee members.

Nominations for the election of officers shall be made to the Secretary, Tina Yon-Stevens not less than seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconded and the consent of the proposed nominee. Nominations shall be made in writing and submitted to Secretary, Tina Yon-Stevens on email:

nickyandtina@hotmail.com by Tuesday 24th January; stating what position you are standing for.

The National Sports Association is an important Sports Committee on St Helena. Not only is it responsible for the planning, preparation and facilitating of International Sporting events it is responsible for National Sporting events and more importantly overseeing the development of Sports on St Helena from grassroots level.

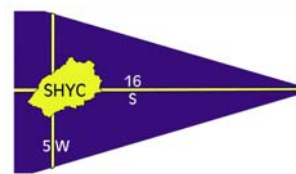
If you have a genuine interest in Sports this is the committee for you.

We urge you the public to attend this meeting and elect the committee you want to represent you in the sporting arena.



CAPE to St Helena 2022

Banjo and Tin Tin Fight for Line Honours



Regular race entry *Banjo* and first time entry *Tin Tin* were racing almost neck and neck in the closing stages of the first Cape to St Helena yacht race since the Covid 19 pandemic. *Tin Tin*, is a 33 feet monohull owned and skippered by Di Hutton-Squire. The yacht was bought direct from the French factory in 2016 and is seen as one of the finest racing yachts available. *Banjo* is a 32 feet trimaran owned and skippered by Keith Webb. Informed observers said before the race the yacht and crew of *Banjo* were capable of setting a new course record.

The race started on 29th December. The starting gun was fired at 2pm and the yachts sailed into 30 to 40 knots winds and 4 metre swells. It wasn't long before flying fish landed on *Banjo*'s deck, providing the evening meal. *Tin Tin* logged 215 miles in the first 20 hours clocking an average speed of almost 11 knots and a maximum speed of 22 knots. *Banjo* and *Tin Tin* were already at the front of the leading group.

As the yachts greeted the New Year the wind dropped to between 10 and 15 knots but *Serendipity* lost the spinnaker pole overboard and had some repairs to do. *Serendipity* was one of several yachts looking for the best course to set in response to slight changes in wind direc-

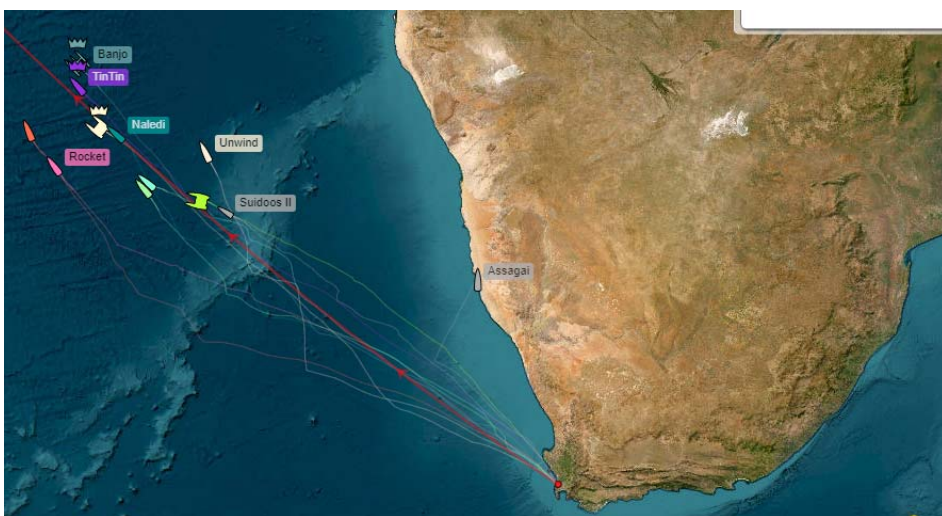
tion. The crew of *Unwind* were now complaining of lack of wind. Other crews also made the same comment.

The wind picked up again as the leading yachts closed in on St Helena. After struggling to make headway with speeds of less than 5 knots, conditions improved during the middle of this week, making it possible to race at 10 knots and slightly more. The improved conditions are expected to continue until *Banjo* and *Tin Tin* get close to St Helena when the offshore wind speed often drops to almost nothing – especially on the leeward side. As things stand, the computer calculation gives *Banjo* a finishing time of around 8pm tonight with *Tin Tin* entering James Bay around midnight.

The Royal Cape Yacht Club prides itself on having a strong contingent of female competitors as members. In the Cape to St Helena race the youngest competitor of them all is 12 year old Anna Scheder Bieschin who celebrated her 12th birthday on board *Naledi* on 2nd January.

After eleven days or more racing, the crews get to relax. The crew from *Banjo* are shown outside the yacht club together with Dale Kushner who sailed solo in *Yolo* in the last Cape to St Helena race in 2018.

Banjo pulled ahead of *Tin Tin* yesterday morning as the wind became stronger and the race shifted up a gear or two.



Port to Port Walkers - All Completed the 14km Walk.

